

## CAN GOD MAKE A ROCK HE CAN'T LIFT?

NUMBER 124

DECEMBER, 2017

Matthew 19:26 **“And looking at them Jesus said to them, ‘With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’”**  
NASV

An agnostic recently brought this up as an easy shot at the veracity of the Bible. His statement was the well known “Can God make a rock he cannot lift?”

It is a bit of a sticky wicket, so to say, in that on the first had if God cannot make a rock He cannot lift, He is limited. On the other hand if He cannot pick up the rock, He is limited.

You are trapped into conceding that God is limited in spite of the declaration in Matthew 19:26. Has the Bible made a mistake, a fatal flaw so to speak? Have the agnostic (and atheists) found the “Achilles’s heel” of the Bible?

Before one panics, one needs to understand that this would not be “the” Achilles’s heel, there are hundreds of them if not thousands. Take almost any subject to which you can put and “est” and an “er” to and you have the same problem. For a few:

- Fastest then faster
- Hottest then hotter
- Heaviest then heavier
- Bluest then bluer (there are lots of colors)
- Smallest and then smaller

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### DOUBLE BARREL QUESTIONS

A similar linguistic situation is a double-barrels question. A **double-barreled question** (sometimes called **double-direct question**) is an informal fallacy. It is committed when someone asks a **question** that touches upon more than one issue, yet allows only for one answer

The most common example of this is an old joke about the witness under oath in court that is asked by the opposing attorney, *“True or False **only**, do you still beat your wife?”*

The Concise Oxford Dictionary says that **“loaded”** (of a question or **statement**) means “charged with some hidden or improper implication”. In this sense it comes from **“loaded”** as in weighted or biased (e.g. **loaded** dice).

Other examples of this are:

*“When is your team going to stop cheating?”*

*“Why do you always want to hurt me?”*

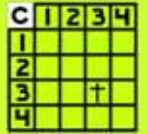
*“Why do those stupid referees always rob us of our wins?”*

*“Why does their sales staff always lie?”*

Obviously, the questions are often **not sincere questions**. That is, they are not designed to elicit useful facts for a useful discussion. No, **these so-called questions are really just statements**, designed to push a view, to change the topic (often to avoid a difficult subject), to win, or to make someone else lose.

To make the discussion more challenging, the questioner is rarely aware of what they are doing. Often people do not realize what they are doing and honestly believe that by framing the topic as a question they are having a dialogue, an open discussion, an exchange of views.

Continued on page 2



## CAN GOD MAKE A ROCK HE CAN'T LIFT? - 2

### REMARKABLE STATEMENTS

Proverbs 22:6 **“Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.”** NASB That would tell you that if you properly bring your child up, he or she is no longer a free moral agent, but must always do good.

Romans 8:28 **“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”** NASB The surface understanding of this is that all the “saved” would only have good things happen to him. If we know of any who are “saved” at this time, this would certainly not be an observation of their lives today. As a practical matter, the writer of this Paul, had a very rough life including a couple of stonings. After this, he still said this was at least a truism. This will be discussed more in a second article.

So, what is the outcome of all this? It is certainly not saying that God is limited in ways such as this. God has created the heavens and the earth, which indicates immense knowledge and power.

The problem seems to be more one of **limitation of logic** than limitation of God’s power. If you go as fast as possible, how can you go faster. If you could go faster, then you had not gone as fast as you possible could.

If God made a rock He could not lift (whatever that means) it would be illogical to say he could lift it. If he could lift it He did not make a rock He could not lift.

Now for an answer to the puzzle.

### A ROCK GOD CAN'T LIFT

To wax a little scientific for the moment, at the North Pole and the South Pole, lifting objects moves them in opposite directions. Lifting is moving something against gravity in your frame of reference (e.g. the earth).

Now, presume God converted all the matter in the universe into a single rock, such that the new big rock “A” was all that there was. In our one enormous Universe sized rock “A” situation, there is no “up” to move the rock towards. God cannot “lift” the rock because there is no direction of up. He can move it, but He can’t lift it.

### LIFTING THE ROCK GOD COULDN'T LIFT

For the second part of the problem, God makes a second rock “B” ten times as large as the first rock “A” and “B” would have great gravity. “B” is now the center of the new Universe. Then God moves our first Universe sized rock “A” away from the second even larger rock “B”, so He has “lifted” rock “A” relative to the second rock “B”. God has lifted the rock He couldn’t lift.

So we have an extremely legalistic explanation for our agnostic’s legalistic question, which we don’t actually need in the first place.

That being said, we would suggest that the proper response to the God lifting a rock question be that it is an illogical question. It is a problem of language and logic rather than a limitation of the capability of God.

### Foster’s Home for Children

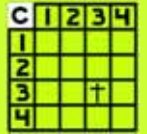
*“More than a home,  
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[www.fostershome.org](http://www.fostershome.org)



## ZERO INTELLIGENCE

Once upon a time (all fairy tales begin this way) there was a big dumb rock sitting on top of a hill. Like most rocks he had been there for many years. His name was Zero Intelligence because after all he was a rock. After a billion years Zero thought within himself, "I need an ear so I can hear what is going on in the world." So he thought and thought for another billion years and one day he noticed a funny looking flap on both sides of his stone head and he thought that must be my ears!

But he still could not hear; there was no "ear canal" to funnel sounds to his hard head. So he tilted his head first to the right and then to the left and let the rain drill a hole in his head to channel the sounds into his thick skull (that took another billion years). Zero had the ear and the canal but he still could not hear. He still needed the middle ear (drum, hammer, anvil and stirrup), and the inner ear, and nerves connecting the auditory system to the brain. But zero was not discouraged, "Just give me more time", he thought to himself. He was still a dumb rock with zero intelligence. A fully developed human would take billions and billions more years. That, my friend, is evolution.

Try this instead: "In the beginning" (the highly intelligent) "God created the heavens and the earth". He created the babbling brooks with their soothing sounds. He created the birds that sing sweet songs. He created the lowing cattle. Last of all God created a full grown man, ears and all, and since day six the sweet sounds of nature have been heard by all.

Now you tell me which makes more sense: A Zero Intelligent rock forming an ear or a highly intelligent God creating it. (Read Genesis chapters 1 and 2).

Thank you for reasoning with me.

By Alton Norman

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## CONTINUOUS LEARNING

*"Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge."* (Proverbs 18:16)

What did you learn today? We often have nothing to report. Our kids don't want to hear the question. We might as well ask them if they have grown today. One thing I know for sure is that they have been growing and learning non-stop. But a little awareness of what we, and our children, put in our minds would be a good thing.

With all the whiz-bang electronic gadgets there is no telling what they are learning, but it is all being permanently recorded in their brains for eternity. Kids are learning in new and different ways than we learned. There are both positive and negatives in the pursuit of knowledge.

They are losing the ability to read facial clues and cultivate relationships. The electronically obsessed have lost the art of conversation and engagement with others. Their attention span has decreased to just seconds, maybe minutes – the span of a YouTube video. We really have to alter the way we teach to enhance their learning. This includes clear objectives about what kind of character we need to teach.

*"Instruct the wise, and they will be even wiser. Teach the righteous and they will learn even more."* (Proverbs 9:9)

What do kids need for life? They need to know God and develop a godly character. How do we teach character? Teach them to love God and keep his commands. In fact love for God is defined as obeying his commands. *"This is love for God: to obey his commands."* (1 John 5:3) What did you learn today? What are your children learning? What action will you take today to move toward godliness?

Elizabeth Brown

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## ACQUIRE AND REPLANT?

Church growth consultant Thom Ranier recommends that successful congregations (A) acquire failing congregations (B) replant them (C) as a form of evangelism, with the letters representing the 3 congregations.

That means that the planting congregations (A):

1. See the potential for evangelistic growth in the area of congregation (B), and
2. Sees members who are willing to help make that evangelistic growth happen.

Congregation (B) is failing because:

1. They may or may not see the potential for evangelistic growth, but are not accomplishing it and
2. They are fully engaged with the members they have and do not know how to get more help.

To acquire and replant seems like a good idea and we do not have a problem with that. It may be one of the most evangelistic things you can do. But why would it work? Many of the members of the replanted congregation (C) will be the same members from the failing congregation (B). The location is the same, the building is the same, and the neighborhood is the same.

What will be changed?

1. The leadership of failing congregation (B) has disbanded and replaced by new leadership and/or new leadership style,
2. The preacher is likely at least temporarily moved to give a fresh point of view from the pulpit,
3. All practices are reviewed according to the practices of successful congregation (A), and "sacred cow" practices of (B) are dropped, and
4. You no longer do what worked 30 years ago even though it doesn't work now.

One more point to consider. New congregations start under severe stress and there is a necessity and reality of cooperation and communication between all members. It is the church of Christ pattern that the elderships solidify their control over the activities of the congregations over the years and tend to communicate less with the members. That typically leads to progressively older tenured leadership with the next generation of leadership frequently missing. The potential leaders are frequently frustrated by the situation and have moved on to another congregation, potentially successful congregation (A).

What the replant does to a large extent is to return the congregation to the early pattern of softer control and more communication. More of a team spirit situation.

**For sake of discussion, we are going to presume that replanted congregation (C) is successful and grows evangelistically. That sets the stage for the discussion.**

Now, presume instead that failing congregation (B) held fast to their organization and practices, and the congregation continued to die during their leadership period. Fast forward to judgment day and for the sake of discussion we shall presume a generation of elders of congregation (B) get to judgment day as a group.

Jesus says to them "You maintained control over your congregation and continued to do what used to work as the congregation slowly faded away." and asked them "Did you read the parable of the talents? Did you not act like the one talent man? You may be worse than the one talent man, he at least returned the whole talent."

Then the (B) elders responded with \_\_\_\_\_

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We want you to discuss a good answer that these elders had for Jesus. When you figure out a good answer, send it to us. We will reprint it, as there are a lot of other elders which may need to have this answer ready.

If you do not have a good answer and would discuss how to change your congregation to an operating style which is accomplishing your part of the Great Commission, contact us at [info@occgthinktank.org](mailto:info@occgthinktank.org). We want to help in any way we can.



### EVANGELISM CONTACTS

The paper [OCCG-046 Evangelism Thru Side Door Events](#) discusses how to increase visitor traffic to give your congregation more personal evangelism contacts.

Your congregation will not grow without an ongoing stream of visitor contacts.

The paper can be downloaded at:  
[www.occgthinktank.com/project-papers/tab/organizational-papers/tab](http://www.occgthinktank.com/project-papers/tab/organizational-papers/tab)

# THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

AN E-MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION

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**IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION** is a 97 page 8 1/2" x 11" full color book by Benton Baugh which includes many of the "impossible" articles in this newsletter plus discussions on what impossible means, definition of terms, what evolutionists are going to teach your kids, and answers for evolutionists. Price: \$30.

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## HALLOWED BE THY NAME by Misti Stevens

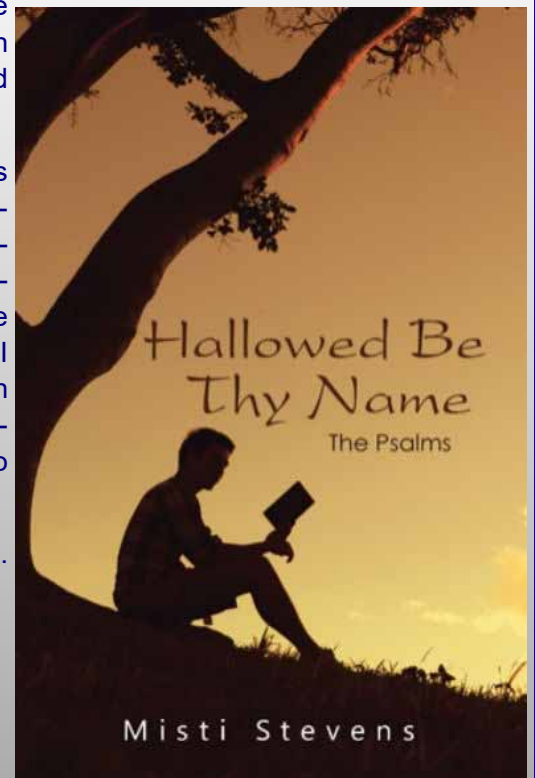
"Names are important in our culture. Families take great pains to name their children, often honoring previous relatives or friends who have made a difference in their lives. We even develop nicknames that express a person's character or the relationship we have with friends and family members, and we take great care when naming a child. It should be no surprise, then, that the names of God are just as important. Yet the Hebrew words for His names are most often just translated as "God" in English. Thus, we miss the fervor associated with each name unless we also happen to study the Hebrew text.

In *Hallowed Be Thy Name: The Psalms*, author Misti Stevens invites believers to know God by all His names so that we too can forge a special relationship with our Father in heaven. She offers a faithful translation and commentary of the book of Psalms, where God's names appear over 1,200 times in distinct forms and with distinct meanings—the God of Jacob, Adonai, Yahweh, Elohim, the Mighty God, the Great I AM, and more. Through a simple presentation of the text of Psalms with the meanings of names substituted in, you will be given a rich, meaningful look into who God is—and have the chance to draw closer to Him.

We can hardly say we know someone if we don't know them by name. So how well do you know God?"

This book can be purchased at:

<https://www.westbowpress.com/Bookstore/BookDetail.aspx?Book=764934>



## IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION #70: STOMACH

Our stomach is a particularly interesting part of our digestive system. Food is transient in it for a time before it passes into the intestines. Basically the stomach is a structure which has chemicals, specifically hydrochloric acid, which could dissolve the stomach itself.

To make this happen to assist in the digestive process, the stomach must (1) figure out how to make an acid which will kill itself, (2) introduce the acid into the stomach in some way, (3) protect itself through maintaining a mucous coating on the inside of the stomach, and (4) produce stomach cells faster than it is losing them to digestion acids.

“Hydrochloric acid (HCl) forms in the **stomach** when hydrogen and chloride combine. HCl's low pH of about two **means that it can dissolve metal**, so the **stomach** needs protection from the harsh **acid**. The **stomach** is coated with mucus, enabling food to be broken down by the **acid** without damaging the **stomach** lining.”

“This HCl helps in breaking down the food into smaller particles that helps in **digestion** that occurs in the intestines. So, if a person doesn't take food for a longer time then excess acid starts to erode away the gastric mucosa (so called protective layer of stomach containing mucus) leading to ulcer formation.”

“A typical adult human stomach will secrete about 1.5 liters of gastric acid daily. Gastric acid secretion happens in several steps. Chloride and hydrogen ions are secreted separately from the cytoplasm of parietal cells and mixed in the canaliculi. Gastric acid is then secreted into the lumen of the gastric gland and gradually reaches the main stomach lumen. The exact manner in which the secreted acid reaches the stomach lumen is controversial, as acid must first cross the relatively pH neutral gastric mucus

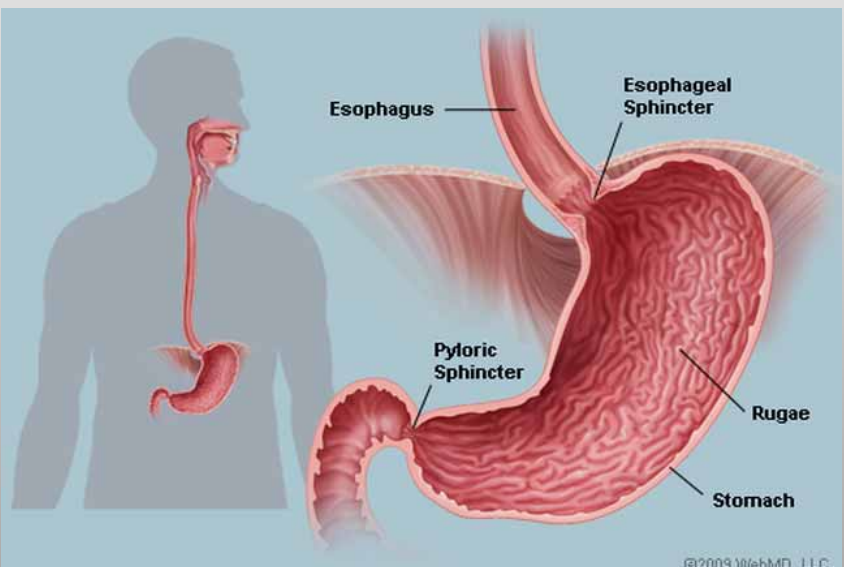
layer.” (Quotes are from Wikipedia)

When a stomach magically invents a way to produce hydrochloric acid, it does not get a million years to experiment with how to handle it. If it does not handle it right now, it dies. Imagine how long you would live with a big hole in your stomach secreting hydrochloric acid and undigested food into your abdomen.

Turns out other inventions were made to solve this problem at the same time. Other cells in the stomach produce bicarbonate, a base, to buffer the fluid, ensuring that it does not become too acidic. These cells also produce mucus, which forms a viscous physical barrier to prevent gastric acid from damaging the stomach. Cells in the beginning of the small intestine, or duodenum, further produce large amounts of bicarbonate to completely neutralize any gastric acid that passes further down into the digestive tract.

That is four inventions at the same time: gastric glands, bicarbonate glands, mucus glands, and more bicarbonate glands in the small intestine or you die. Even if you could invent one by accident, you couldn't invent four at the same time.

Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E



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## Vacationers

As you travel this summer, you can be of assistance in local congregations in helping them to understand how they are seen by potential visitors and prospects.

On the [occgthingtank.org](http://occgthingtank.org) website, Project Papers tab is a paper titled: **MYSTERY GUEST PROGRAM**

This paper and the forms included will help you anonymously communicate with the congregation and improve their "curb appeal".

A project of the OC Church Growth Think Tank  
[www.occgthinktank.org](http://www.occgthinktank.org)



Meeting at Tom Wilson Elementary  
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Katy Texas, 77494.

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Worship at 10:00 am.

Please plan to attend and tell your friends and neighbors. Most importantly, please pray for this mission effort.

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For more information, contact:  
[info@nfbcoc.org](mailto:info@nfbcoc.org)

## PREACHING SPECIALISTS

Congregations sometimes need fill-in preachers and speakers with special subjects which are difficult for the local minister to become proficient in. Following are a list of speakers with topics which may be of interest to you. Each of the speakers are known to us and reliably present the Word.

If any of the topics are interesting to you, contact information is provided. Some speakers may require expenses and/or stipends.

- **CHRISTIAN COLLEGE IMPACT ON CHURCH FAITHFULNESS**
- **CHRISTIAN COLLEGE IMPACT ON MARRIAGE**

Kent Allen, Oklahoma Christian University  
405-315-3008

- **CROSSING THE LINE IN ADDICTION**  
Philip Bailey, Memorial Church of Christ, Houston, TX, 713-304-0011  
[Pbailey@gpbaileyconsulting.com](mailto:Pbailey@gpbaileyconsulting.com)
- **GOD IS SCIENTIFIC**
- **IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION**
- **WHAT ATHEIST ARE GOING TO TELL YOUR CHILDREN, WITH ANSWERS**

Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E.

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# THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

AN E-MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION

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### Lance Decker

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Grief Support/Recovery Groups meet at  
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Individual programs available for a fee.

Programs: The Grief Recovery Method, When Children Grieve, Pet Loss, speaking to groups/congregations



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## TOPICAL STUDIES:

Following on the next page we are going to start a new program of topical studies. Each month we will post a topical study for your review and comments.

All the topical studies to be presented can be located now at <http://thearray.org/> The Christian Array Tab, 10 Topical Studies. You may note that the page number of the net page is not "9", but rather is "2", which is the page number of the website.



# THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY



## APOSTLES

10.1.1

**CONCLUSION:** The Apostles were a special group of messengers and delegates of Christ who were selected, qualified, and appointed by Christ. Paul was a twelfth Apostle to replace Judas, Matthias may or may not have been an Apostle.

The following chart provides information about the original 12 Apostles, Matthias and Paul:

### THE APOSTLES AND THEIR HISTORY

|    | NAME                               | SURNAME                            | PARENTS                            | HOME                                     | BUSINESS         | WRITINGS   | WORK  | DEATH  |
|----|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|------------------|--|---|--|
| 1  | SIMON                              | PETER, CEPHAS = ROCK               | JONAH                              | EARLY: BETHSAIDA<br>LATER: CAPERNAUM     | FISHER<br>MAN    | 1 PETER<br>2 PETER<br>(MARK?)                    | A MISSIONARY AMONG<br>THE JEWS, AS FAR AS<br>BABYLON, PROBABLY<br>ROME                                | TRAD: CRUCIFIED<br>HEAD DOWN<br>WARD AT ROME                                 |
| 2  | ANDREW                             |                                    | JONAH                              | EARLY: BETHSAIDA<br>LATER: CAPERNAUM     | FISHER<br>MAN    |  | TRADITION: PREACHED<br>IN SCHYTHIA,<br>GREEECE, AND ASIA<br>MINOR                                     | TRAD: CRUCIFIED<br>ON ST ANDREW'S<br>CROSS                                   |
| 3  | JAMES<br>THE GREATER<br>OR ELDER   | BOANEGES OR<br>SON OF<br>THUNDER   | ZEBEDEE<br>AND SALOME              | BETHSAIDA AND<br>AFTERWARDS<br>JERUSALEM | FISHER<br>MAN    |  | PREACHED IN<br>JERUSALEM AND<br>JUDEA   | BEHEADED BY<br>HEROD, AD 44 AT<br>JERUSALEM                                  |
| 4  | JOHN,<br>THE BELOVED<br>DISCIPLE   | BOANEGES OR<br>SON OF<br>THUNDER   | ZEBEDEE<br>AND SALOME              | BETHSAIDA AND<br>AFTERWARDS<br>JERUSALEM | FISHER<br>MAN    | JOHN<br>1 JOHN<br>2 JOHN<br>3 JOHN<br>REVELATION | LABORED AMONG THE<br>CHURCHES OF ASIA<br>MINOR, ESPECIALLY<br>EPHESUS                                 | BANISHED TO<br>PATMOS, AD 96,<br>RECALLED, DIED<br>A NATURAL<br>DEATH (TRAD) |
| 5  | JAMES,<br>THE YOUNGER<br>OR LESSER |                                    | ALPHEUS OR<br>CLEOPHAS<br>AND MARY | GALILEE                                  |                  | JAMES?   | PREACHED IN<br>PALESTINE AND EGYPT  | TRAD: CRUCIFIED<br>IN EGYPT<br>OR THROWN<br>FROM A<br>PINNACLE               |
| 6  | JUDE                               | SAME AS<br>THADDEUS<br>AND LEBBEUS | ALPHEUS OR<br>CLEOPHAS<br>AND MARY | GALILEE                                  |                  | JUDE   | TRADITION: PREACHED<br>IN ASSYRIA AND PERSIA  | TRAD: MARTYRED<br>IN PERSIA  |
| 7  | PHILIP                             |                                    |                                    | BETHSAIDA                                |                  |  | PREACHED IN PHRYGIA   | TRAD: DIED<br>MARTYR AT<br>HIERAPOLIS IN<br>PHRYGIA                          |
| 8  | BARTHOLOMEW                        | NATHANIEL                          |                                    | CANA OF GALILEE                          |                  |  |   | TRAD: FLAYED TO<br>DEATH   |
| 9  | MATTHEW                            | LEVI                               | ALPHEUS                            | CAPERNAUM                                | TAX<br>COLLECTOR | MATTHEW  |   | TRAD: DIED A<br>MARTYR IN<br>ETHIOPIA  |
| 10 | THOMAS                             | DIDYMUS                            |                                    | GALILEE                                  |                  |  | CLAIMED BY SYRIAN<br>CHRISTIANS AS<br>FOUNDER OF THEIR<br>CHURCH, PERHAPS<br>ALSO PERSIA AND<br>INDIA | TRAD: SHOT BY<br>ARROWS WHILE<br>AT PRAYER                                   |
| 11 | SIMON                              | THE<br>CANANEAN OR<br>ZEALOT       |                                    | GALILEE                                  |                  |  |   | TRAD: CRUCIFIED  |
| 12 | JUDAS                              |                                    |                                    | KERIOTH OF JUDEA                         |                  |  |   | SUICIDE  |
| 13 | MATTHIAS                           |                                    |                                    |  |                  |  |   |  |
| 14 | PAUL                               | SAUL                               |                                    | TARSUS                                   | TENT MAKER       | ROMANS TO<br>HEBREWS (14<br>BOOKS)               | TENTMAKER AND<br>MISSIONARY   | TRAD: BEHEADED<br>IN ROME  |

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE AND ACTS OF THE APOSTLES WERE WRITTEN BY LUKE, A NON-APOSTLE.  
 THE GOSPEL OF MARK WAS PROBABLY WRITTEN BY MARK, A NON-APOSTLE.  
 THE BOOK OF JAMES MAY HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY JAMES THE BROTHER OF JESUS RATHER THAN  
 JAMES THE APOSTLE.

# THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

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| C | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
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## BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE APOSTLES

10.1.2

1. They were eye witnesses to the resurrected Christ. (John 15:16, 27; Acts 1:8, 22; 2:32; 3:15; 4:20, 33; 5:32; 10:39; I John 1:1-4)
2. Christ personally selected them (Luke 6:13; Acts 1:2; 9:6; 24:16-18; Galatians 1:1).(Matthias?)
3. They were taught by Christ in the personal ministry (John 14:26), and by the Spirit after his ascension (John 16:7-15; Galatians 1:12).
4. They had universal authority throughout all the churches (Acts 2:42; I Corinthians 11:2, 23; 14:37; II Corinthians 11:28; 10:13-16; 13:10).
5. They conferred miraculous gifts through the laying on of their hands (Acts 8:14-18; 19:1-6; Romans 1:11; II Timothy 1:6).
6. They performed a wide variety of miracles.
7. Along with some prophets some of the apostles were used to write scripture. All of them spoke by inspiration.

### THE APOSTLE PAUL

Paul was born Saul of Tarsus (Acts 22:3) around the time of the birth of Christ. He was the son of a Pharisee (Acts 23:6), learned the occupation of tentmaking (Acts 18:3), and studied the law at the feet of Gamaliel (Acts 22:3). He is first recorded in the New Testament at the stoning of Stephen where he was holding the coats of the men doing the stoning (Acts 7:58-8:3).

Although Paul's case was unusual (I Corinthians 15:8-9), he was an Apostle even though he had not been with Christ during the personal ministry. He saw the resurrected Jesus on the road to Damascus in Acts 9:1-19. Jesus personally selected Paul to be an Apostle.

After three major missionary journeys to the Gentiles, Paul was executed in Rome in A.D. 66 or early A.D. 67. Tradition says he was beheaded on the Ostian Way.

### WAS MATTHIAS AN APOSTLE?

Consider the following sequence of events:

- \* Acts 1:6-11 Jesus ascended to heaven telling the 11 remaining Apostles that they would receive power in the future.
- \* Acts 1:20-26 The 11 Apostles decided that Judas needed to be replaced, listed qualifications for the replacement, and selected Matthias by drawing lots. The qualification were:
  - \* Accompanied Jesus from baptism to ascension.
  - \* Witness of the resurrection.
- \* Acts 2:1-4 The Apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit.
- \* Acts 6:2 The twelve Apostles participated in the selection of Deacons.
- \* Acts 9:1-19 Christ personally selected Paul to be an Apostle.
- \* Rev. 21:14 The twelve foundations stones of the New Jerusalem are noted to have the names of the twelve Apostles on them.

# THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

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## BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE APOSTLES

10.1.3

Is Matthias' or Paul's name on the twelfth stone? As we know Jesus personally selected Paul to be an Apostle, we would assume that Paul's name is on the stone. If so what of Matthias? What of the qualifications in Acts 1:20-26 which Paul did not match?

A possible explanation is that when Luke was writing the book of Acts he was correctly recording historical events, but it did not necessarily make the events inspired. The period during which Matthias was selected was after Jesus ascended and before the Apostles were inspired on the day of Pentecost. In other words, the Apostles were not inspired to the point of having received the Holy Spirit at that time. They were acting on their own uninspired initiative. This could mean that the appointment of Matthias was an actual historical event, but was not approved by Jesus. Possibly Matthias was not Jesus' twelfth Apostle, Paul certainly was.

Another example of Bible verses relating history but not being the truth is seen in John 9:31 where the Bible says "We know that God does not hear sinners; but if any one is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him". This is a historical account of what the Pharisees were saying. It was true that the Pharisees said it, but it was not the truth, as we are all sinners.

It may well be that the only actual qualification for being an Apostle of Jesus was to be personally selected by Jesus.

# THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY



## APPOINTMENT OF APOSTLES

10.1.4

|  | INTRODUCTIONS IN GOSPELS BEFORE APPT. |         |         |                   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|-------------------|
|  | MATT                                  | MARK    | LUKE    | JOHN              |
| Peter (Simon)<br>Bethsaida John 1:44<br>(144 total references)                                 | 4:18-20                               | 1:16-18 | 5:1-11  | 1:42              |
| Andrew (brother of Peter)<br>Bethsaida John 1:44<br>(12 refs., Mt., Mk., Lu, Jo., & Acts 1:13) | 4:18-20                               | 1:16-18 | 5:1-11  | 1:37-40           |
| James (son of Zebedee)<br>(42 total refs. to James thru Jude 1:1)                              | 4:21-22                               | 1:19-20 | 5:1-11  |                   |
| John (son of Zebedee)<br>(112 total refs. to John)   | 4:21-22                               | 1:19-20 | 5:1-11  |                   |
| Philip<br>(33 total refs. thru Acts 21:8)  | .                                     | .       | .       | 1:43<br>(See 6:7) |
| Bartholomew (may be Nathanael?)<br>(Refs: Mt 10:3, Mk 3:18, Lu 6:4, Ac 1:13)                   | .                                     | .       | .       | (1:44?)           |
| Matthew (Levi)<br>(Refs.: Ma 9:9, Mk 3:18, Lu 6:15, Acts 1:13)                                 | 9:9                                   | 2:14    | 5:27-28 |                   |
| Thomas<br>(11 ref thru Acts 1:13)  |                                       |         |         |                   |
| James (son of Alphaeus)<br>(42 total ref. thru Jude 1:1)                                       |                                       |         |         |                   |
| Thaddaeus or Judas (Son of James)<br>(Refs.: Ma 10:3, Mk 3:18)                                 |                                       |         |         |                   |
| Simon the Cananean or Zealot<br>(68 refs. to Simon, mostly Simon Peter)                        |                                       |         |         |                   |
| Judas Iscariot (33 total refs. to Judas thru Acts 15:32)                                       |                                       |         |         |                   |
| Matthias (Refs.: Acts 1:23 & Acts 1:26)  |                                       |         |         |                   |
| Paul (Refs: Acts 13:9 thru II Pet 3:15, 152 total)   |                                       |         |         | (No appt.)        |
| ACTUAL APPOINTMENTS  | 10:1                                  | 3:14    | 6:13    | (6:70)            |
| SUMMARY OF APOSTLES (See Acts 1:13)  | 10:2-4                                | 3:13-19 | 6:14-16 |                   |

### Notes:

1. No apostle's name is mentioned in Old Testament except Saul.
2. Word apostle is not mentioned in Old Testament.
3. Only Peter, James, John, & Paul mentioned after Acts.
4. Book of John: Word apostle(s) never mentioned. Has no listing of apostles. The "twelve" only mentioned in 6:70 & 6:71. Names James, Bartholomew, Matthew, Levi, Simon the Cananean, Matthias, & Paul ever mentioned.

Discussion questions: (1) Who was the 12<sup>th</sup> apostle on the foundation stones in Rev. 21:14?

# THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

AN E-MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION

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## AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

- Each Wed.** Northeast Houston Preacher's Meeting, Darien Loop CofC, 7014 Darien St., Houston, 11:00—1:00, Contact Cecil Herndon, [aj10@ridemetro.com](mailto:aj10@ridemetro.com) for more details
- 2nd Tues.** Northwest Houston Preacher's Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Rancho King Buffet, 5900 N. Frwy., Houston, confirm with Gerald Fruzia [fruzia70@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fruzia70@sbcglobal.net) for info.
- 9/2018** Greater Houston Area Campaign for Christ

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1. forward the church member e-mail addresses which you have,
2. send the directory of the congregation you attend or any other directories which you might have, and
3. give us an idea of how to collect church member e-mail addresses.

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