

The Twelve Apostles

~ The Doctrine of The Twelve Apostles

Purpose: Look at the 12 apostles to answer questions about their ministry & how it relates to us:

1. Who was their ministry to? Who was it not to?
2. Why does scripture say Jesus came only to Israel and why did he send the 12 only to Israel?
 - What were the conditions that the message opened to Gentiles?
 - **Taking care not to use tradition, proof texting, or assumptions.**
 - **Making sure we follow certain Biblical standards of interpreting scripture – Hermeneutics**
 - Scripture is not the Chronicles of Narnia/Moby Dick: literature that is symbolic
 - It is like a job offer letter – literal/normal hermeneutic
 - Is the Bible to be understood as primarily literal or symbolic/allegorical: **your 2 choices**
 - Putting aside emotional attachments & letting scripture speak without us speaking it away
3. Is the kingdom literal or spiritual?
 - Will the 12 be sitting on 12 literal thrones
4. Why did the 12 have the authority to forgive sins? Do people today?
5. **Controversial:** Are they (the 12) our apostles and are they members of the BOC.

You can find them named in Matt 10:2-4, Mk 3:16-19, Lk 6:14-16, & Acts 1:13.

Review

1. The 12 kept their ministry to Israel – Matt 10:5, **Acts 11:19**
2. **NO RECORD** of going to gentiles except Cornelius in Acts – argued & said it was not lawful (the law?)
3. Scripture records the church in Rome started by followers of Paul & established by him – not Peter
4. Peter & the 12 never expressed to have **ANY** knowledge of the revelation of the mystery
 - Acts 15 confirms the 12 were not told by revelation – they learned it from Paul

We also looked briefly at why all this matters.

- Confusion overthrows faith of some & creates divisions – *I Tim 1:20*: Hymenaeus and Alexander
- Not taking God's word literal & instead spiritualizing the text opens the door to **MANY** interpretations.
 - Some say: "*Jesus came to reveal/bring a different kind of kingdom*" – **that is not true**
- You would need a priest or a PHD to understand the symbolism
- It matters b/c God says it matters – *I Tim 1:3* – the command that believers speak no other doctrine

1. The Doctrine of the 12?

- a. Jesus said "*go & teach all things whatsoever I have commanded you*" **Matt 28:16-20**
 - i. Obey the law **Matt 23:1-3, 10:17-21**
 - ii. Jesus said the law would remain until "*all things fulfilled*" – **Matt 5:17-18, cf. Acts 15:5**
 - iii. In John's eyes the law still remains – **I Jn 3:4**
- b. **Jesus said to the 12 whatever you ask I will do** – **Jn 14:13-14, Jas 5**
 - i. *Jas 5* "*any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him*"
 - And the prayer of faith **shall** save the sick

- ii. Many explain away what is said by giving caveats that just aren't there: enough faith
 - Did Paul not have enough faith to heal himself of his own blindness, Timothy's ailments?
- c. Confess & you shall be forgiven - **I Jn 1:9**
 - i. **If we** – very specific – if you have a ticket you can get on the airplane
 - ii. Not to be watered down but perfectly fits w/God's program w/Israel
 - iii. Some suggest – “*OT is God dealing w/Israel, NT changes that & is God working with Jesus*”
 - Wrong b/c God is still dealing w/Israel in Matt-early Acts
 - iv. Compare I Jn 1:9 to **Lev 26:14-21, 40-42; Lev 5:15**
 - v. What Paul says to the BOC – **Eph 4:32, Rom 4:5-7**
- d. John says “everyone that doeth righteousness is born of him” - **I Jn 2:28-29**
 - i. John says “*he that doeth righteousness is righteous*” **I Jn 3:7**
 - Paul's doctrine is righteousness comes by faith **Rom 10:4**
 - & works have no part **Rom 3:21-28**
 - But when did that begin “*But now*” **Rom 3:21**
 - ii. John also said to his audience – “*we know we know Him if we keep His commandments*” - **I Jn 2:3**
 - This explains why John said “*Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin*” - **I Jn 3:9**
 - Paul teaches we are children by faith in Christ. **Gal 3:26-29**
- e. What did they teach a person must BELIEVE?
 - i. Faith has **ALWAYS** been a requirement. What did the 12 teach/were taught their faith was to be in?
 - **ANSWER:** Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God
 - ii. In the “general epistles, believe used in 6 Verses, believeth 4x – **NONE** say believe in the DBR
 - iii. Eternal life associated w/believing Jesus is:
 - 1) *the Son of God* – **I Jn 5:1, 5, 10, 13**
 - a. See also - **I Jn 3:23, 4:15**
 - b. Consistent with the gospel of John - **1:12, 2:23, 3:18, 20:30-31**
 - 2) *the Christ/Messiah* –
 - a. The people “*denied*” Jesus was the Messiah **Acts 3:13-14, cf. Jn 19:15**
 - b. They denied He was the *Son of God* **Matt 26:63-68**
 - Paul teaches belief in DBR/faith in His blood **Rom 3:25**
 - The 12 never taught salvation by believing in the Death, Burial, & Resurrection (**DBR**)
 - a. General epistles (Jas, Pt, Jn, Jude) **NEVER** say faith in the DBR or His blood
 - b. “*death*” used 9x in 6 verses – **NEVER** to suggest believing in Jesus' death saves

If the gospel is the power of God unto salvation (**Rom 1:16**) & to get it wrong deserves anathema (**Gal 1:6-9**), how can we overlook that what we know to be the gospel for today is **NOT IN THE EPISTLES OF THE 12?**

The “*gospel*” the 12 preached after Pentecost did not change from the gospel they preached before Christ died. Acts 10 & 15 confirms this.

- iv. The “*gospel*” the 12 were taught/taught others was the “*gospel of the kingdom*” **Matt 4:23, 9:35, Lk 9:6** (see vs. 3).
 - 1) The 12 did not know or offer salvation (the gospel) by believing in the **DBR**. **Lk 18:31-34, Mk 8:27-32**
 - a. ***NOTE** Jesus had been teaching “*the gospel*” before He began to teach them about His impending death – compare Mk 8:32 to **Mk 1:14-15**

- f. Water baptism required for salvation – I Pt 3:21 (must be water *ref to filth of flesh/bathing)
- i. **Cf. Matt 3:11: Mk 16:16, Acts 2:38**
 - ii. Paul’s doctrine for the BOC is 1 spiritual baptism – **cf. Eph 4:5, I Cor 12:13**
 - iii. *NOTE Our baptism is **BY THE SPIRIT INTO CHRIST**
 - iv. Israel’s baptism by water & **BY CHRIST WITH THE SPIRIT** – again **Matt 3:11**
 - v. The BOCs baptism identifies us with Christ. **Gal 3:27**
 - vi. Israel’s water baptism identifies them as priests who are cleansed AND they receive the promise of the power of the Holy Spirit. **Matt 3:1-3** (cf. **Isa 61:6, Ex 19:6**)
 - Water baptism/washing required for all who will be priests **Ex 29:4, 30:17-21, Lev 8:5-6, Ez 36:24-29**
 - vii. If the BOC replaced Israel then water baptism would be NECESSARY
 - Why would Paul say the only baptism today is by the spirit (i.e., not water)
 - Why would he say he was not sent to baptize **I Cor 1:17**
 - “*but to preach the gospel*” proving that water baptism is NOT part of the gospel today
 - But it was part of the gospel of the kingdom **Matt 28:19, Jn 4:1-2**
- g. End times & the return of Christ – eschatology
- i. Israel’s “hope” is an earthly kingdom **Jer 3:16-18, 23:5-8, 33:14-17, Zec 14:9, 16**
 - Not a “spiritual kingdom” as many present today
 - Jesus will literally return to earth & the place he left from **Acts 1:14, Zec 14:4**
 - Jesus confirms that He will be coming back to the earth **Matt 24:3, 30, 24:48-50, 25:13, 31**
 - Judgment then the Millennial kingdom **Matt 25:31-34, 41, cf. Rev 19:11, 20:1-4**
 - The 12 looked for Jesus to restore the kingdom on earth **Acts 1:6**
 - a. Was David’s throne in heaven or earth
 - The parable of the 10 Minas prove Jesus comes back to establish kingdom **Lk 19:11-27**
 - ii. The hope for the Body of Christ is not earthly but heavenly **Col 1:5, Col 3:1-4, 1 Thess 4:17**

Other scripture of kingdom promises to Israel regarding the land & Messiah to rule (Israel’s hope)

- **Gen 12:7, 13:16, Isa 2:1-5, 9:6-7, 24:20-23, 35:1-10, 60:19-22, 62:1-4, Ez 34** (entire chapter), **36:22-38, 37:16-25, Zec 8:1-13** (see also vs. 22-23),