

The Twelve Apostles

Jesus Chooses the Twelve

“And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, he called his disciples; and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles.” Luke 6:12, 13

Some Definitions:

Strong's: a delegate, a messenger, one sent forth with orders

Talmud: The apostle of any one is even as the man himself by who he is deputed.

Commissioned by Jesus

“As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.” John 17:18

Strong's - Sent: persons sent with *commissions*

The Commission of the Apostles

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:14

Especial Witnesses

“ The twelve traveling councilors are called to be the Twelve Apostles, or **special witnesses** of the name of Christ, in all the world; thus differing from other officers in the church in the duties of their calling. And they form a quorum equal in authority and power to the three presidents previously mentioned. The seventy are also called to preach the gospel, and to be **especial witnesses** unto the Gentiles and in all the world--thus differing from other officers in the church in the duties of their calling; and they form a quorum equal in authority to that of the twelve **especial witnesses**, or apostles, just named.”

DC 104:11c-e

Especial: principal (1828 Webster's Dictionary)

Many Members; One Body

“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ.” 1 Corinthians 12:8 – 14

The Diversity of the Apostles

Temperament

Peter: the man of action – bold, impulsive, eager spirit

John: man of prayer – of a quiet, contemplative, loving heart

The Twelve Apostles

Spiritual Gifts

Bartholomew or Nathaniel: was a believing soul and every ready to confess

Thomas: was of a skeptical spirit and slow to accept the witness of others

Political Opinion

Matthew: was a publican or tax gatherer, the servant of the Roman governor, and wore the livery of Rome

Simon: was a Zealot, a rebel against Rome, whose sword was drawn against it and who hated its taxes.

The Apostolic Witness of All Members

“God help this church if all we have are 12 apostles...”

Apostle Arthur Oakman, *The Meaning of the Crucifixion*, 1954

“...if ye have desires to serve God, ye are called to the work, for, behold, the field is white already to harvest...”

DC 4:1c

“All are called according to the gifts of God unto them; and to the intent that all may labor together...”

DC119:8b