

The Corporate Eyewitness

Acts 1:18-17, 20-26 The Disciples Witnessed the Appointment of Matthias

8 But **ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:** and **ye shall be witnesses unto me** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, **he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.**

10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, **Ye men of Galilee**, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

12 **Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet**, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.

14 **These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, (Acts 2:1) with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.**

15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of **the disciples** (Luke 10:23), and said, **the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,**

16 **Men and brethren**, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

20 For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and **his bishoprick let another take.**

21 **Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us**, (Disciples in v. 15 above - Speaking of the 70 - they were not random novices)

22 **Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.**

23 **And they appointed two**, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

24 And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,

25 **That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship**, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

26 And they gave forth their lots; and the **lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.**

THE 70 DISCIPLES

Luke 10:1, 3-4, 9-11 The 70 and the 12 Were Sent Out with Exact Same Protocols and Instructions

1 **After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also**, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

3 Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.

4 **Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way.**

9 And **heal the sick** that are therein, and say unto them, **The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.**

10 But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say,

11 **Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.**

Luke 10:17-19, 23-24 70 Promised Power After he Sends Them out

17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

19 Behold, **I give unto you power** to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

23 And **he turned him unto his disciples (Acts 1:15)**, and said privately, **Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see:**

24 **For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.**

❖ **Luke 9:1-6, 51 The 12 Sent Out in Previous Chapter** (Matthew 10 gives greater detail)

1 **Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.**

3 And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece.

4 And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart.

5 And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them.

6 And they departed, and went through the towns, **preaching the gospel, and healing every here.**

51 And **it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,** (Jesus Sent out Seventy Within Days of the Cross)

Acts 2:1-17

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, **they were all with one accord in one place.** (Acts 1:14)

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, **and it filled all the house where they were sitting.**

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And **they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.**

5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, **out of every nation under heaven.**

6 **Now when this was noised abroad,** the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?

8 And **how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?** (18 different nationalities)

9 **Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,**

10 **Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,**

11 **Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.**

12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

14 **But Peter, standing up with the eleven,** lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

16 **But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;**

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh...

- ❖ The entire 120 were “all” in one accord in one place. (vs.1)
- ❖ The Holy Ghost filled the whole house where they were sitting. (v.20)
- ❖ Would God only pour out His Spirit on the 12 and leave out the 108 other disciples
- ❖ It was more than 12 speaking “18” different dialects. (v.8-11)
- ❖ It was in fact the 120 that Peter referenced as, “we all are witnesses” (v. 32)

Acts 2:25-33

25 For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:

26 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:

27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

28 Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

1 Corinthians 15:4-8

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

5 And that he was seen of **Cephas, then of the twelve:**

6 **After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once (Acts 1:16);** of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

7 **After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. (Mt. of Olives)**

8 And **last of all he was seen of me also**, as of one born out of due time.

❖ Acts 1:9-11, 16, 21-22

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

16 Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us...

- ❖ It's evident that the appearance of Christ to the 500 brethren happened before James's encounter and before he showed himself for the last time unto all the apostles. Most likely, verse 7 is referring to Christ's ascension at the Mt. of Olives in which he showed himself to all the apostles, as this was the last recorded appearance of Christ to all the apostles before His ascension. In turn, Christ appearing before 500 brethren must have occurred before his ascension which provides further evidence that 120 were part of that 500, and were indeed eyewitnesses.