

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said,

In those days- This refers to the fifty days between Easter and Pentecost. During this time period, the church was small in number, but they were growing rapidly in their faith and strengthening each other day by day.

Peter stood up- This seems to indicate Peter's leadership role among the apostles. Peter was believed to be the oldest among them, since he was married. Peter was also part of the inner circle of the disciples, along with James and John. These three alone witnessed some of Jesus' miracles and Jesus' transfiguration. Jesus said to Peter "on this rock I will build my church," but he was referring to Peter's bold confession of Him as Christ. Jesus was not creating the office of the papacy or appointing Peter as the first pope.

among the brothers- In these days, the term "brothers" was not gender-exclusive. There were women among them in this group. "Brothers" was used to indicate the close relationship and love that existed between them. They were all brought close because of their common faith.

The company of persons was in all about 120- A larger group than many of us would likely picture. Even though there were only 12 original disciples, this group of 120 would have witnessed much of Jesus' ministry, miracles, and teaching first hand. Although we know little about these others, this was the pool from which they would replace Judas Iscariot.

¹⁶ "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.

Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled- As observant Jewish men, the disciples would have had the Scriptures mostly memorized. They also would have also been taught to understand them in a certain way. When Jesus came along, He opened the disciples' minds to understand the Scriptures in a deeper and fuller way. Since the Messiah and His salvation were unfolding right in front of them, they started to see how certain obscure passages tied in and were being fulfilled

which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David- Interesting reference to the work of the Holy Spirit in Old Testament times. Just like the Spirit worked through Paul and Peter and John to write their epistles, the Spirit inspired David to write about the life of the Messiah a thousand years before He was born

concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus- Today, we think that finding and identifying a person is not all that difficult. If there's a man hunt, a picture is plastered all over the news. We can track their movements by GPS and credit card

transactions, but it was not so in Jesus' day. In Jerusalem, there were tons of people named Jesus. Nobody had a camera for a picture. So if Judas had not guided them there and identified Jesus with a kiss, it would have been much harder for those who wanted Him dead.

¹⁷ For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry."

For he was numbered among us- Peter seems to be expressing his disgust at Judas' actions and the fact that they did not see the real him while he was with them. Jesus wasn't the only one who was betrayed, Judas betrayed his fellow disciples and made them accomplices of Jesus' supposed crimes

Was allotted his share in this ministry- "Share" has the sense of a plot of land, like when the Promised Land was divided among the 12 tribes of Israel. Reminds us that Judas was out there preaching the Gospel in the towns and villages, just as Jesus had commanded the other disciples. At that time, they saw Judas as an equal and a partner in the ministry. But after he betrayed Jesus, they were left to shoulder the load that he previously held.

¹⁸ (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.

Now this man acquired a field- By extension, Judas bought a field with the money he got for betraying Jesus. Although he may have never gone and purchased it himself, the same money that he had received was used to buy a field. This field was a potter's field which had a high percentage of clay. They used it as a cemetery for foreigners and Gentiles who died in Jerusalem. This was one of the only acceptable uses for ill-gotten gains like Judas' thirty pieces of silver

With the reward of his wickedness- For betraying Jesus, Judas received thirty pieces of silver. In those days, that was the price if someone bought a slave. After receiving this money, Judas was overcome with guilt and tried to return it. When he said he had betrayed innocent blood, they left him to his own devices and would not accept the money back. When the priests wouldn't accept it willingly, Judas threw the silver into the temple. At that point, they had to decide what to do with the money.

And falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out- Although this seems like an alternative death, Judas died by hanging like it says in Matthew. He was filled with remorse, but not repentance and so he committed suicide. During decomposition, Judas' body may have fallen from where he hanged himself and broke open. This may or may not have been in the field of blood.