

The Twelve Apostles

~ The Audience of The Twelve Apostles

You can find them named in Matt 10, Mk 3, Lk 6, & 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
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
 - o Acts 15 confirms the 12 were not told by revelation – they learned it from Paul

1. Is the Bible written to specific people or to everyone?

- a. May seem 1) unimportant & 2) obvious:
 - i. Becomes very important when considering promises, judgments, & expectations
 - ii. Obvious: yet many don't apply this truth when considering what to apply to them
- b. Can we know who was being addressed? Of course.
 - i. God doesn't want confusion, but order "*Let all things be done decently and in order*" *I Cor 14:40*
 - ii. Do the specifics contained in the temple worship suggest God is a God of order?

2. How do we know who the 12 Apostles wrote to? Let God tell us.

- a. James: "*to the twelve tribes scattered abroad*" *Jas 1:1*
 - i. To the 12 tribes. The BOC nor the individual members are "tribes"
 - ii. Singles out "*those scattered*" – who was scattered? *Acts 8:1*
 - The scattered are Jewish believers that Jesus was the Messiah & were persecuted
 - iii. James is writing to a specific audience. This should not be regarded as a "general epistle".
- b. Peter: Obviously writing to Israel/Jews *I Pt 2:12, 4:3*; same w/*II Pet 3:1*
- c. John: *II Jn 1:1* (unto the elect lady) – *cf. Rev 12:1, 3-6, 13-17*
 - i. This is why Peter calls his readers (Israel) priests *I Pt 2:5,9*
 - ii. John writes to future priests in Revelation *Rev 1:6, 5:10, 20:6* – see *Isa 61:6*
 - iii. Some realize *Isa* refers to Israel in future kingdom but still want to make Peter written to BOC
- d. Paul confirms who the ministry of the 12 apostles were to – *Gal 2:7-9, 1:16; Rom 11:13*
- e. The 12 to Jews only even as late as *Acts 21:20* – *cf. Rom 6:14-15, 3:21-28*