

# Luke 1:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

## Analysis

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The 'whole multitude of the people' praying outside during the incense offering created the sacred context for Gabriel's appearance. The hour of incense—9 AM or 3 PM—was a set time of prayer, showing the importance of regular, corporate worship. Their prayers ascending with the incense (Rev 8:3-4) demonstrate the connection between faithful intercession and divine intervention. The congregation's ignorance of the angelic visitation reminds us that God works behind visible circumstances in answer to prayer.

## Historical Context

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The morning and evening incense offerings coincided with the daily sacrifices, creating structured times for national prayer. This corporate intercession represented Israel's longing for Messiah and redemption, which God was about to answer through John's birth.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does corporate prayer create conditions for God's intervention in history?
2. Why is regular, disciplined prayer important even when we don't see immediate results?
3. What might God be doing behind the scenes in response to your prayers?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	πάν	τὸ	πλῆθος	τοῦ	λαοῦ	ἦν	προσευχόμενον
And	the whole	G3588	multitude	G3588	of the people	were	praying
G2532	G3956		G4128		G2992	G2258	G4336
ἔξω	τῇ	ὥρᾳ	τοῦ	θυμιάματος			
without	G3588	at the time	G3588	of incense			
G1854		G5610		G2368			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Leviticus 16:17** (Parallel theme): And there shall be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation when he goeth in to make an atonement in the holy place, until he come out, and have made an atonement for himself, and for his household, and for all the congregation of Israel.

**Revelation 8:3** (Prayer): And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.