



# **STARTING IN JERUSALEM**

## **LESSON 4**

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# VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

- **Acts 1:7-9** He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.
- **AUTHORITY: *EXOUSIA*: the right to act**
  1. given by someone to someone
  2. works within certain specified rules
  3. has established parameters (or domain)
- **POWER: *DUNAMIS*: the ability to act**
- **AUTHORITY AND POWER WORK TOGETHER**

# BURDEN OF DISAGREEMENT

- Acts 3:14-15 But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, but put to death the Prince of life, the one **whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses.**
- Acts 4:1-2 As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to them, being greatly disturbed because they were **teaching** the people and **proclaiming** in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

**THE SADDUCEES DID NOT BELIEVE  
IN A RESURRECTION**

# WHAT DO YOU RISK?

- Acts 4:3-4 And they laid hands on them and put them in jail until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.
- Peter and John ended up in jail overnight---but people had already heard the message
- Acts 4:5-6 On the next day, their rulers and elders and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem; and Annas the high priest was there, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of high-priestly descent.
- Annas: 6-15 AD; deposed
- Caiaphas, his son-in-law 18-36
- The Jews still regarded Annas as high priest

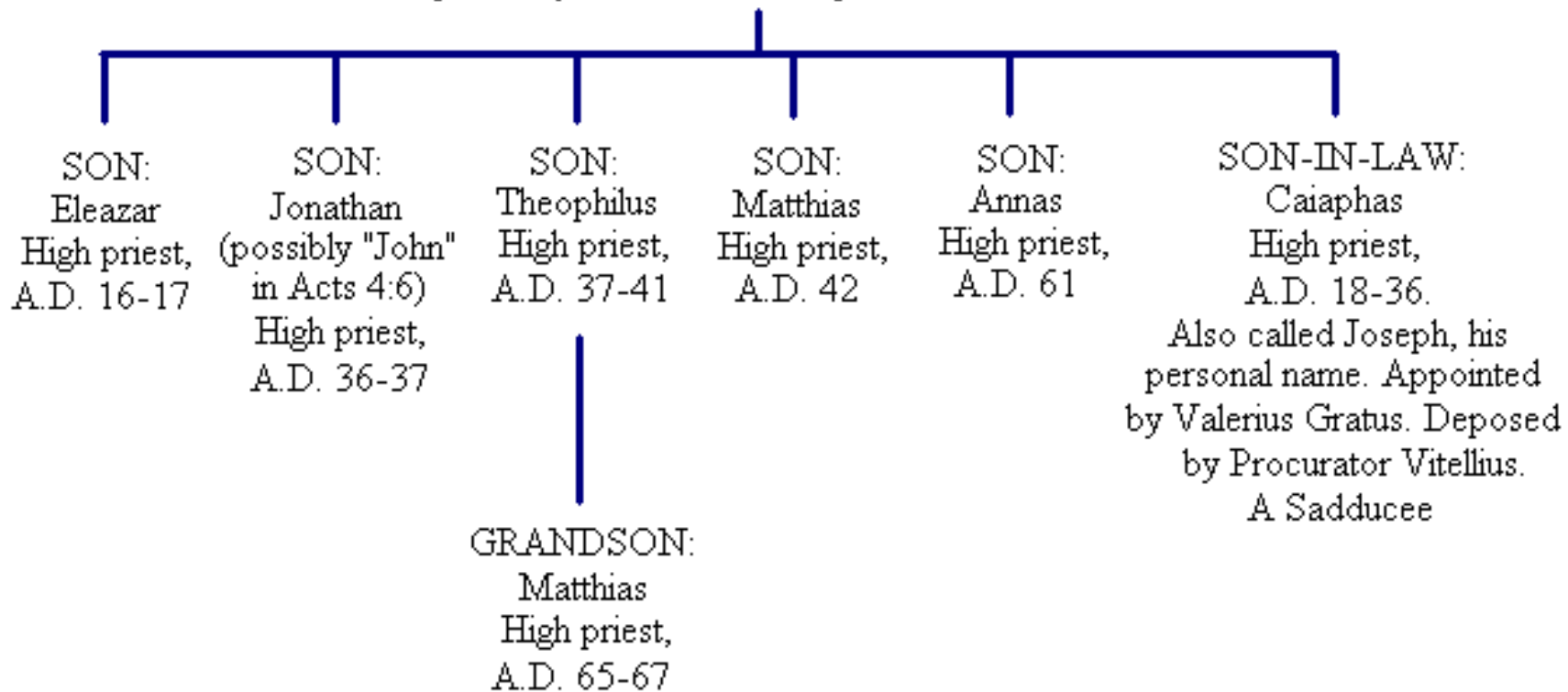
# HIGH PRIEST'S FAMILY

## Annas' Family

ANNAS

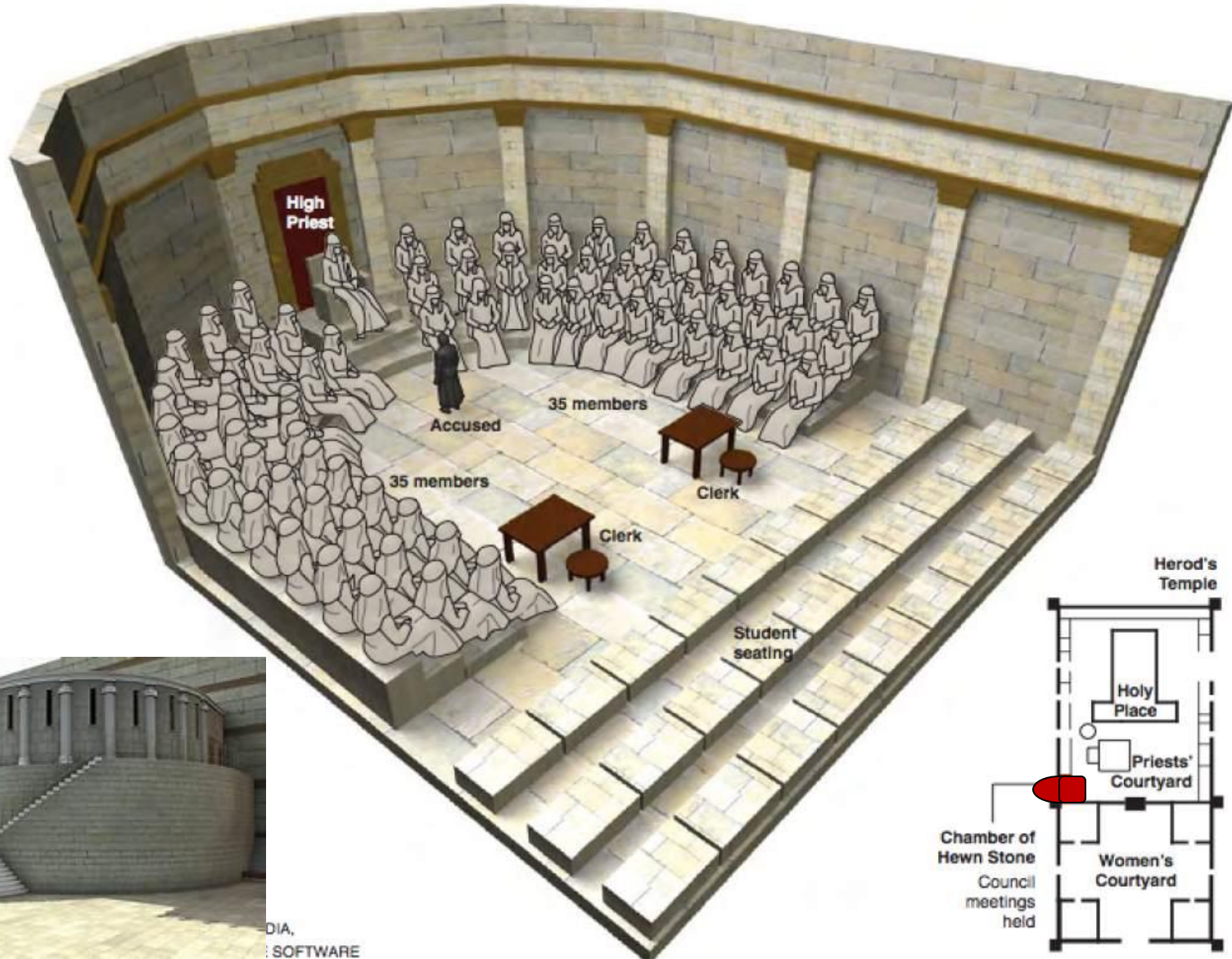
High priest, A.D. 6-15.

Appointed by Quirinius, governor of Syria;  
deposed by Valerius Gratus, procurator of Judea



# The Sanhedrin

The Jewish high court of justice consisted of 71 men and was led by the high priest. The council could decide almost any fate of its people—except the death penalty, which was decided by the Romans. The court was located within the Chamber of Hewn Stone inside Herod's Temple.



# AUTHORITY AND POWER

- Acts 4:7 When they had placed them in the center, they began to inquire, "By what power, or in what name, have you done this?"
- Did Peter give a defense?
- ***Apologia: a reason why you did (or believe) something***
- Acts 4:8-9 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people, **if** we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well..."
- Were they on trial because of a sick man?

# NO RETREAT...NO SURRENDER

- Acts 4:10-12 ....let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health. He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the chief corner stone. And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.
- Acts 24:2-14: form of usual defense



# THE RESPONSE

- Acts 4:13-14 Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus. And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they had nothing to say in reply.
- Uneducated: *agrammatos*: unlettered; illiterate; lacking formal education
- Untrained: *idiotes*: private; unlearned; ignorant
- Recognize: *epiginosko*: to understand by both head knowledge and experience
- And, there stands the healed man!

# THE PRIVATE CONFERENCE

- Acts 4:15-16 But when they had ordered them to leave the Council, they began to confer with one another, saying, "What shall we do with these men? For the fact that a noteworthy miracle has taken place through them is apparent to all who live in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.
- This man, more than 40 years old, has been begging everyday; all of them had seen his prior condition: Noteworthy: *gnostos*: well known
- Acts 4:17-18 "But so that it will not spread any further among the people, let us warn them to speak no longer to any man in this name." And when they had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

# THE DECISION

- Warn: *apeileo*: to threaten, warn, forbid
- Speak: *phtheggomai*: to proclaim; to utter
- Teach: *didasko*: teach; instruct (aim: learning)
- The decision of the council wasn't acceptable to Peter and John **CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE!**
- Acts 4:19-22 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard." When they had threatened them further, they let them go (finding no basis on which to punish them) on account of the people...

# THE CHURCH RESPONDS

- Acts 4:24-26 And when they heard this, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, it is You who made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them, who by the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Your servant, said,
  - 'Why did the Gentiles rage,  
And the peoples devise futile things?  
'The kings of the earth took their stand,  
And the rulers were gathered together  
Against the Lord and against His Christ.'
- Psalm 146:6 and 2
- Acknowledgement by the church that God has exactly said what would happen—and it happened
- Request that God: note the threats and give them confidence to bring the word

# ACTIONS OF THE CHURCH

- They spoke boldly; They were in agreement
- They shared as people had need voluntarily
- They powerfully gave testimony to the resurrection of Jesus
- People sold land and brought the money to the disciples for distribution
- The first mention of Barnabas (son of encouragement) whose name was really Joseph, called a Levite and of Cyprian birth
- **THE CHURCH HAS MET WITH OPPOSITION**
- They practiced civil disobedience because the authorities were telling them to break God's directions

# DON'T LIE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **Acts 5:1-4** But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and kept back *some* of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back *some* of the price of the land? While it remained *unsold*, did it not remain your own? After it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."
- **Acts 5:11** And great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things.

# EVEN THE SHADOW?

- **Acts 5:12-15** At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico. But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem. And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to *their number*, to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them.