

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 1ST, 2026 // BOOK OF ACTS

REPLACING JUDAS (ACTS 1:15–26) JUDAS'S ENDING

Luke's account of Judas's demise varies in some ways from Matthew's (Matthew 27:3–10). Some might wonder then if one or both accounts are wrong.

- Because the Bible is God's Word, it never lies or misrepresents. If we're unsure, we should have **faith seeking understanding** (*fides quaerens intellectum*).
- The two biggest questions are probably who bought the field and how Judas died. In short, it was Judas's money that bought the field, and (probably) his body swelled after hanging, fell, and then burst open.
- Matthew's and Luke's accounts are **complementary**, each tailored to their specific purposes and narrative needs.
- Luke's purpose in the Judas account is to contrast it with the Spirit-empowered communal worship we see at the end of Ch. 2.
- Judas's sinful betrayal **resulted in death**, unrighteous wages, and purchased land. The believing community sold their land and used the money righteously, **resulting in life**.

PSALMS 69 AND 109

Peter's quotation and interpretation of Psalms 69 and 109 might seem odd, but because we believe the Bible is infallible and inerrant, the NT authors are always right in their interpretation of the OT.

- We should want to **embrace the interpretive perspective of the biblical authors** and replicate it ourselves.

TYOLOGY

In biblical studies, typology is defined as God-ordained, author-intended historical correspondence and escalation in significance, between people, events, and institutions.

- In other words, the biblical authors knew they were **installments in patterns** which would culminate in the Messiah.

JESUS IS THE SEED OF DAVID

David knew about the promised Messiah and that the Messiah would come from his line (2 Samuel 7).

- There are certain places in the Psalms where **David speaks of both himself and his future descendant**. Psalms 16 and 110 (seen in Acts 2) are both examples of this.

JUDAS IS A SEED OF THE SERPENT

Conversely, when David (and others) speaks of his enemies in the Psalms, he addresses his immediate situation as an installment in the pattern of **opposition between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent** (Genesis 3:15).

- In this way, David speaks of Judas when he writes these psalms.

THE WORK OF AN APOSTLE

The term "apostle" can get confusing because it's used in multiple ways. Simply put, there are capital "A" Apostles and little "a" apostles.

- **Apostles** occupied an authoritative office based on specific qualifications (Galatians 1), while **apostles** are those sent out to preach the gospel (Romans 16:7).

THE OFFICE OF APOSTLE

While the apostolic office doesn't continue (it seems to have required direct commissioning by the resurrected Jesus), the work of **evangelism is as needed today as then**.

- While you technically could call this being an apostle, it's a confusing and unhelpful term considering how it's been abused.

CASTING LOTS

This is not an endorsement of FanDuel. Casting lots was common practice in the OT, as God is in control even of "chance." But later in Acts, similar decisions are made simply through prayer.

- Luke seems to be emphasizing a shift between how we knew God under the Old Covenant and **how we know Him now**.

POURED OUT (ACTS 2:1–13)

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Prior to this, Pentecost (literally "50th") was a harvest festival. It fell 50 days after Passover and the start of the barley harvest (Deuteronomy 16:10).

- Later, it became associated with **the giving of the law at Sinai** (Exodus 19:1). As Moses ascended Sinai and gave the law, so Jesus ascended into Heaven and gave the Spirit.

THE SPIRIT POURED OUT

Luke wrote his Gospel and Acts. So we shouldn't be surprised when the two reference each other.

- Some say this looks like Jesus' baptism.
- Probably, this is more like John the Baptist's promise of baptism with **Spirit and fire** (Luke 3:16).

THE NATIONS

It's unclear if there's a particular significance to the people groups who are mentioned here, but the point is clear: The news that Yahweh saves is coming to the Gentiles!

- This good news was never meant for just the Jewish people but **for the whole world to know the glory of God**.

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

Don't skip to "Does this happen today?" First ask, "Why did this happen?" Earlier, Jesus told the apostles they would witness to the ends of the earth. Now, the nations are here to be witnessed to!

- God sometimes does extraordinary things to get our attention. **Their purpose is to draw us to Him.**
- But do people speak in tongues today? There are three major views:
 1. Yes, always: Speaking in tongues coincides with baptism in the Spirit.
 2. Yes, sometimes: Speaking in tongues is a gift which continues today.
 3. No: Sign gifts are limited to the age of the apostles.
- There are three kinds of tongues:
 1. Proof tongue (Acts 2): Speaking in foreign languages to communicate the gospel.
 2. Prophetic tongue (1 Corinthians 14): Speaking so another may interpret during corporate worship.
 3. Personal tongue (Romans 8:26): Sometimes known as a prayer language.

SOME WONDERED, SOME SNEERED

Some people were drawn in by the experience of hearing their own language in a foreign area. Others dismissed what they heard as drunken babbling.

- Unbelief is never "just" a misunderstanding. It's a **moral failure** to hear when God speaks and see when He acts.

READING THE OLD TESTAMENT

- The Old Testament only does one thing: It talks about the hope of the Messiah.
- The way we read the OT should be the way the apostles read it.
- If you want to be a better reader of the Bible, **read more of it!** The biblical authors show us how to read what they and others wrote.

BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

- Living a Spirit-empowered life is more than speaking in tongues.
- To be filled with the Spirit is a **privilege** which Believers longed after for centuries.
- The purpose of being indwelt with the Spirit is **to bring the gospel to the world**.

BRINGING THE GOSPEL TO THE WORLD

- This is a **Spirit-empowered work**, not a human-empowered one.
- What we declare should be the "magnificent acts of God," not our own personal achievements.
- That means **we need to know** what God has done, then **actually speak it** to other people.