

## **Acts 1:12-14**

# **The Uniqueness of the Apostles**

We are witnesses of all the things He [Jesus] did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible, not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, *that is*, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that He is the One who has been appointed by God [the Father] as Judge of the living and the dead. Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.

Acts 10:39-43

[The Church is being] built on the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the Cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy Temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:20-22

## **The Context of Acts 1:12-14**

### **The Book of Acts Summarized Topically/Concepts**

“JESUS IS ALIVE AS HEAD OF HIS BRIDE”

### **The Book of Acts Summarized Geographically/Places**

You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem (1:1-6:7)

and in Judea and Samaria (6:8-9:31)

and unto the Uttermost Parts of the Earth (9:32-28:31)

### **Chapter One of the Book of Acts**

The Prologue of the Book of Acts 1:1-3

From the Resurrection to the Ascension (40 Days) 1:4-11

From the Ascension to the Birthday of the NT Church (10 Days) 1:12-26

# **The Content of Acts 1:12-14**

## **The New Testament Church Was Birthed Out of a Ten Day Prayer Meeting**

The 11 Apostles Led a Group of Believers in Prayerful Anticipation of the Advent of the Holy Spirit/NT Ministry during the 10 Day Period between the Ascension of Christ and the Birthday of the Universal Church on the Day of Pentecost in 33 AD.

## **Verse 12**

### **The Ascension of Christ took place on/from the Mount of Olives**

Literal, Bodily and Supernatural...Seen by the Eleven

The Site was about .6 miles from the City Proper/Due East of the Temple

Two Angels (1:11): Used it as an Illustration of the Future 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent

Zechariah 14:4: Predicts that Christ Will Return to the Mount of Olives

## **Verse 13**

### **The Apostles are Listed Here in Their Three Distinct Subgroups**

#### **Subgroup 1**

Peter (AKA: Simon)

John

James

Andrew

#### **Subgroup 2**

Philip

Thomas

Bartholomew (AKA: Nathanael)

Matthew

#### **Subgroup 3**

James (son of Alphaeus AKA: the Less)

Simon the Zealot

Judas (son of James AKA: Thaddaeus)

### **Who You Talkin' 'Bout?!?**

2 Simons (the Fisherman and the Zealot)

2 Guys Named James (the brother of John and the Other One)

2 Guys Named Judas (the Flawed One and the One Also Known as Thaddaeus)...

...Not to Mention the Man/Human /Author of Jude (Matthew 13:55)

## **One Way to Remember the Guys (in Their Respective Subgroups)**

Peter and Andrew, James and John

Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew next and Thomas too

James the Less and Judas the Greater, Simon the Zealot and Judas the Traitor

## **Speaking of Apostles....What about Paul and Matthias?**

The term (αποστολος "one who is sent") is used in three different ways

1: Upper Case "A" for Christ Himself in an Incarnational Sense

John 3:16-17; 4:34; 5:37-40; 6:38; 7:28-29; 8:23 [John 13:16]

2a: Upper Case "A" in a Formal Sense for Unique/Foundational Witnesses of Jesus

The Twelve (Peter through Matthias): Luke 6:13-16 and Acts 1:13

2b: Paul was Definitely an Upper Case "A" Apostle, but he Was Distinguished in

Some Ways unique from the Other 12 as the Apostle (especially) to the Gentiles (Galatians 2:7-8; Eph 3:1) and the Major HA of the New Testament

3: Lower Case "a" for any/all believers who functionally "spread the Word"

Barnabas Acts 14:4/14:14; Apollos 1 Cor 4:6-9; Silas and Timothy 1 Thes 2:6

Andronicus and Junias Romans 16:7

## **Verse 14**

**120 Believers (Men and Women) Devoted Themselves to Prayer as They Waited for the Advent of the Holy Spirit in His NT Ministry as Promised by the Lord Just before His Ascension**

The Women

Including some or all: (Luke 8:2; 24:10) Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna,

Mary the mother of James, Salome, Mary the mother of Joseph,

Mary the mother of (the humanity of) Jesus

Truly an amazing person, but Mary is not to be the object of our worship or of our prayer-she was a sinner saved by grace through faith (Luke 1:46-47). Interestingly

Mary receives no further mention in the Book of Acts or the rest of the NT

His (half) brothers (Matthew 13:55/Mark 6:3)

These were the children of Mary and Joseph by natural procreation after the supernatural conception and birth of Jesus

Matthew and Mark mention 4 by name (James and Joseph and Simon and Judas), Acts, the rest of the NT and/or early Church historical sources emphasize two-1: James the key leader/Elder of the Church in Jerusalem after the martyrdom of James the Apostle (Acts 12:1); likely the Human Author of the Book of James and 2: Judas/Jude the Human Author of the 26<sup>th</sup> New Testament Book “Jude”

## Take This To Heart

The Uniqueness of the Apostles Is an Important Part of the Uniqueness of New Testament Christianity

### The New Testament Church

Rooted in a Succession of Apostolic Truth/Propositions  
NOT on a Succession of Apostolic Teachers/Persons

### The New Testament Books

Apostolic and Authentic 1<sup>st</sup> Century Documents Written by Eyewitnesses  
Moved by the Holy Spirit and Providentially Preserved by the Holy Spirit

<b>Manuscript Evidence for Ancient Writings</b>				
<b>Author</b>	<b>Written</b>	<b>Earliest Fragment/copy</b>	<b>Time Span in Years</b>	<b>Number of Manuscripts</b>
Caesar	100 to 44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,000	10
Plato	427 to 347 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,200	7
Thucydides	460 to 400 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,300	8
Tacitus	A.D. 100	A.D. 1100	1,000	20
Suetonius	A.D. 75 to 160	A.D. 950	800	8
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500	643
New Testament	A.D. 40 to 100	A.D. 125	25 to 50	24,000