



## Daniel 7:13-14; 27

I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a **son of man**, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

27 And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them.

## Daniel 7:13-14; 27

- Jesus had to be The Son of Man first, so that He could return as the Messiah
- This description was always a mystery to the Jews
- They knew that one day a final kingdom would be set up by a final ruler (messiah) from the line of David, but they never completely grasped how this would come about
- Imagine trying to understand the **Daniel 7** Son of Man from a Jewish perspective living in OT times
  1. How is a man also divine (riding the clouds and standing in the presence of God)?
  2. How does a man get from Earth to heaven so he can ride the clouds back?

## Daniel 7:13-14; 27

- The reason Jesus wanted people to recognize Him as The Son of Man (not the messiah) is because there are some things that must occur before there can be a final kingdom
- I believe Jesus wanted the Jews to know that His **exaltation** must come before He can come as messiah
- The **exaltation** of Christ includes His resurrection, His ascension, His session with the Father, and His return
- All of these things had to occur in order for Christ to reign and have a kingdom
- One of the things that comes about because of His ascension and His session with the Father is the priesthood
- Daniel sees a new high priest accompanied by a new priesthood

## Act 1:1-11; Acts 2:1-4

- 1.) The ascension in **Acts 1** describes Jesus becoming our new High Priest
- 2.) Jesus sending the Holy Spirit to empower believers in **Acts 2** describes His church becoming a priestly people (a new priesthood)

## Jesus the New High Priest

- Jesus has become the new High Priest, and therefore, the Old Testament Mosaic law, covenant, and priesthood have all been superseded
- Jesus as the new High Priest is one of the main themes described in Hebrews

**Hebrews 2:17** - Therefore he had to be made like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he could become a merciful and faithful **high priest** in things relating to God, to make atonement for the sins of the people.

**Hebrews 5:9-10** - And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, 10 **being designated by God a high priest** after the order of Melchizedek.

**Hebrews 8:1** - Now the point in what we are saying is this: **we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,**

## Jesus the New High Priest

**Hebrews 7:23-28** - The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, 24 but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. 25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. 26 For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. 27 He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. 28 For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

## Jesus the New High Priest

- Jesus is clearly presented as a new, superior high priest compared to the old

**Hebrews 4:14** - Since then we have a great **high priest** who has **passed through the heavens**, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

**Hebrews 9:24** - For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, **but into heaven itself**, now to appear **in the presence of God** on our behalf.

- Both verses reference the ascension, which takes us back to **Daniel 7**
- In Jesus' ascension, there is now a man in the heavens that can one day ride the clouds back down



## Jesus the New High Priest

- Who cares?
- Why does it matter that Jesus is a high priest and I am part of His priesthood?

## Jesus the New High Priest

- Who cares?
- Why does it matter that Jesus is a high priest and I am part of His priesthood?
- Because being a priest means you have access to God

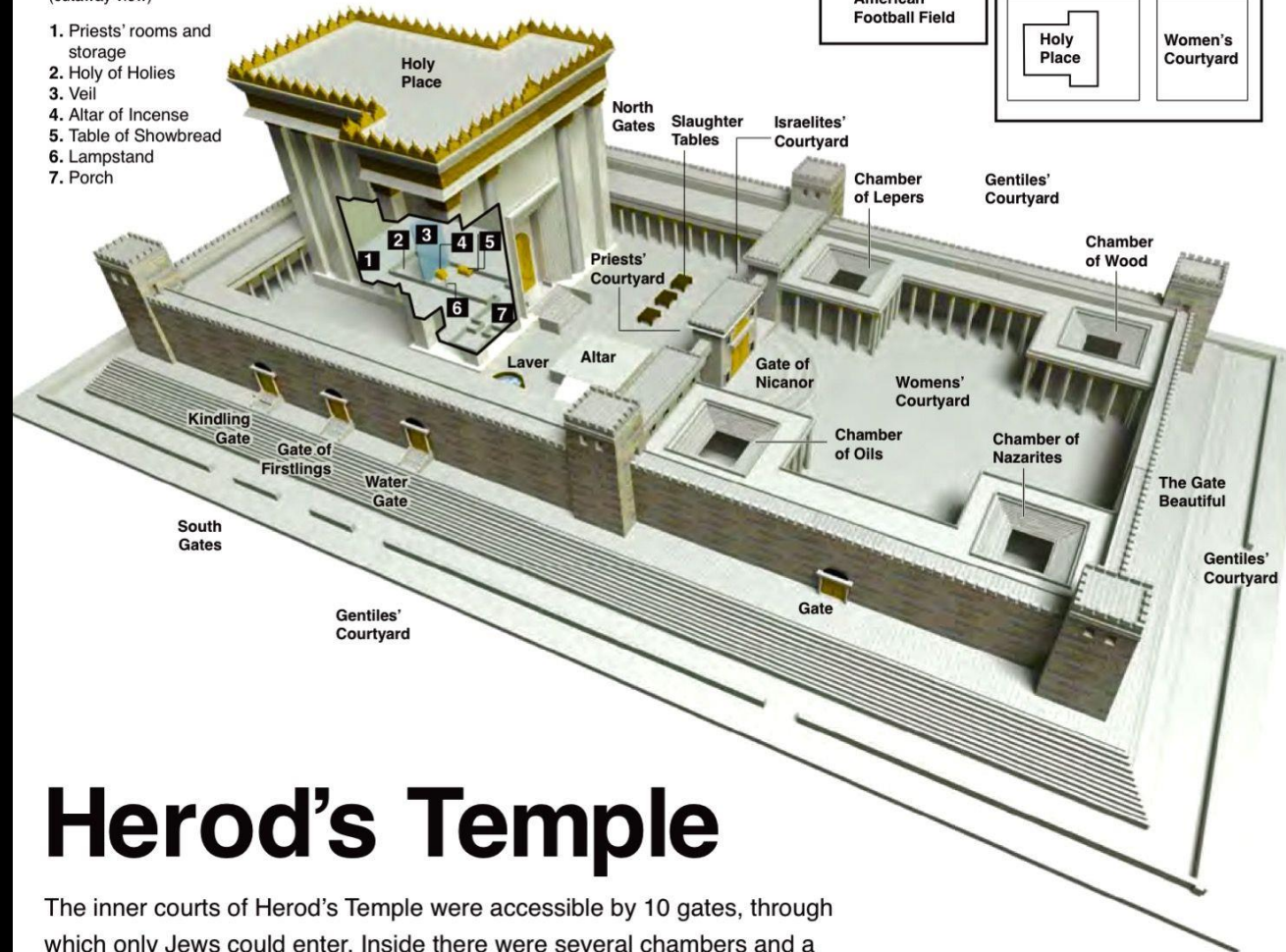




## INSIDE THE HOLY PLACE

(cutaway view)

1. Priests' rooms and storage
2. Holy of Holies
3. Veil
4. Altar of Incense
5. Table of Showbread
6. Lampstand
7. Porch



# Herod's Temple

The inner courts of Herod's Temple were accessible by 10 gates, through which only Jews could enter. Inside there were several chambers and a courtyard where sacrifices were made. At one end was the holy place—a two-room sanctuary used by Jewish priests. The expansive building project of Herod's Second Temple and Temple Mount was completed in approximately AD 62–64, only to be destroyed by the Romans in AD 70.





## Jesus the New High Priest

- The priesthood was centered around access to God
- The high priest under the Mosaic law had the exclusive right to stand in the presence of God
- The high priest was close to the presence of God daily by being in the tabernacle
- Once a year he could stand in the holy place, behind the veil in the holy of holies
- The holy of holies contained the ark of the covenant and symbolized God's throne on Earth (the very presence of God)
- The high priest was the only human who could stand before the throne of God
- Daniel saw one that looked like a man approach God

## Jesus the New High Priest

**Daniel 7:13** - I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

- This means that **Daniel 7:13** is a priestly scene
- The Mosaic covenant high priest on Earth could approach God once a year
- The Son of Man is a greater high priest because He has full access to God all the time
- The Mosaic covenant high priest passed through a veil once a year into a manmade throne room
- The Son of Man “passed through the heavens” directly into the true throne room in heaven

## Jesus the New High Priest

**Hebrews 7:22** - This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

**Hebrews 8:1-2** - Now the point in what we are saying is this: **we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,** <sup>2</sup> a minister in the holy places, **in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.**

**Hebrews 9:24** - **For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself,** now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.



## Exodus vs. Acts

**Exodus 24:15-18** - Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. 16 The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. 17 Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. 18 Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

## Acts 1:9-11

- Moses ascended into the clouds on Mount Sinai and into God's presence, but Moses did not leave the Earth
- Jesus ascended into the clouds of heaven and went directly into the heavenly temple
- Both were glorious, but one is obviously superior

## Jesus the New High Priest and His Priesthood

- Since our high priest dwells in the heavens, we can directly approach God in the heavens
- When Jesus died, the temple veil was torn in two

**Mark 15:37-38** - And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. 38 And **the curtain of the temple was torn in two**, from top to bottom.

- I believe that Jesus' ascension (**Acts 1**) and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2**) confirmed what the torn veil revealed
- Access to God had been restored through the blood of Jesus

## Jesus the New High Priest and His Priesthood

- Jesus' exaltation into the heavens completely changed the priesthood
- If there was a new high priest, there must be a new priesthood

**1 Peter 2:9** - But you are a chosen race, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

- When Jesus ascended, He became the high priest
- Because we are His people, we have become His priesthood because we now have direct access to God
- So that we can proclaim the excellencies of Him to the world

## His Priesthood

- The events of **Acts 2** were to be understood as the initiation of a new priesthood and a new covenant
- **Acts 2:1-4**
- The appearance of fire is associated with God's presence
- God tends to appear in fire in 3 different contexts:
  1. When someone encounters the direct presence of God
  2. When God comes to make a covenant
  3. Judgement (**Daniel 7:9-10**)

## His Priesthood

1. When someone encounters the direct presence of God

- The angels that surround God are called Seraphim
- Seraphim literally means “burning one” (Isaiah 6)

**Exodus 19:18** - Now Mount Sinai was completely covered with smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire,

- As Moses came down from Mount Sinai his face shone like the sun because of it
- So fire is a symbol of nearness and proximity to God
- Access to God has always been associated with the priesthood
- So nearness to God can be considered a priestly event

## His Priesthood

### 2. When God comes to make covenant

- **Genesis 15:17-18** - When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking **fire pot and a flaming torch** passed between these pieces. 18 On that day **the Lord made a covenant with Abram,**...
- **Exodus 2:24-3:2** - And God heard their groaning, and **God remembered his covenant with Abraham,** with Isaac, and with Jacob. 25 God saw the people of Israel—and God knew. 3 **Now Moses** was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 And the angel of **the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire** out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.
- Covenant is ultimately about relationship with God and access to His presence

## His Priesthood

- Pentecost was not a judgement scene, but it was a priestly and covenantal scene
- The **Acts 2** description of Pentecost would have likely brought to mind the events that took place in **Exodus 19-20**

**Exodus 19:16-19** - On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. 17 Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. 18 Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because **the Lord had descended on it in fire**. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. 19 And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder.

## His Priesthood

- The scene at Mount Sinai was also a priestly and covenantal scene
- In that moment, God made a covenant with Israel and gave the law that established the Mosaic priesthood
- God spoke in fire to form a priestly nation

**Exodus 19:5-6** - Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my **covenant**, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and **you shall be to me a kingdom of priests** and a holy nation...



## His Priesthood

- In **Acts 2**, God appears again to a people and again the people saw fire
- But this time, the fire came to rest on every single individual
- Every follower of Jesus was being commissioned as a priest because they now had direct access to God' presence in the form of fire
- Then He made each individual person His spokesman, a priestly function

## His Priesthood

- The appearance of fire was also significant when it comes to the temple
- As Solomon built God's temple and transitioned from the tent (tabernacle) used from the time of Moses, fire dedicated the temple

**2 Chronicles 7:1-3** - As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, **fire came down** from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, **and the glory of the Lord filled the temple.** 2 And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord filled the Lord's house. 3 **When all the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of the Lord on the temple,** they bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement and worshiped and gave thanks to the Lord, saying, For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

## His Priesthood

- In **Ezekiel 10** we read about the glory of the Lord leaving the temple
- It never returned, even after there was a second temple built by Herod
- Fire never returned to Earth until **Acts 2**
- **Acts 2** not only commissioned them as priests and established a new covenant, it established a new temple for God to reside in
- God would live in each person who would become a living temple to proclaim His glory

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** - Or do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit** within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. **So glorify God in your body.**

- There was no more veil between the people and God, so there is no need for a covered holy place

## His Priesthood

- The significance of this baptism of the Holy Spirit is that it empowers Christians for ministry
- In **Acts 1**, Jesus tells his disciples He must leave in order for the Holy Spirit to be able to come
- So He tells them to stay in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit arrives
- Once He comes, the Holy Spirit would empower them to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the Earth

## His Priesthood

- In **Numbers 11** there came a point in Moses ministry where he couldn't bear the burden of his people anymore

**Numbers 11:14-17** - I am not able to carry all this people alone; the burden is too heavy for me. 15 If you will treat me like this, kill me at once, if I find favor in your sight, that I may not see my wretchedness. 16 Then the Lord said to Moses, Gather for me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you. 17 And I will come down and talk with you there. **And I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them,** and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it yourself alone.

## His Priesthood

**Numbers 11:24-29** - So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent. 25 Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it.

26 Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. 27 And a young man ran and told Moses, Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp. 28 And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, My lord Moses, stop them. 29 But Moses said to him, Are you jealous for my sake? **Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!**

## His Priesthood

- Moses wish becomes a prophecy to be fulfilled some day in the book of **Joel**

**Joel 2:28-29** - And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. 29 Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

- Fast forward to **Acts 2:12-16**
- Pentecost was a Jewish feast, so it was mainly Jews gathered in Jerusalem
- But **Acts** follows it's own advice to go to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the Earth
- So it starts with mostly Jews in Jerusalem
- But there are actually 4 outpourings of The Spirit

## His Priesthood

- The next outpouring is to the Samaritans

**Acts 8:14-17** - Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that **Samaria** had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, 15 who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.



## His Priesthood

- After the Samaritans, we have the God-fearing gentiles

**Acts 10:1-2** - At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, 2 a devout man who **feared God** with all his household,...

**Acts 10:44-48** - While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. 45 And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of **the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles**. 46 For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, 47 Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have? 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ...

## His Priesthood

- After the Samaritans, we have the God-fearing gentiles

**Acts 11:13-18** - And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; 14 he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household. 15 As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. 16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. 17 **If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?** 18 When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.

## His Priesthood

- Finally, we have those that had never even heard of the Holy Spirit

**Acts 19:1-6** - And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. 2 And he said to them, Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed? And they said, No, **we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.** 3 And he said, Into what then were you baptized? They said, Into John's baptism. 4 And Paul said, John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus. 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.

- The church was to be made up of Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles
- Moses wish had come true

## His Priesthood

**Ephesians 2:11-18** -Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh,... 12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

- All believers, made up of all people groups, are called to participate in the Great Commission
- Jesus is our High Priest and all believers have now been made His priesthood because:
  - We have been given direct access to Him
  - We have become His spokesmen to the people like the priests in the OT
  - God now resides inside of us to empower us for the ministry to go to the ends of the Earth



