



## Some Bible Knowledge is Critical.

Most of the critical scriptural "dots" really DO "connect"  
 ...for those who learn how to study God's written word.  
 But most believers learn only what to study  
 ...to confirm denominational Doctrines.  
 This series can help.

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Levi was the third son of Jacob/Israel, by Leah [Genesis 29:34]. He was the father of the tribe of Levi. Moses and Aaron were Levites. God chose the tribe of Levi to serve Him but only the descendants of Aaron to be priests. Those who were not priests were given various duties in the caretaking of the tabernacle and its furnishings [Numbers 3:21–26]. Aaron's descendants, the priests, also served as judges [Deuteronomy 17:8–13] and they were teachers of the law, too [Deuteronomy 33:10]. Some of Aaron's descendants you may remember hearing about are Ezra, Eli and Zechariah. Zechariah was the father of John the Baptist. John the Baptist was Jesus' first cousin.

Most of the 1st-Century Priests were NOT Aaron's descendants; so who were they? A large and growing number of Bible and historical scholars cite an ample body of very convincing evidence that they were not Hebrews, Israelites or Jews, either. Here's some of what you'll need to understand about that:

Jesus was apparently speaking literally to a group of Scribes and Pharisees in the following passage:

> "I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham...Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, [even] God. Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me...Ye are of [your] father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." —John 8:38-44

Who was the first known murder? Wasn't that Cain? Jesus was clearly aware that those Scribes and Pharisees were Cain's direct descendants. Remember who's described throughout the Bible as "a liar, and the father of it?" That was Cain's father. Remember? (Learn *much* more about that in the next article.)

Well documented is the fact that Aaron's descendants progressively succumbed to human nature (a.k.a. "the sin nature.") Their growing slothfulness – even characteristic drunkenness! – caused them, first, to start delegating their physically demanding duties to the **Nethinim**. Later, the Nethinim became temple officials. Here's part of the reason why:

> "... the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble [in] judgment. For all tables are full of vomit [and] filthiness, [so that there is] no place [clean]." —Isaiah 28:7,8

Who were the Nethinim? This quote is loaded with some pretty high-minded words and phrases, but it may still be helpful to you:

> "In Talmudic times the Nethinim were put on a level with bastards, and their descendants, male and female, were interdicted from marriage with Israelites for all time (Yeb. ii. 4, viii. 3); this is said to have been established by David (Yeb. 78b) or by Ezra (Num. R. viii.). Nethinim were allowed to marry only proselytes, freedmen, bastards, and foundlings (Kid. viii. 3). In tables of precedence they are reckoned very low, coming after bastards in Yer. Hor. iii. 5 and Yer. Yeb., viii. 5. This union of sacred service and social ostracism has led to the suggestion that the Nethinim were the descendants of the Kedeshot, or sacred prostitutes; and it may be pointed out that in the list in Ezra ii. there is a large number of feminine forms, as well as in the extra list contained in the Book of Esdras (v. 53-58). This latter list contains a reference to the 'Bene Souba,' with which may be compared the 'Soba'im' of Ezek. xxiii. 42 (Hebr.). Both the Septuagint and Josephus refer to the Nethinim as 'Hieroduli,' which seems to imply that they were Kedeshot..." —<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/11451-nethinim>; citing Jacobs, *The Nethinim*, in *Studies in Biblical Archæology*, pp. 104-22

Well before Jesus walked here, the NETHINIM were almost certainly absorbed into the priesthood and very likely made up at least a part of the Pharisees and other priests. Per Nehemiah 11:21, the Nethinim organized themselves into a kind of guild under with their own leaders—something like today's trade unions. With that, they gained power...enough that they gradually "blended" into the ranks of the Levites and the Aaronic priests.

The Old Testament SCRIBES were of a group known as the **Kenites**. They were **the descendants of Cain**, the first murderer, the biological son of Satan. That will come as quite a shock to many readers, I know. But it's true. You'll learn a lot more about that in the next article.

First mentioned at Genesis 15:19, the Kenites lived alongside the Amelkites during Saul's time as king (1 Samuel 15:6). Saul spared them because they had shown kindness to the Hebrews who traveled from Egypt to Jerusalem with Ezra and Nehemiah, to rebuild the temple. Some clans of the Kenites were known for their skills in the rare art of metallurgy. They are often called "the gypsies and tinkerers of the old Oriental world." The Aramaic word, "qeni" means "smith."

Satan is said to have been the most nearly perfect angel that God created. Given that, what characteristics might one expect to observe in Satan's descendants? Some clans of them were regarded for their exceptional intelligence and for their devotion to scholarly pursuits. They became the SCRIBES. Families of them resided in the Judean city of Jabez (1 Chronicles 2:55). They were called "Tirathites" because they were learned and ingenious. They were called "Shimeathites" because they kept the sacred songs and the doctrines of the law of God alive. They were called "Suchathites" because they dwelt not in cities, but in tents. They rejected worldly things, preferring to concentrate on their endless studying and learning. That was in addition to their "day job" of recording and making never-ending hand-written copies of the scriptures.

Imagine that—even in Old Testament times! Satan's offspring had full charge of the recording and copying of the sacred texts! Taking into account what you now know about the ever-growing alcoholism and laziness of the Levites and the Aaronic Priests, how likely is it in your mind that the Kenite Scribes would NOT also have eventually dominated the Priesthood? Jesus knew who they were. Shouldn't those seek to know Him know that, too? (See Revelation 2:9 and 3:9.)

This **YouTube video**, "Marking the Sons of Cain," part 4, makes a strong case for the notion that the Nethinim and the Kenites are BOTH descendants of Cain: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gsuxZfSCAU4>. Hope you'll watch it!

But what about the HIGH PRIESTS? Were they Kennite-Nethinim, too? Aaron, the older brother of Moses, was the first High Priest [Exodus 28:1–3]. His descendants were the priests in Israel before the nation of Israel broke away from the nation of Judah. After that split, they were priests in the southern nation Judah, where Jerusalem was the capital city. (The capital city of the northern nation of Israel was Samaria.)

You may remember learning about Caiaphas, the 1<sup>st</sup>-Century High Priest who presided over the Sanhedrin's mock trial of Jesus. His predecessor was a fellow named Annas. Neither Caiaphas nor Annas was descended from Aaron (or even Levi) as required, per Exodus 29:9b;30:30. Instead, they were political appointees of the Roman governor at Jerusalem. That was in complete defiance of the Biblically exclusive Aaronic priesthood. Caiaphas succeeded Annas, his father-in-law, as High Priest about 12 years before Jesus's crucifixion. He reigned until 36 A.D. So when and how did the political appointment of High Priests start?

Syrian ruler, Antiochus IV, started replacing the High Priests with men of his own choosing about 175 years before Christ. When Herod came to power 37 years before the birth of Jesus, he also appointed anyone he pleased to that office. It was, in fact, a much-coveted office: Those who won those appointments were typically from wealthy aristocratic families. The competition was often fierce. There were bribes. Caiaphas was an aristocrat long before he gained such enormous power and prestige.

Were they Kennite-Nethinim? Nobody knows for sure, but they certainly weren't qualified to be High Priests...or even *low* priests, for that matter. And here's something worth noting: The Jews get a really bad rap for causing Jesus' crucifixion, but the priests were the guilty ones. They weren't Jews!

Let's review:

- 1 Only the descendants of Aaron were qualified to be PRIESTS. Only the descendants of Levi were qualified to be SCRIBES and tabernacle/temple attendants.
- 2 The Nethinim (That word is plural.) soon took over the duties of the Levite SCRIBES and attendants of the tabernacle ...and, later, the temple. That was partly because most of the Levite scribes and tabernacle/temple attendants had become lazy, drunken bums. The Aaronic Priests were guilty of such behavior, too! That made it really easy for the Kenites to gradually infiltrate the PRIESTHOOD.
- 3 There is an abundance of evidence to support the conclusion that both the Nethinim and the Kennites were the direct descendants of Cain and his biological father, Satan.

- ④ The Nethinim and the Kennites also exhibit(ed) the traits of exceptional intelligence that we might expect from people who are/were the direct descendants of the most nearly-perfect angel that God ever created.
- ⑤ Long before the time of Jesus' ministry, here, the office of HIGH PRIEST was given to wealthy political appointees; not to descendants of Aaron, as required by God's law. There was a lot of corruption surrounding the 1st-Century temple at Jerusalem.

Next, we'll answer the burning question, "What really happened in the Garden of Eden?"

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—a collaborative effort with several other members of our **Link1**<sup>™</sup> Bible Research Team

