

## ~APOSTLE (2273)

[Greek, *a-po'sto-los* Sent forth]

- Selection And Early Ministry
- Human Weaknesses
- Activity In Christian Congregation
- Miraculous Powers
- Administrative position
- Congregational Apostleships
- The Selection Of Paul
- End Of The Apostolic Period

- The Greek *a-po'sto-los* is derived from the common verb *a-po stel'lo*, meaning simply send forth or send off.
- These twelve Jesus **sent forth**, giving them these orders. Do not go off into the road of the nations, and do not enter into a Samaritan city. (**Matthew 10:5**)
- And if anyone says to you; Why are you doing this? Say; The Lord needs it, and will at once **send it off back** here. (**Mark 11:3**)
- Its basic sense is clearly illustrated in Jesus' statement;
- Most truly I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one that is **sent forth** Greek *a-po'sto-los* greater than the one that **sent him**. (**John 13:16**)
- In this sense the word also applies to Christ Jesus as the **apostle** and High Priest whom we confess.
- Consequently, holy brothers, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the **apostle** and High Priest whom we confess, Jesus. (**Hebrews 3:1**)
- He that receives you receives me also, and he that receives me receives him also that **sent me forth**. (**Matthew 10:40**)
- In answer he said; I was not **sent forth** to any but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (**Matthew 15:24**)
- Yehowah's spirit is upon me, because he anointed me to declare Good News to the poor, he **sent me forth** to preach a release to

- the captives and a recovery of sight to the blind, to send the crushed one's away with a release. (Luke 4:18)
- But he said to them; Also to other cities I must declare the Good News of the kingdom of God, because for this I was **sent forth**. (Luke 4:43)
  - And said to them; Whoever receives this young child on the basis of my name receives me too, and whoever receives me receives him also that **sent me forth**. For he that conducts himself as a lesser one among all of you is the one that is great. (Luke 9:48)
  - He that listens to you listens to me too. And he that disregards you disregards me too. Moreover, he that disregards me disregards also him that **sent me forth**. (Luke 10:16)
  - For God **sent forth** his Son into the world, not for him to judge the world, but for the world to be saved through him. (John 3:17)
  - But I have the witness greater than that of John, for the very works that my Father assigned me to accomplish, the works themselves that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father **dispatched me**. (John 5:36)
  - And you do not have his word remaining in you, because the very one whom **he dispatched** you do not believe. (John 5:38)
  - In answer Jesus said to them; This is the work of God, that you exercise faith in him whom that One **sent forth**. (John 6:29)
  - Just as the living Father **sent me forth** and I live because of the Father, he also that feeds on me, even that one will live because of me. (John 6:57)
  - I know him, because I am a representative from him, and that One **sent me forth**. (John 7:29)
  - Jesus said to them; If God were your Father, you would love me, for from God I came forth and am here. Neither have I come of my own initiative at all, but that One **sent me forth**. (John 8:42)
  - Do you say to me whom the Father sanctified and **dispatched** into the world, You blaspheme, because I said; I am God's Son? (John 10:36)

- True, I knew that you always hear me, but on account of the crowd standing around I spoke, in order, that they might believe that you **sent me forth**. (John 11:42)
- This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you **sent forth**, Jesus Christ. (John 17:3)
- Because the sayings that you gave me I have given to them, and they have received them and have certainly come to know that I came out as your representative, and they have believed that you **sent me forth**. (John 17:8)
- Just as you **sent me forth** into the world, I also **sent them forth** into the world. (John 17:18)
- In order, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in union with me and I am in union with you, that they also may be in union with us, in order, that the world may believe that you **sent me forth**. (John 17:21)
- Also, I have given them the glory that you have given me, in order, that they may be one just as we are one. (John 17:22)
- I in union with them and you in union with me, in order, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may have the knowledge that you **sent me forth** and that you loved them just as you loved me. (John 17:23)
- Father, as to what you have given me, I wish that, where I am, they also may be with me, in order to behold my glory that you have given me, because you loved me before the founding of the world. (John 17:24)
- Righteous Father, the world has, indeed, not come to know you, but I have come to know you, and these have come to know that you **sent me forth**. (John 17:25)
- Jesus, therefore, said to them again; May you have peace. Just as the Father has **sent me forth**, I also am **sending you**. (John 20:21)

- Jesus was **sent forth** by God as his appointed and commissioned representative.
- The term is principally applied, however, to those disciples whom Jesus personally selected as a body of 12 appointed representatives. The names of the original 12 selected are given at,
  - The names of the twelve **apostles** are these. First, Simon, the one called Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James the son of Zebedee and John his brother. (**Matthew 10:2**)
  - Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector, James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus. (**Matthew 10:3**)
  - Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who later betrayed him. (**Matthew 10:4**)
  - And the group of twelve that he formed were Simon, to whom he also gave the surname Peter. (**Mark 3:16**)
  - And James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, he also gave these the surname Boanerges, which means Sons of Thunder. (**Mark 3:17**)
  - And Andrew and Philip and Bartholomew and Matthew and Thomas and James the son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus and Simon the Cananaean. (**Mark 3:18**)
  - And Judas Iscariot, who later betrayed him. And he went into a house. (**Mark 3:19**)
  - But when it became day he called his disciples to him and chose from among them twelve, whom he also named **apostles**. (**Luke 6:13**)
  - Simon, whom he also named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip and Bartholomew. (**Luke 6:14**)
  - And Matthew and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who is called the zealous one. (**Luke 6:15**)
  - And Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who turned traitor. (**Luke 6:16**)

- **One of the original 12, Judas Iscariot, proved to be a traitor, thereby fulfilling earlier prophecies.**
- **Also the man at peace with me, in whom I trusted, who was eating my bread, has magnified his heel against me. (Psalms 41:9)**
- **Let his days prove to be few, his office of oversight let someone else take. (Psalms 109:8)**
- **The remaining 11 faithful apostles are again listed at,**
- **So, when they had entered, they went up into the upper chamber, where they were staying, Peter as well as John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the zealous one, and Judas the son of James. (Acts of Apostles 1:13)**
- **Some of the apostles had been disciples of John the Baptizer before becoming Jesus disciples. (John 1:35-42) Eleven of them were evidently Galileans**
- **Indeed, they were astonished and began to wonder and say; See here, all these who are speaking are Galileans, are they not? (Acts of Apostles 2:7)**
- **Judas Iscariot being considered the sole Judean. They were from the working class, four were definitely fishermen by trade, one had been a tax collector.**
- **Walking alongside the sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, letting down a fishing net into the sea, for they were fishers. (Matthew 4:18)**
- **And he said to them; Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men. (Matthew 4:19)**
- **At once abandoning the nets, they followed him. (Matthew 4:20)**
- **Going on also from there he saw two others who were brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. (Matthew 4:21)**

- **Next, while passing along from there, Jesus caught sight of a man named Matthew seated at the tax office, and he said to him, Be my follower. Thereupon he did rise up and follow him. (Matthew 9:9)**
- **Later, while he was reclining at the table in the house, look! Many tax collectors and sinners came and began reclining with Jesus and his disciples. (Matthew 9:10)**
- **But on seeing this the Pharisees began to say to his disciples, Why is it that your teacher eats with tax collectors and sinners? (Matthew 9:11)**
- **Hearing them, he said; Persons in health do not need a physician, but the ailing do. (Matthew 9:12)**
- **Go, then, and learn what this means, I want mercy, and not sacrifice. For I came to call, not righteous people, but sinners. (Matthew 9:13)**
- **At least two of them appear to have been cousins of Jesus, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were men who were viewed by the religious leaders as unlettered and ordinary, indicating that their education was elementary and not from the schools of higher learning. A number of them, including Peter or Cephas, were married men.**
- **Now when they beheld the outspokenness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were men unlettered and ordinary, they got to wondering. And they began to recognize about them that they used to be with Jesus. (Acts of Apostles 4:13)**
- **We have authority to lead about a sister as a wife, even as the rest of the **apostles** and the Lords brothers and Cephas, do we not? (1 Corinthians 9:5)**
- **Of the 12, Peter, James, and John seem to have enjoyed the closest relationship with Jesus. They alone witnessed the resurrection of Jairus daughter.**
- **While he was yet speaking, some men from the home of the presiding officer of the synagogue came and said; Your daughter died! Why bother the teacher any longer? (Mark 5:35)**
- **But Jesus, overhearing the word being spoken, said to the**

- presiding officer of the synagogue; Have no fear, only exercise faith. (**Mark 5:36**)
- Now he did not let anyone follow along with him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. (**Mark 5:37**)
  - So they came to the house of the presiding officer of the synagogue, and he beheld the noisy confusion and those weeping and letting out many wails. (**Mark 5:38**)
  - And, after stepping in, he said to them; Why are you causing noisy confusion and weeping? The young child has not died, but is sleeping. (**Mark 5:39**)
  - At this they began to laugh scornfully at him. But, having put them all out, he took along the young child's father and mother and those with him, and he went in where the young child was. (**Mark 5:40**)
  - And, taking the hand of the young child, he said to her; Talitha cumi, which, translated, means. Maiden, I say to you, Get up! (**Mark 5:41**)
  - And immediately the maiden rose and began walking, for she was twelve years old. And at once they were beside themselves with great ecstasy. (**Mark 5:42**)
  - But he ordered them again and again to let no one learn of this, and he said that something should be given her to eat. (**Mark 5:43**)
  - **And the transfiguration of Jesus,**
  - Six days later Jesus took Peter and James and John his brother along and brought them up into a lofty mountain by themselves. (**Matthew 17:1**)
  - And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone as the sun, and his outer garments became brilliant as the light. (**Matthew 17:2**)
  - And they accompanied him farther into the garden of Gethsemane than the other **apostles** on the night of his arrest.

- So they came to a spot named Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples. Sit down here while I pray. (**Mark 14:32**)
- And he took Peter and James and John along with him, and he started to be stunned and to be sorely troubled. (**Mark 14:33**)
- **A special affinity appears to have existed between Jesus and John, and John is accepted as being the one referred to as the disciple whom Jesus used to love.**
- Upon turning about Peter saw the disciple whom Jesus used to love following, the one who at the evening meal had also leaned back upon his breast and said; Lord, who is the one betraying you? (**John 21:20**)
- Accordingly, when he caught sight of him, Peter said to Jesus, Lord, what will this man do? (**John 21:21**)
- Jesus said to him; If it is my will for him to remain until I come, of what concern is that to you? You continue following me. (**John 21:22**)
- In consequence, this saying went out among the brothers, that that disciple would not die. However, Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but; If it is my will for him to remain until I come, of what concern is that to you? (**John 21:23**)
- This is the disciple that bears witness about these things and that wrote these things, and we know that the witness he gives is true. (**John 21:24**)
- There was reclining in front of Jesus bosom one of his disciples, and Jesus loved him. (**John 13:23**)

## · Selection And Early Ministry

- The 12 were selected out of a larger group of disciples and were designated **apostles** by Jesus, that they might continue with him and that he might **send them out** **Greek** *a-po-stel'lei* to preach, and to have authority to expel the demons.
- And he ascended a mountain and summoned those he wanted, and they went off to him. (**Mark 3:13**)



- And he formed a group of twelve, whom he also named **apostles**, that they might continue with him and that he might **send them out to preach** (**Mark 3:14**)
- And to have authority to expel the demons. (**Mark 3:15**)
- Thereafter they did continue with him in very close association during the remainder of his earthly ministry, receiving extensive personal instruction and ministerial training.
- So he summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, in order to expel these and to cure every sort of disease and every sort of infirmity. (**Matthew 10:1**)
- The names of the twelve **apostles** are these. First, Simon, the one called Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James the son of Zebedee and John his brother. (**Matthew 10:2**)
- Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector, James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus. (**Matthew 10:3**)
- Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who later betrayed him. (**Matthew 10:4**)
- These twelve Jesus sent forth, giving them these orders; Do not go off into the road of the nations, and do not enter into a Samaritan city. (**Matthew 10:5**)
- But, instead, **go continually** to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (**Matthew 10:6**)
- **As you go, preach**, saying; The kingdom of the heavens has drawn near. (**Matthew 10:7**)
- Cure sick people, raise up dead persons, make lepers clean, expel demons. You received free, give free. (**Matthew 10:8**)
- Do not procure gold or silver or copper for your girdle purses. (**Matthew 10:9**)
- Or a food pouch for the trip, or two undergarments, or sandals or a staff, for the worker deserves his food. (**Matthew 10:10**)
- Into whatever city or village you enter, search out who in it is

- deserving, and stay there until you leave. (**Matthew 10:11**)
- When you are entering into the house, greet the household. (**Matthew 10:12**)
  - And if the house is deserving, let the peace you wish it come upon it, but if it is not deserving, let the peace from you return upon you. (**Matthew 10:13**)
  - Wherever anyone does not take you in or listen to your words, on going out of that house or that city shake the dust off your feet. (**Matthew 10:14**)
  - Truly I say to you, it will be more endurable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on Judgment Day than for that city. (**Matthew 10:15**)
  - Look! I **am sending you forth** as sheep amidst wolves, therefore prove yourselves cautious as serpents and yet innocent as doves. (**Matthew 10:16**)
  - Be on your guard against men, for they will deliver you up to local courts, and they will scourge you in their synagogues. (**Matthew 10:17**)
  - Why, you will be haled before governor's and kings for my sake, for a witness to them and the nations. (**Matthew 10:18**)
  - However, when they deliver you up, do not become anxious about how or what you are to speak, **for what you are to speak will be given you in that hour.** (**Matthew 10:19**)
  - For the one's speaking are not just you, but it is the spirit of your Father that speaks by you. (**Matthew 10:20**)
  - Further, brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise up against parents and will have them put to death. (**Matthew 10:21**)
  - And you will be objects of hatred by all people on account of my name, but he that has endured to the end is the one that will be saved. (**Matthew 10:22**)
  - When they persecute you in one city, flee to another, for truly I

- say to you, you will by no means complete the circuit of the cities of Israel until the Son of man arrives. (**Matthew 10:23**)
- **A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his lord. (**Matthew 10:24**)**
  - **It is enough for the disciple to become as his teacher, and the slave as his lord. If people have called the householder Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household so? (**Matthew 10:25**)**
  - **Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing covered over that will not become uncovered, and secret that will not become known. (**Matthew 10:26**)**
  - **What I tell you in the darkness, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, preach from the housetops. (**Matthew 10:27**)**
  - **And do not become fearful of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul, but rather be in fear of him that can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. (**Matthew 10:28**)**
  - **Do not two sparrows sell for a coin of small value? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's knowledge. (**Matthew 10:29**)**
  - **But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. (**Matthew 10:30**)**
  - **Therefore have no fear. You are worth more than many sparrows. (**Matthew 10:31**)**
  - **Everyone, then, that confesses union with me before men, I will also confess union with him before my Father who is in the heavens. (**Matthew 10:32**)**
  - **But whoever disowns me before men, I will also disown him before my Father who is in the heavens. (**Matthew 10:33**)**
  - **Do not think I came to put peace upon the earth, I came to put, not peace, but a sword. (**Matthew 10:34**)**
  - **For I came to cause division, with a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a young wife against her**

mother-in-law. (**Matthew 10:35**)

- **Indeed, a man's enemies will be persons of his own household. (Matthew 10:36)**
- **He that has greater affection for father or mother than for me is not worthy of me, and he that has greater affection for son or daughter than for me is not worthy of me. (Matthew 10:37)**
- **And whoever does not accept his torture stake and follow after me is not worthy of me. (Matthew 10:38)**
- **He that finds his soul will lose it, and he that loses his soul for my sake will find it. (Matthew 10:39)**
- **He that receives you receives me also, and he that receives me receives him also that sent me forth. (Matthew 10:40)**
- **He that receives a prophet because he is a prophet will get a prophets reward, and he that receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will get a righteous man's reward. (Matthew 10:41)**
- **And whoever gives one of these little one's only a cup of cold water to drink because he is a disciple, I tell you truly, he will by no means lose his reward. (Matthew 10:42)**
- **Shortly afterwards he went journeying from city to city and from village to village, preaching and declaring the Good News of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him. (Luke 8:1)**
- **Since they continued to be Jesus pupils, they were still called disciples, particularly in accounts of events prior to Pentecost.**
- **Now when Jesus had finished giving instructions to his **twelve disciples**, he set out from there to teach and preach in their cities. (Matthew 11:1)**
- **When they caught sight of him walking on the sea, the **disciples** were troubled, saying; It is an apparition! And they cried out in their fear. (Matthew 14:26)**
- **Being now about to go up to Jerusalem, Jesus took the **twelve disciples** off privately and said to them on the road. (Matthew**

20:17)

- Therefore she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other **disciple**, for whom Jesus had affection, and she said to them. They have taken away the Lord out of the memorial tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him. (**John 20:2**)
- Thereafter they are consistently called **apostles**. At the time of their **appointment**, Jesus gave them miraculous powers to heal, as well as to expel demons, and they used these powers to some extent during Jesus ministry.
- And he formed a group of twelve, whom he also named **apostles**, that they might continue with him and that he might send them out to preach (**Mark 3:14**)
- And to have authority to expel the demons. (**Mark 3:15**)
- And they would expel many demons and grease many sickly people with oil and cure them. (**Mark 6:13**)
- So he summoned his **twelve disciples** and gave them authority over unclean spirits, in order to expel these and to cure every sort of disease and every sort of infirmity. (**Matthew 10:1**)
- The names of the **twelve apostles** are these. First, Simon, the one called Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James the son of Zebedee and John his brother. (**Matthew 10:2**)
- Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector, James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus. (**Matthew 10:3**)
- Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who later betrayed him. (**Matthew 10:4**)
- These **twelve** Jesus sent forth, giving them these orders: Do not go off into the road of the nations, and do not enter into a Samaritan city. (**Matthew 10:5**)
- But, instead, go continually to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (**Matthew 10:6**)
- As you go, preach, saying; The kingdom of the heavens has drawn near. (**Matthew 10:7**)

- Cure sick people, raise up dead persons, make lepers clean, expel demons. You received free, give free. (**Matthew 10:8**)
- Then starting out they went through the territory from village to village, declaring the Good News and performing cures everywhere. (**Luke 9:6**)
- And I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him. (**Matthew 17:16**)
- This activity, however, is shown to be always subordinate to their principal work of preaching. Though forming an inner circle of followers, their instruction and training included no mysterious rituals or ceremonies.

#### •• Human Weaknesses

- Though greatly favored as **apostles** of God's Son, they manifested normal human failings and weaknesses. Peter was inclined to be rash and impetuous
- At this Peter took him aside and commenced rebuking him, saying; Be kind to yourself, Lord; You will not have this destiny at all. (**Matthew 16:22**)
- But, turning his back, he said to Peter; Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me, because you think, not God's thoughts, but those of men. (**Matthew 16:23**)
- Therefore that disciple whom Jesus used to love said to Peter; It is the Lord! Hence Simon Peter, upon hearing that it was the Lord, girded about himself his top garment, for he was naked, and plunged into the sea. (**John 21:7**)
- But the other **disciples** came in the little boat, for they were not a long way from land, only about three hundred feet away, dragging the net of fishes. (**John 21:8**)
- Thomas was slow to be convinced
- But Thomas, one of the **twelve**, who was called The Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. (**John 20:24**)

- **Consequently the other disciples would say to him; We have seen the Lord! But he said to them; Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails and stick my finger into the print of the nails and stick my hand into his side, I will certainly not believe. (John 20:25)**
- **James and John manifested youthful impatience**
- **In response John said; Instructor, we saw a certain man expelling demons by the use of your name and we tried to prevent him, because he is not following with us. (Luke 9:49)**
- **When the disciples James and John saw this they said; Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and annihilate them? (Luke 9:54)**
- **They quarreled over the issue of their future greatness in the earthly kingdom that they expected Jesus to establish.**
- **Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee approached him with her sons, doing obeisance and asking for something from him. (Matthew 20:20)**
- **He said to her; What do you want? She said to him; Give the word that these my two sons may sit down, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom. (Matthew 20:21)**
- **Jesus said in answer; You men do not know what you are asking for. Can you drink the cup that I am about to drink? They said to him; We can. (Matthew 20:22)**
- **He said to them; You will indeed drink my cup, but this sitting down at my right hand and at my left is not mine to give, but it belongs to those for whom it has been prepared by my Father. (Matthew 20:23)**
- **When the ten others heard of this, they became indignant at the two brothers. (Matthew 20:24)**
- **But Jesus, calling them to him, said; You know that the rulers of the nations lord it over them and the great men wield authority over them. (Matthew 20:25)**
- **This is not the way among you, but whoever wants to become**

- great among you must be your minister. (**Matthew 20:26**)
- And whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. (**Matthew 20:27**)
  - Just as the Son of man came, not to be ministered to, but **to minister** and to **give his soul a ransom in exchange for many**. (**Matthew 20:28**)
  - And James and John, the two sons of Zebedee, stepped up to him and said to him; Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever it is we ask you for. (**Mark 10:35**)
  - He said to them; What do you want me to do for you? (**Mark 10:36**)
  - They said to him; Grant us to sit down, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory. (**Mark 10:37**)
  - But Jesus said to them; You do not know what you are asking for. Are you able to drink the cup which I am drinking, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am being baptized? (**Mark 10:38**)
  - They said to him; We are able. At that Jesus said to them; The cup I am drinking you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am being baptized you will be baptized. (**Mark 10:39**)
  - However, this sitting down at my right or at my left is not mine to give, but it belongs to those for whom it has been prepared. (**Mark 10:40**)
  - Well, when the ten others heard about it, they started to be indignant at James and John. (**Mark 10:41**)
  - But Jesus, after calling them to him, said to them; You know that those who appear to be ruling the nations lord it over them and their great one's wield authority over them. (**Mark 10:42**)
  - **This is not the way among you**, but whoever wants to become great among you must be your minister. (**Mark 10:43**)
  - And whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of all. (**Mark 10:44**)



- For even the Son of man came, **not to be ministered to, but to minister and to give his soul a ransom in exchange for many.** (Mark 10:45)
- When, now, they had assembled, they went asking him; Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time? (Acts of Apostles 1:6)
- But we were hoping that this man was the one destined to deliver Israel, yes, and besides all these things, this makes the third day since these things occurred. (Luke 24:21)
- They acknowledged their need for greater faith.
- Now the **apostles** said to the Lord; **Give us more faith.** (Luke 17:5)
- He said to them; Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, If you have faith the size of a mustard grain, you will say to this mountain; Transfer from here to there. And it will transfer, and nothing will be impossible for you. (Matthew 17:20)
- Despite their years of intimate association with Jesus and though knowing him to be the Messiah, **they all abandoned him at the time of his arrest.**
- But all this has taken place for the scriptures of the prophets to be fulfilled. **Then all the disciples abandoned him and fled.** (Matthew 26:56)
- The matter of his burial was handled by others. The **apostles** were slow at first to accept the testimony of the women who first saw Jesus after his resurrection.
- They were the Magdalene Mary, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. Also, the rest of the women with them were telling the **apostles** these things. (Luke 24:10)
- However, these sayings appeared as nonsense to them and they would not believe the women. (Luke 24:11)
- Because of **fear they met behind locked doors.**

- Therefore, when it was late on that day, the first of the week, and, although the doors were locked where the **disciples** were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them; **May you have peace.** (**John 20:19**)
- Well, eight days later his disciples were again indoors, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and he stood in their midst and said; **May you have peace.** (**John 20:26**)
- **The resurrected Jesus gave them further enlightenment, and following his ascension to heaven on the 40th day from his resurrection, they manifested great joy and were continually in the temple blessing God.**
- He now said to them; These are my words which I spoke to you while I was yet with you, that all the things written in the Law of Moses and in the Prophets and Psalms about me must be fulfilled. (**Luke 24:44**)
- Then he opened up their minds fully to grasp the meaning of the Scriptures. (**Luke 24:45**)
- And he said to them; In this way it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from among the dead on the third day. (**Luke 24:46**)
- And on the basis of his name repentance for forgiveness of sins would be preached in all the nations, starting out from Jerusalem. (**Luke 24:47**)
- You are to be witnesses of these things. (**Luke 24:48**)
- And, look! I am sending forth upon you that which is promised by my Father. You, though, abide in the city until you become clothed with power from on high. (**Luke 24:49**)
- But he led them out as far as Bethany, and he lifted up his hands and blessed them. (**Luke 24:50**)
- As he was blessing them he was parted from them and began to be borne up to heaven. (**Luke 24:51**)
- And they did obeisance to him and returned to Jerusalem with

great joy. (Luke 24:52)

- And they were continually in the temple blessing God. (Luke 24:53)

## •• Activity In Christian Congregation

- The outpouring of God's spirit upon them at Pentecost greatly strengthened the **apostles**. The first five chapters of the Acts of **Apostles** testify to the great fearlessness of the **apostles** and their boldness in declaring the Good News and the resurrection of Jesus in spite of jailing, beatings, and threats of death from their rulers.
- During those early days after Pentecost, the dynamic leadership of the **apostles**, under the power of the Holy Spirit, resulted in amazing expansion in the Christian congregation.
- Therefore those who embraced his word heartily were baptized, and on that day **about three thousand souls were added**. (Acts of Apostles 2:41)
- However, many of those who had listened to the speech believed, **and the number of the men became about five thousand**. (Acts of Apostles 4:4)
- Their ministry was at first concentrated in Jerusalem, then extended to Samaria, and in time, throughout the known world.
- And every day in the temple and from house to house they continued without letup teaching and declaring the Good News about the Christ, Jesus. (Acts of Apostles 5:42)
- Consequently the word of God went on growing, and the number of the disciples kept multiplying in Jerusalem very much, and a great crowd of priests began to be obedient to the faith. (Acts of Apostles 6:7)
- Philip, for one, went down to the city of Samaria and began to preach the Christ to them. (Acts of Apostles 8:5)
- With one accord the crowds were paying attention to the things said by Philip while they listened and looked at the signs he was performing. (Acts of Apostles 8:6)

- For there were many that had unclean spirits, and these would cry out with a loud voice and come out. Moreover, many that were paralyzed and lame were cured. (**Acts of Apostles 8:7**)
- So there came to be a great deal of joy in that city. (**Acts of Apostles 8:8**)
- Now in the city there was a certain man named Simon, who, prior to this, had been practicing magical arts and amazing the nation of Samaria, saying he himself was somebody great. (**Acts of Apostles 8:9**)
- And all of them, from the least to the greatest, would pay attention to him and say; This man is the Power of God, which can be called Great. (**Acts of Apostles 8:10**)
- So they would pay attention to him because of his having amazed them for quite a while by his magical arts. (**Acts of Apostles 8:11**)
- But when they believed Philip, who was declaring the Good News of the kingdom of God and of the name of Jesus Christ, they proceeded to be baptized, both men and women. (**Acts of Apostles 8:12**)
- Simon himself also became a believer, and, after being baptized, he was in constant attendance upon Philip, and he was amazed at beholding signs and great powerful works taking place. (**Acts of Apostles 8:13**)
- When the **apostles** in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they dispatched Peter and John to them. (**Acts of Apostles 8:14**)
- And these went down and prayed for them to get Holy Spirit. (**Acts of Apostles 8:15**)
- For it had not yet fallen upon any one of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (**Acts of Apostles 8:16**)
- Then they went laying their hands upon them, and they began to receive Holy Spirit. (**Acts of Apostles 8:17**)
- Therefore, when they had given the witness thoroughly and had

- spoken the word of Yehowah, they turned back to Jerusalem, and they went declaring the Good News to many villages of the Samaritans. (**Acts of Apostles 8:25**)
- But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit arrives upon you, and you will be witnesses of me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the most distant part of the earth. (**Acts of Apostles 1:8**)
  - Their primary function as **apostles** was to **be witnesses as to Jesus fulfillment of Yehowah God's purposes and prophecies, particularly of his resurrection and exaltation, and to do a disciplining work among all nations**, and this commission was emphasized to them by Jesus just before his ascension to heaven.
  - Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (**Matthew 28:19**)
  - Teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you. And, look! **I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things.** (**Matthew 28:20**)
  - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit arrives upon you, and you will be **witnesses of me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the most distant part of the earth.** (**Acts of Apostles 1:8**)
  - Starting with his baptism by John and until the day he was received up from us, one of these men should become a witness with us of his resurrection. (**Acts of Apostles 1:22**)
  - This Jesus God resurrected, of which fact we are all witnesses. (**Acts of Apostles 2:32**)
  - Therefore because he was exalted to the right hand of God and received the promised Holy Spirit from the Father, he has poured out this which you see and hear. (**Acts of Apostles 2:33**)
  - Actually David did not ascend to the heavens, but he himself says, Yehowah said to my Lord; Sit at my right hand. (**Acts of Apostles 2:34**)
  - Until I place your enemies as a stool for your feet. (**Acts of**

## **Apostles 2:35)**

- Therefore let all the house of Israel know for a certainty that God made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you impaled. (**Acts of Apostles 2:36**)
- Whereas you **killed the Chief Agent of life**. But God raised him up from the dead, of which fact we are witnesses. (**Acts of Apostles 3:15**)
- Consequently his name, by our faith in his name, has made this man strong whom you behold and know, and the faith that is through him has given the man this complete soundness in the sight of all of you. (**Acts of Apostles 3:16**)
- And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers also did. (**Acts of Apostles 3:17**)
- But in this way God has fulfilled the things he announced beforehand through the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer. (**Acts of Apostles 3:18**)
- Repent, therefore, and turn around so as to get your sins blotted out, that seasons of refreshing may come from the person of Yehowah (**Acts of Apostles 3:19**)
- And that he may **send forth the Christ appointed for you**, Jesus. (**Acts of Apostles 3:20**)
- Whom heaven, indeed, must hold within itself until the times of restoration of all things of which God spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets of old time. (**Acts of Apostles 3:21**)
- In fact, Moses said; **Yehowah God will raise up for you from among your brothers a prophet like me**. You must listen to him according to all the things he speaks to you. (**Acts of Apostles 3:22**)
- Indeed, any soul that does not listen to that Prophet will be completely destroyed from among the people. (**Acts of Apostles 3:23**)
- And all the prophets, in fact, from Samuel on and those in succession, just as many as have spoken, have also plainly

declared these days. (**Acts of Apostles 3:24**)

- You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God covenanted with your forefathers, saying to Abraham, And in your seed all the families of the earth will be blessed. (**Acts of Apostles 3:25**)
- To you first God, after raising up his Servant, sent him forth to bless you by turning each one away from your wicked deeds. (**Acts of Apostles 3:26**)
- Their testimony concerning the resurrection was that of eyewitnesses.
- But God raised him up from the dead. (**Acts of Apostles 13:30**)
- And for many days he became visible to those who had gone up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. (**Acts of Apostles 13:31**)
- And so we are declaring to you the Good News about the promise made to the forefathers. (**Acts of Apostles 13:32**)
- That God has entirely fulfilled it to us their children in that he resurrected Jesus, even as it is written in the second psalm: You are my son, I have become your Father this day. (**Acts of Apostles 13:33**)
- And that fact that he resurrected him from the dead destined no more to return to corruption, he has stated in this way, I will give you people the loving-kindnesses to David that are faithful. (**Acts of Apostles 13:34**)

#### •• **Miraculous Powers**

- Additionally, to fortify their testimony, the **apostles** continued to exercise the miraculous powers previously granted them by Jesus, and also other gifts of the spirit received from Pentecost forward.
- Moreover, through the hands of the **apostles** many signs and portents continued to occur among the people, and they were all with one accord in Solomon's colonnade. (**Acts of Apostles 5:12**)
- But in Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which,

- when translated, means Dorcas. She abounded in good deeds and gifts of mercy that she was rendering. (**Acts of Apostles 9:36**)
- But in those days she happened to fall sick and die. So they bathed her and laid her in an upper chamber. (**Acts of Apostles 9:37**)
  - Now as Lydda was near Joppa, when the disciples heard that Peter was in this city they dispatched two men to him to entreat him: Please do not hesitate to come on as far as us. (**Acts of Apostles 9:38**)
  - At that Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they led him up into the upper chamber, and all the widows presented themselves to him weeping and exhibiting many inner garments and outer garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them. (**Acts of Apostles 9:39**)
  - But Peter put everybody outside and, bending his knees, he prayed, and, turning to the body, he said; Tabitha, rise! She opened her eyes and, as she caught sight of Peter, she sat up. (**Acts of Apostles 9:40**)
  - While others, too, received such miraculous gifts of the spirit, the account shows that such was the case only when one or more of the **apostles** were present, or by the laying on of the hands of the **apostles**. Paul, though not one of the 12, also served in this way as an **apostle** personally appointed by Jesus Christ.
  - Now while the day of the festival of Pentecost was in progress they were all together at the same place. (**Acts of Apostles 2:1**)
  - And they all became filled with Holy Spirit and started to speak with different tongues, just as the spirit was granting them to make utterance. (**Acts of Apostles 2:4**)
  - But Peter stood up with the eleven and raised his voice and made this utterance to them; Men of Judea and all you inhabitants of Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give ear to my sayings. (**Acts of Apostles 2:14**)
  - When the **apostles** in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they dispatched Peter and John to them. (**Acts**



**of Apostles 8:14)**

- **And these went down and prayed for them to get Holy Spirit. (Acts of Apostles 8:15)**
- **For it had not yet fallen upon any one of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Acts of Apostles 8:16)**
- **Then they went laying their hands upon them, and they began to receive Holy Spirit. (Acts of Apostles 8:17)**
- **Now when Simon saw that through the laying on of the hands of the **apostles** the spirit was given, he offered them money. (Acts of Apostles 8:18)**
- **While Peter was yet speaking about these matters the Holy Spirit fell upon all those hearing the word. (Acts of Apostles 10:44)**
- **And when Paul laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying. (Acts of Apostles 19:6)**
- **Thus the power to transmit such gifts was unique with these **apostles**. Such miraculous gifts would therefore pass away with the passing away of these **apostles** and of those who had received these gifts through the **apostles**.**
- **And if I have the gift of prophesying and am acquainted with all the sacred secrets and all knowledge, and if I have all the faith so as to transplant mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. (1 Corinthians 13:2)**
- **Love never fails. But whether there are gifts of prophesying, they will be done away with, whether there are tongues, they will cease, whether there is knowledge, it will be done away with. (1 Corinthians 13:8)**
- **For we have partial knowledge and we prophesy partially. (1 Corinthians 13:9)**
- **But when that which is complete arrives, that which is partial will be done away with. (1 Corinthians 13:10)**

- When I was a babe, I used to speak as a babe, to think as a babe, to reason as a babe, but now that I have become a man, I have done away with the traits of a babe. (**1 Corinthians 13:11**)
- And thus we read that these powers were missing in the 2nd-century church, the writers of those days speaking of them as a thing in the past in the **apostolic** age, in fact. [*The Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, edited by J. D. Douglas, 1980, Vol. 1, p. 79]

**See Also GIFTS FROM GOD [Gifts of the Spirit]**

**· Administrative position**

- In the formation, organization, and subsequent direction of the Christian congregation, the **apostles** occupied a primary position.
- And God has set the respective one's in the congregation, first, **apostles**, second, prophets, third, teachers, then powerful works, then gifts of healings, helpful services, abilities to direct, different tongues. (**1 Corinthians 12:28**)
- And he gave some as **apostles**, some as prophets, some as evangelizers, some as shepherds and teachers. (**Ephesians 4:11**)
- Although they were joined by others of the older men in such supervision, they formed a principal part of the older men of the expanding Christian congregation, and this body was recognized by the early Christians everywhere as the channel of communication used by God to render decisions and direct the affairs of the congregation throughout the earth.
- And they continued devoting themselves to the teaching of the **apostles** and to sharing with one another, to taking of meals and to prayers. (**Acts of Apostles 2:42**)
- When the **apostles** in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they dispatched Peter and John to them. (**Acts of Apostles 8:14**)
- And these went down and prayed for them to get Holy Spirit. (**Acts of Apostles 8:15**)
- For it had not yet fallen upon any one of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (**Acts of Apostles**

**8:16)**

- Then they went laying their hands upon them, and they began to receive Holy Spirit. (**Acts of Apostles 8:17**)
- The account about them got to the ears of the congregation that was in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas as far as Antioch. (**Acts of Apostles 11:22**)
- And certain men came down from Judea and began to teach the brothers; Unless you get circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved. (**Acts of Apostles 15:1**)
- But when there had occurred no little dissension and disputing by Paul and Barnabas with them, they arranged for Paul and Barnabas and some others of them to go up to the **apostles** and older men in Jerusalem regarding this dispute. (**Acts of Apostles 15:2**)
- And the **apostles** and the older men gathered together to see about this affair. (**Acts of Apostles 15:6**)
- Now when much disputing had taken place, Peter rose and said to them; Men, brothers, you well know that from early days God made the choice among you that through my mouth people of the nations should hear the word of the Good News and believe. (**Acts of Apostles 15:7**)
- And God, who knows the heart, bore witness by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us also. (**Acts of Apostles 15:8**)
- And he made no distinction at all between us and them, but purified their hearts by faith. (**Acts of Apostles 15:9**)
- Now, therefore, why are you making a test of God by imposing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our forefathers nor we were capable of bearing? (**Acts of Apostles 15:10**)
- On the contrary, we trust to get saved through the undeserved kindness of the Lord Jesus in the same way as those people also. (**Acts of Apostles 15:11**)
- At that the entire multitude became silent, and they began to listen to Barnabas and Paul relate the many signs and portents

that God did through them among the nations. (**Acts of Apostles 15:12**)

- After they quit speaking, James answered, saying, Men, brothers, hear me. (**Acts of Apostles 15:13**)
- Symeon has related thoroughly how God for the first time turned his attention to the nations to take out of them a people for his name. (**Acts of Apostles 15:14**)
- And with this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written. (**Acts of Apostles 15:15**)
- After these things I shall return and rebuild the booth of David that is fallen down, and I shall rebuild its ruins and erect it again. (**Acts of Apostles 15:16**)
- In order, that those who remain of the men may earnestly seek Yehowah, together with people of all the nations, people who are called by my name, says Yehowah, who is doing these things. (**Acts of Apostles 15:17**)
- Known from of old. (**Acts of Apostles 15:18**)
- Hence my decision is not to trouble those from the nations who are turning to God. (**Acts of Apostles 15:19**)
- But to write them to abstain from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood. (**Acts of Apostles 15:20**)
- For from ancient times Moses has had in city after city those who preach him, because he is read aloud in the synagogues on every Sabbath. (**Acts of Apostles 15:21**)
- Then the **apostles** and the older men together with the whole congregation favored sending chosen men from among them to Antioch **along** with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was called Barsabbas and Silas, leading men among the brothers. (**Acts of Apostles 15:22**)
- And by their hand they wrote. The **apostles** and the older men, brothers, to those brothers in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia who are from the nations, greetings! (**Acts of Apostles 15:23**)

- Since we have heard that some from among us have caused you trouble with speeches, trying to subvert your souls, although we did not give them any instructions. ([Acts of Apostles 15:24](#))
- We have come to a unanimous accord and have favored choosing men to send to you together with our loved ones, Barnabas and Paul. ([Acts of Apostles 15:25](#))
- Men that have delivered up their souls for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ([Acts of Apostles 15:26](#))
- We are therefore dispatching Judas and Silas, that they also may report the same things by word. ([Acts of Apostles 15:27](#))
- For the Holy Spirit and we ourselves have favored adding no further burden to you, except these necessary things. ([Acts of Apostles 15:28](#))
- To keep abstaining from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication. If you carefully keep yourselves from these things, you will prosper. Good health to you! ([Acts of Apostles 15:29](#))
- Accordingly, when these men were let go, they went down to Antioch, and they gathered the multitude together and handed them the letter. ([Acts of Apostles 15:30](#))
- After reading it, they rejoiced over the encouragement. ([Acts of Apostles 15:31](#))
- Now as they traveled on through the cities they would **deliver to those there for observance** the decrees that had been decided upon by the **apostles** and older men who were in Jerusalem. ([Acts of Apostles 16:4](#))
- Therefore, indeed, the congregations continued to be made firm in the faith and to increase in number from day to day. ([Acts of Apostles 16:5](#))
- This was possible for these men only because of the fulfillment of the promises about guidance by God's Holy Spirit.
- When the helper arrives that I will send you from the Father, the

- spirit of the truth, which proceeds from the Father, that one will bear witness about me. (John 15:26)
- And you, in turn, are to bear witness, because you have been with me from when I began. (John 15:27)
  - Such help enabled them to recall Jesus instructions and teachings, to clarify points of doctrine, and to be progressively guided into all the truth revealed through them at that **apostolic** period.
  - But the **helper, the Holy Spirit**, which the Father will send in my name, **that one will teach you all things and bring back to your minds all the things I told you.** (John 14:26)
  - However, when that **one arrives, the spirit of the truth**, he will **guide you into all the truth**, for he will not speak of his own impulse, but what things he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things coming. (John 16:13)
  - That one will glorify me, because he will receive from what is mine and will declare it to you. (John 16:14)
  - All the things that the Father has are mine. That is why I said he receives from what is mine and declares it to you. (John 16:15)
  - When, though, he was raised up from the dead, his disciples called to mind that he used to say this, and they believed the Scripture and the saying that Jesus said. (John 2:22)
  - These things his disciples took no note of at first, but when Jesus became glorified, then they called to mind that these things were written respecting him and that they did these things to him. (John 12:16)
  - They **made appointments to positions of service within the congregation and also designated areas in which certain one's would engage in missionary activity.**
  - So the twelve called the multitude of the disciples to them and said, It is not pleasing for us to leave the word of God to distribute food to tables. (Acts of Apostles 6:2)
  - So, brothers, search out for yourselves seven certified men from among you, full of spirit and wisdom, that we may appoint them

over this necessary business. (**Acts of Apostles 6:3**)

- For He who gave Peter powers necessary for an **apostleship** to those who are circumcised **gave powers also to me for those who are of the nations.** (**Galatians 2:8**)
- Yes, when they came to know the undeserved kindness that was given me, James and Cephas and John, the ones who seemed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of sharing together, that we should go to the nations, but they to those who are circumcised. (**Galatians 2:9**)
- The **apostles**, therefore, served as a foundation, resting on Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone, for the building up of the holy temple for Yehowah.
- And you have been built up upon the foundation of the **apostles** and **prophets**, while **Christ Jesus** himself is the foundation cornerstone. (**Ephesians 2:20**)
- In union with him the whole building, being harmoniously joined together, is growing into a holy temple for Yehowah. (**Ephesians 2:21**)
- In union with him you, too, are being built up together into a place for God to inhabit by spirit. (**Ephesians 2:22**)
- Coming to him as to a living stone, rejected, it is true, by men, **but chosen, precious, with God.** (**1 Peter 2:4**)
- You yourselves also as living stones are being built up a spiritual house for the purpose of a holy priesthood, **to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.** (**1 Peter 2:5**)
- For it is contained in Scripture; Look! I am laying in Zion a stone, chosen, a foundation cornerstone, precious, and no one exercising faith in it will by any means come to disappointment. (**1 Peter 2:6**)
- There is no evidence of the primacy of any one **apostle** in the established Christian congregation. Peter and John appear to have been especially prominent at Pentecost and immediately thereafter, with Peter acting as the principal spokesman.

- **But Peter stood up with the eleven and raised his voice and made this utterance to them; Men of Judea and all you inhabitants of Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give ear to my sayings. (Acts of Apostles 2:14)**
- **Now when they heard this they were stabbed to the heart, and they said to Peter and the rest of the **apostles**; Men, brothers, what shall we do? (Acts of Apostles 2:37)**
- **Peter said to them; Repent, and let each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the free gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts of Apostles 2:38)**
- **Now Peter and John were going up into the temple for the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. (Acts of Apostles 3:1)**
- **But Peter, together with John, gazed at him and said; Take a look at us. (Acts of Apostles 3:4)**
- **Well, as the man was holding onto Peter and John, all the people ran together to them at what was called Solomon's colonnade, surprised out of their wits. (Acts of Apostles 3:11)**
- **Now while the two were speaking to the people, the chief priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them. (Acts of Apostles 4:1)**
- **Now when they beheld the outspokenness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were men unlettered and ordinary, they got to wondering. And they began to recognize about them that they used to be with Jesus. (Acts of Apostles 4:13)**
- **But in reply Peter and John said to them; Whether it is righteous in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves. (Acts of Apostles 4:19)**
- **But Peter said; Ananias, why has Satan emboldened you to play false to the Holy Spirit and to hold back secretly some of the price of the field? (Acts of Apostles 5:3)**
- **Peter said to her; Tell me, did you two sell the field for so much? She said; Yes, for so much. (Acts of Apostles 5:8)**
- **So that they brought the sick out even into the broad ways and**



- laid them there upon little beds and cots, in order, that, as Peter would go by, at least his shadow might fall upon some one of them. (**Acts of Apostles 5:15**)
- In answer Peter and the other **apostles** said; We must obey God as ruler rather than men. (**Acts of Apostles 5:29**)
  - However, in the decisions made at that time neither of these appears to have had a superiority over the others of the older men, and when news arrived of the baptisms taking place in Samaria, the **apostles** in Jerusalem **dispatched**, Greek *a-pe'stei-lan*, Peter and John to them, so that these two served, in effect, as **apostles of the apostles**.
  - So the **twelve** called the multitude of the disciples to them and said, It is not pleasing for us to leave the word of God to distribute food to tables. (**Acts of Apostles 6:2**)
  - So, brothers, search out for yourselves seven certified men from among you, full of spirit and wisdom, that **we may appoint** them over this necessary business. (**Acts of Apostles 6:3**)
  - But we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word. (**Acts of Apostles 6:4**)
  - And the thing spoken was pleasing to the whole multitude, and they selected Stephen, a man full of faith and Holy Spirit, and Philip and Prochorus and Nicanor and Timon and Parmenas and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. (**Acts of Apostles 6:5**)
  - And they placed them before the **apostles**, and, after having prayed, **these laid their hands upon them**. (**Acts of Apostles 6:6**)
  - When the **apostles** in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they **dispatched** Peter and John to them. (**Acts of Apostles 8:14**)
  - And these went down and prayed for them to get Holy Spirit. (**Acts of Apostles 8:15**)

### **See Also PETER**

- Following the death of the **apostle** James, the disciple of the same name, James the half brother of Jesus, appears to have presided

in the older men. Paul speaks of this James and also Peter or Cephas, and John as **the ones who seemed to be pillars**.

- About that particular time Herod the king applied his hands to mistreating some of those of the congregation. (**Acts of Apostles 12:1**)
- He did away with **James** the brother of John by the sword. (**Acts of Apostles 12:2**)
- But Peter remained there knocking. When they opened, they saw him and were astonished. (**Acts of Apostles 12:16**)
- But he motioned to them with his hand to be silent and told them in detail how Yehowah brought him out of the prison, and he said, **Report these things to James and the brothers**. With that he went out and journeyed to another place. (**Acts of Apostles 12:17**)
- Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and I stayed with him for fifteen days. (**Galatians 1:18**)
- But I saw no one else of the **apostles**, only **James** the brother of the Lord. (**Galatians 1:19**)
- Yes, when they came to know the undeserved kindness that was given me, James and Cephas and John, the ones who seemed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of sharing together, that we should go to the nations, but they to those who are circumcised. (**Galatians 2:9**)
- However, when Cephas came to Antioch, I resisted him face to face, because he stood condemned. (**Galatians 2:11**)
- For before the arrival of certain men from James, he used to eat with people of the nations, but when they arrived, he went withdrawing and separating himself, in fear of those of the circumcised class. (**Galatians 2:12**)
- The rest of the Jews also joined him in putting on this pretense, so that even Barnabas was led along with them in their pretense. (**Galatians 2:13**)
- But when I saw they were not walking straight according to the

truth of the Good News, I said to Cephas before them all; If you, though you are a Jew, live as the nations do, and not as Jews do, how is it that you are compelling people of the nations to live according to Jewish practice? ([Galatians 2:14](#))

- **It was James who announced the final decision on the important issue of circumcision as involving the Gentile believers, at which meeting Peter and Paul both presented testimony.**

- **And certain men came down from Judea and began to teach the brothers: Unless you get circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved. ([Acts of Apostles 15:1](#))**

- **But when there had occurred no little dissension and disputing by Paul and Barnabas with them, they arranged for Paul and Barnabas and some others of them to go up to the **apostles** and older men in Jerusalem regarding this dispute. ([Acts of Apostles 15:2](#))**

- **And the **apostles** and the older men gathered together to see about this affair. ([Acts of Apostles 15:6](#))**

- **Now when much disputing had taken place, Peter rose and said to them, Men, brothers, you well know that from early days God made the choice among you that through my mouth people of the nations should hear the word of the Good News and believe. ([Acts of Apostles 15:7](#))**

- **And God, who knows the heart, bore witness by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us also. ([Acts of Apostles 15:8](#))**

- **And he made no distinction at all between us and them, but purified their hearts by faith. ([Acts of Apostles 15:9](#))**

- **Now, therefore, why are you making a test of God by imposing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our forefathers nor we were capable of bearing? ([Acts of Apostles 15:10](#))**

- **On the contrary, we trust to get saved through the undeserved kindness of the Lord Jesus in the same way as those people also. ([Acts of Apostles 15:11](#))**

- **At that the entire multitude became silent, and they began to listen to Barnabas and Paul relate the many signs and portents**

that God did through them among the nations. (**Acts of Apostles 15:12**)

- After they quit speaking, James answered, saying; Men, brothers, hear me. (**Acts of Apostles 15:13**)
- Symeon has related thoroughly how God for the first time turned his attention to the nations to take out of them a people for his name. (**Acts of Apostles 15:14**)
- And with this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written. (**Acts of Apostles 15:15**)
- After these things I shall return and rebuild the booth of David that is fallen down, and I shall rebuild its ruins and erect it again. (**Acts of Apostles 15:16**)
- In order, that those who remain of the men may earnestly seek Yehowah, together with people of all the nations, people who are called by my name, says Yehowah, who is doing these things. (**Acts of Apostles 15:17**)
- Known from of old. (**Acts of Apostles 15:18**)
- Hence my decision is not to trouble those from the nations who are turning to God. (**Acts of Apostles 15:19**)
- But to write them to abstain from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood. (**Acts of Apostles 15:20**)
- For from ancient times Moses has had in city after city those who preach him, because he is read aloud in the synagogues on every Sabbath. (**Acts of Apostles 15:21**)
- Because of the defection of Judas Iscariot, who died unfaithful, there were only 11 **apostles** remaining, and during the 40 days from Jesus resurrection until his ascension to heaven he made no appointment of a replacement.
- Sometime during the ten days between Jesus ascension and the day of Pentecost it was viewed as necessary that another be selected to fill the vacancy left by Judas, not simply on the basis of his death

but, rather, on the basis of his wicked defection, as the Scriptures quoted by Peter indicate.

- Now during these days Peter rose up in the midst of the brothers and said, the crowd of persons was all together about one hundred and twenty. (**Acts of Apostles 1:15**)
- Men, brothers, it was necessary for the scripture to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by David's mouth about Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. (**Acts of Apostles 1:16**)
- Because he had been numbered among us and he obtained a share in this ministry. (**Acts of Apostles 1:17**)
- This very man, therefore, purchased a field with the wages for unrighteousness, and pitching head foremost he noisily burst in his midst and all his intestines were poured out. (**Acts of Apostles 1:18**)
- It also became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that that field was called in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood. (**Acts of Apostles 1:19**)
- For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his lodging place become desolate, and let there be no dweller in it, and, His **office of oversight let someone else take**. (**Acts of Apostles 1:20**)
- It is therefore necessary that of the men that assembled with us during all the time in which the Lord Jesus went in and out among us. (**Acts of Apostles 1:21**)
- Starting with his baptism by John and until the day he was received up from us, one of these men should become a witness with us of his resurrection. (**Acts of Apostles 1:22**)
- Let their walled camp become desolate, in their tents may there come to be no dweller. (**Psalms 69:25**)
- Let his days prove to be few, his office of oversight let someone else take. (**Psalms 109:8**)
- I am coming quickly. Keep on holding fast what you have, that **no one may take your crown**. (**Revelation 3:11**)

- Thus, by contrast, when the **faithful apostle** James was put to death, there is no record of any concern to appoint anyone to succeed him in his position of apostle.
- He did away with James the brother of John by the sword. (**Acts of Apostles 12:2**)
- It is evident from Peter's statements that it was then considered that any individual filling the position of an **apostle** of Jesus Christ must have the qualifications of having been personally conversant with him, having been an eyewitness of his works, his miracles, and particularly his resurrection.
- In view of this it can be seen that any **apostolic** succession would in course of time become an impossibility, unless there were **divine action to supply these requirements** in each individual case. At that particular time before Pentecost, however, there were men meeting these requirements, and two were put forth as suitable for replacing unfaithful Judas. Doubtless having in mind,
  - Into the lap the lot is cast down, but every decision by it is from Yehowah. (**Proverbs 16:33**)
  - Lot's were cast, and **Matthias** was selected and was thereafter reckoned along with the **eleven apostles**.
  - So they put up two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. (**Acts of Apostles 1:23**)
  - And they prayed and said; You, O Yehowah, who know the hearts of all, designate which one of these two men you have chosen. (**Acts of Apostles 1:24**)
  - To take **the place of this ministry and apostleship**, from which Judas deviated to go to his own place. (**Acts of Apostles 1:25**)
  - So they cast lots over them, and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was **reckoned along with the eleven apostles**. (**Acts of Apostles 1:26**)
  - He is thus included among **the twelve** who settled the problem concerning the Greek-speaking disciples.

- Now in these days, when the disciples were increasing, a murmuring arose on the part of the Greek-speaking Jews against the Hebrew-speaking Jews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution. (**Acts of Apostles 6:1**)
- So the **twelve** called the multitude of the disciples to them and said; It is not pleasing for us to leave the word of God to distribute food to tables. (**Acts of Apostles 6:2**)
- And evidently Paul includes him in referring to **the twelve** when speaking of Jesus post resurrection appearances at,
- And that he was buried, yes, that he has been raised up the third day according to the Scriptures. (**1 Corinthians 15:4**)
- And that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. (**1 Corinthians 15:5**)
- After that he appeared to upward of five hundred brothers at one time, the most of whom remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep in death. (**1 Corinthians 15:6**)
- After that he appeared to **James**, then to all the **apostles**. (**1 Corinthians 15:7**)
- But last of all he appeared also to me as if to one born prematurely. (**1 Corinthians 15:8**)
- Thus, when Pentecost arrived, there were **12 apostolic foundations** on which the Spiritual Israel then formed could rest.

### ·· **Congregational Apostleships**

- **Matthias** was not a mere **apostle** of the Jerusalem congregation, any more than the remaining **11 apostles** were. His case is different from that of the Levite Joseph Barnabas who became an **apostle** of the congregation of Antioch, Syria.
- Now in Antioch there were prophets and teachers in the local congregation, Barnabas as well as Symeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who was educated with Herod the district ruler, and Saul. (**Acts of Apostles 13:1**)
- As they were publicly ministering to Yehowah and fasting, the

**Holy Spirit said; Of all persons set Barnabas and Saul apart for me for the work to which I have called them. (Acts of Apostles 13:2)**

- Then they fasted and prayed and laid their hands upon them and let them go. (Acts of Apostles 13:3)
- Accordingly these men, sent **out by the Holy Spirit**, went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed away to Cyprus. (Acts of Apostles 13:4)
- However, the multitude of the city was split, and some were for the Jews **but others for the apostles**. (Acts of Apostles 14:4)
- However, when the **apostles** Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they ripped their outer garments and leaped out into the crowd, crying out (Acts of Apostles 14:14)
- We have authority to eat and drink, do we not? (1 Corinthians 9:4)
- We have authority to lead about a sister as a wife, even as the rest of the **apostles** and the Lords brothers and Cephas, do we not? (1 Corinthians 9:5)
- Or is it only Barnabas and I that do not have authority to refrain from secular work? (1 Corinthians 9:6)
- Other men also are referred to as **apostles of congregations** in the sense that they were sent forth by such congregations to represent them.
- If, though, there is any question about Titus, he is a sharer with me and a fellow worker for your interests, or if about our brothers, they are **apostles of congregations** and a glory of Christ. (2 Corinthians 8:23)
- And, in writing to the Philippians, Paul speaks of Epaphroditus as your envoy, **Greek *a-po'sto-lon***, and private servant for my need.
- However, I consider it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, but your envoy and private servant for my need. (Philippians 2:25)



- The **apostleship** of these men was clearly not by virtue of any **apostolic succession**, nor did they form part of **the twelve** as did Matthias.
- The correct understanding of the wider application of the term **apostle** can help to clear away any apparent discrepancy between,
  - On arriving in Jerusalem he made efforts to join himself to the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, because they did not believe he was a disciple. (**Acts of Apostles 9:26**)
  - So Barnabas came to his aid and led him to the **apostles**, and he told them in detail how on the road he had seen the Lord and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus. (**Acts of Apostles 9:27**)
  - Neither did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were **apostles** previous to me, but I went off into Arabia, and I came back again to Damascus. (**Galatians 1:17**)
  - Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and I stayed with him for fifteen days. (**Galatians 1:18**)
  - But I saw no one else of the **apostles**, only James the brother of the Lord. (**Galatians 1:19**)
  - When applied to the same occasion. The first account states that Paul, on arriving in Jerusalem, was led **to the apostles** by Barnabas. In the account in Galatians, however, Paul states that he visited with Peter and adds; But I saw no one else of the **apostles**, only James the brother of the Lord.
  - James, not the original **apostle** James the son of Zebedee nor James the son of Alphaeus, but the half brother of Jesus, was evidently viewed as an **apostle** in the wider sense, namely, as one sent forth by the Jerusalem congregation. This would allow for the Acts account to use the title in the plural in saying that Paul was led **to the apostles**, that is, Peter and James.
  - And that he appeared to Cephas, then to the **twelve**. (**1 Corinthians 15:5**)
  - After that he appeared to upward of five hundred brothers at one time, the most of whom remain to the present, but some have

- fallen asleep in death. (**1 Corinthians 15:6**)
- After that he appeared to James, then to all the **apostles**. (**1 Corinthians 15:7**)
- Yes, when they came to know the undeserved kindness that was given me, James and Cephas and John, the ones who seemed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of sharing together, that we should go to the nations, but they to those who are circumcised. (**Galatians 2:9**)

### ••The Selection Of Paul

- Probably about the year **34 C.E**, Saul of Tarsus was converted and is later referred to as Paul. He did become a true **apostle** of Jesus Christ and was the direct choice of the resurrected and ascended Jesus Christ.
- But Saul, still breathing threat and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the High Priest (**Acts of Apostles 9:1**)
- And asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, in order, that he might bring bound to Jerusalem any whom he found who belonged to The Way, both men and women. (**Acts of Apostles 9:2**)
- Now as he was traveling he approached Damascus, when suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. (**Acts of Apostles 9:3**)
- And he fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him; **Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?** (**Acts of Apostles 9:4**)
- He said; Who are you, Lord? He said; I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. (**Acts of Apostles 9:5**)
- Nevertheless, rise and enter into the city, and what you must do will be told you. (**Acts of Apostles 9:6**)
- Now the men that were journeying with him were standing speechless, hearing, indeed, the sound of a voice, but not beholding any man. (**Acts of Apostles 9:7**)
- But Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were

opened he was seeing nothing. So they led him by the hand and conducted him into Damascus. (**Acts of Apostles 9:8**)

- And for three days he did not see anything, and he neither ate nor drank. (**Acts of Apostles 9:9**)
- There was in Damascus a certain disciple named Ananias, and the Lord said to him in a vision; Ananias! He said; Here I am, Lord. (**Acts of Apostles 9:10**)
- The Lord said to him; Rise, go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man named Saul, from Tarsus. For, look! He is praying. (**Acts of Apostles 9:11**)
- And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands upon him that he might recover sight. (**Acts of Apostles 9:12**)
- But Ananias answered; Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how many injurious things he did to your holy one's in Jerusalem. (**Acts of Apostles 9:13**)
- And here he has authority from the chief priests to put in bonds all those calling upon your name. (**Acts of Apostles 9:14**)
- But the Lord said to him; Be on your way, because this man is a chosen vessel to me to bear my name to the nations as well as to kings and the sons of Israel. (**Acts of Apostles 9:15**)
- For I shall show him plainly how many things he must suffer for my name. (**Acts of Apostles 9:16**)
- So Ananias went off and entered into the house, and he laid his hands upon him and said; Saul, brother, the Lord, the Jesus that appeared to you on the road over which you were coming, has sent me forth, in order, that you may recover sight and be filled with Holy Spirit. (**Acts of Apostles 9:17**)
- And immediately there fell from his eyes what looked like scales, and he recovered sight, and he rose and was baptized. (**Acts of Apostles 9:18**)
- And he took food and gained strength. He got to be for some days with the disciples in Damascus. (**Acts of Apostles 9:19**)

- **And immediately in the synagogues he began to preach Jesus, that this One is the Son of God. (Acts of Apostles 9:20)**
- **But all those hearing him gave way to astonishment and would say; Is this not the man that ravaged those in Jerusalem who call upon this name, and that had come here for this very purpose, that he might lead them bound to the chief priests? (Acts of Apostles 9:21)**
- **But Saul kept on acquiring power all the more and was confounding the Jews that dwelt in Damascus as he proved logically that this is the Christ. (Acts of Apostles 9:22)**
- **But as I was journeying and drawing close to Damascus, about midday, suddenly out of heaven a great light flashed all around me. (Acts of Apostles 22:6)**
- **And I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me; Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? (Acts of Apostles 22:7)**
- **I answered; Who are you, Lord? And he said to me; I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting. (Acts of Apostles 22:8)**
- **Now the men that were with me beheld, indeed, the light but did not hear the voice of the one speaking to me. (Acts of Apostles 22:9)**
- **At that I said; What shall I do, Lord? The Lord said to me; Rise, go your way into Damascus, and there you will be told about everything it is appointed for you to do. (Acts of Apostles 22:10)**
- **But as I could not see anything for the glory of that light, I arrived in Damascus, being led by the hand of those who were with me. (Acts of Apostles 22:11)**
- **Now Ananias, a certain man reverent according to the Law, well reported on by all the Jews dwelling there. (Acts of Apostles 22:12)**
- **Came to me and, standing by me, he said to me; Saul, brother, have your sight again! And I looked up at him that very hour. (Acts of Apostles 22:13)**

- He said; The God of our forefathers has chosen you to come to know his will and to see the righteous One and to hear the voice of his mouth. ([Acts of Apostles 22:14](#))
- Because you are to be a witness for him to all men of things you have seen and heard. ([Acts of Apostles 22:15](#))
- And now why are you delaying? Rise, get baptized and wash your sins away by your calling upon his name. ([Acts of Apostles 22:16](#))
- But when I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance ([Acts of Apostles 22:17](#))
- And saw him saying to me; Hurry up and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not agree to your witness concerning me. ([Acts of Apostles 22:18](#))
- And I said; Lord, they themselves well know that I used to imprison and flog in one synagogue after another those believing upon you. ([Acts of Apostles 22:19](#))
- And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being spilled, I myself was also standing by and approving and guarding the outer garments of those doing away with him. ([Acts of Apostles 22:20](#))
- And yet he said to me; Get on your way, because I shall send you out to nations far off. ([Acts of Apostles 22:21](#))
- Amid these efforts as I was journeying to Damascus with authority and a commission from the chief priests. ([Acts of Apostles 26:12](#))
- I saw at midday on the road, O king, a light beyond the brilliance of the sun flash from heaven about me and about those journeying with me. ([Acts of Apostles 26:13](#))
- And when we had all fallen to the ground I heard a voice say to me in the Hebrew language; Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? To keep kicking against the goads makes it hard for you. ([Acts of Apostles 26:14](#))
- But I said; Who are you, Lord? And the Lord said; I am Jesus,

whom you are persecuting. (**Acts of Apostles 26:15**)

- Nevertheless, rise and stand on your feet. For to this end I have made myself visible to you, in order to choose you as an attendant and a witness both of things you have seen and things I shall make you see respecting me. (**Acts of Apostles 26:16**)
- While I deliver you from this people and from the nations, to whom I am sending you. (**Acts of Apostles 26:17**)
- To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, in order for them to receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those sanctified by their faith in me. (**Acts of Apostles 26:18**)
- Wherefore, King Agrippa, I did not become disobedient to the heavenly sight. (**Acts of Apostles 26:19**)
- But both to those in Damascus first and to those in Jerusalem, and over all the country of Judea, and to the nations I went bringing the message that they should repent and turn to God by doing works that befit repentance. (**Acts of Apostles 26:20**)
- On account of these things Jews seized me in the temple and attempted to slay me. (**Acts of Apostles 26:21**)
- However, because I have obtained the help that is from God I continue to this day bearing witness to both small and great, but saying nothing except things the Prophets as well as Moses stated were going to take place. (**Acts of Apostles 26:22**)
- That the Christ was to suffer and, as the first to be resurrected from the dead, he was going to publish light both to this people and to the nations. (**Acts of Apostles 26:23**)
- Saul, who is also Paul, becoming filled with Holy Spirit, looked at him intently. (**Acts of Apostles 13:9**)
- He argued on behalf of his **apostleship** and presented as his qualification the fact that he had seen the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ, that he had performed miracles, and that he had served as a channel for imparting the Holy Spirit to baptized believers.
- Am I not free? Am I not an **apostle**? Have I not seen Jesus our

Lord? Are not you my work in the Lord? (1 Corinthians 9:1)

- If I am not an **apostle** to others, I most certainly am to you, for you are the seal confirming my **apostleship** in relation to the Lord. (1 Corinthians 9:2)
- For I am the least of the **apostles**, and I am not fit to be called an **apostle**, because I persecuted the congregation of God. (1 Corinthians 15:9)
- But by God's undeserved kindness I am what I am. And his undeserved kindness that was toward me did not prove to be in vain, but I labored in excess of them all, yet not I but the undeserved kindness of God that is with me. (1 Corinthians 15:10)
- Indeed, the signs of an **apostle** were produced among you by all **endurance, and by signs and portents and powerful works**. (2 Corinthians 12:12)
- Paul, an **apostle** of Christ Jesus through God's will according to the promise of the life that is in union with Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 1:1)
- For which I was appointed a preacher and **apostle** and teacher. (2 Timothy 1:11)
- Paul, a slave of Jesus Christ **and called to be an apostle**, separated to God's Good News. (Romans 1:1)
- Now I speak to you who are people of the nations. Forasmuch as **I am, in reality, an apostle to the nations**, I glorify my ministry. (Romans 11:13)
- On hearing this, they got baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Acts of Apostles 19:5)
- And when Paul laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying. (Acts of Apostles 19:6)
- Since the **apostle** James, the brother of John, was not killed until about the year **44 C.E.**, the twelve were yet alive at the time of Paul's becoming an **apostle**. He nowhere includes himself among such

**twelve**, while at the same time he acknowledges no inferiority in his **apostleship**, compared with that of such ones.

- But on the part of those who seemed to be something, whatever sort of men they formerly were makes no difference to me, God does not go by a man's outward appearance, to me, in fact, **those outstanding men imparted nothing new.** (Galatians 2:6)
- But, on the contrary, when they saw that I had entrusted to me the Good News for those who are uncircumcised, just as Peter had it for those who are circumcised. (Galatians 2:7)
- For He who gave Peter powers necessary for an **apostleship** to those who are circumcised gave powers also to me for those who are of the nations. (Galatians 2:8)
- Yes, when they came to know the **undeserved kindness that was given me**, James and Cephas and John, the ones who seemed to be pillars, **gave me and Barnabas the right hand of sharing together**, that **we should go to the nations**, but they to those who are circumcised. (Galatians 2:9)
- Matthias and Paul's **apostleships** were both valid for the purpose for which those men were **sent forth**, yet when the apostle John saw the vision of the heavenly New Jerusalem in the Revelation, given about **96 C.E.**, he saw only **12 foundation stones** and on them inscribed the **twelve names** of the **twelve apostles** of the Lamb.
- The wall of the city also had **twelve foundation stones**, and on them the **twelve names** of the **twelve apostles** of the Lamb. (Revelation 21:14)

**See Also PAUL**

## •• End Of The Apostolic Period

- Though the Bible does not relate the death of the **12 apostles**, aside from that of James, the evidence available indicates that they maintained their faithfulness until death and therefore needed no replacement. Concerning history in the following centuries, the observation is made that whenever it, the term **apostle**, is applied to individuals in later Christian literature, the use of the term is metaphorical. The church has never had **apostles** in the New



Testament sense since the first century. [The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible, edited by G. A. Buttrick, 1962, Vol. 1, p. 172]

- During their lifetime the **apostles** presence **served as a restraint upon the influences of apostasy**, holding back the forces of false worship within the Christian congregation. It is evidently to this **restraint** that the **apostle** Paul referred at;
- True, the mystery of this lawlessness is already at work, but only till he who is right now acting as a **restraint** gets to be out of the way. (**2 Thessalonians 2:7**)
- True, the **mystery of this lawlessness is already at work**, but only till **he who is right now acting as a restraint gets to be out of the way**.
- Another illustration he set before them, saying; The kingdom of the heavens has become like a man that sowed fine seed in his field. (**Matthew 13:24**)
- While men were sleeping, his enemy came and oversowed weeds in among the wheat, and left. (**Matthew 13:25**)
- I know that after my going away oppressive wolves will enter in among you and will not treat the flock with tenderness. (**Acts of Apostles 20:29**)
- And from among you yourselves men will rise and speak twisted things to draw away the disciples after themselves. (**Acts of Apostles 20:30**)
- This **apostolic** influence, including the authority and powers unique with them, continued until the death of John about **100 C.E.**
- These things I write you about those who are trying to mislead you. (**1 John 2:26**)
- I wrote something to the congregation, but Diotrefes, **who likes to have the first place among them**, **does not receive anything from us with respect**. (**3 John 1:9**)
- That is why, if I come, I will call to remembrance his works which he goes on doing, chattering about us with wicked words. Also, not being content with these things, **neither does he himself receive the brothers with respect**, and those who are wanting to

receive them he tries to hinder and to throw out of the congregation. (3 John 1:10)

- The rapid influx of apostasy and false doctrine and practices after the death of the apostles shows that any pretended apostolic successors had none of the restraining influence of the apostles.

2· The reference to Andronicus and Junias at;

- Greet Andronicus and Junias my relatives and my fellow captives, who are men of note among the apostles and who have been in union with Christ longer than I have. (Romans 16:7)

- As men of note among the apostles indicates, not that they were apostles, but, rather, that they were held in high repute by the apostles. That some made false pretenses of being apostles of Christ is shown at;

- For I consider that I have not in a single thing proved inferior to your superfine apostles. (2 Corinthians 11:5)

- For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:13)

- I have become unreasonable. You compelled me to, for I ought to have been recommended by you. For I did not prove to be inferior to your superfine apostles in a single thing, even if I am nothing. (2 Corinthians 12:11)

- Indeed, the signs of an apostle were produced among you by all endurance, and by signs and portents and powerful works. (2 Corinthians 12:12)

- I know your deeds, and your labor and endurance, and that you cannot bear bad men, and that you put those to the test who say they are apostles, but they are not, and you found them liars. (Revelation 2:2)