

Acts Chapters 1-3 Question and Answers

1. Acts 1:15 states that “the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,” by what name would you possibly call this group of people and what about the common teaching that states that the Church did not exist before Pentecost?

Among whom were the eleven apostles, and seventy disciples, which made eighty one; so that there were thirty nine persons more in this company: not that it is to be thought that these were all that were in Jerusalem that believed in Christ; but these were the number of the persons that met and embodied together in a church state, and who not only gave themselves to the

Lord, but to one another, by the will of God; and their names being taken and registered, the historian calls the account of them, the number of the names, and not persons; though he means persons.

This was a number pretty famous among the Jews; the Sanhedrim of Ezra, called the men of the great synagogue, consisted of an "hundred and twenty elders"; the last of which was Simeon the just, and he

comprehended the hundred and twenty¹. And such a number was requisite for a Sanhedrim in any place; it is asked, "how many must there be in a city, that it may be fit for a Sanhedrim? "an hundred and twenty"; R. Nehemiah says two hundred and thirty²: but the decision is according to the former: hence they say³, that "they fix in every city in Israel, where there is an "hundred and twenty", or more, a lesser Sanhedrim.---A city in which there is not an hundred and twenty, they place three judges, for there is no Sanhedrim less than three. JG

This was the first assembly convened to transact the business of the church; and it is not a little remarkable that the vote in so important a matter as electing an apostle was by the entire church. It settles the question that the election of a minister and pastor should be by the church, and not be imposed on them by any right or presentation by individuals, or by any ecclesiastical body. If a case could ever occur where a minister should be chosen by

the ministry only, such a case was here in the election of another apostle. And yet in this the entire church had a voice. Whether this was *all* the true church at this time, does not appear from the history. This expression cannot mean that there were no more Christians, but that these were all that had convened in the upper room. It is almost certain that our Savior had, by his own ministry, brought many others to be his true followers. ALBERT BARNES

2. Acts 1:16-17 states, (KJV) “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. ¹⁷ For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.” **Give possible answers as to why Judas betrayed the Lord.**

(1). Judas, like many others, thought that the kingdom of the Messiah would be a secular kingdom; and that his own secular interests must be promoted by his attachment to Christ. Of this mind all the disciples seem to have been, previously to the resurrection of Christ.

(2). From long observation of his Master's conduct, he was now convinced that he intended to erect no such kingdom; and that consequently the expectations which he had built on the contrary supposition must be ultimately disappointed.

(3). Being poor and covetous, and finding there was no likelihood of his profiting by being a disciple of Christ, he formed the resolution (probably at the instigation of the chief priests) of betraying him for a sum of money sufficient to purchase a small inheritance, on which he had already cast his eye.

(4). Well knowing the uncontrollable power of his Master, he might take it for granted that, though betrayed, he would extricate himself from their hands; and that they would not be capable of putting him either to pain or death.

(5). That having betrayed him, and finding that he did not exert his power to deliver himself out of the hands of the Jews, and seeing, from their implacable malice, that the murder of his most innocent Master was likely to be the consequence, he was struck with deep compunction at his own conduct, went to the chief priests, confessed his own profligacy, proclaimed the innocence of his Master, and returned the money for which he had betrayed him; probably hoping that they might be thus influenced to proceed no farther in this unprincipled business, and immediately dismiss Christ.

(6). Finding that this made no impression upon them, from their own words, “What is that to us? See thou to that”, and that they were determined to put Jesus to death, seized with horror at his crime and its consequences, the remorse and agitation of his mind produced a violent dysentery, attended with powerful inflammation; (which, in a great variety of cases, has been brought on by strong mental agitation); and while the distressful irritation of his bowels obliged him to withdraw for relief, he was overwhelmed with grief and affliction, and, having fallen from the seat, his bowels were found to have gushed out, through the strong spasmodic affections with which the disease was accompanied. JOHN GILL

John 6:70 “Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.”(ESV)

Psalm 41:9 “Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.” (ESV)

Psalm 109:8 “May his days be few; may another take his office!” (ESV)

Matthew 26:24 The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”(ESV)

2 Corinthians 7:10 “For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.” (ESV)

B4 we judge **JUDAS** too harshly, we should consider the trivial reasons as to why we sometimes **DENY** our **MASTER!!!!**

ISCARIOT'S WAS A HUMAN SIN RATHER THAN A MERELY PERSONAL CRIME. Individually, I did not sin in Eden, but humanly I did; personally, I did not covenant for the betrayal of my Lord, but morally I did; I denied Him, and pierced Him; and He loved me and gave Himself for me.

WHY DID CHRIST CHOOSE A MAN WHOM HE KNEW TO BE A DEVIL.? A hard question, but there is one harder still. Why did Jesus choose you? *(J. Parker, D. D.)* **Biblical Illustrator**

3. Acts 2:4 **states**, “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” **What does it mean that they spoke in “Tongues” in light of verses 5-12?**

In other languages than their native tongue. The languages which they spoke are specified in Acts 2:9-11. ALBERT BARNES

Besides, and different from that in which they were born and brought up, and usually spake; they spake divers languages, one spoke one language, and another, another; and the same person spoke with various tongues, sometimes one language, and sometimes another. These are the new tongues, Christ told them they should speak with, (Mark 16:17 “And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues;”) (ESV) such as they had never heard, learned, nor known before:) JOHN GILL

Prayer Time