

- Last week we concluded our analysis of the book written by the Prophet Zechariah, i(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_106IfO6Kc0&t=17s). We looked at how God told Zechariah that we would eliminate Israel's enemies since the whole world is watching. (**Zechariah 9:1-8**) We looked at some "Messianic" prophesies including 1) God tells Zechariah how Jesus will come on a donkey (**Zechariah 9:9-10**) and that is exactly how it happened. (**Matthew 21:1-5**) 2) how the events of Pentecost (**Acts 2:1-15**) mirror the events God predicted to Zechariah (**Zechariah 9:11-17**) 3) how the grape juice God refers to in that same passage actually represents Christ's blood under the new covenant (**Luke 22:20**) 4) how God predicted Christ would be referred to as the "cornerstone" (**Zechariah 10**) (**Ephesians 2:19-22**). 5) who would come from the tribe of Judah (also **Zechariah 10**) (**Matthew 1:2-3, Luke 3:33, Hebrews 7:14**) Finally, we reviewed how God waited until just right time for Christ's first coming which is what was meant by the "fullness of time." (**Galatians 4:4-7**) We also talked about the Seleucids and the Ptolemys. We mentioned that when the Greek empire was split into four parts after Alexander the Great died, one was the Roman empire which would eventually take over the other three, we also mentioned the Seleucids and the Ptolemys two of the others.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seleucid_Empire
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemaic_Kingdom
- This week we are going to look at the book written by the prophet Habakkuk and then talk about the Maccabean empire – the one that the Jews were under before Roman rule.
- First, let's look at the book of Habakkuk. It is short three-chapter book written by a prophet named Habakkuk about his communications with God. (**Habakkuk 1:1**) It was probably written right before the nation of Israel was conquered by Babylon and taken away to exile. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Habakkuk)
- Habakkuk first asks God why He is not answering him about why he is allowing evil to exist in Israel. (**Habakkuk 1:2-4**)
- God answers that He is sending the Babylonians to punish Israel. (**Habakkuk 1:5-11**)
- Habakkuk says essentially, "wait a second, aren't the Babylonians are even worse?" (**Habakkuk 1:12-17**)
- He even compares himself to a guard standing watch on the city walls. (**Habakkuk 2:1**)
- God then tells Habakkuk to write all of this down because it will come true one day. (**Habakkuk 2:2-3**)
- God then established a foundational principle by saying the "righteous will live by faith" (**Habakkuk 2:4**) This is quoted in **Romans 1:17**, **Galatians 3:11** and **Hebrews 10:38**.
- God says that the Babylonian evil will not be allowed to stand either, that their kingdom will also be overrun. (**Habakkuk 2:5-19**)
- In fact, God says that all nations and their evil will be subdued. (**Habakkuk 2:20**) We sing a song with these exact words.
- Even after the Jews were in exile in Babylon God promised that "every knee would bow and every tongue confess" (**Isaiah 45:23**) and that promise that all nations would

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Habakkuk and the Maccabees

eventually do the same thing, at least on judgement day, was repeated at least twice in the New Testament. (Romans 14:11, Philippians 2:10)

- Habakkuk 3 contains a prayer in song from Habakkuk to God. First, Habakkuk asks God to work “in our days” meaning in our generation, now. (Habakkuk 3:1-2)
- Next Habakkuk acknowledged God’s power. (Habakkuk 3:3-7)
- Finally, Habakkuk compares God’s deliverance of Israel from Babylon to several times in the Old Testament when God delivered Israel from their enemies and helped them in battle. (Habakkuk 3:8-19)
- The Maccabean empire was established when a group of revolutionary soldiers who went by the name Maccabee revolted against the Seleucid Province we talked about last week and established a dynasty called the Hasmonean Dynasty (for some reason we remember the name Maccabee more frequently). The revolt started when a Seleucid King named Antiochus tried to outlaw the Jewish religion. Eventually everyone was overrun by Rome anyway. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maccabees>

Questions:

1. Who was Habakkuk, why did he write a book, and when?
2. What is Habakkuk’s first complaint to God?
3. How does God answer Habakkuk’s first complaint?
4. How does Habakkuk respond to God’s answer to his original complaint?
5. To what does Habakkuk compare himself?
6. Why does God tell Habakkuk to write the book?
7. What foundational Christian principal is established in Habakkuk 2:4?
8. What does God say will happen to the Babylonian evil?
9. What does God say will eventually happen to the evil of all nations?
10. When will this be fulfilled?
11. What is Habakkuk 3 about?
12. What does “in our days” mean?
13. What does Habakkuk acknowledge?
14. To what does Habakkuk compare God’s deliverance from evil in Babylon?
15. Who were the Maccabees and why did they revolt?

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