

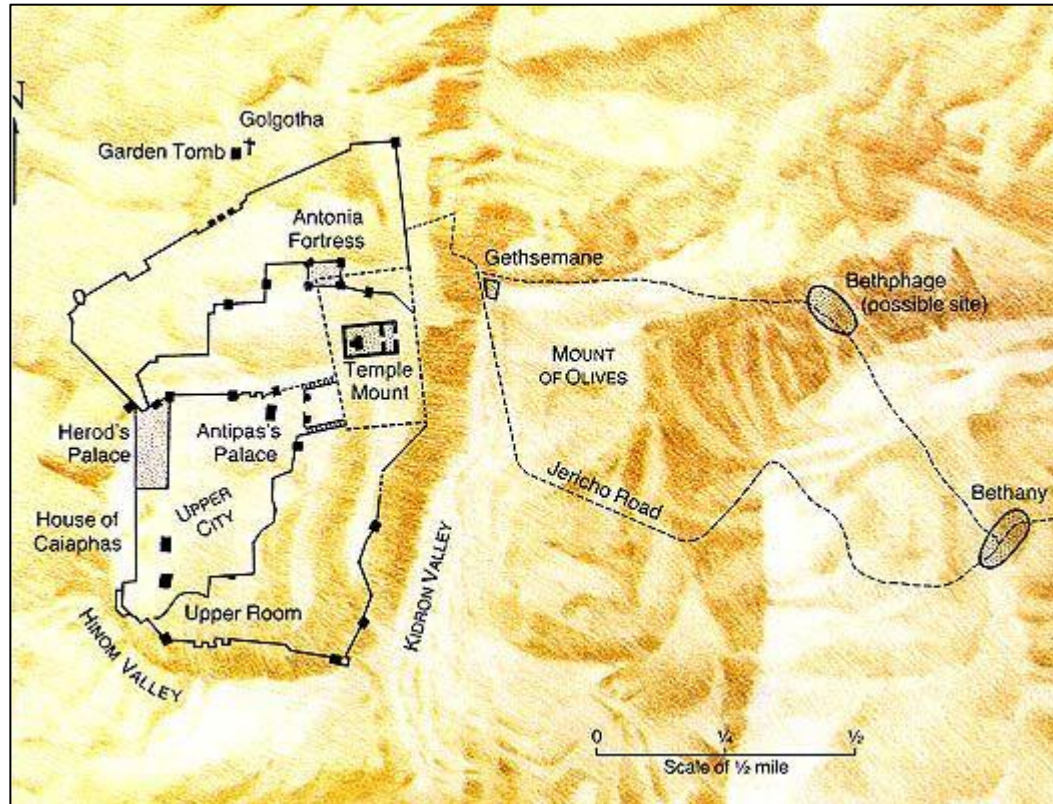
In the waiting-room

Acts 1:12 -26



Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city.

After Jesus' ascension – they go back to Jerusalem
– not too far to walk!



When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying.

Staying in rented accommodation - visiting for Passover festival
Possibly John-Mark's home was big enough to meet in upstairs



The 11 disciples

Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

There is a change of order from the list in Luke's gospel

The 3 – Peter, James and John

Bartholomew (a kind of surname) (aka. Nathaniel)

Matthew – the tax collecting collaborator!

Simon – the political activist!

Several James - son of Alphaeus

- father of Judas (the other one)



Jesus chose a varied mix to show his amazing grace and power!

They all joined **together constantly** in prayer,

What a transformation after the resurrection!
Before in the gospels we see arguing, self-promotion etc.

Now they are united in prayer-

Their possible prayer 'list':-

Praise,

Asking for help, for protection, for grace,
and for the Lord to fulfil the 'Promise'

A good way to pray :- 'plead the promises'



There's more

They **all** joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

3 other 'groups' are mentioned

The Women – companions, wives?

(women were allowed in the room!)

Mary (the last mention) in John's care -

Her sorrow turned to joy

Jesus' 4 brothers James(Jacob), Joseph, Judas, Simon –(Mark 6:3)

They had a change of heart (John 7:5) after his death and resurrection

Quite a gathering to worship!



In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty)

Who counted – and why does it say ‘about’ 120 ?

“Believers” was their first official name (what are you known as?)

Peter has natural leadership gifts.
He is standing. Are the others seated?
He has something important to say.



and said, "Brothers"

Brothers is a term that included men and women - one family

Peter is simply 'one-of-the family'



and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David

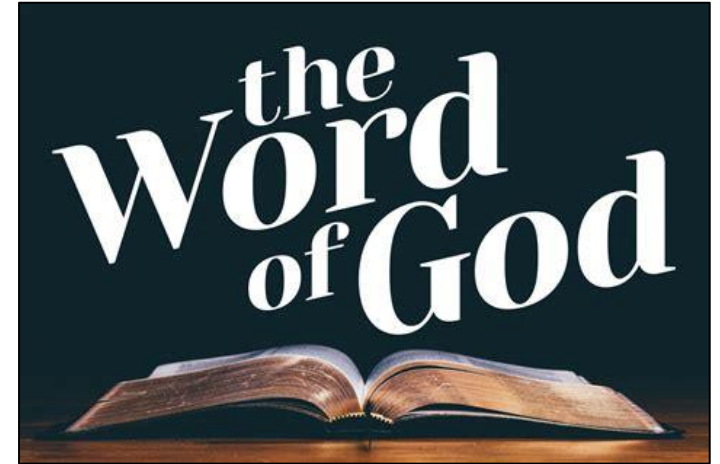
Peter quotes the Bible with spiritual insight. It also shows that he had memorised some of it. This is him following the Master's way.

It shows what his view of the bible is:

It is God's prophetic word. It is invested with God's promise and God's power to fulfil it.

The human 'author' is David in this part of Scripture

The actual author is Holy Spirit, who in the present is God speaking through it to them (now).



and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus-- he was one of our number and shared in this ministry."

Peter sees that it spoke about Judas and he wasn't even born then! These are prophetic parallels – God already knew!

“He betrayed Jesus to the authorities.
He was part of our group.”
(no one suspected him – well hidden)



With the reward he got for his wickedness,

Wickedness's reward?

30 coins

Bad conscience

Desperate loss



The Potter's Field

With the reward he got for his wickedness, Judas bought a field;

The authorities bought the field with Judas's blood-money.
It is considered as his action.



there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out.

He hanged himself (the gospel gives a brief description)
It seems it was actually a botched attempt where he fell to his death.

A terrible example of Satan's work
to bring shame and destruction



Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.

Word gets around. The place now associated with his treachery and suicide.

The name is in Aramaic
It's an explanation by Luke to Theophilus who is not familiar with the language.



"For," said Peter, "it is written in the book of Psalms, "May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,"

Peter quotes the first of 2 psalms Psalm 69:25
(Psalms heads up the book of "the writings"
in the Hebrew arrangement of the OT)

These are references to David's
response to evil men, Doeg and his
betrayal Ahitophel

Peter sees a direct link to the betrayer of
David's descendant – Jesus

Judas has gone.



"For," said Peter, "it is written in the book of Psalms,
"`May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,` and,
"`**May another take his place of leadership.**`"

Psalm 109:8 After Judas has gone – a replacement is needed.



Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

‘Therefore’ – the logic of reasoning from the Bible.

One of the things that marked out the 12 apostles was their time spent with Jesus.

“In and out” means he lived amongst us.

It appears there were others beside the 12.

The other thing was that Jesus chose 12 men – so it has to be a man to fill the position.



beginning from John`s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us.

The full period of Jesus` earthly mission when he entered into his ministry.



For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.

To be a witness he must have known Jesus
both before and after his resurrection

This evidence is essential to the whole gospel movement.



So they proposed two men..

How did they decide who was suitable?
Character? Acquaintance?

This was a group decision – using
sanctified common sense.



So they proposed two men.. Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias.

Joseph – a man with 3 names

Joseph

Barsabbas (a kind of surname)

Justus (Latin name used among gentiles
cf. Saul & Paul)

And Matthias

Both are unknown to us – but not in God's story.

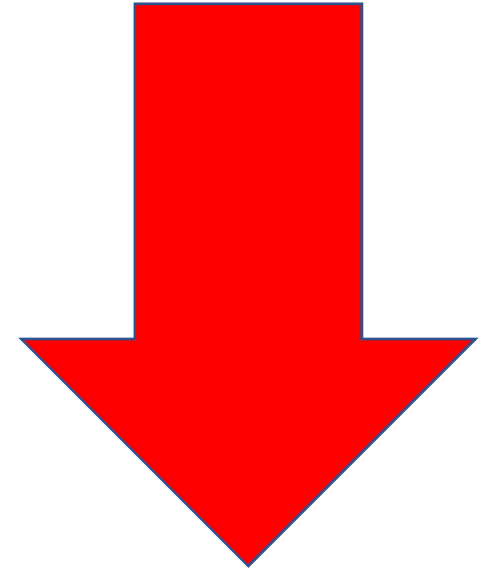


Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone`s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry,

They leave the final decision to God.

They prayed for God`s guidance.

He sees everything – our motives – our future etc.



Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone`s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over **this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.**

A great privilege and responsibility

A terrible end for the betrayer
– his place - by choice and deed



Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

This isn't gambling.

Lots were used in the OT to distribute tribal land
Joshua 14:2 , temple services rota (Luke 1:9)

They trusted God to overrule – cf. Jonah, Achan

This way of making decisions is not seen after
Pentecost but they were seeking, the way they knew
best at the time.



Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; **so he was added to the eleven apostles.**

We don't hear anymore about him!
But that doesn't mean he played no future role.
We don't hear any more about most of the other apostles either.

What about the apostle Paul?
(born out of due time), 1 Corinthians 15:8



Whatever God may have in store we can make the best of the waiting time.

By prayer, fellowship, and making godly decisions with the guidance of the word and the Spirit

