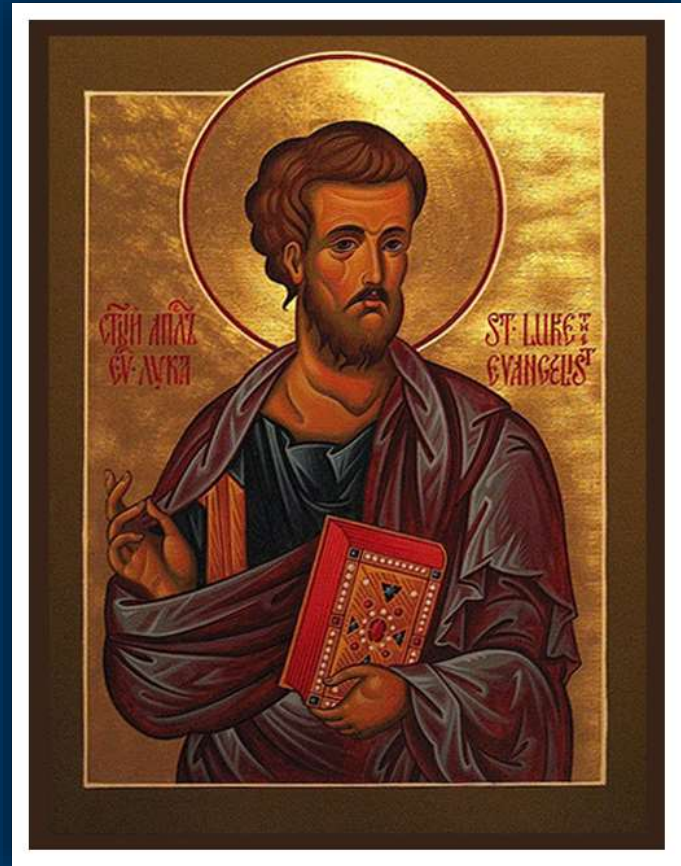


The Acts of the Apostles

Lesson 1: Forty Days Plus Ten

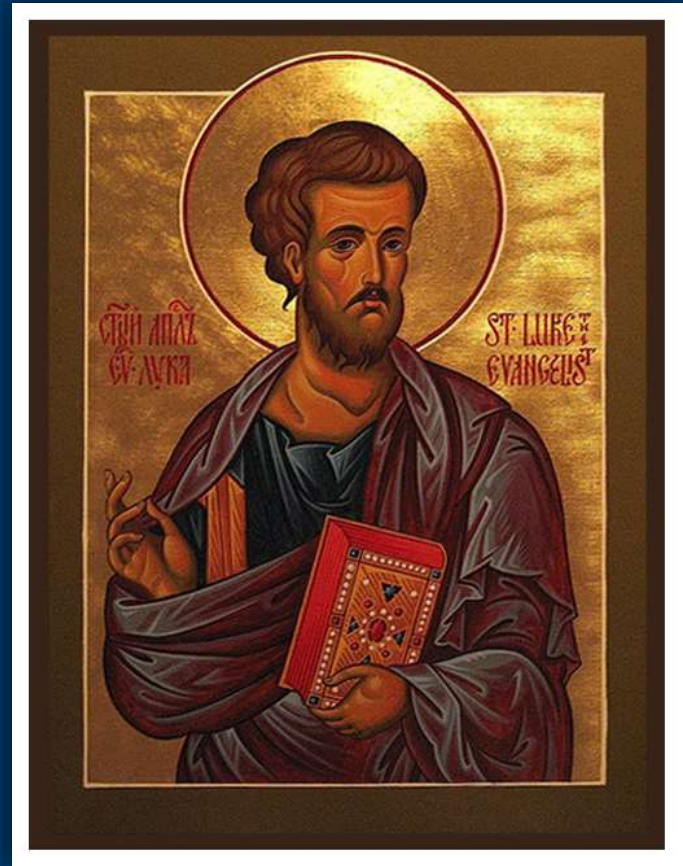
Acts 1:1-26

The book of Acts begins with a reference to another book written by the same author:



Acts 1:1-2

- ¹ The former treatise have I made,
O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began
both to do and teach,
- ² Until the day in which he was taken
up, after that he through the Holy
Ghost had given commandments
unto the apostles whom he had
chosen:



Acts 1:1-2

- ¹ The former treatise have I made,
O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began
both to do and teach,
- ² Until the day in which he was taken
up, after that he through the Holy
Ghost had given commandments
unto the apostles whom he had
chosen:

“The former treatise” is the Gospel
According to Luke.

Luke also wrote the book of Acts.

Acts 1:1-2

- ¹ The former treatise have I made,
O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began
both to do and teach,
- ² Until the day in which he was taken
up, after that he through the Holy
Ghost had given commandments
unto the apostles whom he had
chosen:

The Gospel Of Luke ends with the Ascension of Christ. This is where the book of Acts begins.

Acts 1:1-2

- ¹ The former treatise have I made,
O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began
both to do and teach,
² Until the day in which he was taken
up, after that he through the Holy
Ghost had given commandments
unto the apostles whom he had
chosen:

Luke 24:50-53

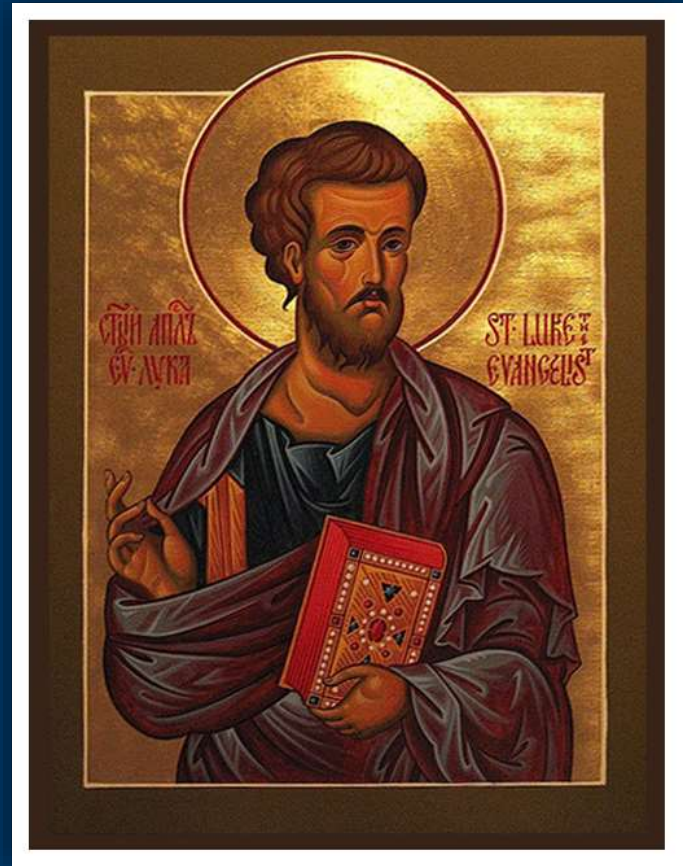
- ⁵⁰ And he led them out as far as to
Bethany, and he lifted up his hands,
and blessed them.
⁵¹ And it came to pass, while he blessed
them, he was parted from them, and
carried up into heaven.
⁵² And they worshipped him, and
returned to Jerusalem with great joy:
⁵³ And were continually in the temple,
praising and blessing God. Amen.

Acts 1:1-2

- ¹ The former treatise have I made,
O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began
both to do and teach,
- ² Until the day in which he was taken
up, after that he through the Holy
Ghost had given commandments
unto the apostles whom he had
chosen:

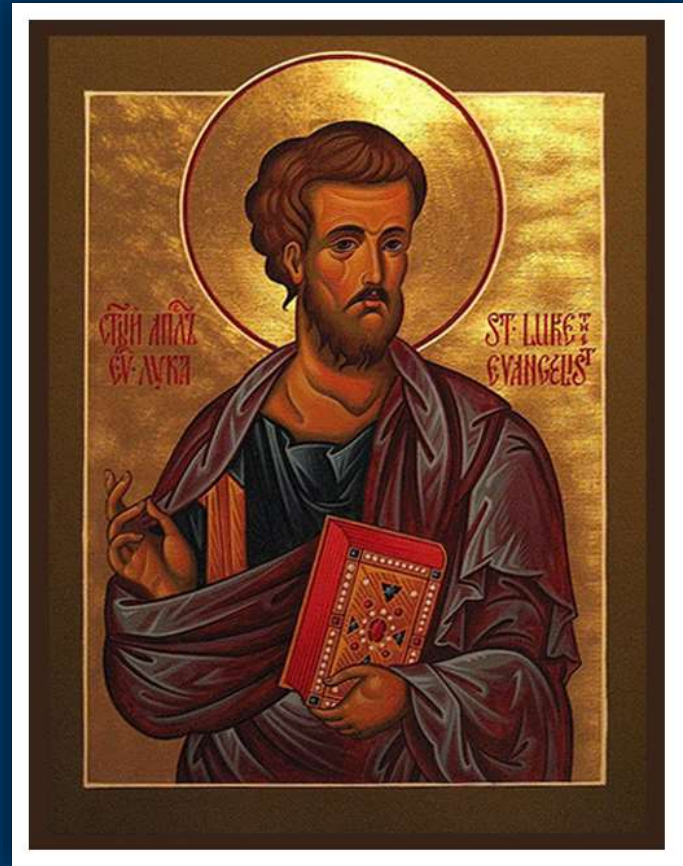
Theophilus means “friend of God”.
The identity of this person is unknown.

Luke also uses this word in his gospel,
and gives his qualifications as a historian.



Luke 1:1-4

- 1 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,
- 2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;
- 3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,
- 4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.



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- 2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;
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Why was Luke qualified to write these books?

1. He was an eyewitness of Christ's ministry on earth from the start.
2. He was a minister of the word.
3. He had "perfect understanding" of these things, something that could only come by the Spirit of God.

Acts, Chapter 1 has two sections:



Acts, Chapter 1 has two sections:
verses 1-11
The 40 days from Christ's
resurrection to his ascension



Acts, Chapter 1 has two sections:

verses 1-11

The 40 days from Christ's
resurrection to his ascension

verses 12-26

The 10 days from his ascension to
the day of Pentecost



Acts, Chapter 1 has two sections:

verses 1-11

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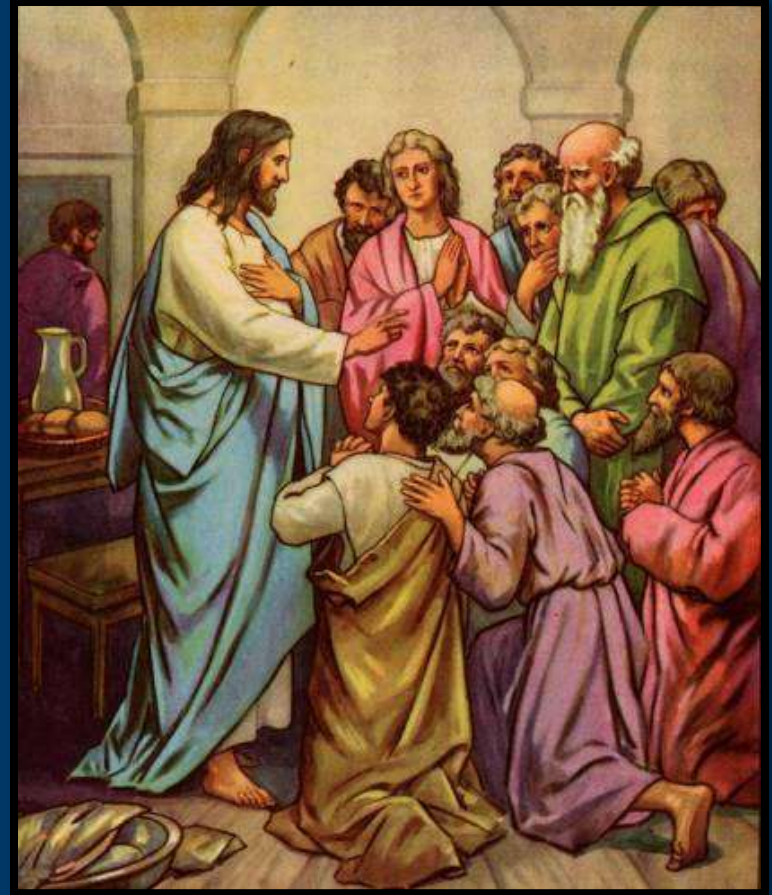
The 10 days from his ascension to
the day of Pentecost

Acts 1:3

To whom also he shewed himself alive
after his passion by many infallible
proofs,
being seen of them forty days, and
speaking of the things pertaining to
the kingdom of God:

Acts 1:4-5

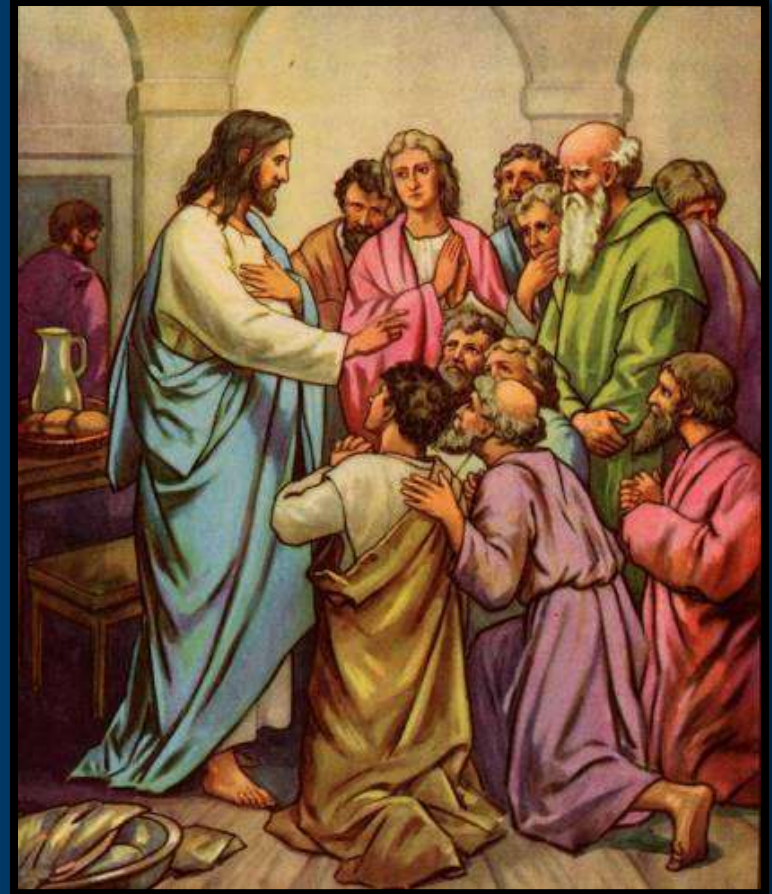
- 4 And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me.
- 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.



Acts 1:4-5

- 4 And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the **promise of the Father**, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me.
- 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

This is also talked about in Luke's gospel:



Acts 1:4-5

- 4 And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me.
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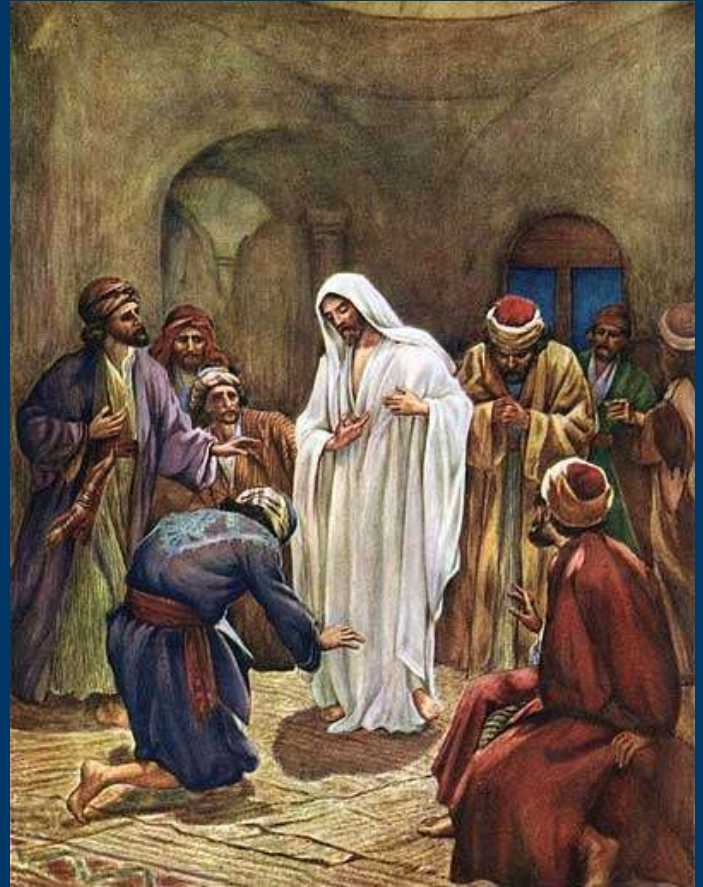
Another cross-reference in Luke's gospel:

Luke 24:49

And, behold, I send **the promise of my Father upon you**: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1:6

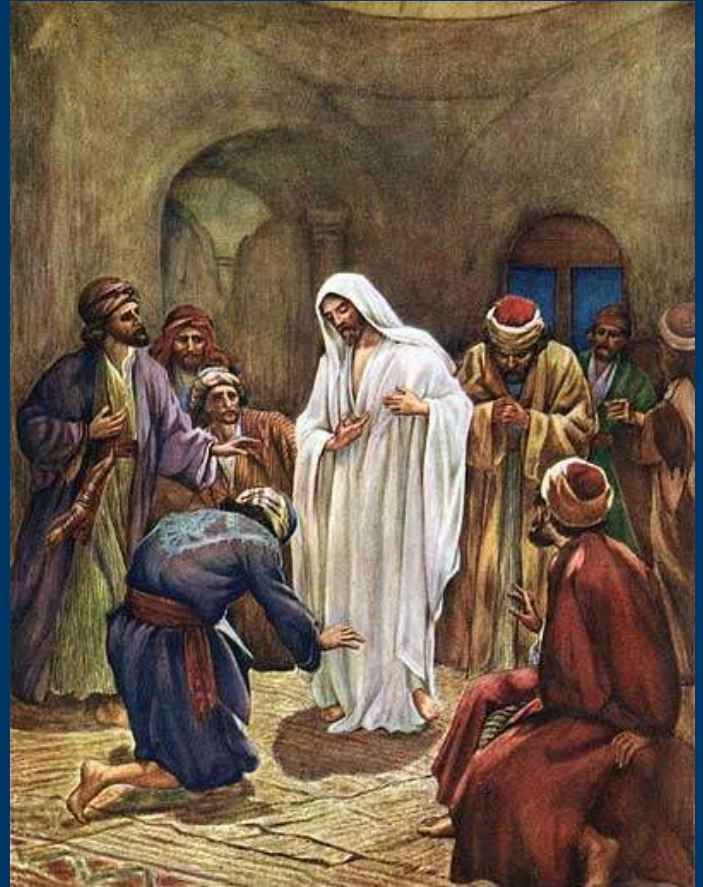
When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?



Acts 1:6

When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

This was a good question, considering the angel's prophecy to Mary:

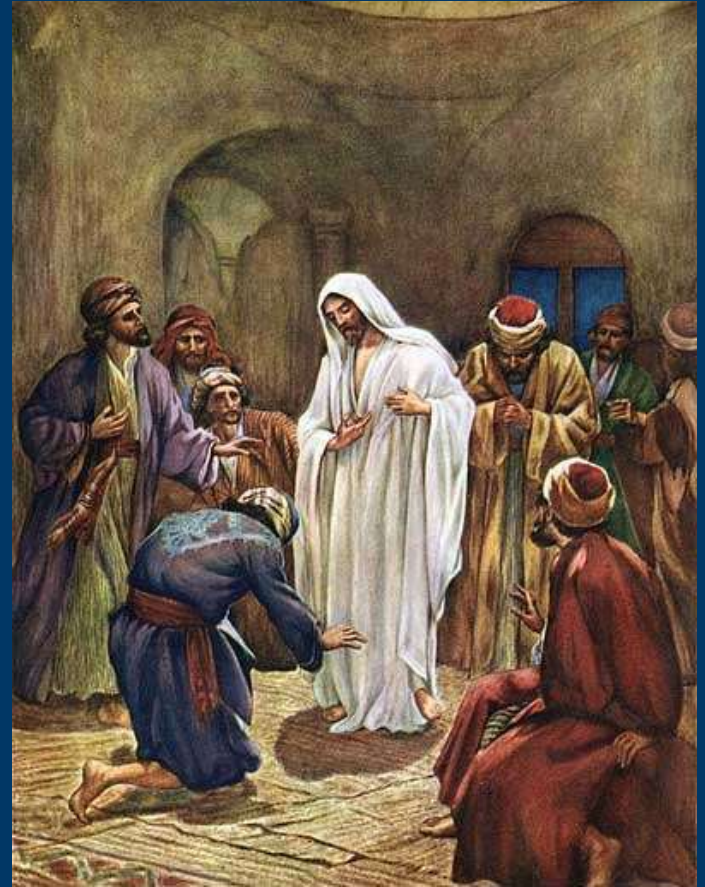




Luke 1:32-33

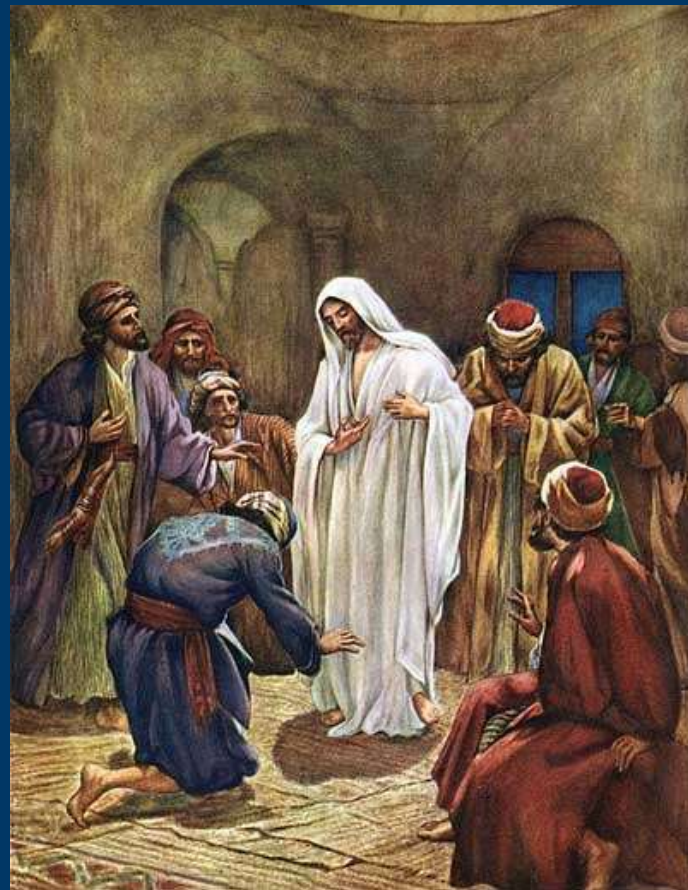
- ³² He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:
- ³³ And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Jesus did not answer their question, but instead he spoke more about the promise of the Father.



Acts 1:7-8

- 7 And he said unto them,
It is not for you to know the times or
the seasons, which the Father hath
put in his own power.
- 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.



Acts 1:7-8

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It is not for you to know the times or
the seasons, which the Father hath
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- 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.

This was a big change in instruction
from just a short time before!



Matthew 10:5-6

- ⁵ These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not:
- ⁶ But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Jesus now directed his disciples to reach the entire **WORLD** with the gospel of salvation!



Jesus now directed his disciples to reach the entire WORLD with the gospel of salvation!

Matthew 28:19-20a

- ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
- ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:

Jesus now directed his disciples to reach the entire **WORLD** with the gospel of salvation!

Mark 16:15-16

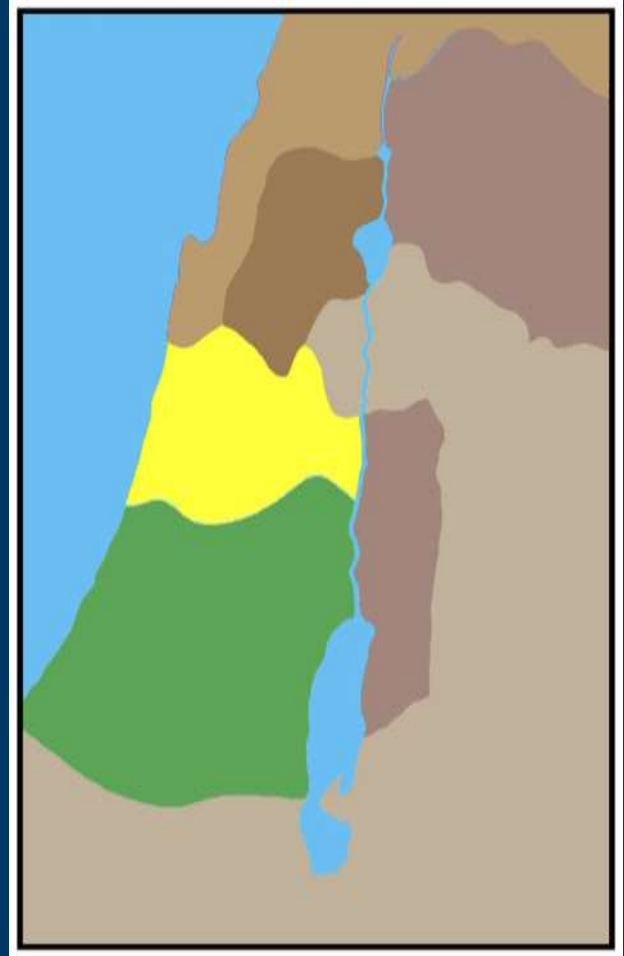
- ¹⁵ And he said unto them,
Go ye into all the world, and preach
the gospel to every creature.
- ¹⁶ He that believeth and is baptized
shall be saved; but he that believeth
not shall be damned.

Acts 1:8 holds the key to understanding
the structure of this book:



Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive power, after that
the Holy Ghost is come upon you:
and ye shall be witnesses unto me



Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive power, after that
the Holy Ghost is come upon you:
and ye shall be witnesses unto me

both in Jerusalem,



Acts 1:8

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.

The Structure of the Book of Acts

Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Region

Chapters

People

Church Leaders

Timespan

Acts 1:8 shows the three main sections of the Book of Acts:

Part 1: The outreach IN JERUSALEM

Part 2: IN ALL JUDAEA AND SAMARIA

Part 3: Into NATIONS BEYOND

The Structure of the Book of Acts

Ye shall be witnesses unto me both **in Jerusalem**, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Region

Jerusalem

Chapters

1 to 7

People

The Jews

Church Leaders

Peter

Timespan

5 years (AD 30-35)

The Structure of the Book of Acts

Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, **and in all Judaea, and in Samaria,** and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Region

Judaea and Samaria

Chapters

8 to 12

People

The Samaritans

Church Leaders

Peter and Paul

Timespan

13 years (AD 35-48)

The Structure of the Book of Acts

Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria,
and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Region

Nations beyond

Chapters

13 to 28

People

The Gentiles

Church Leaders

Paul

Timespan

14 years (AD 48-62)

The Structure of the Book of Acts

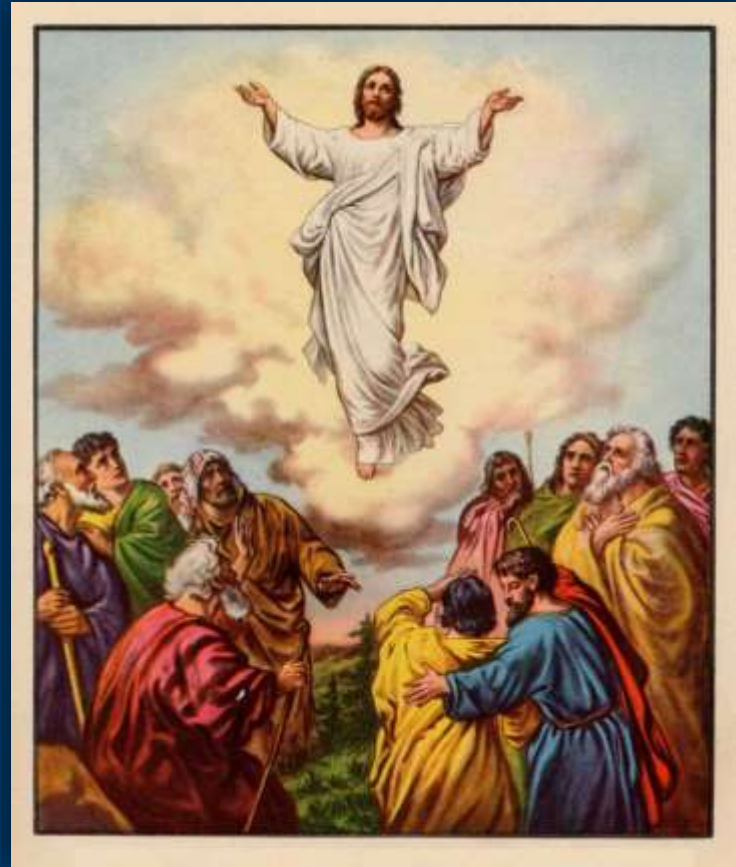
Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Region	Jerusalem	Judaea and Samaria	Nations beyond
Chapters	1 to 7	8 to 12	13 to 28
People	The Jews	The Samaritans	The Gentiles
Church Leaders	Peter	Peter and Saul	Paul
Timespan	5 years (AD 30-35)	13 years (AD 35-48)	14 years (AD 48-62)

Acts covers a total of **32 years** according to Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts.

Acts 1:9

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



Acts 1:10-11

- 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.



Acts, Chapter 1 has two sections:

verses 1-11

The 40 days from Christ's
resurrection to his ascension

verses 12-26

The 10 days from his ascension to
the day of Pentecost

Now the second part of Chapter 1 begins:

Acts 1:12

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



Acts 1:12

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



How long is a Sabbath day's journey?

From **Smith's Bible Dictionary**:

“The Law as regards travel on the Sabbath is found in Exodus 16:29:

Let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.



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As some departure from a man's own place was unavoidable, it was thought necessary to determine the allowable amount, which was fixed at 2000 paces [about 2/3 mile] from the wall of the city.”

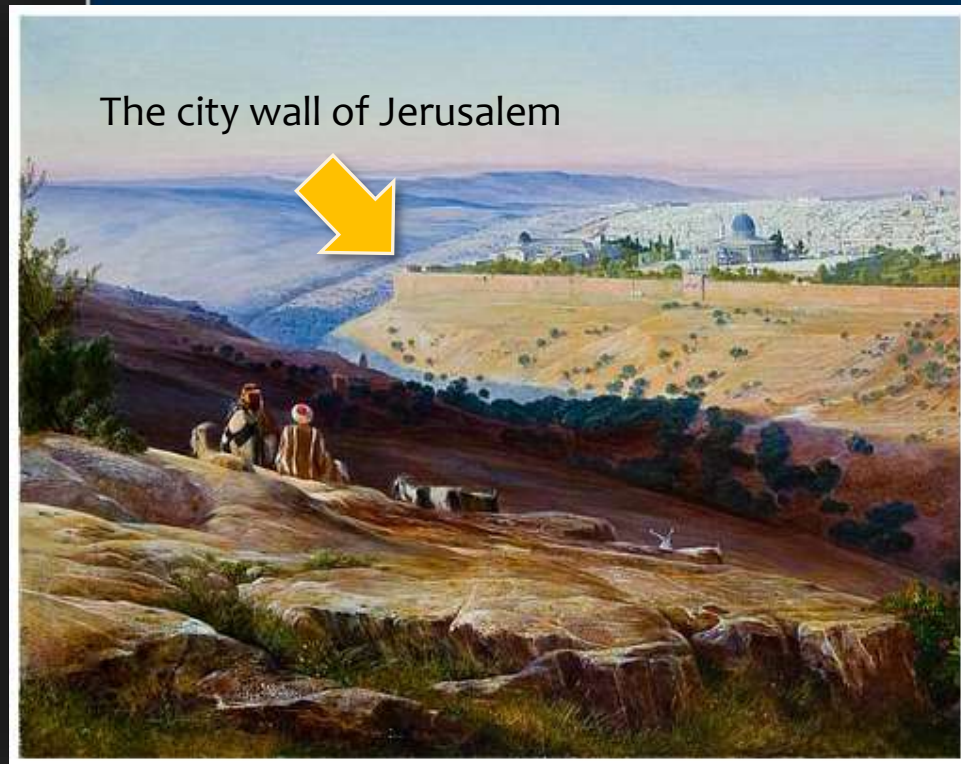


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The second part of Chapter 1
-- the 10 days from the ascension to
the day of Pentecost – tells of
finding a replacement for Judas.



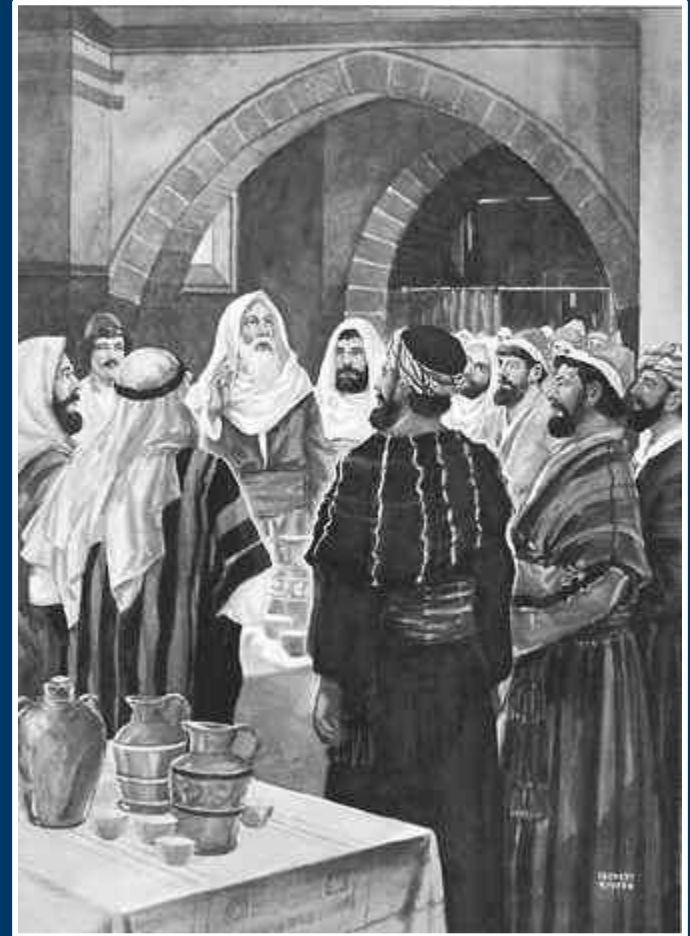
Acts 1:13-14

- 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, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.



Acts 1:15-17

- ¹⁵ And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, 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.
- ¹⁷ For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.



Acts 1:18-19

- ¹⁸ Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.
- ¹⁹ And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood.



Acts 1:20

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.



Acts 1:20

For it is written in the book of Psalms,
Let his habitation be desolate,
and let no man dwell therein:
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Psalm 69:25

Let their habitation be desolate;
and let none dwell in their tents.

Acts 1:20

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.

Psalm 109:6-8

- 6 Set thou a wicked man over him:
and let Satan stand at his right hand.
- 7 When he shall be judged,
let him be condemned:
and let his prayer become sin.
- 8 Let his days be few;
and let another take his office.

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and let another take his office.

A 'bishoprick' is a place of authority held by an elder.

There was one qualification for joining the apostles:

Acts 1:21-22

- 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, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.



There was one qualification for joining the apostles:

Acts 1:21-22

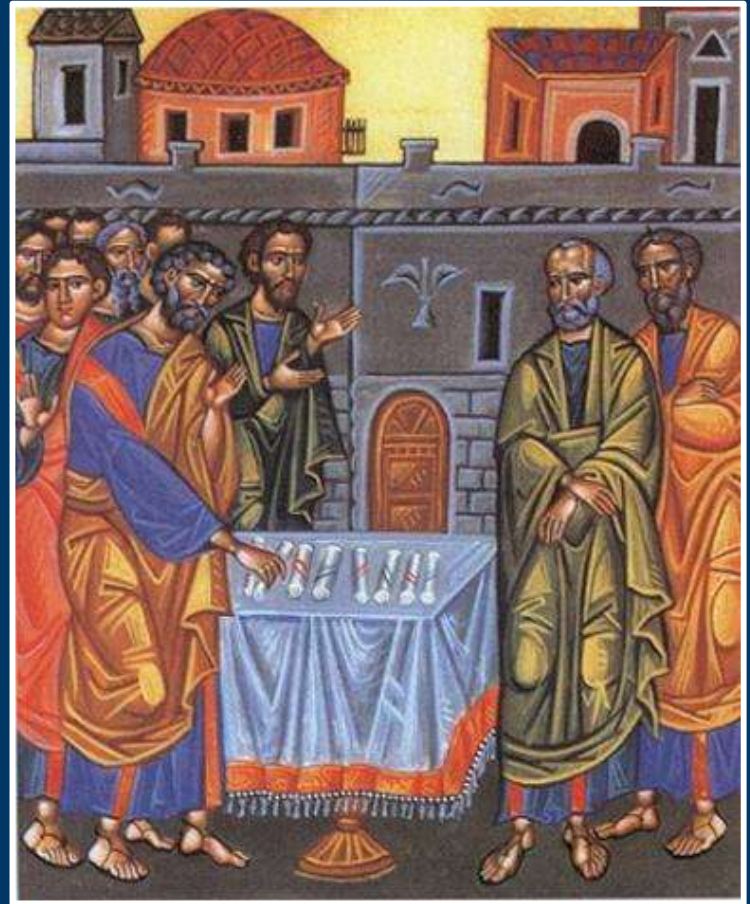
- ²¹ Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,
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He must have been with Jesus from his baptism to his resurrection.

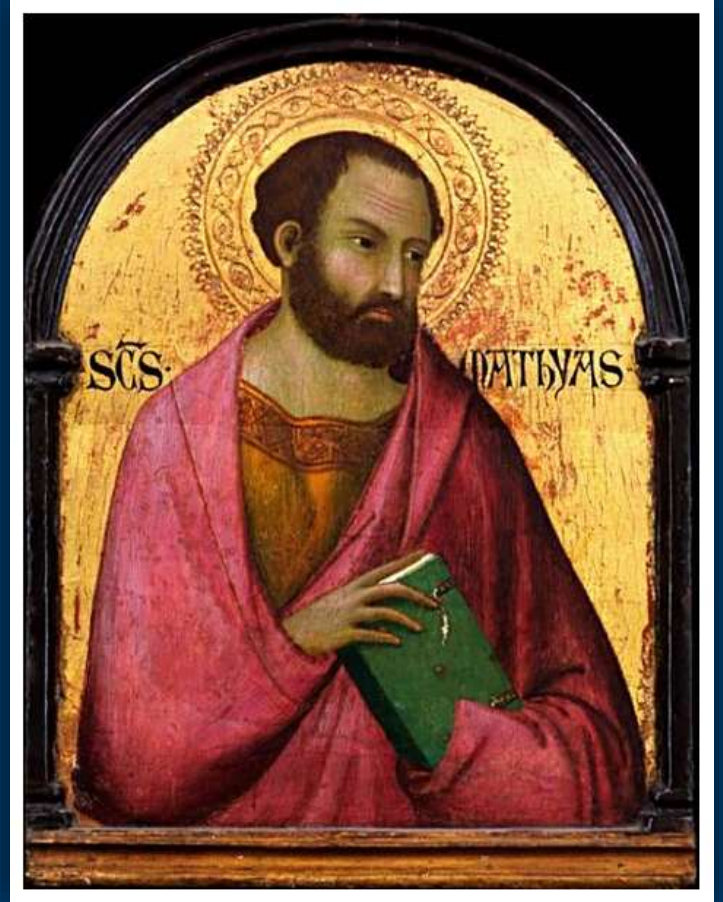
Acts 1:23-25

- 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.



Acts 1:26

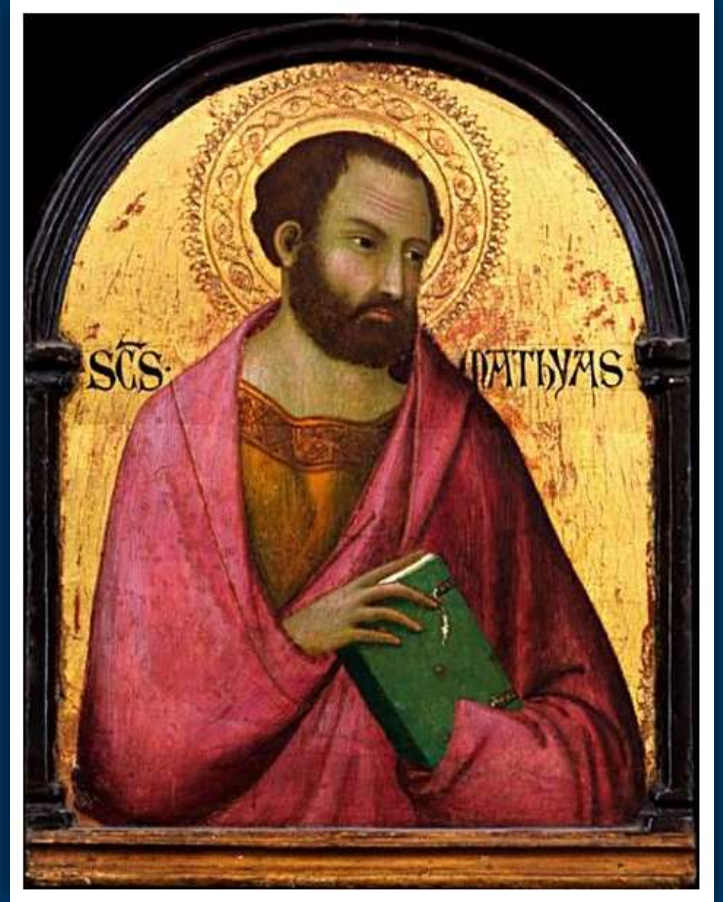
And they gave forth their lots
[their votes];
and the lot fell upon Matthias;
and he was numbered with the eleven
apostles.



Acts 1:26

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

END OF CHAPTER ONE



UP NEXT:

The witness in Jerusalem begins with
the Day of Pentecost



Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

1. Who wrote the book of Acts?
2. What other book in the Bible did this man write?
3. What important event joins these two books: a, b, or c?
a) the crucifixion b) the resurrection c) the ascension.
4. What does the word “Theophilus” mean?
5. What are the two sections to Acts Chapter 1?
6. How did Christ's instruction to his disciples change from Matthew 10:5-6 and Matthew 28:19-20?
7. What are the 3 divisions of the Book of Acts as seen in Acts 1:8?
8. About how many years pass from the beginning to end of the book of Acts?
9. Who did the apostles choose to replace Judas?
10. According to Acts 1:22, what was his qualification?

Each question is worth 10 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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