

Character Study: The Twelve Apostles

The Lord's Chosen (An Overview)

Various Bible Passages

What's happening?

- The term “apostle” comes from the Greek word “apostolos” meaning “a delegate, messenger, one sent with orders.” The Twelve Apostles were individuals selected by the Lord Jesus Christ to serve alongside Him during His earthly ministry. They were sent out under His authority to preach and teach, and they helped oversee the church during its early years. ([Mark 3:14](#); [Acts 2:42](#))
- The twelve men selected by Jesus Christ for this mission were: Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew (Nathanael), Matthew, Thomas, James the less, Simon the zealot, Judas (Thaddeus), and Judas Iscariot. ([Matt. 10:2-4](#); [Mark 3:16-19](#); [Luke 6:13-16](#))
- The Apostles were given “authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction” ([Matt. 10:1](#)). Such miracles demonstrated the authority they had from God and verified their message. ([Mark 6:7-13](#); [Luke 9:1-5](#); [II Cor. 12:12](#))
- The Apostles often exhibited their human weaknesses. At times they failed to understand what Jesus was teaching them ([Mark 9:31-32](#); [John 10:6](#)), and other times they showed a lack of faith (ex. [Matt. 17:19-20](#)). However, being eyewitnesses to the resurrection transformed them and solidified their faith ([John 12:16](#)). With the exception of the one who betrayed Christ (Judas Iscariot), the Apostles carried out their mission with tremendous influence. ([Acts 4:33](#); [10:39-43](#); [Eph. 2:19-20](#))
- Traditional accounts passed down through church history reveal that many of the Apostles' lives ended as they were martyred for their faith.

What's God doing?

> Jesus Christ gave a few ordinary people the opportunity to live their lives with Him. The unique abilities He gave them, along with their testimonies and boldness, made a lasting impact on the world ([Acts 4:13](#))!

What's to learn?

→ We may not be perfect, but as we follow Jesus Christ, we will learn from Him, grow in our faith, and be transformed into who He wants us to be. Christianity is about living our lives for the One who died, was buried, and rose again on the third day. The lives of the Apostles teach us many things, including the impact of being totally surrendered to the Lord!