

# Luke 1:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

## Analysis

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The lot fell to Zacharias 'according to the custom of the priest's office' to burn incense—a once-in-a-lifetime honor. The Hebrew casting of lots recognized God's sovereign control: 'The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD' (Prov 16:33). This seemingly random selection was God's appointed means of placing Zacharias in position for angelic visitation. The incense symbolized prayer ascending to God (Ps 141:2; Rev 8:3-4), preparing for the prayer-answering that would follow.

## Historical Context

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So many priests served that most never received the honor of offering incense in the Holy Place. This sacred duty, performed alone while people prayed outside, represented the nation's intercession. That Zacharias received this honor at this moment reveals divine purpose.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does God use ordinary responsibilities to position us for extraordinary encounters?
2. What does the casting of lots teach about God's sovereignty over chance?
3. How does faithful service in small things prepare us for greater assignments?

## Interlinear Text

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κατὰ	τὸ	ἔθος	τῆς	ἱερατείας	ἔλαχεν	τοῦ
According	G3588	to the custom	G3588	of the priest's office	his lot	G3588
G2596		G1485		G2405	G2975	

  

θυμιᾶσαι	εἰσελθὼν	εἰς	τὸν	ναὸν	τοῦ	κυρίου
was to burn incense	when he went	into	G3588	the temple	G3588	of the Lord
G2370	G1525	G1519		G3485		G2962

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Chronicles 29:11** (References Lord): My sons, be not now negligent: for the LORD hath chosen you to stand before him, to serve him, and that ye should minister unto him, and burn incense.

**1 Chronicles 23:13** (References Lord): The sons of Amram; Aaron and Moses: and Aaron was separated, that he should sanctify the most holy things, he and his sons for ever, to burn incense before the LORD, to minister unto him, and to bless in his name for ever.

**Numbers 16:40** (References Lord): To be a memorial unto the children of Israel, that no stranger, which is not of the seed of Aaron, come near to offer incense before the LORD; that he be not as Korah, and as his company: as the LORD said to him by the hand of Moses.

**1 Samuel 2:28** (Parallel theme): And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel?

