

*ACTS

The Continuing Work of Jesus

*Acts 1:15-26

Apostolic Preparations (pt. 3)

¹⁵ At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said, ¹⁶ “Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry.” – ¹⁸ (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. ¹⁹ And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) –

²⁰ “For it is written in the book of Psalms,
‘LET HIS HOMESTEAD BE MADE DESOLATE,
AND LET NO ONE DWELL IN IT’;
and,
‘LET ANOTHER MAN TAKE HIS OFFICE.’

²¹ Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us— ²² beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us—one of these *must* become a witness with us of His resurrection.”

²³ So they put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus), and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen ²⁵ to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶ And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

(Acts 1:15-26)

Completing the Apostles

- The replacement of Judas, the apostle who betrayed Jesus and killed himself, in order to restore the original apostolic ministry of twelve men

Completing the Apostles

1. The necessity of Judas' desolation
 - it was a fulfillment of Scripture and a form of divine judgment (Ps. 69:25)
 - the betrayal by and death of Judas was not an unforeseen contingency, but part of the sovereign plan of God (cf. John 17:12)

Completing the Apostles

2. The necessity of Judas' replacement
 - it was a fulfillment of Scripture (Ps. 109:8)
 - it was essential to fill the apostolic portion left vacant by Judas
 - it was necessary to have "twelve" apostles – no more or less

Completing the Apostles

3. The qualifications of the twelfth apostle
 - he had to be a disciple of Jesus during His entire earthly ministry
 - he had to be an eyewitness of the risen Jesus
 - he had to be chosen by Jesus (through the casting of lots)

Completing the Apostles

- What is the purpose of this account?
 - to highlight the unique role and significance of the apostles as witnesses of the resurrection and guarantors of the gospel message
 - the church is built on the foundation of the apostles (Eph. 2:20; Rev. 21:14)