

# THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

## LESSON 2: CHAPTER 1:13-26

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**Vs. 13** The disciples are in the upper room. The eleven apostles are named here. Eight of these apostles will not be mentioned anymore by name in the Bible. They all received power (vs. 8) to preach and bear witness to the Lord.

The lesson: many of God's workers don't get recognition, though they are working in God's will.

**Vs. 14** They meet in one accord (united in agreement in prayer, supplication, and fellowship).

There are women there, including Mary. Jesus' brethren are there (Mt. 13:55, Mk. 6:3, Jn. 7:5). They all meet together as faithful believers in one accord.

**Vs. 15** All the believers in the upper room are called "disciples." There were "**about an hundred and twenty.**" This is a significant number in the Bible.

**THE TEMPLE:** At the dedication of Solomon's temple, there were 120 priests (2 Chron. 5:12). During this event, the house of the Lord "**was filled with a cloud...for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God**" (2 Chron. 5:13-14)."

**THE TABERNACLE:** When Moses completed the work of the Tabernacle, "**Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.**" (Exod. 40:34).

**THE CHURCH:** On the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1), the disciples "**were all with one accord in one place.**" <sup>2</sup> **And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.**" –"**And THEY—were all filled with the Holy Ghost**" (Acts 2:4). The Lord doesn't live in the Tabernacle or the Temple anymore. He lives in believers (1 Cor. 6:16, 19).

**Vss. 16-20** Peter has a newfound understanding of the Scriptures concerning Judas Iscariot. In the Gospels, Peter demonstrated great spiritual blindness concerning the truths that Jesus clearly revealed to him (Mt. 16:21-22). Now, Peter has a new ability to see spiritual truths and fulfilled prophecy. This ability was given to him when he received the Holy Ghost in John 20:22 (see. John 14:26, 16:13) .

Peter used the Bible principle found in Isaiah 28:9-10; "**Precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.**" We can't expect to find Bible doctrines laid out in one section of the Bible. God wrote the Bible so that those who want truth will "**search the scriptures**" to find it (John 5:39).

Peter references Psalm 69:25 when he says, "**For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein.**" (His wife would be a widow).

When Peter says, "**And his bishoprick let another take,**" he makes reference to Psalm 109:8, in which the context is clearly a passage about Judas. Notice that the Holy Spirit changes the word "**office**" to "**bishoprick,**" to adapt the verse to a New Testament situation (there were no bishops in the Old Testament).

See also Psalm 41:9 with Matthew 26:50 and John 18:5. Jesus was betrayed by a friend. Judas "**was guide to them that took Jesus**" (vs.16).

**“Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity”** (vs. 18). See Zechariah 11:12-13 and Matthew 27:6-7.

### SUPPOSED CONTRADICTIONS

1. In Matthew 27:9, we’re told that the priests act of buying the potter’s field with the 30 pieces of silver was fulfillment of a prophecy spoken by Jeremiah. But if you search Jeremiah, he never mentions this event.

Attention to detail: the verse says it was **“spoken by Jeremy the prophet,”** not written down.

2. In Acts 1:18, Judas **“falling headlong...burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.”**

In Matthew 27: 5, Judas **“departed, and went and HANGED himself.”**

Judas must have tied a rope to a tree overlooking a field. Then during the earthquake (Mt. 27:51), either the branch broke or the whole tree went over the cliff and Judas fell and “burst asunder.” These verses don’t contradict, they complement; they provide additional information.

**Vss. 21-23**     The qualifications and selection of Judas’ replacement as one of the twelve.

1. They needed a man who was with Jesus and the twelve from the baptism of John until the ascension of the Lord.
2. He would be ordained as one of the twelve to witness of Jesus’ resurrection.
3. They asked the Lord to show them which man He chose.
4. **They gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.”**

### COMMON FALSE TEACHINGS ABOUT THE SELECTION OF MATTHIAS:

1. This method of selection was done apart from the will of God. Since the Bible never mentions Matthias after this, it proves the eleven were acting against God’s will.
  - a. Remember that 8 of the 12 are never mentioned again. That’s not a valid argument.
  - b. The Lord gave them power and authority to make binding decisions on earth in His absence (Matthew 18:18-20).
2. Paul is the twelfth apostle. Choosing Matthias was a mistake. There can’t be more than 12 apostles.
  - a. There are more than 16 apostles mentioned in the Bible.
  - b. Paul was an apostle born out of due time, selected to be an apostle to the Gentiles.
  - c. This is not a selection of an apostle. It’s a selection for the replacement of Judas as one of “the twelve.”
  - d. They were called “the eleven” after Judas’ departure (Mt. 28:16, Mk. 16:14, Lk. 24:9, 33).
  - e. They are called “the twelve” before the conversion of Saul of Tarsus (Acts 2:42, 43, 33, 5:12, 6:6). This included Matthias. The Lord, in His Holy Scriptures accepted the choice.
  - f. Paul mentions “the twelve” in First Corinthians 15:5, and doesn’t count himself as one of them.
  - g. Paul doesn’t meet the qualification of Acts 1:22. He wasn’t a disciple who was in their company from John’s baptism and he wasn’t there at the Lord’s ascension.

### THE LORD KNOWS THE HEARTS OF ALL MEN (Acts 1:24)

– 1 Samuel 16:7

--Jeremiah 17:10

--1 Chronicles 28:9

--Revelation 2:23

--Jeremiah 11:20