



(SLIDE #1) GREAT EVENTS OF THE BIBLE -- SELECTION OF THE APOSTLES!

I. (Slide #2) Their Selection:

- A. Mt. 10:1-10 “And when He had called His twelve disciples to *Him*, He gave them power *over* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. ²Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the *son* of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the *son* of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. ⁵These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: ‘Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. ⁶But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ ⁸Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. ⁹Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, ¹⁰nor bag for *your* journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food.”
- B. **(Slide #3) Mk. 3:13-19** “And He went up on the mountain and called to *Him* those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. ¹⁴Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, ¹⁵and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons: ¹⁶Simon, to whom He gave the name Peter; ¹⁷James the *son* of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, “Sons of Thunder”; ¹⁸Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the *son* of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Canaanite; ¹⁹and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. And they went into a house.”
- C. **(Slide #4) Lk. 6:13-16** “And when it was day, He called His disciples to *Himself*; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles: ¹⁴Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; ¹⁵Matthew and Thomas; James the *son* of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; ¹⁶Judas *the son* of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor.”
- D. **(Slide #5) Jesus Called The 12 To Him And Ordained Them As Apostles.**

E. (Slide #6) Other Passages And Traditions That Show Their Determination To Fulfill His Will.

1. The original 12:

a. **Peter:**

1. He was the son of Jonah. Jn. 1:42; 21:15,16
2. He took the Gospel to Jews and Gentiles. Ac. 2-9; Ac 10
3. Babylon -- I Pet. 5:13 "She who is in **Babylon**, elect together with *you*, greets you; and *so does* Mark my son."
4. He, James, and John were the closest Apostles with Jesus.
 - a. They were with Jesus at the Transfiguration.
 - b. They were with Jesus in the inner part of the Garden.
5. He died somewhere near the time when Paul was executed; this was under the persecution by Nero.
6. Tradition says that he was crucified; he asked to be crucified upside down!

b. (▶) **Andrew:**

1. He was the son of Jonah and brother of Peter.
2. He brought Peter to Jesus.
3. Tradition suggests he was in Scythia (former Soviet Union -- Belarus and that area) and that he preached in Greece, Asia Minor, and Thrace.
4. Tradition also states that he was crucified in Achaia.

c. (▶) **James:**

1. He was the son of Zebedee.
2. He was the brother of John.
3. Tradition suggests he was in India (some think Peter was too).
4. He was the first of the Apostles to die; that was during Herod's persecution. Ac. 12:2
5. As other Apostles left Jerusalem, he remained there. Ac. 15:6,13; Gal. 2:9

d. (▶) **John:**

1. He was the son of Zebedee
2. He was the brother of James.
3. He taught in Asia Minor; on the isle of Patmos.
4. He and James were known as "Sons of Thunder."
5. We do not know about his death; we do know that he was the last of the Apostles to die; he was in exile on the island of Patmos. He was alive in 96 A.D. when he wrote the Gospel of John, I, II, and III John and Revelation.

e. (▶) **Philip:**

1. He brought his brother Nathanael to Jesus. Jn. 1:43-48
2. Tradition suggests he may have preached in Phrygia and even have gone to France.
3. We do not know how he died; tradition says it was at Hierapolis.

- f. (▶) **Bartholomew:**
 - 1. Some equate him as being Nathanael.
 - 2. Tradition suggests he may have gone to Armenia.
 - 3. No information about his death is known.
 - g. (▶) **Thomas:**
 - 1. He was also called Didymus (that is the Greek form of his name).
 - 2. He is often called “Doubting Thomas.”
 - 3. Tradition suggests that he also was in Babylon and Persia/
 - 4. It is thought that he may have killed with a lance in India or Persia.
 - h. (▶) **Matthew:**
 - 1. He was previously a tax collector.
 - 2. He was called Levi.
 - 3. He was the son of Alphaeus.
 - 4. He was possibly in Africa (Ethiopia); some believe he taught the Persians, Parthians, and Medes.
 - 5. There is a legendary story that he died a martyr in Ethiopia.
 - i. (▶) **James, the son of Alphaeus:**
 - 1. He was also known as “James the Less.”
 - 2. It is thought that he did work in Egypt.
 - 3. Tradition says that he was thrown down from the Temple by the scribes and Pharisees; he was then stoned and his brains were dashed out by a fuller’s club.
 - j. (▶) **Thaddaeus:**
 - 1. He is also called Judas but is differentiated from Judas Iscariot
 - 2. He is also known as Lebbaeus.
 - 3. It is thought that he worked in Syria, Northern Persia; and Armenia.
 - k. (▶) **Simon**
 - 1. He is known as “Simon the Zealot.”
 - 2. He is also called “Simon the Canaanite.”
 - 3. Tradition suggest that he worked perhaps in Mauritania, Libya and later Britain.
 - 4. Nothing is known about his death.
 - l. (▶) **Judas Iscariot:**
 - 1. He father was Simon Iscariot.
 - 2. He was a thief. Jn. 12:6
 - 3. He betrayed Jesus. Mt. 26:47-50
 - 4. He committed suicide when he hung himself. Mt. 27:3-5; Ac. 1:18
2. They were all ordinary men; they did not have elite training by the great Jewish rabbis; they were fishermen, tax collectors, and Simon the Zealot was a Jewish patriot.

3. (Slide #7) Other Apostles:
 - a. (▶) **Matthias** -- Ethiopia
 - b. (▶) **Paul:**
 1. The former persecutor, Saul, went on 3 Missionary Journeys over the period of 13 or 14 years to take the Gospel to both Jews and Gentiles.
 2. Paul in Rome for 2 years. Ac. 28
 3. He planned to go to Spain. Rom. 15:24 “whenever I journey to Spain, I shall come to you. For I hope to see you on my journey, and to be helped on my way there by you, if first I may enjoy your *company* for a while.”
 4. Traditions even suggest he might have gone to Britain.

F. Truths About The Words “Apostle” And “Apostles:”

1. The word “**Apostle**” (used 19 times in the N.T. -- 1 time it refers to Jesus, Heb. 3:1; 2 times it refers to Peter, I Pet. 1:1; II Pet. 1:1; the other 16 times it refers to Paul).
2. The word “**Apostles**” (used 60 times in the N.T.) is not used in the Gospel of John or in His Epistles!!!! It is used 3 times in Revelation.

II. (Slide #8) Their Limited Commission:

- A. Mt. 10:1,5-10 “And when He had called His twelve disciples to *Him*, He gave them power *over* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.....⁵These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: ‘Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. ⁶But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ ⁸Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. ⁹Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, ¹⁰nor bag for *your* journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food.”
- B. (Slide #9) **Lk. 9:1-6** “Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. ²He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. ³And He said to them, ‘Take nothing for the journey, neither staffs nor bag nor bread nor money; and do not have two tunics apiece. ⁴Whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. ⁵And whoever will not receive you, when you go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet as a testimony against them.’ ⁶So they departed and went through the towns, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.”

- C. He Gave Them Power And Authority *Over* Unclean Spirits, To Cast Them Out, And To Heal All Kinds Of Sickness And Diseases.

- D. He Sent Them On The “Limited Commission.”

- E. They Were To Only Go To Jews; They Were Not To Go To Gentiles Or Samaritans.

- F. Their Message: They Were To Preach The Kingdom Of God! -- “The Kingdom Of Heaven Is At Hand.”

- G. Efforts On That Mission:
 - 1. Heal the sick

 - 2. Cleanse the lepers

 - 3. Raise the dead

 - 4. Cast out demons

 - 5. They were to exhibit power over sickness and disease, death, and demons!

- H. They Were To Take No Provisions With Them Except The Clothes On Their Backs -- They Were To Take No Clothes, Food, Or Money; They Were To Stay With Generous People Who Appreciated Their Mission.

- I. They Obeyed -- They Departed And Went Through The Towns, Preaching The Gospel And Healing Everywhere They Went.

- J. Their Return From That Mission:
 - 1. Mk. 6:30 “Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught.”

 - 2. Lk. 9:10 “And the apostles, when they had returned, told Him all that they had done. Then He took them and went aside privately into a deserted place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.”

III. (Slide #10) Blessings During Their 3 ½ Year Walk With Jesus:

- A. They Got To See His Heart And Actions.

- B. They Got To Learn From Him And His Teachings.

- C. They Saw His AMAZING Miracles!

- D. They Heard His Prophecies About His Suffering, Death, Burial, And Resurrection.

- E. They Realized Their Own Frailties:
 - 1. Seeing the waves on storm-tossed Galilee, they cried, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!” Mt. 8:25
 - 2. Their prayer: Lk. 17:5 “And the apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith.’”
 - 3. They felt SO SINFUL compared to perfect Jesus! Lk. 5:8 “When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, ‘Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!’”
 - 4. “Peter denied the Lord three times and was SO ashamed! Mt. 26:69-75

- F. He Prepared Them For Their Mission -- His Promises To Them:
 - 1. To Peter! “And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Mt. 16:19
 - 2. To all of the 12:
 - a. Mt. 18:18 “Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”
 - b. Jn. 20:22,23 “And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained.’”
 - 3. These promises DID NOT affirm that they would create doctrine; rather, they would proclaim what had already been established in Heaven by the Godhead!

- G. They Were With Him Just Before He Was Crucified.
 - 1. They were with Him when he raised Lazarus. Jn. 11
 - 2. They were with Him as He observed the Passover. Jn. 13-17
 - 3. They were with Him in the Garden of Gethsemane as He prayed for strength to endure the coming HORRIFIC events and as He was arrested. Jn. 18

- H. After His Arrest They All Fled! Mk. 14:50 “Then they all forsook Him and fled.”

- I. After His Death, They Gathered In The Upper Room With The Door Locked, Terrified That They Would Be The Next Ones Killed! John 20:19-23

IV. (Slide #11) Jesus Gave Them Their Commission, Their Mission!

- A. **(Slide #12)** Mk. 16:15-18 “And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.’”

- B. Ac. 1:4,5 “And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, ‘which,’ *He said*, ‘you have heard from Me; ⁵for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’”

- C. **(Slide #13)** Ac. 1:8 “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
 - 1. And they did it!

 - 2. His command fulfilled:
 - a. Ac. 2-8:1 -- Jerusalem
 - b. Ac. 8:2-25 -- Persecution led by Saul nudged them to take the Gospel to Judea and to Samaria.

- c. Ac. 26-Revelation -- End of the Earth
 - 1. Col. 1:5,6 “because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as *it has* also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as *it is* also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;”
 - 2. Col. 1:23 “if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.”

D. **(Slide #14)** Christ Was The Chief Corner Stone Of The Church; The Apostles Were Stones Of The Foundation.

- 1. Their Message, the New Covenant was revealed to Apostles and Prophets! Eph. 3:5 “which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:”
- 2. His Church was built upon:
 - 1. The truth of who HE was! Mt. 16:16-18
 - 2. The Apostles and prophets. Eph. 2:20 “having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner *stone*,”
- 3. They gave people commands.
 - a. II Pet. 3:2 “that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,”
 - b. I Thess. 2:6 “Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.”

E. When Judas Committed Suicide, Mathias Was Chosen By Jesus To Replace Him.

- 1. Ac. 1:22-26 “Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.’ ²³And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴And they prayed and said, ‘You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen ²⁵to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.’ ²⁶And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.”
- 2. There were only two men who met the qualifications to be an Apostle at that time!

- F. (▶) They Performed Many Miracles.
1. Ac. 2:43 “Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.”
 2. Ac. 5:12 “And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon’s Porch.”

G. (▶) They Passed On Miracles To The New Christians.

1. Jesus told them that they would do that! Mk. 16:17,18
2. They laid hands on new Christians and passed on to them supernatural gifts. Ac. 8:14-19 “Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, ¹⁵who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, ¹⁹saying, ‘Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.’”

H. (▶) Later Paul Became An Apostle.

1. He did not get guidance from the other Apostles; God gave Him his message!
2. Gal. 1:17-19 “nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those *who were* apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. ¹⁸Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. ¹⁹But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord’s brother.”

V. (Slide #15) Summation Of Their Work:

A. (Slide #16) Preaching The Gospel Of The Kingdom And Of Christ!

B. (▶) Teaching The Truth Of The New Covenant!

1. They did this from Acts 2 as long as they lived.
2. They did in person; they did in Epistles -- Romans - Revelation.

- C. (►) Administration And Dealing With Problems:
1. **The Complaints Of The Grecian Jews.** Acts 6:1-7
 - a. “Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. ²Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, ‘It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. ³Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; ⁴but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.’ ⁵And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, ⁶whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. ⁷Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.”
 - b. **The problem:**
 1. The congregation in Jerusalem is growing.
 2. There was a strong complaint set forth by the Jews of Greek background.
 - a. Their complaint was against the Jews of Hebrew origin.
 - b. They complained that their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food.
 - c. **The solution:**
 1. The Apostles brought the whole congregation together.
 2. They gave quick attention to the problem. 2,3
 - a. Lots of problems become crises because of delayed response.
 - b. The Apostles dealt with this problem immediately.
 3. Their message:
 - a. We are very concerned about your problem.
 - b. It IS a legitimate concern.
 - c. They delegated authority!
 1. You look out among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.
 2. You select men you respect.
 3. We will appoint them over this matter.
 2. They affirmed that the work of Paul and Barnabas in converting the Gentiles was God-Ordained!
 - a. In Ac. 15, Judaizing teachers from Jerusalem were pressuring Gentile Christians at Antioch.
 - b. This of course was an attack on everything that Paul and Barnabas had done on the First Missionary Journey.

- c. The elders of Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas and other brethren to Jerusalem to tell the elders and Apostles stop these divisive brethren's trouble in the Church in Antioch.
- d. The Apostles confirmed that Paul and Barnabas were doing the will of God!

D. (▶) Discipline.

- 1. Ac. 5:1-11
- 2. Ananias and Sapphira were disciplined for lying!

E. **(Slide #17)** They Passed On Miraculous Gifts So The Church Could Prosper And Grow!

F. (▶) They Trained Other Leaders To Carry On The Work After They Died!

G. (▶) They Were Examples Of Commitment To Christ And Perseverance Unto The End!

Conclusion:

- A. What An Amazingly Significant Event This Was!
- B. The Selection Of The Lord's Apostle's And The Subsequent Preparation By Him Prepared Them For The Amazing Task Of Taking The Gospel To The Whole World.
- C. Even Tonight We Reap The Benefits Of What They Day In The Beginning Of The Church!