

Acts 1:15: *'And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said...¹⁶ Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.¹⁷ For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry...'*

Peter is saying, Judas' betrayal was necessary. It was necessary in order to fulfill certain prophecies and it was necessary to further along God's perfect, eternal plan that His Son be tortured and crucified, receiving in His Own Body, the full Wrath of God for our sin so that we could be forgiven, sanctified and finally fully glorified as His beloved children, His chosen, planned and perfected pure, spotless, virgin Bride for His faithful and beloved Son... all thanks, praise, glory and honor to Him for His perfect Love, Grace and Mercy.

Jesus' entire life and ministry had one single overarching purpose: first and foremost, to the glory of God. The Lord Jesus Christ willingly left His Royal Throne and Home to be born as a human; He would live a perfect and sinless life, so as to be qualified as our *Kinsman Redeemer*, as seen in the Book of Ruth. As a human, like us, He could then pay the full price for our redemption but in order to do so, He had to fulfill the Law, perfectly; He had to live perfectly and sinlessly, while never breaking even one of God's commandments.

Through Adam, sin entered the World, coming down to all humans, being passed, as it was, through our fathers; the human egg, within a mother does not contain the sin nature but the human sperm, from the father, carries and passes down our universal sin nature. Every human has been created by the union of these two, the human egg and sperm, and, so, every human is born in sin. The Lord Jesus Christ, however, being born of a virgin, without a human father, was born without any sin nature.

His life and His ministry were to fulfill all the Law in our place, to live a perfect and sinless life, in our place, to be punished for sin, in our place, to die in our place and finally to be raised to Eternal Life, for us. At the moment of our Salvation we were raised up to Eternal Life with Him. We were chosen by God, chosen by God from the foundation of the World, we were crucified with Christ, on His cross, we were resurrected with Him from death unto Eternal Life and we will, finally, be glorified with Him to rule and reign with Him forever.

Everything He did was in fulfillment of all the Law and the Prophets. His rejection and crucifixion were all within God's perfect plan to create the spotless, pure, virgin Bride for His Faithful Son.

Judas was also part of God's perfect plan, as will be the Antichrist and, as has always been: Lucifer, or Satan. Judas was prophesied through David 1000 years before:

'Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.' Psalm 41:9

'For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him:¹³ But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance.¹⁴ We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.' Psalm 55:12

These speak, prophetically, of Judas and his wicked betrayal of his friend and companion, Jesus.

'And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people.⁴⁸ Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast.⁴⁹ And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him.⁵⁰ And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus and took him.' Matt 26:47

This shows the treachery of Judas; all the others ran away but Judas actually betrayed Him... with a kiss, no less! Who... could do such a thing... who could hate the Son of God that much? Only one person. At that moment, Judas was more than just a mere man, as we will see...

Who was Judas... really?

*'Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God. ⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and **one of you is a devil?** ⁷¹ He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.'* John 6:68

When Jesus said, of Judas, 'one of you is a devil,' the Greek word He used is 'diabolos' which is the word always used of Satan.

Judas' name is: ioudas/eeoodas,' meaning: 'he shall be praised.'

Of Lucifer, Isaiah wrote: *'For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. ¹⁵ Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, **to the sides of the pit.**'* Isa 14:13 What Pit? The Bottomless Pit!

'I will be like the Most High!' God Almighty, the Lord Jesus Christ is to be praised forever; He alone is worthy of praise, glory and honor, yet Judas' name means: 'he shall be praised'... he, Lucifer, shall seek to take for himself, the praise due only to God.

Jesus, in His High Priestly Prayer said: *'Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. ¹² While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but **the son of perdition**; that the scripture might be fulfilled.'* John 17:11

Judas is called 'THE Son of Perdition,' not, a son of perdition.

Of the Antichrist, Paul writes: *'Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, **THE son of perdition**; ⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.'* 2Thes 2:3

Both Judas and the Antichrist are called THE son of perdition... not sons of perdition but THE... singular... The! We'll come back to Judas/the Antichrist, in just a few verses...

Verse 18: Peter continues: *'For he (Judas) was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.*

¹⁸ *Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹ And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood.'*

Matt 27:3 says: *'Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, ⁴ Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. ⁵ And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.'*

Many claim this as one of their so called contradictions in the Bible: did he hang himself or did he fall down and 'burst' open...? but the answer is obvious. When Satan was finished with Judas, he left him as Judas partially came to his senses, repenting; he was guilt ridden to the point of suicide. He hanged himself, the rope broke, he fell onto sharp rocks and his guts gushed out. Or, he hanged himself, remaining hung for some time until his body began to rot, creating gas buildup within and then the rope broke, he fell and burst open. My choice is: he hung himself but the rope broke immediately; he fell onto rocks, his innards burst out and he then began to die an extended, well deserved agonizing death, helplessly watching his life slip away as he bled out, dwelling upon his guilt, knowing his soon coming destination... but Judas didn't go down to Sheol/Hades like others do...

Verse 20: *'For it is written in the book of Psalms, **Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.**'*

Let his *office of bishop* be given to another.

'Let their habitation be desolate; and let none dwell in their tents.' Psa 69:25

'Let his days be few; and let another take his office.' Psalm 109:8

Desolate doesn't mean a crowded place; it means a solitary wilderness, alone... void of others...

Verse 21: *'Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.'*

God would choose Judas' replacement in order to complete their number back to 12 which is an important number to God, a number of completion and fullness... we don't know why, but that's how it is. The man to replace Judas must have been with them, all the time, from Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist, until He was taken up into Heaven, one who was an actual witness to His entire Ministry... quite different from the empty qualifications currently of those, today, claiming to be apostles.

Only one other man was ordained, by God, to be His Apostle who was not part of that specific group: Paul, but Paul was qualified, by God, in that he was certainly a witness to the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ... even more so than the other 12. Paul was miraculously called by Jesus Christ Who appeared and revealed Himself to him and then, Paul was taken up into Heaven to receive His special training and teaching from the Lord Jesus Christ, Himself, to be His special Apostle to the Gentiles. Paul was the one chosen to first understand the Truth of our Salvation by God's Grace alone, apart from any works, whatsoever, his Gospel of Grace which was to go out, also, unto the Gentiles.

Verse 23: *'And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,'*

They were led to nominate two: Joseph and Matthias; then, they somehow 'cast lots.' This seems strange to us: rolling dice, picking a card, drawing the short straw, flipping a coin... we don't know how they did this, but God impressed upon them that He was in control and would make His choice evident.

'The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.' Prov 16:33

You can flip your coin but it is God Who decides whether it lands on heads or tails.

In the Old Testament, the High Priest, in his ephod, had a special pocket for the Urim and Thummim, two stones by which God's will was revealed in some situations; the priest would ask God a question and whichever stone was revealed would give God's answer: yes/no, good/bad, up/down, etc.

Today, our Urim and Thummim is our peace or lack of peace which God's Holy Spirit gives to us in answer to any question: *'And let the peace of God rule in your hearts...'* Col 3:215

Here it is in the Amplified: *'And let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts [deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds, in that peaceful state] to which as [members of Christ's] one body you were also called [to live].'*

God's peace from His Holy Spirit is what He has given us to lead and to guide us.

Verse 25: *'That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.'*

What an odd phrase; *'... that he might go to his own place.'* No one says that of someone who has died, that he 'goes to his own place.' Whether they might mean he's gone to his grave or, he's gone to Heaven, or hell... but never, 'to his own place.' And nowhere else in Scripture is that ever said of someone who has died.

Judas, by transgression **fell, that he might go to his own place.**

Judas and the Antichrist are both referred to as THE son of perdition, as if the same person. No one else is ever referred to as, THE son of perdition. These two are the same 'person,' that is... indwelt and controlled by the same person... the Devil.

John writes, of the Antichrist: *'The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition...'* Rev 17:8

At the time of John's being given *The Revelation*, the beast which he saw, the Antichrist, once was, in the person of Judas but was 'now,' at the time of John being given *The Revelation*, was not... he had committed suicide and then, '**went to his own place**'... the bottomless pit, from which he will again ascend to take his place as the Antichrist and, afterward, go into perdition... into eternal destruction in the Lake of Fire.

Judas and the Antichrist are **The** son of perdition.... not sons of perdition... both are THE son of perdition.

The Greek word used, translated, 'perdition,' is: apol'eia which means: destruction, waste, damnable...

When the Bible means 'damnable,' it's not what we might say in a moment of anger... it really does mean damnable... to be damned to eternal destruction and torment in the never-ending Lake of Fire. If we are ever guilty of saying that, 'God damn it!' or 'Damn that thing!' ... we are taking the Lord's Name in vain, in a sense, although His Name is not 'Lord' or 'God' but even more, we are actually taking His power and authority, His very Person in vain. He is the only One capable and worthy to pronounce eternal sentence upon anyone, whether human or angel and His is an unimaginably awesome responsibility. He has revealed Himself to every human: first, through His Creation, then through His Prophets and finally, ultimately, through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He has warned every person and He has offered Salvation to every person but, tragically, the vast majority of humans and one third of angels will have refused to willingly submit to Him.

As to taking His Name in vain... we have only to walk down a city street, turn on a television or watch a movie to recognize that the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ is being vainly trampled upon non-stop, day in and day out, even children are being conditioned to despise the Name of Jesus.

Again, the Greek word translated, perdition is: apol'eia... destruction.

Remember, from Revelation 9:1: '*And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. ² And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit... And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power... and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man... And they had a king over them, which is **the angel of the bottomless pit**, whose name... in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.'*

Their king, the angel of the Bottomless Pit, his name is Apollyon, meaning: destroyer. This Greek word/name is closely related to apoleia, destruction... perdition.

His own place: the place over which he is king... the Bottomless Pit.

Judas wasn't just some regular guy whom Jesus found and called. He represents every person, from all time who has rejected all that God has offered, going all the way back to when Lucifer and 1/3 of the angels chose to reject and despise God Almighty and all that He has offered.

Jesus said: '*Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me... he then lying on Jesus' breast (John) saith unto him, Lord, who is it? ²⁶ Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. ²⁷ And **after the sop Satan entered into him**. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.'* John 13:21

Before going out to accomplish his 'great work' of betraying Jesus Christ, Judas is entered and possessed by Satan, himself. When the Antichrist is killed, at the midpoint of the Tribulation, before accomplishing his 'great work' of coming back to life and seeking to exterminate Jews and Christians, Satan will enter him, as well. Between those two 'works,' he, the son of perdition, the king of the Bottomless Pit, Apollyon, the Destroyer, goes back to his own place where he is king over the demonic hoards in the Bottomless Pit.

Certainly, we don't know how all this plays out, precisely, but, once again, we see that God has given to us, in His Word, far, far more than we have previously realized. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and all Scripture helps us to more fully understand other Scripture when we are faithful to ask Him for His precious gift of Godly Wisdom which He promised to freely give us, over and over and over again.

His mercies are new every morning and His wisdom and understanding are new every moment.