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The New Testament Apostles

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The New Testament Apostles

The New Testament (Koine Greek: □ Καὶν □ Διαθήκη, Hē Kain □ Diath □ kē) is the second major division of the Christian biblical canon, and it is here that we will find the works of many of the early Apostles; Those who walked with Christ and those who followed afterwards. However, the first such major division being the more involved and longer Old Testament also spoke of the New Testament Area Apostles as those servants of the God, Jehovah of the Old Testament; who would take the Gospel of Christ in this Dispensation of Grace and as witnesses unto Him in Jerusalem and all Judaea and in Samaria; and unto the uttermost part of the earth; and reveal to all humanity that the same Jehovah God of the Old Testament is also the Lord and God; Jesus Christ, our Father of the New Testament. As for the record: Nothing was added by the inspiration of God to the New Testament Canon that was not already found in the Old Testament Canon except: “men should love their neighbor as their self” *((Mat 19:19 Honour thy father and [thy] mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.))*

Now, learn this; As God set first in the Church, Apostles; **1Cr 12:28** *And God hath set some in the church, **first** apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.* Now the Word [First] in [Greek] Transliteration is **prōton**; the pronunciation is prō'-ton and it means ‘Chief’ in regards to a person. So then God set at the top of the church hierarchy; Chiefs who were known as and had been given the name (Apostles) So then; as number one in the church; Christ uniquely blessed all of them;

Luk 8:10 *And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.*

Mat 13:11 *He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.*

Luk 24:45 *Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,* Luk 24:46 *And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: Luk 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.* Luk 24:48 **And ye are witnesses of these things.**

Eph 2:19 ¶ *Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;*

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Eph 2:20 *And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone];*

Eph 2:21 *In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:*

Our understanding of scripture comes from those who are chief(s) in church order or the apostle(s). It is to these men, whom God gives complete knowledge and understanding; for the edification of His saints. As we can see in this passage:

Eph 3:1 ¶ *For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,*

Eph 3:2 *If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:*

Eph 3:3 *How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,*

Eph 3:4 ***Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)***

Eph 3:5 ***Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;***

Eph 3:6 *That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: (Those from Samaria to those found in the uttermost part of the earth)*

Eph 3:7 *Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.*

Concerning the first New Testament Apostles and those who came after them; we can come to the following scriptural conclusions, regarding truths and the pious lives of these Chief Men of God:

- Apostles are Chief Men of God
- Apostles are first (Chief(s) in Church hierarchy
- God's appointment of an apostle is revealed by the Holy Spirit and confirmed by other established elders. (Acts 9:15; Acts 13:2-4; Acts 22:21)
- Apostles have been set in the Church by God I cor. 12:28
- Apostles are set in the Church by God first in time, and first in rank

- Apostles attract, and are surrounded by, and take counsel from other apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. Apostles also attract deacons and saints.

"And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus. These going before tarried for us at Troas." Acts 20:4,5

- Apostles leave a trail of fully-functioning churches containing five-fold ministers. [Acts 14:23] I Cor. 9:2

It is of grave error for one to assume that the role of apostle were limited to the original 12 apostles chosen by Jesus Christ. A careful reading of the New Testament will show that additional leaders also are referred to as apostles, including Matthias, Judas the brother of James, Paul, Barnabas, Silas, Timothy, Andronicus, Junias, Apollos and Epaphroditus and others. Also, if one is to observe closely; he will arrive at the conclusion that the Original 12 Apostles were not the only ones chosen by Christ at that time; but were twelve chosen for the specific function of Spiritualizing the twelve tribes of Israel, ((*Mat 19:27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? Mat 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*)) Also we read: ((*Luk 22:28 Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations. Luk 22:29 And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; Luk 22:30 That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*)) Now I will pick up on this again later into this epistle and explain it in more detail, that you might understand it for your own edification; praise God.

Apostles, Penetrating Unreached Areas:

Although the gospel has gone out to some degree to every nation, there are still thousands of unreached people groups that, because of geographical or linguistic isolation, have never even heard of Jesus Christ. It was and is the responsibility of the Apostle as first in the church to reach out to those who have not heard the gospel preach. It was to the Apostles that Jesus Christ spoke these words: ((*Mar 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. Mar 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*))

Apostles, Church Planting and Foundation Laying:

God-gifted church planters are desperately needed in America and all over the world. In addition, many existing churches have been built on human traditions and opinions rather than on the solid biblical foundation that apostolic- hearted ministers long to provide.

Apostles, Appointing and Training Leaders:

Today the apostolic function of training leaders has been largely replaced by seminaries and Bible schools. Appointing the leaders of local churches generally has become a matter of congregational voting, selection by a denominational hierarchy or the increasingly common practice of aspiring preachers to simply start their own churches and appoint themselves the pastors.

A result of this lack of apostolic involvement is that leaders often have been put in places of responsibility they are not gifted or adequately equipped to fulfill. They may have been good students at the seminary, but they are unlikely to receive the type of personal training and character development that Timothy and even Titus, received from Paul. As in the first century, there are countless tutors today, but the cry of the hour is for true spiritual fathers (see 1 Cor. 4:14-17).

Apostles, Addressing Unresolved and Hard To Understand Problems:

Almost every church occasionally encounters an impasse that is difficult to resolve without outside assistance. Who is available to furnish local pastors with wise input about these thorny church problems? There is still a need today for ministers with apostolic authority who can provide accountability and pierce through blind spots, ignorance and pride, speaking the Word of God to areas of sin, imbalance, false doctrine and division.

Promoting unity:

The disunity of the body of Christ is still a scandal that robs us of the full blessing of God and undercuts our testimony to the lost. Ministers with a genuine apostolic heart are burdened for God's people to care for each other's needs as a united family and reach the world as a united army.

Local congregations frequently are deficient in seeing the "big picture" of the church around the world and sensing the Lord's heartbeat that His body be functionally interlinked. This vision of unity is sorely needed in the church today, and only those with apostolic insight and authority have the necessary gifts to bring it about in a significant way. A way in which the Church is able to understand the mysteries implanted in the great salvation message; which first was preached by Christ our Lord.

Apostles, Sign Of The Times:

There is no doubt; we live in a time when God is working mightily to restore signs and wonders in the church. (*Jdg 6:13 And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where [be] all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.*) For way too long saints and believers of the so-called Christian Faiths, have relied on our own intellect, human wisdom and persuasive words; the very same things Paul refused to put his confidence in and gave warning to the Church: ((1Cr 2:4 And my speech and my preaching [was] not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: 1Cr 2:5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.)) No one in the New Testament Church of God has the ability and authority to demonstrate and impart the supernatural, through preaching and discourse; better than the Apostles. And even to this day there remains a remnant of these special chosen men of God who are able to set the church in order according to the Apostle's Doctrine. (*Rom 11:3 Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars;*

*and I am left alone, and they seek my life. Rom 11:4 But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to [the image of] Baal. Rom 11:5 **Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.**))*

Now if we are able to get and understanding, concerning the New Testament Apostles; who they were; what they did in service to the Church; how they lived their lives and the authority each of them demonstrated when accounting for the word of God; then we might be able to distinguish these great men of God, from all others; that remains in the land today. So, let us start with the first Apostles; chosen by Christ and see just how high the number will go through scripture application. ((*1Th 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*))

Let's Do The Numbers:

There were scriptural accounting of at least 23 New Testament Apostle's

The word "apostle" means "to send forth".

Jesus originally picked twelve (Mat. 12:2-4).

1. Simon (who is called Peter)
2. Andrew (Simon Peter's brother)
3. James (son of Zebedee)
4. John (son of Zebedee)
5. Philip
6. Bartholomew
7. Thomas
8. Matthew (the tax collector)
9. James (son of Alphaeus)
10. Lebbaeus (whose surname was Thaddeus)
11. Simon the Zealot Canaanite
12. Judas Iscariot
13. Judas (the brother of James)

Scholars have proposed alternate theories to explain what is assumed to be a discrepancy by most bible students and teachers: One should also consider the possibility of an unrecorded replacement of one for the other during the ministry of Jesus because of apostasy or death; and the possibility that "twelve" was a symbolic number and an estimation; and not the number of Apostles called by Christ during his ministry. One should always consider scripture when exploring any particular passage in the bible; in as much as it is very scripture to conclude the scriptures cannot be broken. This being so we are always forced by scripture to come to a proper conclusion that can be supported by scripture. To understand the twelve number for Christ's Apostles let us start with this passage and then go from there: ((*Mat 22:14 For many are called, but few [are] chosen.*))

1. Called; Transliteration: klētos Meaning of word as applied to this scripture: *invited (by God in the proclamation of the Gospel) to obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom through Christ* . So with this information we can plainly see why Christ said many are called. All of those in all of the world and doing all of its times who believe in Christ are called to obtain eternal salvation in God's Kingdom, through Christ.
2. Chosen; Transliteration: eklektos Meaning of word as applied to this scripture: Choice, select, i.e. the best of its kind or class, excellence preeminent: applied to certain individual Believers in Christ.

Now hear this: those chosen are from the best and are to be used for a specific purpose of God as were the 12 Apostles chosen at the beginning of His ministry. As we saw previously the twelve were chosen to become the spiritual representivities for the restoration of the twelve tribes of Israel. Then you may ask why is there thirteen named Apostles as having been chosen by Christ during his ministry. Here is the answer: The one by the name of Judas Iscariot is the key to understanding this part of this epistle.

Notice what Acts 1 says about Judas - that "he was numbered among us" (verse 17, i.e., Judas was a disciple) - that Judas' fall was prophesied in the Old Testament (verse 16) - and that he had had a "ministry" (verse 17) and was to be replaced (Acts 1:20):
 Acts 1:16 "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"
 Acts 1:17 "For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry."

Now further note how the book of Acts says Judas fell by SIN (he was not FORCED by Satan, who had entered into him; he was personally ACCOUNTABLE for his actions):
 Act 1:25 "That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place."

Remember, Jesus said it would have been "better for this man" (Judas) had he "never been born" (Mark 14:21).

Now in that Judas was a sinner, a person of perdition and one filled with lust and greed, thus making him unfit for the promise and final application for the chosen twelve Apostles who in the millennium Government of Christ will sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Therefore, Christ, never leaving himself without witness had chosen a replacement for Judas Iscariot who was perhaps Judas, the brother of James, mentioned in Acts chapter 1 verse 13. See this: If Judas had been "given" to Jesus by the Father, he would never have perished, but since Judas did perish, the Father, then never gave him to Jesus. And since John 10:29 says that no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand, Judas perished because he never was in the Father's hand. Therefore the 13th Apostle was given to Christ from the Father that the scripture might be fulfilled.

Now, let us finish the Apostolic Tabulation and determine how many Apostles in the new Testament

14. Mathis was picked to replace Judas Iscariot Acts 1:22
15. James (The brother of Jesus) Gal. 1:19
16. Jude (The Brother of Jesus) Jude 1
17. Saul of Tarsus (English name Paul) Acts Chapter 9
18. Barbabas was an Apostle Acts 14:14
19. Andronicus was an Apostle Romans 16:7
20. Junia was an Apostle Romans 16:7
21. Epaphroditus was the messenger [Apostle] to the Philippians (Philippians 2: 25).
22. Silvanus was an Apostle I Th. 2:6
23. Timotheus was an Apostle I Th 2:6
24. Apollos was an Apostle I Cor 3:3-8 (Read verse 8)
25. Titus was an Apostle Messenger [Apostle] to the churches II Cor 8:23
26. Jesus Christ The Chief Apostle Hebrews 3:1

The number of New Testament Apostles supported by this epistle is not traditional teaching that has been handed down throughout Church history by the Ecumenical councils and decrees of Ecclesiastical authorities in Western Europe since around the second and third centuries. Nor is it in agreement with 20th Century Christian Theologians who have rushed to judgment without an understanding of the written word. A closer examination of the New Testament Scriptures shows a slightly different picture as to the identity of the apostles chosen during the earthly ministry of Jesus, as well as to other men who were chosen to be called apostles after the establishment of the Christian Church. Actually New Testament scripture and the writings of Apostle Paul infers that there were additional Apostles both at Jerusalem and the Diaspora ; including other Brothers of Yeshua (Jesus) Joses, Simon, and possibly a 5th. Brother whose name was John. But nevertheless; I have only included in this epistle, the names of those men who are specificall called out as being Apostles in New Testament scripture. God bless and study to show yourself approved.

If you have questions:

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