

## **The Forgotten Jesus Podcast**

**S3E13**

**Title – Processes and Practices of the Priesthood**

**Description – Join us today on the podcast as we look at the roles and responsibilities that the priesthood had during the 1st century and in the days of Jesus.**

Going to look at the dreams of Joseph today, but we're going back in chronological order, so there's a few things we need to look at before Joseph's dreams.

Today we're going to look at Luke 1

This is the first account of the working of God since the silence of God from Malachi, 400 years before.

We're going to look at Zechariah and Elizabeth today.

Luke 1:5-7

<sup>5</sup>In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest of Abijah's division named Zechariah. His wife was from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup>Both were righteous in God's sight, living without blame according to all the commands and requirements of the Lord. <sup>7</sup> But they had no children because Elizabeth could not conceive, and both of them were well along in years.

So when you read this, right out the gate you should think back to Abraham and Sarah, (Isaac) and Hannah and Elkanah, (Samuel).

It's interesting the parallels between Samuel, who would anoint the first two kings of Israel, (Saul and David), and the forerunner to the King of Kings, John the Baptist who would prepare the way for the Messiah, Jesus.

V. 5 - "In the days of King Herod of Judea," - one of the things we learn right away, is that Luke is pinpointing this in a specific time and place. These are real people, in a real time.

"...there was a priest of Abijah's division named Zechariah." - During the time of Jesus there were over 10,000 in the priesthood, spread out all over Israel. The priests were mandated to serve one week in the spring, one week in the fall in Jerusalem in the Temple. They were also mandated to serve three other times during the year.

1. Passover
2. Pentecost
3. Feast of Tabernacles/Tents/Booths

There were 24 divisions of the priesthood. Even then, they would divide them into seven groups because there were so many of them.

When you show up with your division / team, you have to prepare yourself and baptize yourself in the mikvah, to be ceremonially clean.

The high priest would then have them cast lots to see who would do what job at the temple that day.

Some jobs were menial and heavy labor, but other jobs were choice jobs.

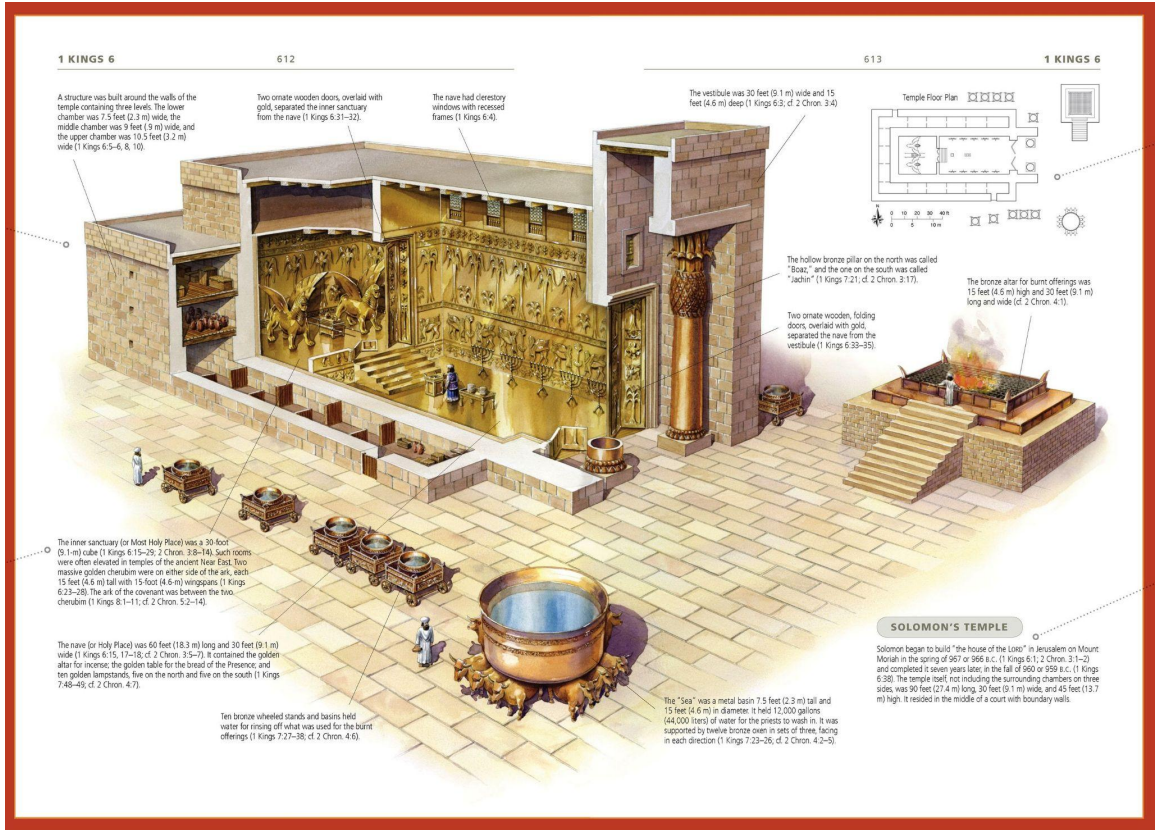
Sidetrack to **1 Chronicles 24:1-19** - the division of the priesthood.

The divisions of the descendants of Aaron were as follows: Aaron's sons were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. <sup>2</sup> But Nadab and Abihu died before their father, and they had no sons, so Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests. <sup>3</sup> Together with Zadok from the descendants of Eleazar and Ahimelech from the descendants of Ithamar, David divided them according to the assigned duties of their service. <sup>4</sup> Since more leaders were found among Eleazar's descendants than Ithamar's, they were divided accordingly: sixteen heads of ancestral families were from Eleazar's descendants, and eight heads of ancestral families were from Ithamar's. <sup>5</sup> They were assigned by lot, for there were officers of the sanctuary and officers of God among both Eleazar's and Ithamar's descendants.

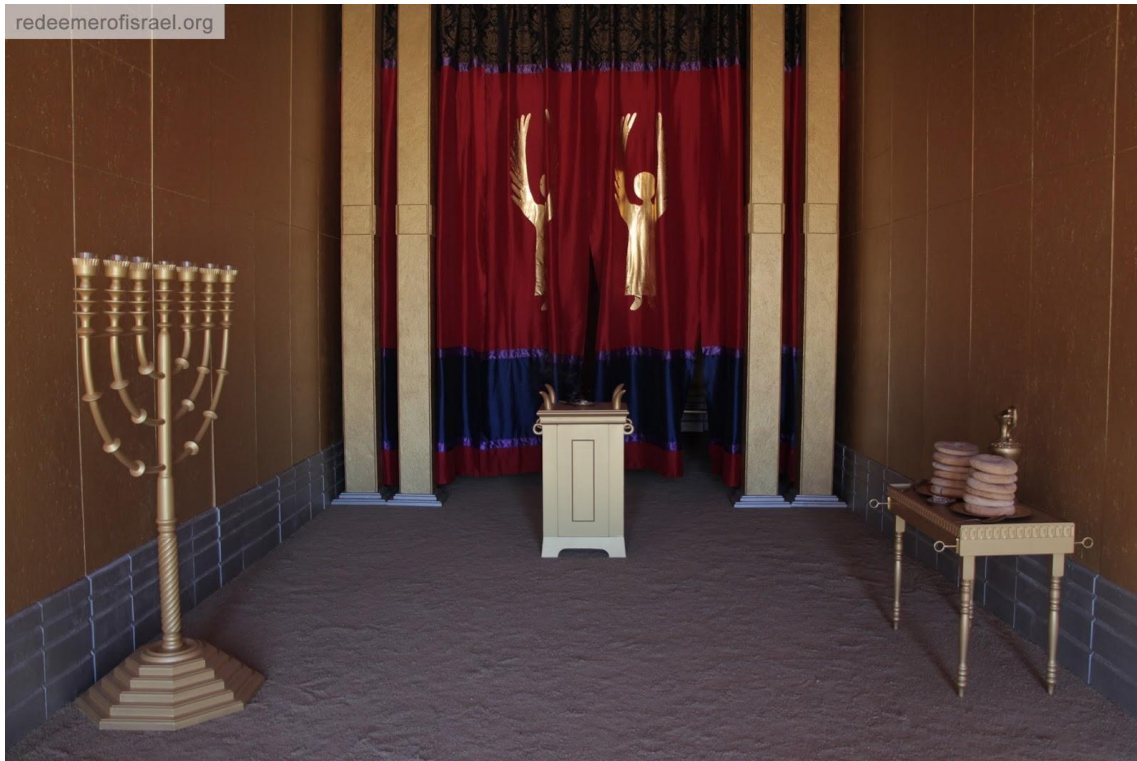
<sup>6</sup> The secretary, Shemaiah son of Nethanel, a Levite, recorded them in the presence of the king and the officers, the priest Zadok, Ahimelech son of Abiathar, and the heads of families of the priests and the Levites. One ancestral family was taken for Eleazar, and then one for Ithamar.

<sup>7</sup> The first lot fell to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah, <sup>8</sup> the third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim, <sup>9</sup> the fifth to Malchijah, the sixth to Mijamin, <sup>10</sup> the seventh to Hakkoz, **the eighth to Abijah**, <sup>11</sup> the ninth to Jeshua, the tenth to Shecaniah, <sup>12</sup> the eleventh to Eliashib, the twelfth to Jakim, <sup>13</sup> the thirteenth to Huppah, the fourteenth to Jeshebeab, <sup>14</sup> the fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immer, <sup>15</sup> the seventeenth to Hezir, the eighteenth to Happizzez, <sup>16</sup> the nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezkel, <sup>17</sup> the twenty-first to Jachin, the twenty-second to Gamul, <sup>18</sup> the twenty-third to Delaiah, and the twenty-fourth to Maaziah.

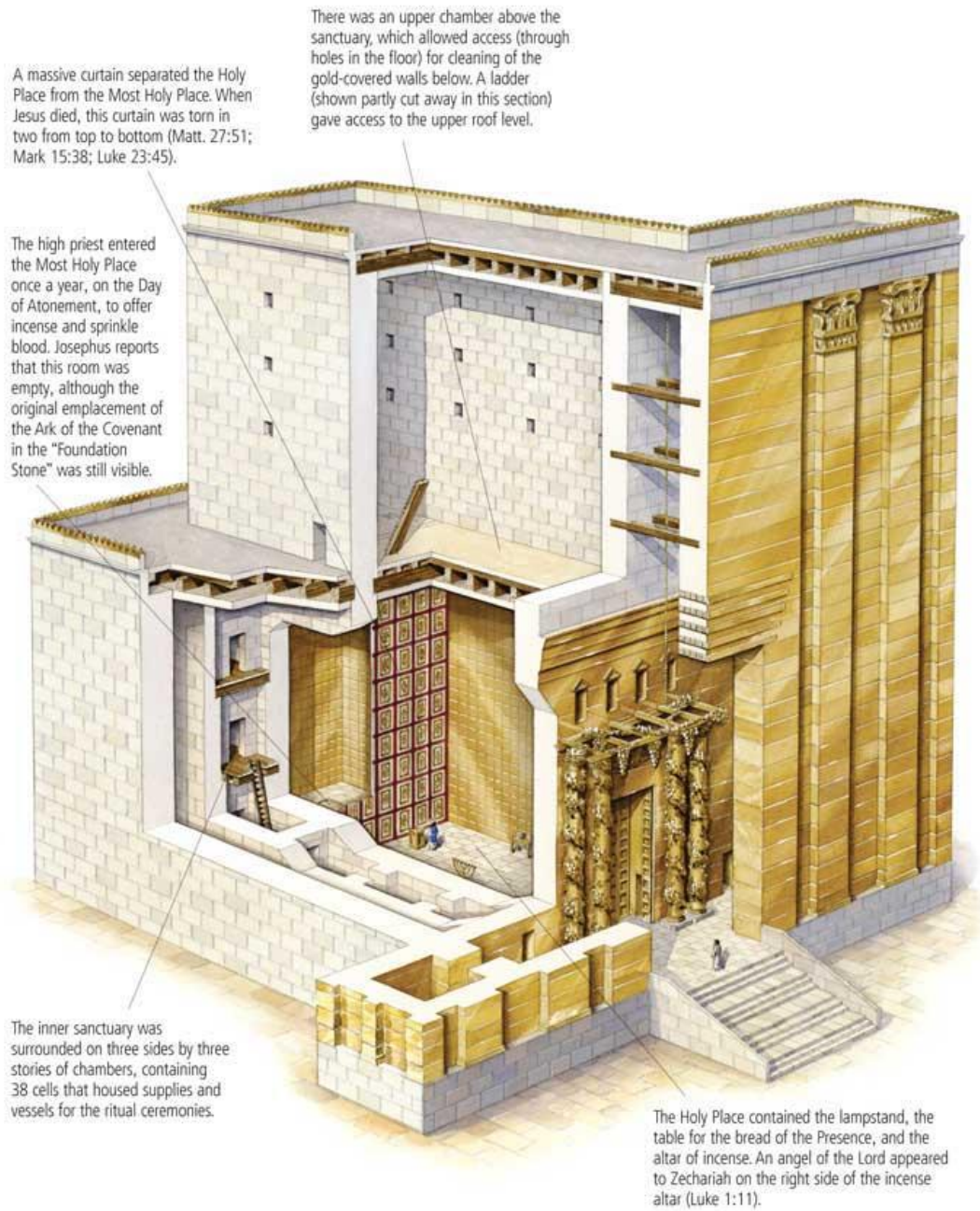
<sup>19</sup> These had their assigned duties for service when they entered the LORD's temple, according to their regulations, which they received from their ancestor Aaron, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded him.



Inside the holy place you had the menorah, the table of showbread, and the altar of incense.



When Zechariah's drawn by lot to offer the burning of incense, it's one of the most coveted roles a priest could ever have.



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Homework for next week: what is the big deal about the Angel Gabriel showing up?