① ZECHARIAH'S PROPHECY

V. 37 And again, another scripture says...

- This now is the 4th fulfilled prophecy John quotes
  1) Roman soldiers dividing the garments and seamless robe
     Ps. 22:15-18
  2) Jesus' thirst and drinking of the sour wine/vinegar
     Ps. 69:21
  3) Jesus' bones remained unbroken
     - thus fulfilling the Passover lamb symbolism Ex. 12:46 Numb. 9:12

And now, the fulfillment of Zechariah's vision/prophecy

V. 37 "They shall look on Him who they pierced."

- This fulfills a direct quote from Zech. 12:10
- However, the greater context of Zechariah's vision is important
- ★ This verse from Zechariah is also quoted in Rev. 1:7
- It important to make the connection w/ John's writings

★ Remember, John quoted:
1) "It is finished" in Jhn 19:30 AND "It is finished" in Rev. 20:6
2) Jesus being pierced in Jhn 19:37 AND in Rev. 1:7

3) John also quotes from Zechariah's prophecy earlier in John 12:15
★ which states the King Messiah will come in gently, humbly, and riding on a donkey
Fulfills: Zech. 9:9

4) John quoted from Zechariah once more in John 18:32
★ which states the sheep (disciples) of the "Shepherd" Messiah will all be scattered when the Shepherd is struck
Fulfills Zech. 13:7

- It seems obvious that John wants his readers to be very familiar w/ Zechariah's prophecy
- Why?
- Most likely because Zechariah's prophecy speaks of a time when God will pour out His Spirit
- which has been a key theme of Jhn
  - must be born of the Spirit - 3:5
  - Rivers of living water will come from the believers ♡ - This He spoke of the Spirit, which was not yet given, because He was not yet glorified - 7:38-39
    ★ Clear Reference to Zech 14:8 "living water"
  - Jesus said it is better to die and leave, because then He will send the Spirit in His name - 14:26
- ★ Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit" 20:22

πνευμα : breath, spirit
→ the connection w/ Gen. 2:7 should not be missed
"And the Lord God formed man out of the dust of the ground and breathed (πνευμα) the breath of life (ζωη) into man and he became a living being"

★ When will this pouring out happen? When will we know? When will this prophecy be fulfilled? Answer from God:
★ I will pour out My Spirit When You look on Me whom you pierced AND mourn for Him as one mourn for his only son and grieve for Him as one as one grieves for his firstborn!
- John is screaming: NOW! NOW!

It's happening now
- Ezekiel has the same vision of God pouring out His Spirit into Men's hearts in Ez. 36:26

② WHO IS THE PIERCED ONE? GOD or the Messiah?

- NOTICE though in Zech's prophecy
  - who is being pierced?
  - "look on Me whom they pierced"
  - this can only mean Yahweh
  - the context even says I the LORD will come and save
  - I the LORD will destroy all your enemies.
- But then shifts to the Messiah: "you will grieve for Him as for an only son"
- The best explanation and understanding of Zechariah's language is that God & Messiah are one
- To pierce the Messiah is equal to piercing God
- This verbiage/language is more fully understood w/ the incarnation "The word (λογος) became flesh (σαρξ) and dwelt (σκηνοω) among us..." John 1:14
- How do the Rabbis explain and interpret Zech's prophecy?
- In other words, how is the use of words (Me = Him) understood in Judaism?
- Judaism does teach this passage is about the Messiah
- Judaic Messianic interpretation believes the "pierced one" is Messiah Ben Joseph
- Judaism's two thoughts on the Messiah
- IF Israel behaves well: God gives them a conquering King Messiah Ben David
- IF Israel behaves poorly God gives them a suffering Messiah as a precursor to the Royal Messiah

Messiah Ben Joseph
→ The pierced One (Zech. 12)
→ The Suffering One (Is 42, 49, 50, 52) - killed in battle, Israel screams
→ Israel then "mourns as for an only son..."
→ God gives them the Royal, Conquering Messiah (Ps. 2, 45, 110, Jer. 23,)

b. Sukkah 52A, Rabbi Dosa. Strack, H.L. Testament, Talmud, and Midrash, vol. 6, 1922

- Christians understand the Messiah to be one and the same Messiah (suffering King)
- ★ We know this because of John
  - John 19:36-37 says the piercing Fulfilled Zech's prophecy (12:10)
  AND
  - Rev. 1:7 says the same King Jesus is coming on the clouds and Every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him
  - Jesus Fulfills the Conquering King
  - ★ coming on the clouds is Hebrew prophetic poetry for
    - coming to conquer in Judgment
    "Behold, the LORD rides a swift cloud and will come to Egypt" Is. 19:1
  - John is telling his readers that Jesus, the Messiah,
    - is both the Suffering Servant
    - and the Royal Conquering King
- ★ And Remember... all God requires for us to receive the pouring out of His Spirit is:
  Look unto Me whom you pierced
  - w/ contrition, repentance, Faith

- another interesting note on Zechariah's prophecy in 12:10
  - is that the mourning/weeping was for one as an only son
- ★ No doubt Zechariah was connecting the Messiah as the μονογενης
- Remember the μονογενης is used as "one of a kind" or "only"
  "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son (begotten... is added)
- Jesus is the only (one of a kind) μονογενης son
- this word/description is used in the LXX for how Abraham describes Isaac
- This was a special, one of a kind son
- piercing Him was equal to piercing Yahweh
- when the Jews realized this they responded as prophesized - w/ weeping and great mourning

"When they (the Jews) heard this (the Gospel and Jesus as Messiah) they were cut to the heart and said to Peter, "What shall we do?" Peter said, "Repent, believe in Jesus and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For this was the promise to you and your children" Acts 2:37-41

③ THE BURIAL OF THE KING

V. 38 After this, Joseph of Arimathea
- Joseph appears in all 4 gospels
- he was a member of the Sanhedrin (Mk. 15:43)
- He was rich (Matt. 27:57)
- and he was looking for / expecting the Kingdom of God (Matt. 15:43, Lk 23:51)
- He was also a secret disciple, follower of Jesus

V. 38 being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews
- now, however, Joseph courageously shows his faith
- No doubt, costing him everything
- even asking Pilate for Jesus' body (now, even Pilate knows Joseph is a follower of Jesus)
  - this could have cost Joseph his own life

V. 38 he asked Pilate that he may take away the body of Jesus and Pilate gave him permission
- Joseph being in the Sanhedrin would give him proximity to Pilate
- Pilate, believing Jesus was innocent, would make him open to giving the body over to him.

V. 38 so he came and took the body of Jesus.
- It is interesting that the open disciples of Jesus fled and/or denied being a follower
- And the secret disciples become open at the most dangerous time

V. 39 And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came
- another secret disciple becomes open about his faith

V. 39 he came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds worth
- This is an amazing amount and extremely important
- ★ What we find is that Joseph and Nicodemus give Jesus a Jewish Kingly burial
- The mention of such an amount is only for Kings
  - while Nicodemus took care of the spices
  - Joseph was legally preparing the body for it's own tomb (also very rare; only for wealthy)
- only Herod the Great had so many spices along w/ 500 servants
  Josephus Antiquities xvii, pg 199
- King Asa of Judah had about 80 pounds of spices at his funeral and buried in his own tomb
  2 Chron. 16:14

V. 40 They took the body of Jesus and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury
- Jesus' entire body was covered w/ new, clean, white, garments
- And aloes, spices, and myrrh covered his body
- then placed in an unused tomb, only for Himself
- ★ This all done, only by these two men
- unbelievable and beautiful act of love and faithfulness
  - very costly AND could have cost them their lives

V. 41 NOW, in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jew's Preparation Day for the tomb was nearby.
- so symbolic that His tomb was in a Garden
  - God created life in the Garden
  - Satan killed life in the Garden
  - Jesus was crucified near a Garden
  - Jesus rose from the dead in a Garden
- The word for Garden is κηπος : orchard, plantation a large Garden or Olive Grove

- This is also why there was a mention of a Gardener John 20:15
- The Bible begins w/ a Garden TREE of Life - Gen. 2
- And the Bible ends w/ a Garden TREES of Life - Rev. 22
- Life came from a Garden
- New, true, spiritual life came from a Garden