**VISITATIONS:** Angel Gabriel Appears To Zechariah

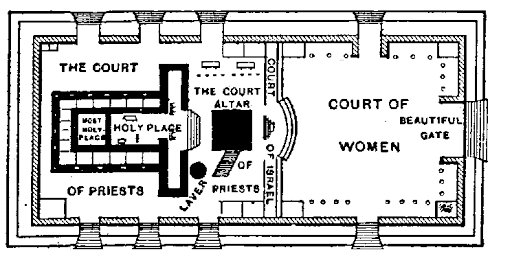
Luke 1:5-24

***5****In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron.****6****Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord’s commands and decrees blamelessly.****7****But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.* Luke 1:5-6

**Q: How to Reconcile obedience with Unanswered prayer?**

**Key: God’s Delays Are Often God’s Design.**

***8****Once when Zechariah’s division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God,****9****he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense.****10****And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.* Luke 1:8-10



**The Visitation!**

***11****Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.****12****When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear.****13****But the angel said to him: “Do not be fraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John.****14****He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth,****15****for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born.* Luke 1:11-15

**Jesus:** *If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*  John 15:7

**John: *14****This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.****15****And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.* 1 John 5:14-15

**KEY: God Answers Prayer: Yes, No and Not Yet.**

***16****He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.****17****And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”* Luke 1:16-17

***5****“See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes.****6****He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.”* Malachi 4:5-6

***18****Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”* ***19****The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news.****20****And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.”* Luke 1:19-20

***21****Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple.****22****When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.* ***23****When his time of service was completed, he returned home.****24****After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion.* Luke 1:23-24

**KEY**: **The Outcome Is God’s Responsibility.**

**KEY: Obedience Is My Responsibility.**

**POINSETTIAS**