

# Luke 1:5-25

## Luke 1:5 –

- Days of King Herod
  - Idumean
  - Rome’s client king
  - Josephus details in 14.9.1
  - Herod received his commission from Mark Antony and Roman Senate in 40 BC
  - Herod fought for power in Judea until 37 BC
  - Herod ruled Judea from 37-4 BC
  - Previously ruled Galilee for his father Antipater
- Land of Judea
  - Other locations mentioned:
    - Galilee
    - Roman Empire
    - Syria
    - Hill country
    - Bethlehem
    - Jerusalem
    - Nazareth

<u>Similarity:</u>	<u>Promise</u>	<u>Fulfilled</u>	<u>Response of Praise</u>
<b>Zechariah</b>	a son	John born	Song of Zechariah
<b>Mary</b>	a son	Jesus born	Song of Mary
<b>Simeon</b>	the Messiah	sees Jesus	Song of Simeon

Luke begins his account as OT writers to continue account of God’s Word and work in Israel:

1. **Isaiah 1:1** – *“The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.”*
2. **Jeremiah 1:2-3** – *“The word of the Lord came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. 3 It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, and until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah, the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the captivity of Jerusalem in the fifth month.”*
3. **Hosea 1:1** – *“The word of the Lord that came to Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.”*
4. **Amos 1:1** – *“The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds[a] of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years[b] before the earthquake.”*
5. **Micah 1:1** – *“The word of the Lord that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.”*
6. **Zephaniah 1:1** – *“The word of the Lord that came to Zephaniah the son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah.”*

## Priestly Line

- Zechariah is from Aaron through Abijah
  - Abijah was one of the Orders of priest identified in 1 Chronicles 24:10 (24:1-19)
  - Abijah was the 8<sup>th</sup> on the list organized by David.

“The **divisions of the sons of Aaron** were these. The sons of Aaron: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

2 But Nadab and Abihu died before their father and had no children, so Eleazar and Ithamar became the priests.

3 With the help of Zadok of the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech of the sons of Ithamar, David organized them according to the appointed duties in their service.

4 Since more chief men were found among the sons of Eleazar than among the sons of Ithamar, they organized them under **sixteen heads** of fathers' houses of the **sons of Eleazar**, and **eight** of the **sons of Ithamar.**

5 They divided them by lot, all alike, for there were sacred officers and officers of God among both the sons of Eleazar and the sons of Ithamar.

6 And the scribe Shemaiah, the son of Nethanel, a Levite, recorded them in the presence of the king and the princes and Zadok the priest and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar and the heads of the fathers' houses of the priests and of the Levites, one father's house being chosen for Eleazar and one chosen for Ithamar.

7 The first lot fell to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah,

8 the third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim,

9 the fifth to Malchijah, the sixth to Mijamin,

10 the seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah,

11 the ninth to Jeshua, the tenth to Shecaniah,

12 the eleventh to Eliashib, the twelfth to Jakim,

13 the thirteenth to Huppah, the fourteenth to Jeshebeab,

14 the fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immer,

15 the seventeenth to Hezir, the eighteenth to Happizez,

16 the nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezkel,

17 the twenty-first to Jachin, the twenty-second to Gamul,

18 the twenty-third to Delaiah, the twenty-fourth to Maaziah.

19 These had as their appointed duty in their service to come into the house of the Lord according to the procedure established for them by Aaron their father, as the Lord God of Israel had commanded him.”

- Elizabeth was also a daughter of Aaron
  - Priests could marry outside the line of Aaron, but Zechariah had not.
  - Aaron's wife was also named Elizabeth in Exodus 6:23 – “*Aaron took as his wife Elisheba, the daughter of Amminadab and the sister of Nahshon, and she bore him Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.*”
- John the Baptist had a strong priestly pedigree

1:6 –

- Besides cultural purity both Zechariah and Elizabeth were:
  - Righteous before God
  - Living blamelessly according to commands and regulations of the Lord
- POINT: childlessness was NOT to be blamed on Zechariah and Elizabeth. God would honor these two who waited faithfully and obediently

1:7 – similar to

- Sarah (Isacc)
- Wife of Manoah (Samson)
- Hannah (Samuel)
- Elizabeth would be the mother of the great John the Baptist

1:8 – Semi-annual duties in temple. Zechariah left home in Judean Hills

### Temple Duties

- 18,000 priests at this time
- Each division of priest would serve two separate weeks two times a year serving from Sabbath to Sabbath. (plus festival days)
- Zechariah's section (1:8) and "time of service (1:23) are terminology that reflect Temple service
- Each division was then subdivided into orders
  - Each order served a daily rotation
  - Each rotation was 4-9 priests
- Daily routine (1:9) called for incense offering before morning sacrifice and after evening sacrifice (Ex. 30:7-8)
- Done in Holy Place in front of curtain of Most Holy Place
- All daily activities done by priest who were chosen by lot
- Concerning the burning of incense on golden altar in front of Most Holy Place the lot was only for the priests that had NEVER done so before
- Five priest would be chosen for the required five roles for the evening sacrifice service inside the Holy Place
  - Two tend the candlestand
  - 1 prepare the altar in Holy Place
  - 1 offer the incense
  - 1 assistant to incense offerer
- Then, four would leave while the incense was offered on the golden altar to stand on the steps in front of the temple to bless the people with the words of Numbers 6:24-26:  
*"The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,*  
***The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance[c] upon you and give you peace."***

