

# The Plan for the Church

## Acts Chapter 1

Colossians - Word spread to Whole world

Entrusted to unlearned men

A move of God lasts for decade or so then tradition or processing the move stifles to move

So with this we will see different moves of the Holy Spirit. We are in danger of:

- Not willing to move
- Too willing to move
- Stopping short
- Going too far

The book of Acts is a great study in seeing how the first church responded to the Holy Spirit and thus leaving us an example as to how to respond to the Holy Spirit's leading.

### Outline of The Book of Acts (Acts 1:8)

Focus	Witness in Jerusalem		Witness in Judea & Samaria		Witness to the Ends of the Earth	
	1:1	8:4	8:5	12:25	13:1	28:31
Division	Power of the Church		Expansion of the Church		Paul's Three Journeys	
	1:1	2:47	3:1	8:4	8:5	12:25
Topics	Jews		Samaritans		Gentiles	
	Peter		Philip		Paul	
Place	Jerusalem		Judea & Samaria		Uttermost Parts	
Time	2 Years (AD 33-35)		13 Years (AD 35-48)		14 Years (AD 48-62)	

**Author:** All the evidence points to Luke as the author. Beginning with this being written to Theophilus (Acts 1:1) . This being tied to similar evidence in Luke's gospel also written to Theophilus (Luke 1:4) Also, beginning in chapter 16 Luke joins the apostle Paul and the book of acts seem to be in a diary form as Luke uses the word "we".

**Date Written:** Although this covers a time span of 30 years the internal evidence suggests this account was written as Luke joins Paul until just before he stands trial. The book ends abruptly and does not mention the burning of Rome by Nero in AD 64, the out come of Paul's trial, His death AD, nor does it mention the destruction of Jerusalem AD 70.

Act 1:1

## 1) Being Persuaded vs 1-3

The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach,

Act 1:2

until the day when He was taken up {to heaven,} after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen.

- Theophilus - (Lover of God) Some people believe this is describing the Church and not an individual. I believe both. This to me shows the greatness of God. He can arrange these coincidences. Theophilus was possibly a roman official (most excellent Theophilus, Lk 1:4) who was converted, thus Luke's research to strengthen his faith.
- Luke - a physician (Col 4:14 "beloved physician"), servant to Theophilus. In that day doctors were owned by wealth masters. Luke was set free to follow Paul. (ch 16)
- The author of the Gospel of Luke, in the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter he addresses Theophilus Luke 1:1-4 "Now many have undertaken to compile an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, like the accounts passed on to us by those who were eyewitnesses and servants of the word from the beginning. So it seemed good to me as well, because I have followed all things carefully from the beginning, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know for certain the things you were taught."
- Luke was presenting an orderly account.
- The first account was all Jesus began to do until He was taken up. (Luke's Gospel)
- The second account is the book of Acts. What He continues to do.
  - Orders given to the Apostles through the Holy Spirit
  - Continues through to today
- WHY??? to know for certain the things you were taught
- Today our culture is like if not worse than the Roman Empire in the days of the book of Acts. This book will show us what to do as the church. What our purpose is, What our message is, What our behavior should be. It will show us how we should effect our world.
  - Do we hold up a God's righteous standard and have the world repent and believe and come to the high standard?
  - Do we become all things to all people to show the world the grace and tell them come as you are?

Act 1:3

To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over {a period of} forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

- "Many convincing proofs"

### **ANCIENT NON-CHRISTIAN SOURCES (Hostile Testimony)**

**Cornelius Tacitus (55-120 AD), "the greatest historian" of ancient Rome:**

"Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular. Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind. Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired. Nero offered his gardens for the spectacle, and was exhibiting a show in the circus, while he mingled with the people in the dress of a charioteer or stood aloft on a car. Hence, even for criminals who deserved extreme and exemplary punishment, there arose a feeling of compassion; for it was not, as it seemed, for the public good, but to glut one man's cruelty, that they were being destroyed."

**Gaius Suetonius Tranquillus, chief secretary of Emperor Hadrian (117-138 AD):**

"Because the Jews of Rome caused continuous disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus, [Claudius] expelled them from the city."

"After the great fire at Rome [during Nero's reign] ... Punishments were also inflicted on the Christians, a sect professing a new and mischievous religious belief."

**Flavius Josephus (37-97 AD), court historian for Emperor Vespasian:**

"At this time there was a wise man who was called Jesus. And his conduct was good and he was known to be virtuous. And many people from among the Jews and other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. And those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive; accordingly, he was perhaps the messiah concerning whom the prophets have recounted wonders." (Arabic translation)

Julius Africanus, writing around 221 AD, found a reference in the writings of **Thallus, who wrote a history of the Eastern Mediterranean around 52 AD**, which dealt with the darkness that covered the land during Jesus's crucifixion:

"Thallus, in the third book of his histories, explains away the darkness as an eclipse of the sun--unreasonably, as it seems to me." [A solar eclipse could not take place during a full moon, as was the case during Passover season.]

**Pliny the Younger, Roman governor of Bithynia in Asia Minor around 112 AD:**

"[The Christians] were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang in alternate verses a hymn to Christ, as to a god, and bound themselves by a solemn oath, not to any wicked deeds, but never to commit any fraud, theft or adultery, never to falsify their word, nor deny a trust when they should be called upon to deliver it up; after which it was their custom to separate, and then reassemble to partake of food--but food of an ordinary and innocent kind." Pliny added that Christianity attracted persons of all societal ranks, all ages, both sexes, and from both the city and the country. Late in his letter to Emperor Trajan, Pliny refers to the teachings of Jesus and his followers as excessive and contagious superstition.

**Emperor Trajan, in reply to Pliny:**

"The method you have pursued, my dear Pliny, in sifting the cases of those denounced to you as Christians is extremely proper. It is not possible to lay down any general rule which can be applied as the fixed standard in all cases of this nature. No search should be made for these people; when they are denounced and found guilty they must be punished; with the restriction, however, that when the party denies himself to be a Christian, and shall give proof that he is not (that is, by adoring our gods) he shall be pardoned on the ground of repentance, even though he may have formerly incurred suspicion. Informations without the accuser's name subscribed must not be admitted in evidence against anyone, as it is introducing a very dangerous precedent, and by no means agreeable to the spirit of the age."

**Emperor Hadrian (117-138 AD), in a letter to Minucius Fundanus, the Asian proconsul:**

"I do not wish, therefore, that the matter should be passed by without examination, so that these men may neither be harassed, nor opportunity of malicious proceedings be offered to informers. If, therefore, the provincials can clearly evince their charges against the Christians, so as to answer before the tribunal, let them pursue this course only, but not by mere petitions, and mere outcries against the Christians. For it is far more proper, if anyone would bring an accusation, that you should examine it." Hadrian further explained that if Christians were found guilty they should be judged "according to the heinousness of the crime." If the accusers were only slandering the believers, then those who inaccurately made the charges were to be punished.

**The Jewish Talmud, compiled between 70 and 200 AD:**

"On the eve of the Passover Yeshu was hanged. For forty days before the execution took place, a herald went forth and cried, 'He is going forth to be stoned because he has practised sorcery and enticed Israel to apostasy. Anyone who can say anything in his favour, let him come forward and plead on his behalf.' But since nothing was brought forward in his favour he was hanged on the eve of the Passover."

[Another early reference in the Talmud speaks of five of Jesus's disciples and recounts their standing before judges who make individual decisions about each one, deciding that they should be executed. However, no actual deaths are recorded.]

**Lucian, a second century Greek satirist:**

"The Christians, you know, worship a man to this day--the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites, and was crucified on that account. ... You see, these misguided creatures start with the general conviction that they are immortal for all time, which explains the contempt of death and voluntary self-devotion which are so common among them; and then it was impressed on them by their original lawgiver that they are all brothers, from the moment that they are converted, and deny the gods of Greece, and worship the crucified sage, and live after his laws. All this they take quite on faith, with the result that they despise all worldly goods alike, regarding them merely as common property." Lucian also reported that the Christians had "sacred writings" which were frequently read. When something affected them, "they spare no trouble, no expense."

**Mara Bar-Serapion, of Syria, writing between 70 and 200 AD from prison to motivate his son to emulate wise teachers of the past:**

"What advantage did the Athenians gain from putting Socrates to death? Famine and plague came upon them as a judgment for their crime. What advantage did the men of Samos gain from burying Pythagoras? In a moment their land was covered with sand. What advantage did the Jews gain from executing their wise king? It was just after that that their kingdom was abolished. God justly avenged these three wise men: the Athenians died of hunger; the Samians were overwhelmed by the sea; the Jews, ruined and driven from their land, live in complete dispersion. But Socrates did not die for good; he lived on in the teaching of Plato. Pythagoras did not die for good; he lived on in the statue of Hera. Nor did the wise king die for good; he lived on in the teaching which he had given."

#### **ANCIENT CHRISTIAN SOURCES (extra-biblical)**

**Clement, elder of Rome, letter to the Corinthian church (95 AD):**

"The Apostles received the Gospel for us from the Lord Jesus Christ; Jesus Christ was sent forth from God. So then Christ is from God, and the Apostles are from Christ. Both therefore came of the will of God in the appointed order. Having therefore received a charge, and having been fully assured through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and confirmed in the word of God with full assurance of the Holy Ghost, they went forth with the glad tidings that the kingdom of God should come. So preaching everywhere in country and town, they appointed their firstfruits, when they had proved them by the Spirit, to be bishops and deacons unto them that should believe."

**Ignatius, bishop of Antioch, letter to the Trallians (110-115 AD):**

"Jesus Christ who was of the race of David, who was the Son of Mary, who was truly born and ate and drank, was truly persecuted under Pontius Pilate, was truly crucified and died in the sight of those in heaven and on earth and those under the earth; who moreover was truly raised from the dead, His Father having raised Him, who in the like fashion will so raise us also who believe on Him."

**Ignatius, letter to the Smyrneans (110-115 AD):**

"He is truly of the race of David according to the flesh, but Son of God by the Divine will and power, truly born of a virgin and baptised by John that all righteousness might be fulfilled by Him, truly nailed up in the flesh for our sakes under Pontius Pilate and Herod the tetrarch (of which fruit are we--that is, of his most blessed passion); that He might set up an ensign unto all ages through His resurrection."

"For I know and believe that He was in the flesh even after the resurrection; and when He came to Peter and his company, He said to them, 'Lay hold and handle me, and see that I am not a demon without body.' And straightway they touched him, and they believed, being joined unto His flesh and His blood. Wherefore also they despised death, nay they were found superior to death. And after His resurrection He ate with them and drank with them."

**Ignatius, letter to the Magnesians (110-115 AD):**

"Be ye fully persuaded concerning the birth and the passion and the resurrection, which took place in the time of the governorship of Pontius Pilate; for these things were truly and certainly done by Jesus Christ our hope."

**Quadratus, to Emperor Hadrian about 125 AD:**

"The deeds of our Saviour were always before you, for they were true miracles; those that were healed, those that were raised from the dead, who were seen, not only when healed and when raised, but were always present. They remained living a long time, not only whilst our Lord was on earth, but likewise when He had left the earth. So that some of them have also lived to our own times."

**(Pseudo-)Barnabas, written 130-138 AD:**

"He must needs be manifested in the flesh. ... He preached teaching Israel and performing so many wonders and miracles, and He loved them exceedingly. ... He chose His own apostles who were to proclaim His Gospel. ... But He Himself desired so to suffer; for it was necessary for Him to suffer on a tree."

**Justin Martyr, to Emperor Antoninus Pius about 150 AD:**

After referring to Jesus's birth of a virgin in the town of Bethlehem, and that His physical line of descent came through the tribe of Judah and the family of Jesse, Justin wrote, "Now there is a village in the land of the Jews, thirty-five stadia from Jerusalem, in which Jesus Christ was born, as you can ascertain also from the registers of the taxing made under Cyrenius, your first procurator in Judea."

"Accordingly, after He was crucified, even all His acquaintances forsook Him, having denied Him; and afterwards, when He had risen from the dead and appeared to them, and had taught them to read the prophecies in which all these things were foretold as coming to pass, and when they had seen Him ascending into heaven, and had believed, and had received power sent thence by Him upon them, and went to every race of men, they taught these things, and were called apostles."

**Justin Martyr, in *Dialogue with Trypho*, around 150 AD:**

"For at the time of His birth, Magi who came from Arabia worshipped Him, coming first to Herod, who then was sovereign in your land."

"For when they crucified Him, driving in the nails, they pierced His hands and feet; and those who crucified Him parted His garments among themselves, each casting lots for what he chose to have, and receiving according to the decision of the lot."

"Christ said amongst you that He would give the sign of Jonah, exhorting you to repent of your wicked deeds at least after He rose again from the dead ... yet you not only have not repented, after you learned that He rose from the dead, but, as I said before, you have sent chosen and ordained men throughout all the world to proclaim that 'a godless and lawless heresy had sprung from one Jesus, a Galilean deceiver, whom we crucified, but His disciples stole Him by night from the tomb, where He was laid when unfastened from the cross, and now deceive men by asserting that He has risen from the dead and ascended to heaven.'"

"For indeed the Lord remained upon the tree almost until evening, and they buried Him at eventide; then on the third day He rose again."

**Sir William Ramsay 19<sup>th</sup> century**

He was a man dedicated to a pervasive anti-biblical bias due to his 19th-century education. For years, he prepared himself to head an expedition into Asia Minor and Palestine, in order to prove that the Bible was the product of ambitious monks, and not the inspired Word of God it claimed to be.

He saw the weakest part in the whole New Testament to be the record of Paul's travels. He was as equipped as any man could be. He spent fifteen years literally 'digging for the evidence.' Then in 1896 he published a large volume, *Saint Paul the Traveler and the Roman Citizen*.

The book caused an uproar in the intelligencia throughout enlightened Europe. It was such a shock because the conclusion of the book was in direct contrast to the said goal of Ramsay's mission. Ramsay spent the next twenty years publishing book after book, overflowing with evidence of the precise, minute truthfulness of the New Testament. Many contemporary skeptics came to turn from their unbelief and accepted Christianity. To this day, Ramsay's books have yet to be credibly repudiated.

Ramsay's belief came through his own archaeological confirmation of the Bible and the truth of what it taught. His belief came because "Luke's history is unsurpassed in respect of its trustworthiness" and that "Luke is a historian of the first rank.... In short, this author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians."

- "He Appeared to them"
  - Mary Magdalene outside the tomb **John 20:11-18** "I have seen the Lord!"
  - 11 Disciples Jesus shows the side and hands
  - 2 Disciples on the road to Emmaus **Luke 24:13-35**
  - Thomas needed a little extra touch **John 20:24-29** "Do not be unbelieving but believing"
  - Disciples while fishing **John 21**
  - James the Lord's brother **1Cor 15:7**
  - To 500 at one time **1 Cor 15:6**
  - Tho we focus on Thomas for his unbelief, a careful read of the gospels show us that all the disciples had unbelief. (**Matt 28:16-17** "When they saw Him they worshipped Him but some were doubtful" **Mark 16:14** "He reproached them for their unbelief" **Luke 24:25+38** "Why do doubts rise in your hearts?"
- "Speaking of the things of the Kingdom of God"
  - He wasn't spending time reminiscing, or talking about the disciple's short coming, or talking about those religious hypocrites and how they did Him wrong.
  - He spoke about the glorious Kingdom of God.
  - Jesus (Luke 8:1), Philip (Acts 8), Paul (Acts 19:8) Preached Kingdom of God
  - Suffer the Little children to come unto me, for such is the KOG
  - Easier for a camel to go thru the eye of a needle than a rich man to enter the KOG
  - If your eye offends you better to pluck it our and enter the KOG w/ one eye...
  - No man after putting his hand to the plough, looking back is fit for the KOG
  - Do not seek what to eat or drink...But seek the KOG and all these things will be added to you
  - The KOG is not meat or drink but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost
  - And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

- How convinced were they?
  - Peter - He was crucified upside down, considering himself unworthy to die the same death of his Lord.
  - Andrew - he was crucified
  - James (Son of Zebedee) - Killed by sword ordered by Agrippa
  - John - Boiled in oil and banished to Patmos
  - Philip - Crucified
  - Barthomew - Beaten, Crucified, and Beheaded in Armenia
  - Thomas - Martyred
  - Matthew - Killed with a spear
  - Simon & Judas (not Iscariot) - Martyred in Persia
  - Paul - beheaded in Rome

Act 1:4 **2) Given the Plan** vs 4-8

**Gathering them together**, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to **wait for what the Father** had promised, "Which," {He said,} "you heard of from Me;

Act 1:5 for John baptized with water, but you will **be baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now."

Act 1:6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

Act 1:7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

- Jesus is telling the disciples that it is not fitting for you to be concerned about what the time table is.
- Think how effective these disciples would be if they were told it would take at least 2000 years

Act 1:8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall **be My witnesses** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

- Four Basic Instructions for the New Church
- 1) **Gather together** (2 times the passage mentions "together")  
Unity is always the key to what the church is doing  
"When you go forward you need to know the people are following. If they aren't following, you're just taking a walk."
- 2) **Wait** For what the Father Promised - His plan, purpose, power
- 3) **Be Baptized with the Holy Spirit**  
*"the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, {but} you know Him because He abides **with** you and will be **in** you."* John 14:17  
"Para" John 14:17 Alongside or with  
"En" John 14:17 Dwell in  
"Epi" Acts 1:8 Upon John 20:22 The disciple had already received the Holy Spirit when Jesus breathed on them and said "receive the Holy Spirit."

Sometimes we are asked about the Holy Spirit in our lives. But we need to change the common question. "Have you **BEEN** baptized in the Holy Spirit?" We should be asking, "**ARE** you baptized in the Holy Spirit?" It is not a past experience it should be a present reality.

- 4) **Be My Witnesses** Witnesses of Jesus not witnesses of the Holy Spirit  
Witness - Gk "martus" this is where we get the word martyr  
Joe Focht - "Living for Him is harder than dying for Him"  
This is the outline of the book and our life  
To Jerusalem - An angry mob who crucified Christ  
To Judea and Samaria - Judea rejected Christ Samaria was a wasteland of half-breeds  
To the uttermost parts - The Gentiles dogs who where useful in only fueling the fires of hell

Act 1:9

### 3) Wait'n vs 9-26

And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

- Jesus dropped the Holy Spirit bomb and the martyr bomb and left into the clouds.
- How many questions did these guys have? Countless! This is many times what Real Trust feels like.

Act 1:10

And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.

Act 1:11

They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

- These disciples saw Jesus ascend up into the clouds. These disciples had Jesus appear and go for 40 days. Possibly they are expecting Him to return.
  - They stared into the sky. A crowd gathers looking into the sky with them. But two who joined them, (angels?) They clarify two points:
    - Jesus isn't in the sky. He's in heaven.
    - This Jesus will return the same way He left. In bodily form coming in the clouds
- Matt 24:30 "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."
- Rev 1:7 "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they [also] which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."
- Rev 22:21+22 "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with you all. Amen "

Act 1:12

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.

Act 1:13

When they had entered {the city,} they went up to the upper room where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James {the son} of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas {the} {son} of James.

- These are the 11 apostles.

Act 1:14

These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with {the} women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

- What were they doing.
  - Remained in Unity
  - Devoted to prayer
  - Open to others (not just the special 11)
- This is the last time Mary the mother of Jesus is mentioned. Notice that they are not praying to Mary but they are praying with Mary.

Act 1:15

At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said,

- The time line is interesting to remember. Jesus was crucified on Passover. Jesus rose in 3 days. According to Acts 1:3 Jesus appeared to the disciples for 40 days. This leaves 10 days until Pentecost. They are waiting, in unity, praying, waiting for power (the Holy Spirit) for 10 days.
- They do not know what form or presentation this power is going to come. 10 days for the unknown.
- Peter felt it important to address the 120. Peter has always been impetuous.

Act 1:16

"Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.

- "The Scripture had to be fulfilled - the disciples believed that the Scripture is infallible and that it was giving by divine inspired

- Psalms that speak of a betrayer:
  - Psalm 55:12-14 "For [it was] not an enemy [that] reproached me; then I could have borne [it]: neither [was it] he that hated me [that] did magnify [himself] against me; then I would have hid myself from him: But [it was] thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, [and] walked unto the house of God in company."
  - Psalm 69:25 "Let their habitation be desolate; [and] let none dwell in their tents." Peter will associate this verse with Judas.
  - Psalm 109:6-8 "Set thou a wicked man over him: and let Satan stand at his right hand. When he shall be judged, let him be condemned: and let his prayer become sin. Let his days be few; [and] let another take his office."

Act 1:17 "For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry."

Act 1:18 (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out.

Act 1:19 And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

- Was Judas Saved?
  - John 6:70-71 "Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? He spake of Judas Iscariot [the son] of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve."
  - John 13:17-18 "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them. I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me."
- The 11 felt that Judas' office needed to be replaced. When James died they didn't run out and fill his position. This is evidence that Judas was lost and not one of the 12.
- Revelation 21:14 "And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb." Scripture tells us that there is need of 12 Apostles

Act 1:20 "For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'LET HIS HOMESTEAD BE MADE DESOLATE, AND LET NO ONE DWELL IN IT'; and, 'LET ANOTHER MAN TAKE HIS OFFICE.'

Act 1:21 "Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us--

Act 1:22 beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us--one of these {must} become a witness with us of His resurrection."

- The prerequisite 1) one who accompanied them the whole time 2) witness Jesus' resurrection

Act 1:23 So they put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus), and Matthias.

Act 1:24 And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen

- Common sense narrowed the choice down to two Joseph & Matthias
- The Apostles prayed for the decision.
  - Lord who knows the hearts
  - Show us who YOU have chosen

Act 1:25 to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place."

Act 1:26 And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

- They Cast Lots (Lot = Klerus we get the word clergy)
- Where else were lots cast?
  - Joshua 18:6 Dividing the Land
  - Leviticus 16:8 Choosing between 2 goats 1 for Lord 1 for Scapegoat
  - 1 Chronicles 25:8 David appointing Worshipers in service



- Nehemiah 10:34 Levites to decide who would bring wood
- Samuel used Urim & Thummim  
(Light & Perfection - 2 stones for determining the will of God) 1 Sam 10:21-22
- The Lot fell upon Matthias
- Was Matthias a wrong choice
  - Wrong?
    - Casting Lots
    - Do not hear from Matthias again
    - Paul a better choice
  - Right?
    - Acts 2:14 "*But Peter, standing up with the eleven,...*"  
That makes 12 They didn't have a problem after Pentecost
    - Acts 6:2 "*Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples [unto them], and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.*"  
Still no Problem with this choice and all this before Paul
    - Paul doesn't discount Matthias ever
    - Other Apostles are not heard from after this chapter as well does not mean that they did nothing or was not a good choice.
- The issue here is seeing the leadership and how human they are. They wrestle with common sense and divine will just like everyone else. All of us want and strive to be lead of the Spirit. How that works out practically may raise some eyebrows but an honest evaluation of how we work out, practice, and grow in our obedience shows us we all are on an even playing field. We are all the same.
- But we do see the important elements: Unity, Study of Scripture, Prayer, Acceptance of His leading

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