



# *Imperial Academy Bible Lessons*



**The Apostles of Christ**

# The Apostles of Christ

**D**id you know the number 12 is God's number for organized beginnings? Just as God established the nation of Israel with the 12 sons of Jacob, He established the New Testament Church using 12 apostles.

As soon as Jesus Christ overcame Satan in the titanic battle in the wilderness, He began selecting His disciples. The Old Testament prophets and these men would form the foundation of God's New Testament Church. Jesus Himself is the "chief corner stone" of this foundation (Ephesians 2:19-21; 5:23; 1 Corinthians 3:11).

In this lesson, you will learn how Christ chose His original 12 disciples. You will also learn about the special commission Christ gave to them when they became His apostles, and you will learn about Christ's chief apostle.

Be sure to get your Bible and have a pen or pencil ready. Look up and fill in the blanks for all the scriptures as you study this amazing truth about the foundations of the New Testament Church!

## **BAPTISM OF JESUS CHRIST**

Jesus Christ had the Holy Spirit dwelling in Him from birth. In order to set an example for His followers, however, He chose to be baptized by His cousin, John the Baptist, in the Jordan River before He began His ministry when He was about 30 years old.

Turn to Mark 1:9-11 and fill in the blanks below about Christ's baptism: "And it came to pass in those days, that \_\_\_\_\_ came from \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, and was \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_. And straightway coming up out of the \_\_\_\_\_, he saw the heavens opened, and the \_\_\_\_\_ like a \_\_\_\_\_ descending upon him: And there came a \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_, saying, You are my beloved \_\_\_\_\_, in whom \_\_\_\_\_."

Immediately after His baptism, Christ was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert. There He fasted for 40 days and 40 nights, eating no food and drinking no water. Christ had to draw spiritually close to God in preparation for His titanic battle with Satan the devil. He had to qualify to reestablish the Kingdom of God on Earth, or the entire plan for human beings, and His eternal life, would *end*.

While Christ was in the wilderness, John the Baptist spread the word that the Messiah had come.

Read John 1:32-34 to see what John said: "And \_\_\_\_\_ bare record, saying, I saw the \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ like a \_\_\_\_\_, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom you shall see the \_\_\_\_\_, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizes with the Holy [Spirit]. And I saw, and bare record that this is the \_\_\_\_\_."

Jesus overcame Satan in the wilderness, never once succumbing to sin. Afterward, He came to the city of Bethany, where John was baptizing people. When John saw Jesus coming, he exclaimed, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"

Two of John's disciples heard his proclamation and immediately went over to meet Jesus. After Jesus invited these men to His house, they stayed with Him the rest of the day.

One of the men, Andrew, ran to find his brother Simon as soon as he left Jesus's house. When he told Simon that he had met the Messiah, Simon also wanted to meet Him as soon as possible. These men knew the Scriptures and were looking for the fulfillment of the prophecies of a Messiah.

Turn to verse 42 and fill in the blanks to see Simon's



As fishermen, Simon, Andrew, James and John would have been adept at mending nets.

first encounter with Jesus: “And [Andrew] brought [Simon] to Jesus. And when Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ him, he said, You are Simon the son of Jona: you shall be called \_\_\_\_\_, which is by interpretation, A \_\_\_\_\_.”

This was a prophecy about a new name Jesus would give Simon in the future. In the meantime, Simon and Andrew went back to their fishing business, which was a partnership with two of Jesus’s cousins, James and John.

### **FISHERS OF MEN**

After Jesus met Simon and Andrew, John the Baptist was arrested for preaching God’s message and Jesus returned to Galilee and stayed in the town of Capernaum (Matthew 4:12-13).

It was at this time that Jesus began to publicly preach the good news about the coming Kingdom of God. While Jesus was teaching by the shores of the Sea of Galilee one day, He saw Simon and Andrew in their fishing boat.

Read Mark 1:17-20 and fill in the blanks: “And Jesus said unto them, Come you after me, and I will make you to become \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. And straightway they \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ him. And when he had gone

a little further there, he saw \_\_\_\_\_ the son of \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_, who also were in the ship mending their nets. And straightway he \_\_\_\_\_ them: and they left their father \_\_\_\_\_ in the ship with the hired servants, and \_\_\_\_\_.”

Jesus was calling His first disciples so He could establish a Church to help teach God’s way of life to the world!

After He called these initial four disciples, He called a tax collector named Matthew.

Turn to Matthew 9:9 to see how Jesus called Matthew: “And as Jesus passed forth from there, he saw a man, named \_\_\_\_\_, sitting at the receipt of custom [a tax booth]: and he said unto him, \_\_\_\_\_ . And he arose, and \_\_\_\_\_.”

Like Simon, Andrew, James and John, Matthew did not volunteer to be a disciple. Jesus drafted each of these men into God’s Work; they only chose to submit to Him or to refuse Him. Jesus later told them, “You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit ...” (John 15:16).

Jesus called several other men to be disciples. Then He gathered all His disciples together for a special meeting. After a night of prayer, He specially

selected 12 of them to be trained as apostles.

The word **disciple** means “one who learns”; the word **apostle** means “one sent forth to preach.”

Read Luke 6:14-16 and write out the names of these 12 disciples below: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus trained His chosen disciples for 3½ years, teaching them about the good news of the coming Kingdom of God. They would be “sent forth” to teach all nations this good news after Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection.

The disciple Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus to the Jews and Romans who murdered Him. God chose another disciple to take Judas’s place as one of the 12 apostles after Christ’s resurrection and ascension into heaven.

Read the account in Acts 1:16-26 and write this man’s name on the blank: \_\_\_\_\_

### THE GREAT COMMISSION

After Jesus Christ rose from the dead, He spent 40 days with His disciples, giving them additional teaching and training. During this time, He gave them their

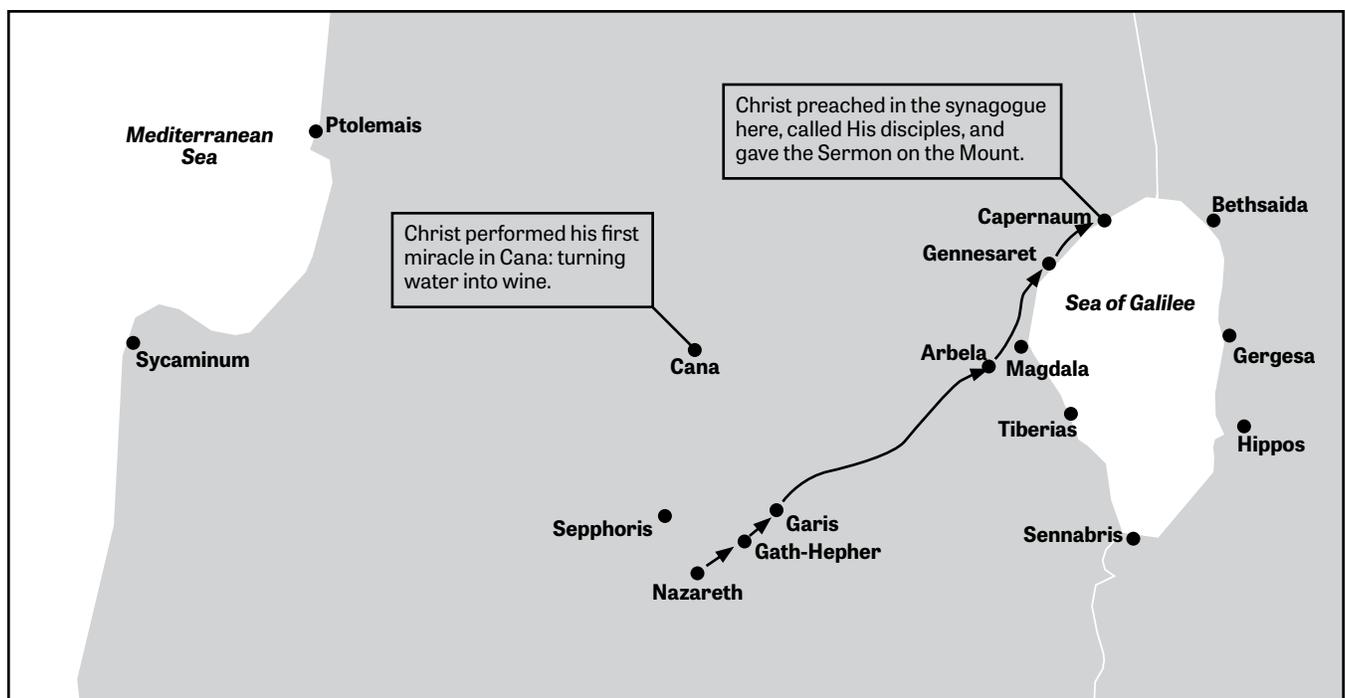
special commission as apostles.

Turn to Matthew 28:19-20 and fill in the blanks to see the great commission of the Church: “Go you therefore, and \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy [Spirit]: \_\_\_\_\_ them to \_\_\_\_\_ all things whatsoever I have \_\_\_\_\_ you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

The great commission of the apostles was to proclaim the good news of the coming Kingdom of God to all nations and to teach and train the members in God’s Church (John 21:5-17) The job of the members was to pray for the apostles and support them in proclaiming God’s message!

Before the apostles and other disciples could carry out this commission, however, they needed the Holy Spirit of God dwelling in them. To receive the Holy Spirit, the disciples had to obey Christ’s command and assemble together for a Pentecost service in Jerusalem. If they had not obeyed this instruction, they would not have received the Spirit.

Read Acts 1:8 to see Christ’s promise: “But you shall receive \_\_\_\_\_, after that the Holy [Spirit] is come upon you: and you shall be \_\_\_\_\_ unto me both in \_\_\_\_\_, and in all \_\_\_\_\_, and in \_\_\_\_\_, and unto the



At the beginning of His ministry, Christ went from Nazareth to Capernaum to call His disciples.

\_\_\_\_\_ part of the earth.”

Only 120 people, including the 12 apostles, obeyed Christ's instruction. When this faithful remnant received the Holy Spirit, the New Testament Church began!

### CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Throughout the Old Testament, God always worked through one man whose authority was directly under the Word (the God Being who became Jesus Christ). The examples of Abraham, Moses, Samuel, Elijah and many others thoroughly prove this. But what about the New Testament? Why did Christ ordain 12 apostles? Why not just one?

To understand the answer to this question, you first need to know that Jesus Christ did ordain one of the 12 apostles to be the chief apostle.

To find out who the chief apostle was, notice the four complete lists of the original disciples: Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:13-16, Acts 1:13.

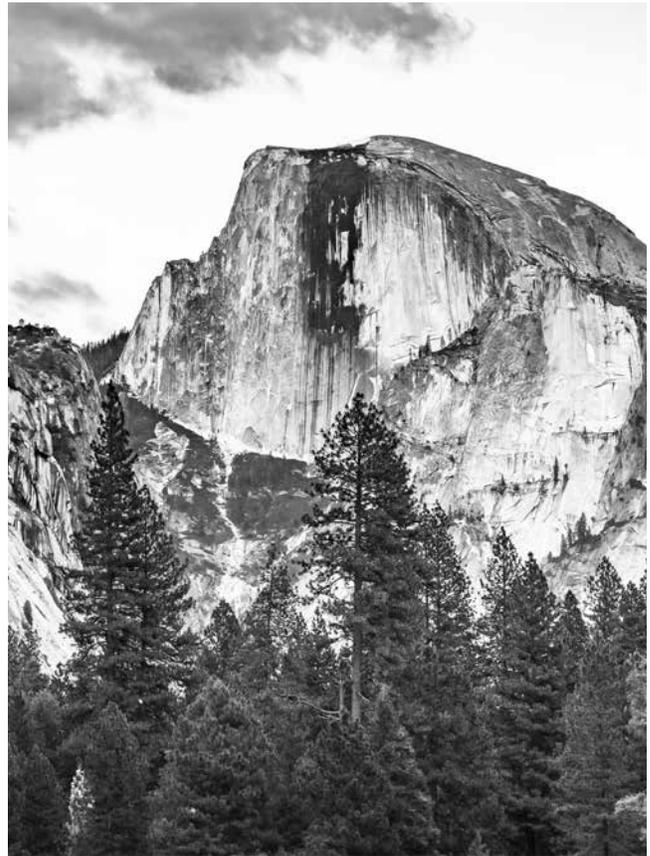
*One man's name appears first in all four lists. Write this name in the blank: \_\_\_\_\_*

When Jesus Christ first met Simon, He told him that his name would be changed to **Cephas**—which in the Aramaic language means “stone.” The English translation of Cephas is “Peter.” In Greek, the word is **Petros**, which specifies a *small* stone. So the name Simon Peter means *Simon the Pebble*.

*To find out why Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter, turn to Matthew 16:18-19: “And I say also unto you, that you are \_\_\_\_\_, and upon \_\_\_\_\_ I will build my \_\_\_\_\_; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto you the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_: and whatsoever you shall \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ shall be \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_: and whatsoever you shall \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ shall be \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.”*

The word “rock” in this verse isn't translated from the Greek word *petros*. It is translated from the Greek word **petra**, which means a *massive rock*. Simon was a small stone, but Christ is the massive rock on which the Church is built. He is the crucial cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20). Simon Peter was the small pebble chosen to be the chief apostle under Jesus Christ.

In the Old Testament, God worked through one man because Israel was one nation in one location. In



*Petra means massive rock, like the half dome in Yosemite.*

the New Testament, God worked through 12 apostles because the Church existed in many nations. Since there were no airplanes, cell phones or Internet communication in the time of the original apostles, each apostle had to lead the Church in the nation where he was located. But when the 12 apostles were together, one of them was in charge of the others: Peter. Today, God works through only one apostle because technology enables him to keep in contact with all the ministers in the world.

### PERSECUTION

The Apostle Peter delivered his first sermon on Pentecost, June 17, A.D. 31. As a result of his preaching and of the miracles God performed that day, some 3,000 people were baptized.

Soon after, the Apostle Peter received another opportunity to spread the gospel. While he was walking with the Apostle John to the temple in Jerusalem, a crippled man asked him for money.

*Turn to Acts 3:6 and fill in the blanks to see Peter's answer: “Then Peter said, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have I none; but such as I have give I you: In*



God's people still support the ministry through prayer, just as the brethren did in the first century.

the name of \_\_\_\_\_ of Nazareth  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.”

When Peter said this, the man immediately stood up and started walking. Then he started leaping and praising God. He went to the temple, and all the people saw that this well-known handicapped man had been healed. As word of this miracle spread, thousands flocked to Peter for answers. Peter preached a sermon, and 2,000 people were baptized.

The priests and Sadducees saw what was happening. They were afraid that the people would start following Peter and the apostles instead of them. These Jewish leaders had status, authority and wealth under the rule of the Roman Empire. Since the people had been awed by Jesus's teachings and miracles, the Jewish leaders had feared they would rebel against the Romans and try to make Jesus their king. The Jewish leaders had opposed Jesus, and when they could not discredit Him, they eventually had Him killed.

Now the apostles were preaching that Jesus Christ had been resurrected from the dead and that He would return to establish the Kingdom of God. These leaders did not understand that the Kingdom of God would not be established for thousands of years. They thought the apostles were trying to establish a new kingdom right then and there.

The Pharisees and Sadducees did not want to lose their positions of authority, or have the Romans accuse

them of treason, so they arrested Peter and John and threw them into prison.

The next morning, Peter and John were brought before the council headed by the high priest, Annas, and his son-in-law Caiaphas. The elders asked the apostles, “By what power, or by what name, have you healed this man?”

Filled with the power of God's Holy Spirit, Peter answered, “You rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole” (Acts 4:8-10).

When the high priest and his elders heard this, they marveled that an uneducated fisherman could speak so eloquently. They chose not to punish the apostles because they feared that the people might turn against them. They obviously could not deny that the crippled man had been healed. The elders let Peter and John go free, but they commanded them to stop teaching about Jesus Christ and His message!

Once they were free, Peter and John went back to the brethren in Jerusalem. When they told the brethren about all that had happened to them, the brethren rejoiced. Jesus had told them to rejoice and be glad when they were persecuted, for their reward would be great in the Kingdom of God (Matthew 5:11-12).

The brethren then prayed that God would continue to give Simon Peter and the other apostles strength and boldness (Acts 4:29). One of the main purposes of the Church is to support God's apostles with their prayers.

The Church of God is like a human body. Even though it is one body, it has many different parts with different functions. Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church. Under the direction of Christ, apostles preach the gospel message. Under the direction of the apostles, evangelists help proclaim the gospel to the public. Pastors and elders are teachers over local congregations. The lay members play a supporting role by praying for the ministry, encouraging each other, and giving tithes to the Work (1 Corinthians 12:12-28).

Turn to *Ephesians 4:11-13* and fill in the blanks to see the different roles in the Body of Christ: "And [God] gave some, \_\_\_\_\_; and some, \_\_\_\_\_; and some, \_\_\_\_\_; and some, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_; For the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, for the edifying of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_: Till we all come in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, and of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Son of God, unto a \_\_\_\_\_ man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

### **ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA**

Two members in the Jerusalem congregation were a man named Ananias and his wife, Sapphira. As persecution against the Church intensified, many members made great sacrifices and sold their homes to support the Work of God. **Ananias** and **Sapphira** also sold their home, and they made a show of donating all the money from the sale to the Church.

But they had lied. They had kept back a portion of the money for themselves, but they claimed they gave it all so that the other members of the Church would think they were generous.

Read *Acts 5:3-6* to see what happened to Ananias: "But Peter said, Ananias, why has \_\_\_\_\_ filled your heart to \_\_\_\_\_ to the Holy [Spirit], and to keep back part of the price of the land? While it remained, was it not your own? and after it was sold, was it not in your own power? why have you conceived this thing in your heart? you have \_\_\_\_\_ unto \_\_\_\_\_,

but unto \_\_\_\_\_. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and [died]: and \_\_\_\_\_ came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and \_\_\_\_\_ him out, and \_\_\_\_\_ him."

Ananias did not have to sell his house and give the money to the Church. He could have kept it, or he could have sold it and then honestly admitted that he was only giving part of the money. But he chose to lie to God's apostle.

Three hours later, Sapphira came looking for her husband. When the Apostle Peter saw her, he gave her a chance to tell the truth and asked, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?"

Sapphira didn't know what had happened to her husband. So she said, "Yes, for so much."

Read *verses 9-10* to see what happened to Sapphira: "Then Peter said unto her, How is it that you have \_\_\_\_\_ to tempt the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_? behold, the feet of them which have \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ are at the \_\_\_\_\_, and shall carry you out. Then \_\_\_\_\_ she \_\_\_\_\_ straightway at his feet, and [died]: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, \_\_\_\_\_ her by her \_\_\_\_\_."

The deaths of Ananias and Sapphira taught the Jerusalem congregation an important lesson about honesty, and they learned to fear and respect God even more.

God performed many miracles through Simon Peter and the apostles, and thousands were baptized. God did these miracles to draw attention to His Church so people would hear the gospel. People started laying the sick and injured on cots in the streets, hoping they would be healed when the shadow of Peter passed over them (verses 14-16).

### **APOSTLES IMPRISONED**

The popularity of the apostles greatly angered the Pharisees and Sadducees. They had commanded Simon Peter to stop teaching in the name of Jesus, but Peter had told them he ought to obey God rather than men (Acts 4:19).

A few years earlier, a Pharisee named Nicodemus had met secretly with Jesus Christ and told Him that the elders of the Jews knew He was a teacher sent from



God is fulfilling the great commission today through His end-time apostle Gerald Flurry.

God. Yet they still feared that Christ would overthrow the Roman government and give their jobs to His own disciples. Now they feared that people would follow the apostles in a rebellion against Rome.

So just as they had debated on how to best kill Jesus without angering the people, they now debated on how to best get rid of the apostles. The high priest ordered that the apostles should be arrested and thrown in prison.

*Read Acts 5:19-20 and fill in the blanks to see what God did for the apostles: “But the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ by night \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, and brought them forth, and said, Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.”*

The apostles did as the angel commanded. Meanwhile, the high priest ordered the prison to bring the men before the council. The officers reported that the men had escaped, though they did not know how. The high priest commanded the officers to arrest the apostles again.

When the apostles were brought before the

council, the high priest scolded them, “Did not we straightly command you that you should not teach in the name of Jesus? But you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine.”

Then Peter and the other apostles again replied, “We ought to obey God rather than men.”

When the elders heard all the apostles had to say, they took counsel to kill them. But an elder named Gamaliel spoke up in the apostles’ defense.

*Read verses 38-39 to see Gamaliel’s advice: “And now I say unto you, \_\_\_\_\_ from these men, and \_\_\_\_\_: for if this counsel or this work be of \_\_\_\_\_, it will come to \_\_\_\_\_: But if it be of \_\_\_\_\_, you cannot overthrow it; lest haply you be found even to \_\_\_\_\_.”*

The council agreed to release the apostles, but first they beat them and warned them to stop teaching the message of Jesus. But Jesus had told the apostles they would be persecuted for doing the right thing, so they knew their beating was a sign that they were on the right track!

## SCATTERED CHURCH

Even though Gamaliel advised the elders of the Jews to stop persecuting the apostles, it was a student of Gamaliel who started the most savage persecution against the Church yet.

This student, a Pharisee name **Saul**, went house to house looking for Christians to throw into prison. Many members of the Church were killed for their beliefs, including a deacon named Stephen, who was stoned to death.

Saul helped the people who killed Stephen by holding their coats for them while they threw the stones.

Read Acts 8:3-4 to find out more about Saul: “As for Saul, he made \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, entering into every \_\_\_\_\_, and haling \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ committed them to \_\_\_\_\_. Therefore they that were \_\_\_\_\_ went every where preaching the word.”

In a strange way, Saul was actually helping spread the gospel by persecuting the Church in Jerusalem. As Christians fled Jerusalem to escape Saul, they did not stop talking about the truth. They took God’s message with them and spread it to other cities.

## SIMON MAGUS

As the brethren spread out from Jerusalem, a deacon named Philip went to the city of Samaria and preached Christ unto them. Many people were interested in what he said, including a man named Simon the sorcerer, or **Simon Magus**.

This man was a Babylonian whose ancestors had been moved to Samaria after the Assyrian Empire carried away the northern 10 tribes of Israel as slaves. He was also a priest of the pagan Babylonian mystery religion.

When Simon saw that the Holy Spirit gave people power to perform miracles, he wanted this power for himself. More than this, he wanted the power to be able to give the Holy Spirit to his followers. So, along with many others, Simon was baptized.

The apostles Peter and John soon came to Samaria to pray that God would give the Holy Spirit to those who had been baptized by Philip. Philip was a deacon and did not have the authority to perform the laying on of hands so God could give the Holy Spirit to those baptized.

Peter quickly realized that Simon Magus was baptized for the wrong reasons. He had never truly

repented or converted to God’s way of life. He selfishly wanted the power to give the Holy Spirit to whomever he chose.

Turn to Acts 8:18-23 and fill in the blanks to see Peter’s encounter with Simon Magus: “And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy [Spirit] was given, he offered them \_\_\_\_\_, saying, \_\_\_\_\_ also this \_\_\_\_\_ that on whomsoever I \_\_\_\_\_, he may receive the Holy [Spirit]. But Peter said unto him, Your \_\_\_\_\_ perish with you, because you have thought that the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ may be \_\_\_\_\_ with money. You have neither part nor lot in this matter: for your \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ in the sight of God. \_\_\_\_\_ therefore of this your \_\_\_\_\_, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. For I perceive that you are in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, and in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.”

Simon Magus did not repent. Instead, he fostered his own religion, taking the name of Jesus Christ and applying it to the Babylonian mystery religion. Satan moved this man and used him as his instrument to persecute and all but destroy the true Church of God.

Before the end of the first century, Satan managed to suppress the message Christ had brought from God. He replaced the message Jesus brought from God with a “gospel” about Christ. This false gospel recognized that Jesus Christ had come and had died for mankind’s sins, but it suppressed the rest of His message.

Almost 10 years after his confrontation with Simon Peter in A.D. 33, Simon Magus moved to the city of Rome and became the bishop of a false church. Centuries later, after many people had come to accept the paganized “Christianity” of Simon Magus, historians confused Simon Magus for Simon Peter. They believed that the Apostle Peter was the first bishop of Rome, when in fact, that man was the enemy of Peter and of God’s Church!

## ANOTHER MIRACLE

After confronting Simon Magus, the Apostle Peter traveled throughout Judea and Samaria visiting the brethren and teaching them about God’s way of life.

In the city of Joppa, God worked another mighty miracle through Peter. A faithful woman named



flocked to hear Peter preach wherever he went. But the Pharisees and Sadducees grew even more afraid of the apostles and started persecuting them even more.

### IMPRISONED AGAIN

The governor of Judea at this time was **Herod Agrippa**, a grandson of Herod the Great. In order to gain popularity with his subjects, he started persecuting the Church of God.

Turn to Acts 12:2-4 and fill in the blanks to see what Herod did: “And he killed \_\_\_\_\_ the brother of \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_. And because he saw it \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, he proceeded further to take \_\_\_\_\_ also. (Then were the days of \_\_\_\_\_.) And when he had apprehended him, he put him in \_\_\_\_\_, and delivered him to four \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.”

(Note: The word “Easter” in this verse is translated from the Greek work *Pascha*, which actually means “Passover.”)

One of the 12 apostles, James, had been martyred, and now the chief apostle, Peter, was in jail. Yet the Church banded together and prayed without ceasing for Peter’s safety (verse 5).

Herod Agrippa had no doubt heard how Peter had escaped jail before, so he took no chances. He bound Peter in chains, put him in a jail cell, and stationed 16 guards outside the cell.

Read verses 7-9 to see how God freed Peter before he could be executed: “And, behold, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ from his hands. And the \_\_\_\_\_ said unto him, Gird yourself, and bind on your sandals. And so he did. And he said unto him, Cast your garment about you, and follow me. And he went out, and followed him; and knew not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.”

Peter thought he was dreaming, but an angel had caused the guards to fall asleep, opened his cell door, loosed the chains from his hands, and led him to freedom. When the Jerusalem brethren saw Peter, they knew it was a miracle, and they praised God!

### WHERE DID CHRIST’S APOSTLES GO?

After the Apostle James was killed, little is mentioned in the Bible regarding the whereabouts of the other 11 apostles.

To find out where these apostles went, read Matthew 10:5-6: “These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the \_\_\_\_\_, and into any city of the \_\_\_\_\_ enter you not: But go rather to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the house of \_\_\_\_\_.”

Christ commanded his original 12 apostles to preach only to the tribes of Israel, not to the **Gentiles**, the nations that did not descend from Jacob. After the apostles had preached the gospel to the tribe of Judah (and the tribes of Benjamin and Levi, which were part of the Kingdom of Judah), they traveled to the lost tribes of Israel.

Notice the way the Apostle James (not the James who was killed by Herod Agrippa) introduced his epistle: “James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting” (James 1:1).

James did not address the Gentiles. His audience was primarily the tribes of Israel that had been “scattered abroad” during their Assyrian captivity eight centuries earlier. These lost 10 tribes were living throughout the British Isles, northwestern Europe, northern Galatia and the Parthian Empire.

After the death of James, the 11 apostles traveled to these lands and preached the gospel to the lost tribes of Israel.

To spread the good news of the coming Kingdom of God to the Gentiles, God called another man to be the apostle to the Gentiles (Romans 11:13; Galatians 2:8). The man God called for this special mission was Saul—the same Pharisee who had gone house to house looking for Christians to throw in jail. You will learn how God called Saul into His Church and made him an apostle in the next lesson.

# BIBLE MEMORY The Twelve Apostles

Simon Peter  
Andrew  
James, son of Zebedee  
John, son of Zebedee  
Philip  
Bartholomew

Thomas  
Matthew  
James, son of Alphaeus  
Lebbaeus Thaddaeus  
Simon the Zealot  
Judas Iscariot

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## Word Search

N N F B A A E H A Y E F W S E L S P K W B L Q S Q W P U S O  
I R A U I P T O I R A C S I S A D U J H E E I V E X I A I E  
R G R O S P T G D S F S S F F L Z Y E I O M T M X D L F M R  
K S I H E I G I H Y U A L A U M G F L H O L O H O J I C O E  
K Z H E R R Y D K F M A J T E G K A Q N P L Y T A J H Y N O  
O L P Q F G S I M O N P E T E R M L T Y O L L S G N P N M K  
C N P G B A Z N H N S V E X Y A W H U H B D A T P G Y S A Y  
F I A L F D J T G W W A X T G D E D T A W O X S F I A E G B  
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N V G C O R T W E L V E S N E O A P L K P V U P B M F I S Y  
O F N P T E Q O W Z R E Z A X B S N M O B E Q M E I A K T D  
L B V H G H I H E A U S L V I J F R S M D Z D Y S I Q J P P  
A I T A L A G O S J F O Y A H I E T M X H S L H Y S E B T Q  
L K J F S S I V W V T N V D J W L R Z E J B E B V T F S X P  
T V Z X H C N S Y S C P J I O E X S U R R R W K P X T E I U  
O S F A U P F V E C V L Q S K R N C M S M M U E J I V E V L  
U O O N C A P E R N A U M C I V K R M A A S C M R B U S G C  
H A V C P F C P M K L D M I N C I W N T I L A N L D Q I A Y  
D F O O E U E Q R L J G A P G F V O T E R D E I D I N R T M  
H J H X D T M A T T H E W L D D V H N Z X O B M N C R A L G  
R A L D R I N A D U N D F E O S I Q R E T N E P R A C H S J  
A T A A K H T E R A Z A N V M A Q K A G R U U O K R N P X A  
F S Q S Y X F A P D I I X C S W T X U X J A U E D G P N I M  
B K M Y P Z K N D P C C X K R O A W H N H O J W T U C Z A E  
I Q H J K Y W N N C B Z D N M K J P B Y S Q X Z H F P W Y S

ANNANIAS  
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BARTHOLOMEW  
BETHANY  
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CARPENTER  
DISCIPLE  
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PENTECOST  
PETRA  
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