

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expositional Study of **The Gospel According to Luke** **Chapter 7- Jesus Chooses His Apostles- Luke 6:12-16** **78- Jesus Chooses His Apostles- Part 2**

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Luke 6:12-16

¹² **It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.**

¹³ **And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles:**

¹⁴ **Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James and John; and Philip and Bartholomew;**

¹⁵ **and Matthew and Thomas; James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot;**

¹⁶ **Judas *the son* of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.**

Now we began this section last week and this is one of the most important parts of the entire Bible because this is the part where Jesus begins to choose the men who would become the Apostles of Jesus Christ.

Now there is a lot being said today about Apostles and about the men whom Jesus called and chose to lay the foundation of His Church- but I want to get past all the hype and all the bluster that is going on and get to what the Bible actually says about these men called, Apostles. Please turn with me for a second to **Ephesians 2:19-22** so we can see just how important Apostles are to God. **Ephesians 2:19-22** says:

¹⁹ **So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,**

²⁰ **having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*,**

²¹ **in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,**

²² **in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.**

Now this passage is talking about the Church- the saved people- who have been mercifully and effectually called out of darkness and into God's marvelous Light. And verse 19 says that because we are saved, because we have been born from above, because we have been bought and paid for by the precious Blood of Jesus Christ- we are now:

... you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

So the Bible says here that because Jesus has washed us in His Own Blood, and because God has imputed the perfect Righteousness of Jesus to us- we are now no more unbelieving Gentiles- who are aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and we are no more strangers from the Covenants of Promise, and we now have great Hope because Immanuel has come and God Himself is now with us, and we have been supernaturally and eternally adopted into the very household of God where we can now have fellowship with all the "sanctified ones" which is what the word "saint" means- those who have been redeemed and are now being sanctified.

And then verse 20 tells us something very important- please look very closely at this verse:

Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*,

Now it is common to hear people say that Jesus is their foundation, and in one sense that is correct- our Faith and our Salvation rests on Jesus- which is true. But we must look closely at what the Bible actually says here. The Apostle Paul writing under the moving of the Holy Spirit does not say here that our foundation is Jesus, but rather that the foundation on which we stand is the foundation laid for us by the Apostles and the Prophets and that Jesus is, in fact, the chief Cornerstone of that foundation that holds up that foundation.

Now why did Paul say this? Was Paul saying here that our Faith and our Salvation is based on Man? Is that what Paul was teaching here? Was Paul saying that the Apostles and the Prophets were more important than Jesus? No, not at all.

What Paul was teaching here is that what the Prophets taught in the 39 Books of the Old Testament and what the Apostles taught through the 27 Books of the New Testaments are the foundation of our Faith and our Salvation. How so?

Because the only reason that we know that we are lost and the only reason why we know that we need to be saved, and the only reason why we know that Jesus died on the Cross and paid for our sins is because the Bible tells us these things.

You see, dear friends- without the Holy Scriptures- we do not have the *specific* Revelation of God that gives us all this information. Without the writings of the Apostles and the Prophets- all we have left as human beings then is the general Revelation of God found in mountains and streams and galaxies that absolutely declare the Glory of God and that give us *general* information about how big and how powerful and how great God is.

We know God's Omnipotence best because we see a Universe that is bigger and stronger and wider and taller than we are, and we can comprehend, to some extent, the magnificence of God's Mind as we observe all of Creation functioning and working together on purpose very precisely. And when we stand and look at the Ocean or the Sky, or when we stand on top of a mountain or at the edge of the Grand Canyon, or when we look into the eyes of a child, when we see fish swim and birds fly and crickets chirp and corn growing in a field, we see the grandeur and the beauty and the infinite Glory of an all-Wise and all-Powerful, Sovereign God- Who does all things after the counsel of His Own Will, and somewhere deep from within our very soul- a cry erupts that we cannot help- that springs out of our mouths as we worship this one true and living God, and we exult with great joy- "*How great Thou art!*" And that is one of the most important moments of our lives.

But if we are to know that we are lost, if we are to know that we need to be saved, and if we are to understand how a sinless Savior Who was born of a virgin and Who was God in human flesh came down to live 33-1/2 years in perfect obedience to all God's Law, and how that God Almighty took all of our sins and all of iniquities and laid all of them on Jesus, and if we are to comprehend that the full Fury of God's Wrath against all those sins was poured out without measure on Jesus and that He died with those sins, and if we are to know that after three days- this same Jesus rose up from the dead by the Glory of the Father-

without those sins because He left them all in hell- and if we are to understand that after 40 days this same Jesus physically and bodily rose up in the air and ascended into Heaven in the sight of over 500 people, and if we are then to know that out of those 500 people- 120 of them actually obeyed the Lord and went into an Upper Room where suddenly there came from Heaven the sound of a rushing mighty Wind and the Church of Jesus was born, and if we are to understand just how to run the Church according to God's Will and who is qualified to lead the sheep, and if we are to know what we are supposed to teach and preach and believe- if we are to know and understand and comprehend all those things- then we need more than waterfalls and we need more than galaxies and we need more than mountains- we need very detailed and very precise and very specific information that God has graciously provided for us through the writings found in the 66 Books that collectively we call the Holy Scriptures.

And those 66 Books were given to us by way of a very unique and special and mysterious process called "inspiration", whereby God the Holy Spirit moved upon 40 men over a 1500 year time frame just like the wind moves sail boats across the water, and these men were given the task and the responsibility and the privilege to write down the most unique Words in all the earth Words unlike any other Words in any other book because these men wrote down Words that are perfect, Words that are infallible, Words that are inerrant, Words that are Authoritative, Words that are unchangeable, and Words that are entirely relevant to all men living in all countries- who speak any language- and who live in any culture for all time.

And even though these 40 men wrote in their own language, and even though they used their own terminology, and even though they used their own manner of speech- somehow God Almighty in His Providence- preserved each and every Word and caused every single Word of this Book to be just exactly what God desired so much so that today- this Book- and this Book alone- of all the books that have ever existed and all the books that will ever exist- this Book alone is the Verbum Dei- Word of God, and this Book is the Vox Dei- the Voice of God in the earth today, and this Book is reliable and it is trustworthy and it is credible for us today. And this Book alone contains everything that we need for both life and godliness.

So in His Divine Wisdom- from Moses to Malachi- God chose to reveal a *portion* about Himself and a *glimpse* of His Plan of Salvation through Jesus to men who were called and chosen to be Prophets of the Lord, and while they lived under the First or the Old Covenant- these Prophets wrote down that portion of God's Specific Revelation in symbols and in signs and in shadows and through types, and many times they did not understand what they wrote, and many times they were confused about even what they were talking about- but even at that- each Word that God gave them was true and it was accurate.

And when the fullness of time had come and God sent His Son born of a woman and born under the Law to redeem them that were under the Law- Jesus called out and chose 12 men whom He personally appointed to be the ones to whom the final, full, and completed Revelation of God would be given, and these men were specially gifted and specially anointed and specially ordained to supernaturally receive the details and components of a New and a Better Covenant that was established by infinitely superior Promises through an infinitely superior and sinless High Priest Who offered an infinitely superior Sacrifice.

And through supernatural gifts and through miraculous means, through dreams and visions and direct communication with God Himself, and by spending 3-1/2 years with Jesus while He was on the earth, and through angelic visitations and through the very same process of inspiration that had empowered the OT Prophets- these NT Apostles received directly from Heaven the final and the full and the completed Revelation of all that God desired to reveal to Man, and they wrote this Revelation down in 27 additional Books that were added to the original 39 Books to become the Rule or the Canon of Faith and Practice so that we could learn and so we could all earnest contend for the very same Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints.

And to give the Words and the Writings of the Apostles equal credibility with the already existing Words and Writings of the Prophets- God Almighty sanctioned what these men wrote, and He authorized what the Apostles taught through Divine Signs and Wonders and Miracles and Gifts of the Ghost- not so they could get wealthy off the backs of God's people like so many do today- but so that there would be no doubt at all, and so that all the world would know that the very same God Who had used the OT Prophets to bring forth

the partial Revelation of God had also used these Apostles to bring forth the finished Revelation of God.

God never intended that signs and wonders and miracles and the special Revelation gifts of the Holy Ghost would remain on the earth in force and in practice after the death of the Apostles. These supernatural manifestations were given only to bring Divine Credibility to the Words and the Teachings of the Apostles so that everyone would know and not doubt that what the Apostles taught was from God and not Man.

And because what the Apostles wrote is what actually finished and completed the Specific Revelation of all that God desired to reveal to Man about both life and godliness- the Holy Ghost puts them first in this order here in verse 20 of **Ephesians 2** and tells us here that the foundation that we stand on and that is sure and that is eternal and that will never change is the foundation that has been laid for us through the Words and the writings that God gave to the Apostles and the Prophets with Jesus being the Rock and the Cornerstone that supports and holds them up.

Now there is one more supernatural ability that the Apostles had that the OT Prophets before them did not have. And that is that God supernaturally enabled the Apostles to have the ability to be able to correctly and fully interpret what the OT Prophets had written in the 39 Books of the OT so that we could understand what the OT Prophets were talking about.

And the two best examples of this supernatural gifting is found in **The Acts 2** with Peter and in **1 Corinthians 11** with the Apostle Paul. In **1 Corinthians 11**- in the passage that we use on the 1st Sunday of every month as we celebrate the Communion Service- in verse 23- the Apostle Paul makes a startling statement:

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you...

And then Paul goes on to describe what happened in the Upper Room- the night before Jesus was Crucified as He ate the last Supper with His followers. Now what is amazing about this is that Paul was not there with Jesus in the Upper Room that night and yet he even quotes Jesus as saying the very Words that we use as we eat the bread and drink the cup. And in **Galatians 1:15-19**- Paul writes:

¹⁵ But when God, who had set me apart *even* from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased
¹⁶ to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood,
¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus.
¹⁸ Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and stayed with him fifteen days.
¹⁹ But I did not see any other of the apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

So Paul is saying here that for the first three years of his Ministry- he never even met with any of the Apostles, and yet he was able to quote Jesus in the Upper Room during the last Supper. But in **Ephesians 3**- Paul does tell us how he came to know what he knew about Jesus- so let's turn to that real quickly- **Ephesians 3:1-4**:

¹ For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—
² if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you;
³ that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.
⁴ By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

So the Apostle Paul says that he received the knowledge in the mystery of Christ by way of Divine Revelation directly from Jesus Himself. This is an example of the calling and anointing and gifting of a real Apostle- they received Revelation directly from God and they wrote down what God revealed to them, and what they wrote became part of the Bible.

So, if there are Apostles on earth today- which I tell you there are not- but if there are- then if they are going to be real Apostles- then everything that God reveals to these people today should be written down and it should be added to the back of the Bible as the 67th Book so it can be taught and learned by future generations of believers because that is what the Biblical Apostles did- that was their ministry- to finalize the Scriptures.

Now, by the way- this is exactly what the various unbiblical cults lay claim to. The foundational teaching of the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Mormons and the Seventh Day Adventists and the Muslims is that people do still hear from God after the death of the Apostles and that God still reveals things to Man after the death of John, and so they do write it down and they have several other books that they will be happy to give you that they say contains additional Divine Revelation about Jesus and about Salvation and about Heaven and Hell that the Bible doesn't have.

But we call those people "false prophets" and we call their organizations "cults" and we call what they teach "heresy" precisely because they operate outside the orthodox mainstream of Biblical Truth.

But we can't have it both ways, dear friends- if God is still calling and choosing Apostles in our day, and if God is still giving out additional Revelation to those Apostles - then those people we call cults are right and there is no credible way we can discount anything that anybody says that God is revealing because the Bible then becomes unreliable and outdated.

So, either God's Word is completed, and that means, by default, that the Age of the Apostles is over, or else the Age of the Apostles is still ongoing, which means that the Bible is not completed and is still being written.

But perhaps the greatest example of the unique ability that the Apostles had in correctly and fully interpreting the writings of the OT is found in **The Acts 2** when Peter preached the very first sermon in the Christian Church. So let's turn to that for just a moment.

The Acts 2:14-47

¹⁴ But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words.

¹⁵ For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is *only* the third hour of the day;

¹⁶ but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS;

¹⁸ **EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT And they shall prophesy.**

¹⁹ **‘AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW, BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE.**

²⁰ **‘THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME.**

²¹ **‘AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.’**

²² **“Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—**

²³ **this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.**

²⁴ **But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.**

²⁵ **For David says of Him, ‘I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE; FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN.**

²⁶ **‘THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXULTED; MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL LIVE IN HOPE;**

²⁷ **BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.**

²⁸ **‘YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE; YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH YOUR PRESENCE.’**

²⁹ **“Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.**

³⁰ **And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT *one* OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE,**

³¹ **he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY.**

³² **This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.**

³³ **Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.**

³⁴ **For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: ‘THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,**

³⁵ **UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.”’**

³⁶ **Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.”**

³⁷ **Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”**

³⁸ Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

³⁹ For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”

⁴⁰ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!”

⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

⁴³ Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common;

⁴⁵ and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.

⁴⁶ Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Now we all know that Peter's occupation before his conversion was that of a fisherman. And even though we know that he did attend synagogue with his family- Peter certainly was not formally trained to be a priest or a Pharisee. And while he had heard the OT Scriptures taught during his life- he was not a theologian. But he was called and chosen as an Apostle, and by virtue of that Divine Calling - Jesus gave Peter the supernatural ability right here to correctly interpret no less than seven separate OT passages that had been written hundreds and even thousands of years before Peter was ever born.

In **The Acts 2:17**- Peter told the listeners and us what **Isaiah 44:3** meant, in **The Acts 2:19**- Peter revealed what **Joel 2:28-32** meant, in **The Acts 2:25**- Peter showed us what **Psalms 16** meant, in **The Acts 2:27**- Peter showed what **Daniel 9:24** meant, in **The Acts 2:30**- Peter showed what **2 Samuel 7:13** meant, and finally in **The Acts 2:31**- Peter was gifted by the Holy Spirit to correctly and fully interpret what **Psalms 16:10** meant.

And another thing we need to know about the Divine Authority of the Apostles is that after Peter revealed what these OT passages

meant- no one can ever go back and re-interpret them to mean anything else.

Now as I told you last week- we need to remember that Jesus had people coming and going all the time who were in the crowd that followed Him. People were attracted to Jesus at various times because of something that Jesus said or did, and at the same time- other people were completely disillusioned and offended with Jesus over the very same Words and the very same acts that had attracted the others. And *these* people are the ones who just walked off and left Jesus because of some offensive statement by the Prince of Peace.

So there were some of these so called "disciples" who got offended at something Jesus said or did and who just walked off- but there were some who actually got saved and became true disciples, and this was going on all the time- people coming and people going based on their own human initiative, and so the crowd around Jesus was in a constant state of flux- it was getting larger at times and smaller at other times.

But there were some of these "disciples" who didn't come to Jesus on their own- but Jesus Sovereignly drew them in. And we've already met some of them in previous Chapters of **Luke** and in the other three Gospel Accounts.

You can go back to **John 1** and you're going to find Peter and Andrew and Nathanael, and you can go back to **Luke 5** and you're going to find Jesus meeting some men named James and John, and then you're going to find Jesus finding the tax collecting station of Levi or Matthew. And so, all while these false disciples were coming and going- there was also the real deal going on where Jesus was Sovereignly drawing to Himself those who had been predestinated to become the Apostles of Jesus Christ. Now look closely again at **Luke 6:13**: **And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles:**

When the dawn came over the mountain tops- Jesus called for those who laid claim to being His disciples to Himself, and *from* those men, out of that group, from that collection of disciplined ones- Jesus chose only twelve men who would change the world.

So here is how this happened. Jesus spent all night- agonizing in very intense prayer. And during the night- God the Father revealed His

Will to Jesus on who to choose to carry on the Work of the New Covenant after Jesus' earthly Ministry had been fully accomplished.

And so, by the Will of God that had been revealed in that night of prayer- Jesus knows exactly who these men are and who to choose. And so, He calls all the disciples together- all the learners- all the mathetes- all of His students, and it says in verse 13 out of *that* group- Jesus chose twelve of them. Right there in front of everybody- Jesus chose twelve of them.

Now if you want to look at it this way- Jesus was choosing a much smaller group from the larger group who had in turn been initially chosen from an even much larger group than that. So here is a very interesting setting. Out of all the unworthy sinners on the face of the earth at that time- God Almighty chose to save some of them. And out of the group that God chose to save- God chose *some* of them to be the disciples of Jesus during His earthly ministry. And out of that group chosen to walk and talk with Jesus while He was on the earth- God chose twelve of them to be the Apostles of Jesus Christ.

Now this was a very special moment for those twelve men. Because up to this point- Peter, James, John, Andrew, Nathanael, and Matthew were just in the crowd following Jesus. They were just learners. They were just sort of following and listening and observing and watching and absorbing all that Jesus was teaching and doing.

But they didn't yet have any specific purpose. They hadn't yet been called to any specific office or given any specific responsibility until this moment when twelve of them are chosen.

Now over in **John 15:16**, Jesus said to them later on,

You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you...

Now why twelve? Why not eight or twenty-four or nineteen? Why twelve? And the only Biblical answer is because there were twelve tribes in Israel. And some would ask, "*Well, why does that matter?*"

Because this was symbolic. You see, Israel was completely apostate by this time. The Judaism that was being taught and practiced in Israel when Jesus walked the earth was not the truth of the Old Testament. It was not the true worship of the one, true, living God. It was not even an effort to follow the teachings of Moses, but it had become a man-made system of self-righteous works and useless

ceremonies and rituals that had absolutely nothing to do with anything Moses or Abraham had taught and carried out, and had nothing to do with anything that God had revealed in the Old Covenant.

Now I realize that this is not popular to say in our day but the truth of the matter is that the Judaism of the first century and the Judaism of today is utterly apostate- it is heretical; it is a false religion of demons that cannot and does not bring *anyone* to Salvation through the finished Work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Judaism as we know it today does not resemble anything that God revealed to Moses, and it does not please or honor God at all because Judaism proudly and openly denies the Deity of the Lord Jesus Who came to fulfill the entire Law.

We have to know, dear friends, that everything in the Old Covenant points to Jesus as Lord and Savior and Master and Redeemer and was never meant to be permanent. Everything in the Old Covenant was always meant to act as a sort of teacher to bring people to the place of utter desperation with their sinfulness and their complete inability to earn Righteousness through their perfect and continuous obedience. The Law was given by God to point the way to Salvation by Grace alone through Faith alone in the finished Work of Christ alone, and was never meant to be used as a means of Salvation. Please turn with me and read **Galatians 3:24&25:**

²⁴ **Therefore the Law has become our tutor *to lead us* to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.**

²⁵ **But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.**

So, if you read and study the Old Covenant and do not come to Salvation in Jesus- then you are not reading or studying the Old Covenant correctly and you are taking it out of context.

So, because men had taken the simple and glorious Law of God and had perverted it- it was time for a new leadership in Israel, and the Apostles were chosen by God to be the new leaders of the new, true Israel of God- who would believe the Gospel and be saved by Jesus. And the fact that there were twelve symbolizes that Jesus is calling for an entirely new leadership for the whole nation of Israel.

And by default- the choosing of these twelve men was a judgment on the current leadership. So these Apostles were the new leaders- bringing the New Covenant Message for a new Israel.

Now to show you the link specifically, please look with me at **Luke 22:25** as Jesus is talking to His Apostles. **Luke 22:25** says:

Luke 22:25-30

²⁵ **And He said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called ‘Benefactors.’**

²⁶ **But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant.**

²⁷ **For who is greater, the one who reclines *at the table* or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines *at the table*? But I am among you as the one who serves.**

²⁸ **“You are those who have stood by Me in My trials;**

²⁹ **and just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you**

³⁰ **that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**

So this is the millennial Kingdom. This is the future Kingdom of Christ. Jesus is telling these chosen men here- *"God has granted Me a Kingdom and someday I'm going to come into that Kingdom, and just as the Father has granted Me a Kingdom- I'm going to grant you something. I'm going to grant that you may eat and drink at My table in My Kingdom."*

So Jesus is telling the Apostles- *"Hey, you Apostles are going to be in My Kingdom. And I'm going to grant that you are there when I receive My Kingdom. And when I reign on the throne of David in the city of Jerusalem on Mount Zion, and when I rule the world in the Kingdom that is coming- I am going to grant that you Apostles will sit at My table and eat and drink in My Kingdom!"* Now that is unbelievable- but it gets even more unbelievable. Look again at the end of verse 30:

... and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Now this statement by Jesus right here proves the point that I am making that these Apostles were chosen to be the new leaders over a new Israel and some day in the Kingdom- the Millennial Kingdom- each

tribe of Israel- and we know that each tribe will then be made up of believing Jews in the time of Tribulation because twelve thousand out of every tribe will be chosen to preach the Gospel- totaling 144,000. And so all Israel will be saved. And there will be converted people out of every one of the twelve tribes in Israel. And they will go into the Kingdom. And each of those tribes will therefore be identified and the Bible says right here in the red letter Words of the Lord Jesus Himself- that one of the Apostles- the men whom Jesus is choosing right now- one of the New Covenant Apostles will literally sit on a throne- ruling over that new spiritual true believing Israel!

So I pray that you can see just how significant the Apostles were. These men weren't destined for commonality. These men were not like those self-appointed and unaccountable yahoos that you see on the Hay, Wood, and Stubble Television Network running around all over the country laying claim to being an Apostle because it sounds cool, and because that title gives them a prestige and a credibility that they don't deserve and haven't earned and have not been called to fill.

Because during the Millennial Kingdom- Jesus says that these men- the true Apostles are going to sit on thrones and they are going to rule over the tribes of Israel.

Now I want you to look at **The Revelation 21**. And at the end of the Book of the Revelation you have description of Heaven and you have a description of the Heavenly Jerusalem- the holy city. And just very briefly, verses 9- 27 of **The Revelation 21**, the Bible says:

⁹ **Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."**

¹⁰ **And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,**

¹¹ **having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.**

¹² **It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names *were* written on them, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.**

¹³ ***There were* three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west.**

¹⁴ **And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them *were* the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.**

¹⁵ The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall.

¹⁶ The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal.

¹⁷ And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, *according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements.*

¹⁸ The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

¹⁹ The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald;

²⁰ the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.

²¹ And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

²² I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

²³ And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp *is* the Lamb.

²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

²⁵ In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed;

²⁶ and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it;

²⁷ and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

So the Bible says that the City of New Jerusalem is city that has a great and high wall and on each of the four sides of that wall are three gates- so there is a total of twelve gates in that wall and on the top of those gates is written the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.

So you have the children of Jacob- the twelve sons of Jacob that identify the twelve tribes, and all their names are on the tops of those gates. But that's not all. Look again at verse 14 where the Bible says that the wall of the city has twelve foundation stones and in those

foundation stones are written the names of the Twelve Apostles of the Lamb of God.

So these men are not only going to be in the Millennial Kingdom, but Jesus says that these twelve men are going to actually reign in that Millennial Kingdom, and in addition to that- these twelve men are so important to God that they are going to be immortalized eternally in the foundation of the gates of the City of New Jerusalem by having their names emblazoned in the foundations of the holy city, the New Jerusalem, forever and ever and ever.

So every time anyone enters that great City- they're going to walk over the name of an Apostle and walk under the name of the tribes of Israel.

And this is to show that God once brought the Truth of His saving Message through the tribes of Israel, and then again later on through the Twelve Apostles. So I hope you can see that these men are very, very unique and very special and very important men. They are so important that there were never any men like the Apostles before this moment and there has never been any more men like them since.

Let's come and pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.