

Acts 1:12-26 The Restoration of the Twelve

I. The Disciples Wait And Pray For the Promise (12-14)

A. The Disciples Return to Jerusalem (12)

1. They obeyed Christ's command to wait in Jerusalem
2. They were waiting for Christ's promise of power
 - i. A "Sabbath days journey" is about a kilometer
 - ii. Jews were prohibited from walking further on a Sabbath – Jews extrapolated this from Ex. 16:29

B. The Disciples Were Staying In the Upper Room (13)

1. They "abode" (were staying) means they were regularly meeting there – all 120 people probably weren't living there
2. This was probably the same room where they ate the Lord's Supper
3. All the disciples were present except Judas
 - i. The list given here is exactly the same as Luke 6:14-16 (without Judas)

C. The Disciples Devoted Themselves to Prayer (14)

1. Notice that the first actions of the church were focused on God
2. They spent much time together in prayer
 - i. They were probably praying for the fulfillment of the promise to come
 - ii. "devoted to" – shows they were consistently and repeatedly persisting in prayer
3. Notice that Jesus' brothers were also there
 - i. Evidently they were converted after seeing the resurrected Jesus
 - ii. In John 7:5, Jesus' brothers did not believe
 - iii. Later, James even became the leader of the Jerusalem church (Acts 12:17; 15:13-21)

Note: The promise of the Kingdom is coming. The Church is the fulfillment of everything Israel was always supposed to be. The Apostles will represent the perfected 12 tribes of Israel. Remember Jesus' words in Luke 22:29-30 – *"And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel"*

But in order to represent the fulfillment of the true Israel, there needed to be 12 apostles, not eleven. The question in all their minds would be, "How could God fulfill His promise? Wouldn't Judas' apostasy stop God's plan?"

II. The Replacing of Judas (15-26)

A. Peter Takes A Leadership Role (15)

1. "In those days" shows that Peter assumed leadership to strengthen the brethren during the time between the ascension and Pentecost.
 2. Peter was obeying Christ command in Luke 22:32 – "But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren"
 3. Peter will explain that Judas' actions were foretold in Scripture and were part of God's plan
- B. Peter Demonstrates God's Plan From Scripture (16-20)
1. Judas' Actions Were Foretold and Necessary (16-17)
 - i. The Holy Spirit Spoke Through David Concerning Judas (16a)
 - a. Peter affirms the doctrine of inspiration
 - b. Notice that David wrote the Psalms Peter will quote in verse 20 – but Peter says the Holy Spirit spoke through his writings
 - c. David wrote about a particular instance in His life, but the Holy Spirit inspired and used that writing to foretell Judas' actions
 - ii. Judas, One of the Disciples Became an Enemy to Christ (16b-17)
 2. Judas' Actions Would Cause Doubt Among the People (18-19)
 - i. Verses 18-19 are a parenthesis – spoken by Luke
 - ii. Judas Died Horribly After He Turned on Jesus (18)
 - a. Two Questions immediately arise
 - i. Why does it say Judas purchased the field with the 30 pieces of silver when Matt. 27:7 says the priests purchased the field?
 - ii. Why does Luke say Judas fell headlong and burst open rather than hanging himself like Matt. 27:5?
 - b. There are simple answers
 - i. The priests would not accept the money back when Judas threw it back because it was blood money. So they bought a field in Judas' name. For all intents and purposes, Judas did buy the field.
 - ii. Luke explains the after effects of Judas' suicide. Judas hung himself and evidently his body swelled and he fell, bursting open.
 - Luke emphasizes this part of Judas' death because of his audience
 - For the Jew, suicide was an abomination. Any Jew hearing that

Judas killed himself would have been appalled at the shame of it.

- But the Romans and Greeks (who were Luke's intended audience) often thought suicide was noble. They might have heard Judas killed himself and thought he did a good thing.
- By emphasizing the kind of death Judas died, Luke communicated the shameful nature of Judas' death to Gentiles.

iii. Judas' Treachery was Known all over Jerusalem (19)

- a. All Jerusalem knew of Judas' action and the field He bought
- b. This might hinder their mission because people would think Jesus wasn't even enough to keep his own people loyal – how could they be the perfected Israel?

3. Judas' Replacement is Required By Scripture (20)

- i. Peter quotes two Psalms to show God's Prophecy and Plan – Psalm 69:25 and Psalm 109:8
 - a. Psalm 69:25 – David protests and pleads to God that he would removed David's enemies from the community. Both John and Paul referenced this Psalm as predicting Jesus' suffering (John 2:17; 15:25; Rom. 15:3) – Paul also applies this Psalm to the Jews who rejected Jesus (Rom. 11:9-10) – Since Judas joined Jesus' enemies, Ps. 69 applies to him.
 - b. Psalm 109:8 – This is a prayer for vindication and vengeance. The Psalmist charges his enemies and curses them. He prays that judgment would fall on his enemy and his position of leadership would be given to another. Peter uses this to stress that Judas must be replaced.

C. The Disciples Obey and Replace Judas (21-26)

1. The Disciples Prepare to Replace Judas (21-23)

- i. The Qualifications of the Replacement are Established (21-22)
 - a. Must be a man (*ανηρ*)
 - b. Must have been with Jesus from the beginning. A faithful follower, not just in and out.

- c. Must have been eyewitness to the ministry (from John's baptism) and resurrection of Jesus – the point of the position is to be a witness.
 - d. According to Luke 6:13 – there was a larger group of people following Jesus around than just the twelve.
 - ii. Two Men are Selected who Met the Requirements (23)
 - a. Notice that none of Jesus' brothers were selected. They didn't meet the requirements – they were not believers from the beginning.
 - b. Think about what these two men were getting into. Jesus was murdered weeks earlier and they would probably be killed if they preached in his name. They were giving their lives one way or another.
 - c. Joseph (Barsabas or Justus) and Mathias
- 2. The Disciples Pray For God to Choose the Replacement (24-26)
 - i. They prayed the Lord would choose His man (24-25)
 - a. They turn to God to decide between the two
 - b. Jesus chose the other disciples and they expect Him to choose Judas' replacement
 - c. The word "part" and "place" in v. 25 are the same word in Greek. The replacement would receive his place in service and ministry because Judas went to his own place.
 - ii. They chose Matthias by Lot (26)
 - a. How they chose is a debated question
 - b. Casting lots was usually done by writing names on stones and letting one fall out of a container.
 - c. Here Luke uses a very odd phrase
 - i. "And they gave lots for them"
 - ii. Or it could be "and they gave shares for them"
 - iii. I believe they cast votes – after they prayed for guidance
 - d. Some believe they church acted rashly here and they should have waited for the Apostle Paul, who was the 12th disciple
 - i. But Paul did not meet the requirements – he was not a witness from the beginning.
 - ii. They prayed for guidance and the Lord answered
- 3. The Twelve are Restored and ready to fulfill the mission.
- 4. The Beginning of the New Israel is Ready!