

~ANNAS (137)

(An'nas) [from Hebrew, meaning Showing Favor, Gracious]

- Appointed High Priest about **6 or 7 C.E.** by Quirinius, the Roman governor of Syria, and serving until about **15 C.E.**
- This first registration took place when Quirinius was governor of Syria. (**Luke 2:2**)
- **Annas** was therefore High Priest when Jesus, at the age of 12, amazed the rabbinic teachers at the temple.
- And when he became twelve years old, they went up according to the custom of the festival (**Luke 2:42**)
- And completed the days. But when they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, and his parents did not notice it. (**Luke 2:43**)
- Assuming that he was in the company traveling together, they covered a day's distance and then began to hunt him up among the relatives and acquaintances. (**Luke 2:44**)
- But, not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem, making a diligent search for him. (**Luke 2:45**)
- Well, after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers and listening to them and questioning them. (**Luke 2:46**)
- But all those listening to him were in constant amazement at his understanding and his answers. (**Luke 2:47**)
- Now when they saw him they were astounded, and his mother said to him, Child, why did you treat us this way? Here your father and I in mental distress have been looking for you. (**Luke 2:48**)
- But he said to them; Why did you have to go looking for me? **Did you not know that I must be in the house of my Father?** (**Luke 2:49**)

- For reportedly overstepping his Roman-assigned jurisdiction, **Annas** was removed as High Priest by Procurator Valerius Gratus. Though he no longer had the official title, it was quite evident that he continued to exercise great power and influence as High Priest emeritus and predominant voice of the Jewish hierarchy.
- Five of his sons, as well as his son-in-law Caiaphas, each held the office of High Priest. Because of his prominent position, **Annas** is rightly designated in the Scriptures as one of the chief priests.
- Then the chief priests and the older men of the people gathered together in the courtyard of the High Priest who was called Caiaphas. (**Matthew 26:3**)
- In the days of chief priest **Annas** and of Caiaphas, God's declaration came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. (**Luke 3:2**)
- When Jesus was arrested, he was first taken to **Annas** for questioning and then was sent to Caiaphas for trial.
- And they led him first to **Annas**, for he was father-in-law to Caiaphas, who was High Priest that year. (**John 18:13**)
- The name of **Annas** heads the list of the foremost opponents of the apostles of Jesus Christ.
- Also **Annas** the chief priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander and as many as were of the chief priest's kinsfolk. (**Acts of Apostles 4:6**)
- The wealthy and powerful house of **Annas** was of the tribe of Levi, and the sale of sacrifices within the temple grounds was one of their chief sources of income, reason enough why they sought to kill Jesus, who twice cleansed the temple, which they had made a cave of robbers.
- Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. (**John 2:13**)
- And he found in the temple those selling cattle and sheep and doves and the money brokers in their seats. (**John 2:14**)
- So, after making a whip of ropes, he drove all those with the

- sheep and cattle out of the temple, and he poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. (**John 2:15**)
- And he said to those selling the doves; Take these things away from here! Stop making the house of my Father a house of merchandise! (**John 2:16**)
 - And Jesus entered into the temple and threw out all those selling and buying in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. (**Matthew 21:12**)
 - And he said to them; It is written: My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a cave of robbers. (**Matthew 21:13**)
 - Now they came to Jerusalem. There he entered into the temple and started to throw out those selling and buying in the temple, and he **overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves.** (**Mark 11:15**)
 - And he would not let anyone carry a utensil through the temple. (**Mark 11:16**)
 - But he kept teaching and saying; Is it not written: My house will be called a house of prayer for all the nations? But you have made it a cave of robbers. (**Mark 11:17**)
 - And he entered into the temple and started to throw out those who were selling. (**Luke 19:45**)
 - Saying to them; It is written: And my house will be a house of prayer, but you made it a cave of robbers. (**Luke 19:46**)
 - An additional reason for **Annas** hatred of Jesus and his apostles was likely Jesus teaching of the resurrection, the raising of Lazarus in living proof, and the preaching and teaching of the same doctrine by the apostles, for if **Annas** was indeed a Sadducee, he did not believe in the resurrection.
 - For Sadducees say **there is neither resurrection nor angel nor spirit**, but the Pharisees publicly declare them all. (**Acts of Apostles 23:8**)

- But the **High Priest** and all those with him, the then existing **sect of the Sadducees**, rose and became filled with jealousy. (**Acts of Apostles 5:17**)