

May 11th, 2022 - Wednesday Bible Study

Preparations for the Birth of the Church

Acts 1:12-26,

See Acts 1:12-14... Jesus is gone, His followers are together: The eleven disciples, "the women" (Mary Magdalene, Mary the Mother of James, Mary the wife of Clopas, Mary & Martha, Joanna, Susanna [**Matthew 27:55-56; Mark 15:40-41; Luke 8:1-3; 23:49; 24:10; John 19:25**]); Jesus 'mother and siblings.

Jesus brothers didn't believe until after His resurrection (**John 7:5**); their conversions aren't given in Scripture, but Jesus appeared to James (**1Corinthians 15:7**), who evidently influenced the rest of his siblings to believe in Christ.

What were they thinking about in the upper room? Jesus 'arrest, crucifixion, resurrection?

Should Mary be worshipped? Can she redeem us?

What does the Bible say (**Mark 3:31-35; Luke 1:39-50; 11:27-28**)?

Can we seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

What does the Bible say (**John 1:12-13; Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 10:9-10; 1Corinthians 12:13**).

See Acts 1:15-20... Peter is the recognized leader of the believers. Peter's communications with Christ are recorded more than any other Disciple.

Judas died a gruesome death (**Acts 1:18**)! **Matthew 27:5** says he "hanged himself."

The fate of Judas was foretold (**Acts 1:16, 20**, cf. **Psalm 109:8**).

Judas was replaced for there were to be twelve apostles (**Matthew 19:27-28; Luke 22:28-30; Revelation 20**).

See Acts 1:21-26... Judas' successor must meet certain qualifications.

1. He had to witness the Lord's ministry, from His baptism to His ascension back into heaven.
2. He had to be a witness to the resurrected Christ.
3. He had to be chosen by God.

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There were two men met the first two requirements: Joseph called Barsabbas, and Matthias.

The apostles prayed (**Acts 1:24**), then cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias.

Jonah 1:7, Then the sailors said to each other, "Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity." The lot fell to Jonah.

Proverbs 16:33, "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

This is the last mention of casting lots. Why?

As Christians, we have the Holy Spirit to guide and equip us, with the Word of God, through which we can make decisions based on God's Word.

The 12 apostles are now in place, so it is time for the Church of Gods to her birthed.

Pastor Mike Hale