

# Lesson Eight:

# The Apostles

## Introduction

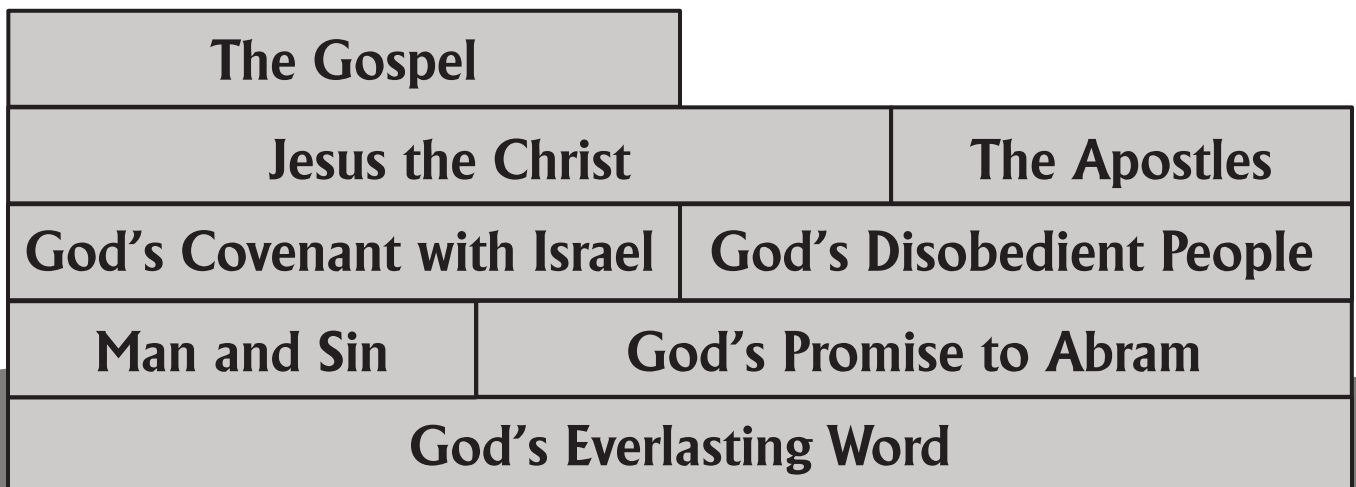
In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus said, *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* Jesus entrusted the apostles with the responsibility of making disciples and the authority to teach the disciples all things.

In this lesson, *“The Apostles,”* we will take a brief look at the apostles and then focus on their charge and their divinely given authority.

## NOTES

### Jesus Chose His Apostles

- A. Jesus chose the following twelve disciples to serve as His apostles:
  - 1. Peter (also referred to as Simon), Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew (also referred to as Nathanael, John 1:45), Thomas, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus who surname was Lebbaeus (also referred to as Judas the son of James, Luke 6:16, Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot. (Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16)
  - 2. After the death of Judas Iscariot, the Lord chose Matthias (through the casting of lots) to serve as an apostle. (Acts 1:15-26)
- B. Jesus chose Saul (Paul) to serve as an apostle. (Acts 26:12-18; cf. 1 Corinthians 15:7-11)



# World Filled with Sin

## NOTES

### The Role of the Apostles

- A. Toward the beginning of His work on the earth, Jesus told the apostles to take the message of the kingdom to the *“lost sheep of the house of Israel.”* (Matthew 10:5-10; cf. Mark 3:14-15; Luke 9:1-6)
- B. After His death and resurrection, Jesus told the apostles to take the gospel message to the whole world. (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-47)
- C. Jesus told the apostles they would serve as witnesses of Him. (John 15:27; Acts 1:8)

### The Authority of the Apostles

- A. Jesus delegated authority to the apostles when they went to the *“lost sheep of the house of Israel.”*
  - 1. Jesus gave the apostles power (authority) over unclean spirits and the power (authority) to heal sicknesses and diseases. (Matthew 10:1, 7-8)
  - 2. The apostles spoke that which came from the *“Spirit of your Father.”* (Matthew 10:18-20)
- B. Jesus told Peter He would give Peter the *“keys of the kingdom of heaven.”* (Matthew 16:17-19)
  - 1. This reference to the *“keys of the kingdom of heaven”* looks back to Isaiah 22:20-23.
    - a. Isaiah wrote in his prophecy, *“The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; So he shall open, and no one shall shut; And he shall shut, and no one shall open”* (vs 22). In this passage, the *“key of the house of David”* would be laid on the shoulders of Eliakim. This *“key”* would give Eliakim (vs 20) authority to make binding decisions in the interests of the king.
    - b. In a similar fashion, Jesus said to Peter, *“And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven”* (Matthew 16:19, NKJV).
    - c. Jesus’ statement was not giving legislative authority to the apostles. The authority Jesus delegated to the apostles would pertain to that which had already been established in heaven.
    - d. The New American Standard Bible uses the phrases *“shall have been bound in heaven”* and *“shall have been loosed in heaven.”*

This rendering reflects the future perfect tense of the Greek word translated as “will be” in the New King James translation.

## NOTES

2. On the day of Pentecost, Peter “opened” the entrance to the kingdom of heaven through preaching the message of entrance into the kingdom of heaven. (Acts 2:14-40)
  3. This same message was likewise preached by all the apostles. (Acts 2:3-4, 42)
- C. Jesus gave the apostles the power to exercise this authority.
1. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to teach the apostles all things. (John 14:25-26; John 15:26-27; John 16:5-15)
  2. Jesus told the apostles to remain in Jerusalem until they were “*clothed with power from on high.*” (Luke 24:46-49, NASB; cf. Acts 1:8)
- D. Jesus said the apostles would “*sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*” (Matthew 19:28-30)
1. When Jesus ascended into heaven, He sat down at the right hand of His Father and began His reign over the kingdom of God. (Acts 2:29-36)
  2. The apostles are sitting on their thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel through their teachings and witnessing of Jesus Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, the apostles made known the teachings and authority of Jesus Christ to all men.
- E. The apostles recognized this delegated authority.
1. The apostle Paul told the church in Corinthian that they, the apostles, were “*ambassadors for Christ.*” (2 Corinthians 5:20)
  2. The apostles were “*ministers of the new covenant.*” (2 Corinthians 3:4-6)
- F. The teachings of the apostles became the standard of authority in the church.
1. The church “*steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine (teaching, jmd) and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*” (Acts 2:42; cf. Ephesians 2:19-22)
  2. Jude told the brethren to “*remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles.*” (Jude 1:16-19; cf. 2 Peter 3:1-2)
  3. The apostles preached Christ Jesus the Lord. (2 Corinthians 4:1-7)

## NOTES

### Conclusion

In Ephesians 2:20, the apostle Paul taught that the household of God has been “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.” (Ephesians 2:19-20) Just as disciples listened to the teachings of the apostles during the first century, so too do we listen to their teachings of the apostles.

We have faith in Christ because of the witness of the apostles. We walk in Christ because of the teachings of the apostles. The apostles were true to their task and responsibility. As a result, the message of the cross was spread throughout the world and many lost souls found salvation in Jesus Christ.

In our final lesson lesson, *The Church*, we will look at the church built by Jesus Christ. ◀