

Acts 1: Mathias is Chosen to Take Judas' Place

- I. **Additional Scriptures/Notes...** *For further study, find links online to studies on Acts 1at: <http://LemmonsAid.WordPress.com> Type in SEARCH BOX: “Acts 1 Links”*
- 1:6...** “As with Jews generally, the apostles were still laboring under the illusion that Christ would ‘restore’ the Davidic regime of Old Testament fame. They had not yet fathomed the truth that His kingdom was ‘not of this world’ (Jn 18:36). The Lord did not respond directly to their query; they were not prepared for a full explanation at that time, so Jesus simply instructed them to wait for the Spirit’s arrival, by which they would be empowered” [Wayne Jackson, *The Acts of the Apostles—From Jerusalem to Rome*, p. 9].
- 1:8...** POWER--“Here the word for power is *dunamis*, power, efficacy, authority, strength. This is the word used of the gospel in Romans 1:16 – The gospel is God’s power...” [Harold Littrell, *A Commentary on the Book of Acts*, p. 5].
- 1:11...** IN LIKE MANNER--“The phrase ‘so in like manner’ emphatically affirms Christ’s *literal* second coming, together with the *visible* manner of it. This is hard evidence for the fact that the second coming of the Lord will not be an *invisible* coming (as in the alleged ‘rapture’). Nor will it be a mere *providential* coming, such as occurred in A.D. 70 when the Lord ‘came’ in judgment upon Jerusalem (cf., Mt:24:30), nor yet will it be a *representative* coming, via the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (cf., Mt 16:28; Jn 14:18)” [Jackson, p. 10].
- 1:14...** MARY THE MOTHER OF JESUS--“The mother of Jesus is here mentioned for the last time in New Testament history. The fact that she still remained with the disciples, instead of returning to Nazareth, indicates that John was faithful to the dying request of Jesus, and continued to treat her as his own mother (#Joh 19:26,27). Though the prominence here given to her name shows that she was regarded with great respect by the apostles, the manner in which Luke speaks of her shows that he had not dreamed of the worship which was yet to be offered to her by an idolatrous church” [McGarvey].
- 1:16...** MUST NEEDS HAVE BEEN FULFILLED—“...the fact that Judas’ activity was prophesied does not mean that he was compelled, independent of his own willpower, to commit the foul deed. Even he confessed: ‘I have sinned in that I betrayed innocent blood’ (Mt 27:4). Free-moral agency is an awesome responsibility!” [Jackson, p. 12].
- 1:21-22...** “It is of some moment to observe here that the question on which Peter is discoursing has not reference to the original appointment of an apostle, but to the selection of a successor to an apostle. The qualifications, therefore, are found necessary to an election, must always be possessed by one who proposes to be a successor to an apostle” [McGarvey].
- 1:25...** GO TO HIS OWN PLACE—“... the place he had made for himself. There is no better example of the proverb: ‘He made his bed, and had to lie in it.’ Whatever our destiny, it will be our ‘own,’ in that *we are preparing for it*—one way or another. ... There is no doubt in Peter’s mind of the destiny of Judas nor of his own guilt (18)” [Jackson, p. 14].
- II. **Chronology.**
BIBLE PERIOD: **The Period of the Church.**

III. Summary.

In this text we find Luke’s introduction to Acts, which he connects with his account of the life of Christ he had written. He is sure to mention the infallible proofs of the resurrection of Jesus. He talks about assembly with Jesus just prior to the ascension. He tells them when the POWER would come, not answering--directly—their uninformed question about restoring the kingdom. Jesus gives an outline in verse eight of how the kingdom would be spread. The betrayal of Judas and his subsequent suicide necessitated there being a replacement for Judas, according to the Scriptures. The successor of Judas would have to be someone who had been with them from the beginning even to the ascension of Jesus. Two men met those qualifications and a selection was done by lot, that that the Lord might make the choice (v. 24). The lot fell on Matthias and he was numbered with the eleven.

IV. Outline.

1. The promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:1-5).
2. A question from the apostles (Acts 1:6-8).
3. The choosing of Judas’ successor (Acts 1:13-26).

V. Questions.

True or False

01. _____ Judas had gone to his own place.
02. _____ We do not know how long Jesus appeared on earth after His resurrection.
03. _____ The Book of Acts contains one of the listings of the names of the apostles.
04. _____ Peter calls Judas a GUIDE.
05. _____ Matthias took Judas’ place as an apostle.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. _____ Considering the information from Acts 1:3 and the fact that Pentecost was 50 days from Passover, about how many days did the apostles have to wait in Jerusalem: (a) one month; (b) ten days; (c) at least a year.
07. _____ Jesus told the apostles, in answering their question, something about the times and seasons: (a) they could easily see them; (b) it was not for them to know; (c) be careful to watch for them.
08. _____ When Peter began his speech about replacing Judas, about how many were present: (a) 14; (b) 120; (c) we don’t know.
09. _____ Peter described Judas’ thirty pieces of silver as: (a) a fool’s reward; (b) the reward of iniquity; (c) a traitor’s reward.
10. _____ The Book to which Peter referred regarding Judas was: (a) Isaiah; (b) Jeremiah; (c) Psalms.

Fill in the Blanks

11. “...Thou Lord, which _____ the _____ of all men, show whether of these two thou hast chosen.”
12. The first three names of the listing of apostles were: _____, _____, and _____.
13. Considering the qualifications to be a successor of an apostle, can there be any apostles today? _____
14. “...ye shall be _____ with the _____ not many days hence.”

15. The last place the gospel was to be taken was: the _____
_____ of the _____.

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week's handout

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. *The former treatise...* (Acts 1:1). Luke and Acts are written by the same person. These two books make up the largest contribution from a single writer of the New Testament. We are greatly blessed to have Luke's account of the life of Christ and his history book of the church—both of which were written by the inspiration of God (2 Tim 3:16-17). Luke, being a physician, uses more detailed medical descriptions in both of the books he penned.
2. *...being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God* (Acts 1:3). Jesus, the Master Teacher, continued even in these last forty days of His existence on this earth to teach the disciples. We do not have recorded all of these words He used in these final days with these chosen ones, however, we are confident they would be words to encourage them in the tremendously important work they were about to begin. By knowing that the Pentecost Day is 50 days from Passover, we can also know that the apostles were waiting in Jerusalem for about ten days. The period of time Jesus spent upon the earth AFTER His resurrection was SUFFICIENT to insure good witnesses (cf., 1 Corinthians 15:3-8).
3. *...He showed himself alive after His passion* (Acts 1:3). During His last 40 days upon the earth Jesus assures the disciples of His resurrection with INFALLIBLE PROOFS...
 - 1) **Visible proofs**—*being seen of them* (v. 3).
 - 2) **Audible proofs**—*and speaking* (v. 3; cf., John 20:14-16).
 - 3) **Tangible proofs**—*handle me* (Luke 24:39; John 20:26-29).
 - 4) **Sudden proofs**—He appeared unexpectedly and departed in the same way (Luke 24:13-31).
 - 5) **Intermittent proofs**—Like the visits of angels, He appeared here and there, independent of space and material barriers (John 20:19ff).
--Frank L. Cox, *Treatises of Luke*, p. 143.
4. *...wait for the promise of the Father ... Ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost* (Acts 1:4-5). Holy Spirit baptism is not a command, but a PROMISE made to the apostles.
5. *...it is not for you to know...* (Acts 1:7). These disciples, even with all the teaching Jesus had done, were not yet prepared to receive further instruction about the kingdom. We can be supremely confident that this all changed in ten days when they were baptized in the Holy Ghost. How wonderful that we have such a wonderful revelation from God!
6. Possible views of the ascension of Christ (Acts 1:8)...
 - 1) AS A SERVANT, to receive His reward.
 - 2) AS A SON, into His Father's bosom.
 - 3) AS A HIGH PRIEST (i.e., after the order of Melchizedek, Hebrews 5:10), to intercede for His people.
 - 4) AS A KING, to sit upon His throne.

7. This same Jesus ... shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go (Acts 1:11). The promise of the Lord's return. Will I be prepared? (cf., Matthew 25:1-13).
8. ...the number of the names were about an hundred and twenty (Acts 1:15). It seems that some have tried to say that there were 120 baptized in the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Day. This cannot be true! Just by some very simple grammar, we can trace the antecedent of the pronoun THEY of Acts 1:1 back to the word APOSTLES of Acts 1:26. The promise of baptism in the Spirit was ONLY to the apostles and they were the only ones baptized in it.
9. ...of these men... (Acts 1:21-22). Considering these qualifications of an Apostle, is it possible that apostles are in our midst today?

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

M A T T H I A S Q L A Z K N O W E S T H
 Z A Q W S A X S C O D E R E F V B G T E
 Y H N M J L U H I T K O P M E D C V F A
 C D E R F L V O B S G T Y L Y H N M J R
 C D E Q A T B W G T T Y H L N M J U I T
 M J U Y H H N B G T R F V A T C D E Q S
 X S W R B E G I N N I N G V A F R T Y H
 D N N H Y T U J H N H Y R F K C D W F V
 E O C D E I R C O M P A N I E D R I B G
 R I V F R M T G J B G T Y N N H Y T U M
 E T C C D E E R F T G B N H U Y U N D M
 B C C H D E R F O V B G T Y P U J E B V
 M E X S O W E C M S A D U J C D N S T G
 U R B G T S Y H S E D C V F R I T S W B
 N R V F R T E V I R T Y H N A E D C I Q
 A U X S W E D N T C V F R D T G B N T J
 M S Q A Z X S W P R F V R B G T Y U H U
 C E V F R T G G A N H O M J U I K T U E
 C R V F R T G B B N H Y U J M K I T S R
 C D A P O S T L E S H I P D E R F D R L

[The highlighted words can be found above. They may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. DRL]

Acts 1:21-26...²¹Wherefore of these men which have **companied** with us **all the time** that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²**Beginning** from the **baptism of John**, unto that same day that he was **taken up** from us, must one be **ordained** to be a **witness with us** of his **resurrection**.²³ And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and **Matthias**.²⁴ And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which **knowest** the **hearts** of **all men**, **show** whether of these two thou hast **chosen**.²⁵ That he may take part of this ministry and **apostleship**, from which **Judas** by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.²⁶ And they gave forth their **lots**; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was **numbered** with the eleven apostles.