

## Background Work, Thoughts, Observations, & Considerations

Acts 1: 15 – 26

### A. Peter Arises and Speaks to Brethren / Brethren are numbered, so was Judas

- 15) And in those days Peter arose in the midst of the brethren saying (altogether the **number** of names was about 120),
- (16) “Men and brethren, **necessarily** the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before through the mouth of David concerning Judas who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.
- 17) for he was **numbered** with us and obtained a part of **this ministry**.”
- a. number of brethren
  - b. Scripture’s fulfillment
  - c. H.S. spoke by David
  - b’ Judas’ betrayal
  - a’ old number of Apostles

### B. Luke Narrates: Jerusalem knows of Judas & Identities his bloody field in the own language

- 18) Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle, and all his entrails gushed out;
- 19) and it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.
- 20) For it is written in the Book of Psalms;
- “Let his dwelling place be desolate, and let no one live in it”, and, (Ps. 69:26)
- “Let another take his office.” (Ps. 109:8)
- a. Purchase with wicked wages
  - b. Judas’ blood & guts
  - c. Jerusalem knows of the blood
  - c’ Jerusalem’s own language
  - b’ Field of Blood named
  - a’ Judgment on the wicked

### C. Peter Speaks: Necessity of Apostolic Witness

- 21) “**Necessarily** therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time of the going in and out among us of the Lord Jesus,
- 22) beginning with the baptism of John until the day when he was taken from us, witness of the resurrection with us one of these (*must*) become.”
- a. Apostolic company of friends
  - b. Jesus’ movements
  - c. Jesus’ ministry: baptism to ascension
  - b’ Jesus resurrection
  - a’ Apostolic friend to become a witness

### B’ Luke Narrates: Apostles choose two men.

- 23) And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

### A’ Brethren Pray / Judas’ fall and replacement, Matthias is numbered

- 24) And they prayed and said,
- “You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show us which of these two You have chosen
- (25) to take the place in **this ministry** and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.”
- 26) And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was **numbered** with the eleven apostles.
- a. Lord knows all hearts
  - b. Lord will show his chosen
  - c. The *place* in need of filling
  - d. Judas fell by transgression
  - c’ The *place* Judas went
  - b’ The lots show the Lord’s choice
  - a’ Matthias is numbered with the 11.

## Observations:

1. A summary of the overall structure of the passage:

**A. Peter Speaks to Brethren / Brethren and Judas are numbered, (v.15-17)**

**B. Luke Narrates: Jerusalem knows of Judas & Identifies his bloody field in the own language (v.18-20)**

**C. Peter Speaks: Necessity of Apostolic Witness (v.21- 22)**

**B' Luke Narrates: Apostles choose two men. (v.23)**

**A' Brethren Pray / Judas' fall and replacement, Matthias is numbered (v.24 – 26)**

\* Commentator I. Howard Marshall says that verses 18-19 are Luke's narration because the third person "their own language" is used in verse 19. Yet, according to my structure, I see no reason why verse 20 can not also be included in Luke's narration. Luke is quoting the two references from the Psalms which explains what happens to the man who purchases a field with the wages of iniquity.

2. To substantiate my previous statement, notice that both of Peter's opening statements begin with the word "necessarily". It is hard to notice this in many English translations, but that is how Luke wrote it. In the first statement "necessarily" modifies the word "fulfilled". In the second statement "necessarily" modifies the word "become". It was necessary for the Scripture to be fulfilled; and it was necessary for them to choose a person to replace Judas.

3. The passage begins and ends with being numbered. First the brethren are numbered as 120, also Judas was numbered with the Apostles. Lastly Matthias is numbered with the Apostles. Also notice that the phrase "this ministry" is used at the beginning and ending of the passage. Central to the entire passage is the need for someone who accompanied with Apostles "*beginning with the baptism of John until the day when he was taken from us*" (v.22). This tells us that even though the 12 disciples were chosen by Christ, there was other who accompanied them throughout Jesus' ministry.

4. Notice that the word "place" (same word in the Greek) is used twice in verse 25. This seems to be a pun on the word "place". Judas left a vacant place in the Apostolic office, and at the same time he went to his own place. This is a clear reference to the fact that Judas went to hell, and as Christ said, it was better for him not to have been born (Mt. 26:24).