

ACTS 1:16-26

- A. Acts 1:16-17 - Men *and* brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. Acts 1:17 For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.

1. Remember, Judas had been with them for 3 years and was even their treasurer. We know Judas had a part, but it wasn't a **spiritual** part.

*Just like always, not all who say they believe are **true** believers!

2. If you remember, Jesus had said that Judas had a devil from the **beginning**. Though Judas had fooled the others, he had not fooled Christ.

John 6:64, 70-71 - But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. John 6:70 Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? John 6:71 He spake of Judas Iscariot *the son of Simon*: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.

3. Judas' betrayal had been predicted in the Old Testament.

Psalms 41:9 - Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up *his* heel against me.

- a. *It is important to understand that God did not force Judas against his will. God used Judas' **evil** intent to accomplish His own purpose. God is sovereign.
 - b. Judas is "the man who kissed heaven's door, but still went to hell".
4. One last point, it says: [the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David]. That is an example of what **in**spiration of Scripture is in the Bible.

II Peter 1:21 - For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

- B. Acts 1:18-19 - Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. Acts 1:19 And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood.

1. Judas had received **30** pieces of silver from the religious leaders (who wanted Christ dead) for betraying Jesus. Afterward, he felt so guilty that he took back the 30 pieces of silver to the priests at the temple. Since this was **blood** money, the priest wouldn't accept it for themselves, so they bought a potter's field. What hypocrites!

**Since it was Judas' money (30 pieces of silver), he is given credit for purchasing the field.

2. Here, Peter reminds the 10 and the people of Judas' betrayal and suicide. **When putting Matthew's and Luke's accounts together, Judas' suicide was by hanging. Evidently the tree branch he used to hang himself on, or the rope, broke causing him to fall and burst open after hitting the rocks/ground below.

C. Acts 1:20-22 - For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take. Acts 1:21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, Acts 1:22 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.

1. Psalm 109:8 - Let his days be few; *and* let another take his office.
2. This is the first official act of the apostles, and it was to appoint a 12th apostle to replace Judas. Peter does not make a mistake in doing this, as some say. Some say God corrected this mistake later by appointing Paul as the 12th apostle. Nothing could be further from the truth.
 - a. "Paul is never identified as one of the 12 in Scripture. Acts 2:14 and Acts 6:2 clearly include Matthias as one of the 12. Would the Holy Spirit, Who inspired the Scriptures, have recognized Matthias as one of the 12, an apostle, if he were not?" Baker
 - b. For one to qualify to be the 12th apostle, he needed to have been with them from John's baptism, to have witnessed the Lord's entire earthly ministry - to Christ's resurrection and ascension [with us all the time].

*|Paul did not meet those qualifications and he never was involved with the 12's Kingdom message at this point (Matt.-John-Acts 1). He was the apostle to the Gentiles.

Note: I Corinthians 15:5 - *And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:*

- c. Peter and the other apostles did have divine authority to appoint the 12th apostle (Acts 1:3, Luke 24:45). A successor was to be chosen.

Matthew 18:18-20 - Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Matt. 18:19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. Matt. 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

*Christ is establishing what the minimum quorum was to be in order to lead official business among the apostles (Acts 6:1-6). They were given authority to represent Christ in His absence (Gal. 2:9).

Matthew 16:18-19 - And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Matt. 16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

*Peter actually is a quorum of one!

3. Question? Why was it so important to choose a 12th apostle?

Matthew 19:28 - And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

*They weren't ready to offer the Kingdom to Israel until they had 12 apostles to be over the 12 tribes of Israel. They only had 11 and needed one more. It is not deep!

D. Acts 1:23 - And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

*Evidently out of the 120 men, there were only 2 who qualified to be the 12th apostle. Their names are Matthias and Barsabas.

Remember Paul would not have qualified, since he had not been with them [all the time].

E. Acts 1:24 - And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all *men*, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,

1. The disciples prayed that God would reveal to them who would be the 12th apostle that He had already chosen. They are saying that they knew God had already made the decision, so they just wanted Him to show them who His choice was!
2. This shows these men were not carnal men who mistakenly were trying to replace Judas' position that he had lost. They were just the opposite of that and were in an act of obedience to God's Word. They were working in line with the divine authority given them, and in prayer say, "God, You show us".

F. Acts 1:25 - That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

1. It says of Judas [that he might go to his own place.]
 - a. Note: John 17:12 - While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.
 - b. Then notice how Judas and Antichrist are in the same context in Zechariah, chapter 11:
 - (1) 11:12 - And I said unto them, If ye think good, give *me* my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty *pieces* of silver.

*It is referring to Christ.

 - (2) 11:13 - And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prized at of them. And I took the thirty *pieces* of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD.

*It is referring to Judas.

- (3) 11:15-16 - And the LORD said unto me, Take unto thee yet the instruments of a foolish shepherd. Zec. 11:16 For, lo, I will raise up a shepherd in the land, *which* shall not visit those that be cut off, neither shall seek the young one, nor heal that that is broken, nor feed that that standeth still: but he shall eat the flesh of the fat, and tear their claws in pieces.

*It is referring to Antichrist.

- (4) 11:17 - Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword *shall be* upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened.

*It is referring to a sword-wounded Antichrist.

*The word "slain" in Rev. 5:6 is the same Greek word for "wounded" in Revelation 13:3 - *And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.*

2. Note: Revelation 17:8 - The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

*Why perdition? Isn't that where Judas went? This is a counterfeit resurrection.

II Thessalonians 2:3-4 - Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 2Thess. 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

**Antichrist in the first 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation is "the man of sin". The last 3 1/2 years, he is "the son of perdition". Satan allows the body of "the man of sin" to physically die. Then as he had entered Judas' body, Satan's spirit will enter Antichrist's body, making it to seemingly live again (counterfeit-imitation form) and deceive the world.

Chasing Rabbits?

- G. Acts 1:26 - And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

1. This verse is where many say Peter and the 10 were carnal and were just throwing the dice of chance. They do this to try to say Matthias was not one of the 12 and that Paul was the 12th apostle.
Wrong!

*Do we think now that Peter knew the Old Testament? This was an O.T. common way to determine the will of God.

2. Proverbs 16:33 - The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof *is* of the LORD.

*The lot is cast, but God determines the outcome.

- a. Numbers 26:55 - Notwithstanding the land shall be divided by lot: according to the names of the tribes of their fathers they shall inherit.

- b. Leviticus 16:8-10 - And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat. Lev. 16:9 And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD'S lot fell, and offer him *for* a sin offering. Lev. 16:10 But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, *and* to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness.

*God would intervene in showing which one He chose.

- c. Even in the Kingdom, the lot will be used!

Ezekiel 45:1 - Moreover, when ye shall divide by lot the land for inheritance, ye shall offer an oblation unto the LORD, an holy portion of the land: the length *shall be* the length of five and twenty thousand *reeds*, and the breadth *shall be* ten thousand. This *shall be* holy in all the borders thereof round about.

Ezekiel 48:29 - This *is* the land which ye shall divide by lot unto the tribes of Israel for inheritance, and these *are* their portions, saith the Lord GOD.

3. So here in Acts 1, the disciples were doing right. And just because that doesn't work today, doesn't mean it didn't work back then.

*Today, we have a complete revelation of God's will. So we don't need lots in our circumstances of life. But they did work back then for Israel.

4. Matthias is Judas' successor and further proof of that is found in Acts 2:4 - *And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

*The Holy Spirit endorses Matthias, and if the 11 had acted in carnality and disobedience, none of them would have been filled with the Holy Spirit.

5. What about [Joseph called Barsabas]? He, too, had been qualified and now didn't have a position-office.

Answer: Is it possible that he is the Joses Barnabas who later became Paul's co-partner in travel? Did God have something great reserved for him?

Acts 4:36 - And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, *and* of the country of Cyprus,

Acts 11:25-26 - Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: Acts 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

*Next week, in Chapter 2, it will be Pentecost!