

THE BOOK OF ACTS | GOD'S REVELATION OF TRANSITION

SESSION 5: ACTS 1:20-26 | FEBRUARY 10, 2019

THE REPLACEMENT FOR JUDAS | ACTS 1:12-26

- Verses 12-19 included on Session 4
- Verse 20 –
 - This is a quote of both Psalm 69:25 and Psalm 109:8. (There are at least 14 places in the New Testament where two or more Old Testament passages are combined to make one "full story.")
 - The latter portion concerning Judas' **bishoprick** uses the root word επισκοπος [episkopos], which is a word of *rulership* or *oversight*.
- Verses 21-22
 - Here we receive insight that there were others (beyond the 12) who **companied with us** from the time of the Baptism of Jesus by John until **that same day that he was taken up from us**. This requires, therefore, that others had heard the 40-day Kingdom seminar Jesus taught the 12 (Acts 1:3).
 - One of those (and only one) who met the requirements would **be ordained** (the Greek simply says, "become"), thus **ordained** is an anachronism.
 - Note that any **witness** could testify **of his resurrection** but only **one** would take the office of Judas. Why? Because testifying of the resurrection was only one role of the office, and this could be filled by any witness. However, the Apostolic role, including judging the tribes of Israel, could only be filled by 12 men. Later, when James the Apostle was martyred, he was not replaced? This is because James could fulfill his role in the resurrection, but Judas could not (as Psalm 109 fully testifies).
- Verse 23 –
 - Having determined the qualifications, there were two men whom **they appointed**.
 - In Greek, both **appointed** (in v. 23) and **ordained** (in v. 22) are simple words with none of the religious "baggage" that they have today.
 - It is interesting that these two men are introduced to the reader for the first time in this text, though they have been with Jesus all along. Compare John 21:25.
- Verses 24-25 –
 - It is important to note that the Apostles were **with one accord** (v. 14), basing their decision on Scripture (v. 20) and after careful deliberation (v. 23) and with prayer (v. 24).
 - If Apostles cannot make a valid decision under these circumstances, then what hope is there for any of the rest of us?
 - The apostles entrusted the decision to the **Lord, which knowest the hearts of all**.
 - The Greek word καρδιογνώστης [kardiognostes] (heart-knowing) is only used here and Acts 15:8.
 - Compare 1 Samuel 16:7, 1 Chronicles 28:9, etc.
- Verse 26 –
 - This is a clear reminder that the apostles were living in a different dispensation, for we would never condone this method of decision making. However, in their dispensation, Joshua divided the land **by lot** (Josh 18:10, Acts 13:19), the scapegoat on the Day of Atonement was selected when Aaron **shall cast lots** (Lev. 16:8), the division of the Levites was **divided by lot** (1 Chron. 24:5), and Jonah was determined to be the guilty party when the sailors **cast lots** (Jonah 1:7). The casting of lots is never seen as "luck," or as poor judgment in the Dispensation of the Law, and it is never used after the Holy Spirit is given.
 - After this selection, Matthias is never mentioned again, leading some to speculate that the Apostles made a hasty and incorrect decision. However, the assumption to such an argument is that the apostolic ministry continues into the age of the church.

- The selection of Matthias as the 12th Apostle has caused much confusion by those who do not “rightly divide the Word of Truth.”
 - “So, what name will be written on the 12th foundation in the heavenly Jerusalem (Revelation 21:14)? The Bible does not explicitly say, but it likely will be Matthias. Ultimately, though, we will have to wait to find out. “ <http://www.gotquestions.org/Matthias-Judas-Paul.html#ixzz2qValB7DL>
 - “On the issue of the "13" disciples, it is true that Peter and company "elected" Matthias to replace Judas, but not everything recorded in the Bible that individuals do is to be taken as ordained of God... Peter made his share of mistakes...Every place in scripture where God makes clear His own feelings about the apostles, there are 12... Whose names are on the gates? If we are to imagine that one of them will have the name "Matthias", then who will be left out (certainly not Paul, the last but also the greatest of the apostles)? Remember that the election of Matthias was held before Pentecost, after which Peter (and his fellows) are suddenly much more effective for God (as one would expect with the coming of the Holy Spirit). Notice too that to "elect" Matthias, they turn to the Old Testament device of casting lots, something Jesus never did and something that is never authorized in the New Testament (or practiced elsewhere ever again). Notice that God did not communicate to Peter the need to get a new number 12... (<http://ichthys.com/mail-Matthias.htm>)
 - “The selection of St. Matthias (Acts 1:15-26) by the Apostles was made out of their desire to fill up the number twelve, but it seems possible they jumped the gun. Had they been patient and waited just a while, they would have seen the conversion of St. Paul and that he would have been a perfect replacement for Judas, rounding out the number twelve.” <http://gottesblog.blogspot.com/2010/02/was-matthias-mistake.html>

INTRODUCTORY NOTES ABOUT PENTECOST

- Pentecost is related to the Kingdom, not to the church.
 - The “Body of Christ” is the mystery, not the indwelling or baptism of the Spirit.
 - Pentecost was a Jewish feast day. It finds fulfillment in Christ but is not replaced in the church.
 - No Jewish holiday becomes a Christian holiday.
 - All Jewish holidays are *types* with Christ or the work of Christ as the *antitype*.
 - Christ was the *First fruits* and Israel & Judah are the *Pentecost* offering. Leviticus 23:9-17
 - The church could not begin (nor be revealed) until the Kingdom had been offered and rejected.
 - All people had to be “shut up in disobedience” before God could “show mercy to all.” Romans 11:28-32.
 - Pentecost was the beginning of the Jewish nation being “shut up in disobedience.”
 - When Israel would be temporarily cast away, then the “reconciliation of the world” could take place. Romans 11:15.
 - Only by the removal of Israel could “the world” be made a recipient of God’s grace through Jesus Christ.
 - Only by the removal of the church can Israel be the recipient of God’s promises to Abraham.
 - The Kingdom could not be offered—
 - Until there were 12 apostles ready to reign
 - Until the King has been rejected, crucified, and raised again
 - Until the Holy Spirit had been given to empower the proclamation of the Kingdom.