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The Gospel writers are always trying to prove something with their gospel

- Luke is trying to show the importance of obedience to the word. He gives insights through encounters and stories.

The Priesthood

- 24 divisions – Aaron started the priesthood (wife = Elizabeth)
 - o 1 Chronicles 24:1-19 is where they divided the priesthood
 - o Divided by “lots.” How?
 - Mishmarot = watch/duty
 - Mishmar = Leader who would randomly call numbers to divide
 - o Every priest is a Levite, but not every Levite is a priest. Examples:
 - Numbers 3:6
 - 1 Chronicles 9:22
 - Ezra 3:8-9
- On average there were 50 priest working in the temple daily
- Duties of a priest
 - o Shovel salt for preservation
 - o Trimming wicks for menorah
 - o Refilling oil
 - o Inspecting temple with torches at night
 - o Killing sacrifices
 - o Taking sacrifices to the alter
 - o Sweeping incense
 - o Cleaning blood
 - o One of the best of the best task (everyone wanted to do it, but not everyone gets to) = lighting the incense in the Holy of Holy’s
 - This is the task Zechariah was chosen for and he would only get to do it once and Luke 1 is his experience of lighting the incense. Gabriel actually showed up and spoke to Zechariah and tells him about the Birth of John the Baptist
- Priest work 2 weeks out of the year
- 3 festivals required - Passover, Pentecost, Feast of Tabernacles (The Pilgrimage)
- Lighting the incense in the Holy of Holy’s was one of the biggest jobs in the temple
 - o Once he lights the incense, Gabriel appears with an agenda
 - 4 times Gabriel shows up in the Bible
 - Daniel 8:16; 9:21 (tells Daniel in 490 years the messiah is going to come)
 - o Jesus wasn’t born in 0, but actually 4-5 B.C. and dies in 30 A.D. – We can date Jesus birth by Luke 2:1, “In those days a decree,” This degree can be dated to 4 or 3 B.C.

- If you count back 490 years it comes out to exactly Dan. 9:21

Names in the priesthood are important: (definitions of each name)

- Zechariah – God Remembers (1 Chronicles 15:24 = Zechariah in the Old Testament)
- Elizabeth – Oath of God
- Both names together mean God remembers his oath given in Zechariah 1
- Gabriel - God is my strength/man of God
- God stops speaking in Malachi, but the glory of God departed before that (700 years that God's glory is gone)
 - The Priesthood was so corrupt that they kept practicing without God even being present
 - God wasn't in the Ark of the Covenant and the ark wasn't even in the temple because it was lost
 - Interestingly, the Ark of the Covenant was lost and nobody knows where it is
 - They were still worshiping/making sacrifices with the God and his glory gone also the Ark was gone. They were so caught up in politics, rituals, and laws that they were worshiping with no Ark in the Holy of Holy's.
 - When the curtain rips at Jesus' crucifixion and exposed that there was no Ark and God's presence was gone.
 - God rips the curtain and exposes the sham/lies of the Pharisees
 - Possible insight: The tearing of a garment meant anguish and when God when God ripped the curtain it was a sign of anguish over the death of his son.

Luke 1:5

- Zechariah and Elizabeth are not "blameless" in that they were perfect. When they did sinned they followed the Torah for the proper atonement of that sin
- Elizabeth was barren, There were also other women in the Bible that were barren:
 - Sarah – Genesis 11:30; 16:1-2
 - Rebekah – Genesis 25:21
 - Rachel – Genesis 29:31
 - Samson's mom – Judges 13:2
 - Hannah – 1 Samuel 1:1-5
- How were Jewish people saved in Old Testament:
 - It's all faith
 - Jews came to faith/relationship in Christ with faith of a promised messiah
 - Believed that God would bring them a messiah
- How were Jewish people saved in New Testament:
 - Faith in a past risen messiah – Jesus

- What does faith in God mean
 - Trusting in his promises
 - Confidence in God
 - For the Jewish people faith is not just words, but actions:
 - Hebrews/the Bible is filled examples of obedience, not theology
 - Characters in the Bible show their faith by their obedience/action to God's commands.
 - Rig knows the Bible so well, has all the concepts, quoting it
 - He says I don't think I am a Christian because I am not living like it
 - You can say you have faith, but if you aren't living it, you may not have biblical faith