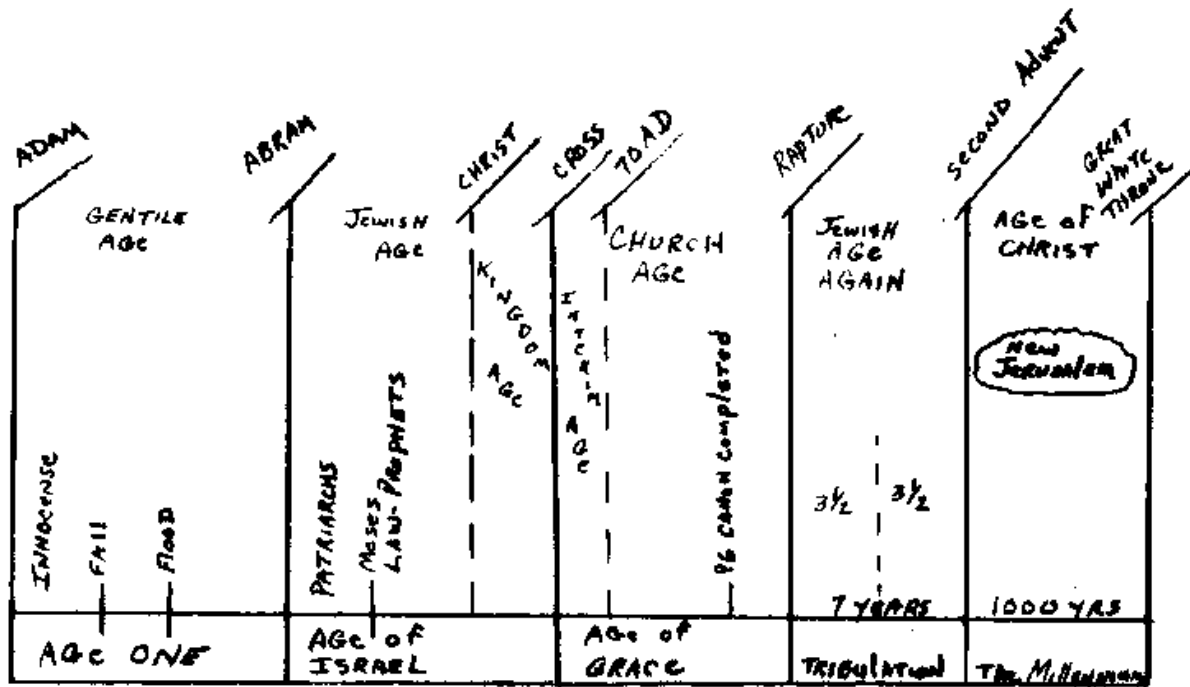


The Doctrine of Apostleship

1. Paul had significant authority as an apostle.
2. We have no direct comparison today.
3. There are people today in certain denominations who claim to be apostles, but in point of fact, there are no de jure apostles in this portion of the Church Age.
4. The gift of apostleship is no longer available.
 - 4.1 It was appropriate in the early part of the Church Age, in what I like to call the Interim Age, a sub-age of the Church Age.
 - 4.2 The Interim Age is also called the Apostolic Age.
 - 4.3 The Interim Age was an age of transition from the Kingdom Age to the Church Age. It was during the Interim Age that the Canon of Scripture was written.



5. The word apostle comes from the Greek word **Apostolos**; originally it meant the supreme commander of the Athenian fleet, though it came to mean a messenger.
 - 5.1 In Scripture, it means a supreme spiritual commander in the Apostolic Age. This period is also called the Pre-canon Period of the Church Age.

6. An apostle was in most cases over one or more local churches.
 - 6.1 As in the case of Paul he was the apostle to the Gentiles and thus over all Gentile local churches.
 - 6.2 In the case of Peter it would seem he had authority over all the Judaeo-Christian churches in Syria, Asia Minor, Macedonia and Greece.
 - 6.3 In the case of James, the half brother of Jesus, he was over all the 200-plus local churches located in Jerusalem.
7. Originally there were 12 apostles and later there were delegated apostles.
 - 7.1 The original 12 apostles were the 12 disciples, minus Judas Iscariot, plus Paul.
 - 7.2 The delegated apostles included men like Timothy and James, the half brother of Jesus.
8. The original twelve were ordained of God to start the Church Age.
9. The gift of apostleship, like all other gifts, was bestowed by God the Holy Spirit. 1Co 12:8-12
10. All gifts were historically provided solely at the discretion of God the Holy Spirit because of the work of Christ.
 - 10.1 Christ earned those gifts by successfully completing the Father's plan.
 - 10.2. He went to the cross as a Lamb without spot.
 - 10.3 Jesus as our substitute was judged for the sins of the world; for God made Him to be sin for us, the Godman who knew no sin in order that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
 - 10.4 He propitiated God on our behalf, taking care of all the sins of the world, was buried and was raised for our benefit, making possible all manner of **presents or gifts** which He seized as His well-earned booty.
 - 10.5 At His victorious ascension when He escorted to paradise the souls of the Old Testament and Kingdom Age believers from Sheol, there is mention of His giving gifts to men ... Eph 4:8
Eph 4:8 This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men ..."

QuickTime™ and a
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are needed to see this picture.

10.6 The gifts of prophecy and apostleship were given to facilitate the early part of the church age A.D. c. 32 to c. 70 The gifts of evangelism and pastor-teacher were provided as the extant communication gifts designed to serve and facilitate the function of the church during the remainder of the Church Age, i.e. the years following A.D. 70.

11. The gift of apostleship was made possible by Christ, but distributed by God the Holy Spirit.

Heb 2:4 God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

11.1 Apostles were to function in the Pre-Canon Period in order to build the early church.

11.2 All communication gifts carry with them authority and are thus only given to males. Such was the case with apostleship.

12. The purpose of the communication gifts, was to build the universal church. Eph 4:11-16.

Eph 4:11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,

Eph 4:12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

Eph 4:13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Eph 4:14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.

Eph 4:15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

Eph 4:16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

13. The gift of apostleship was a temporary gift, as we have noted. This gift passed from the scene in A.D. c. 96 with the death of John.

13.1 Apostles had to be eyewitnesses of the resurrection.

13.2 Paul often documented his designation as the 12th apostle by telling of his own viewing on the road to Damascus.

13.3 There are also Scriptures which seem to teach the generally-accepted belief that an apostle to at least in the technical meaning, had to be an eyewitness of the Lord.

13.4 More particularly, there were those it would seem who required an apostle to be a witness of our Lord in a resurrected state.

Acts 1:1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach
Acts 1:2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

Acts 1:16 Men and brethren, the Scripture must be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit by the mouth of David spoke earlier concerning Judas, the same Iscariot who guided those who arrested Jesus.

Acts 1:17 For Judas Iscariot was numbered with us, and participated with us in the ministry.

Acts 1:18 The Old Testament says of him "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.

Acts 1:19 And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Akeldama, that is to say, The field of blood.

Acts 1:20 For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishopric let another take.

Acts 1:21 Wherefore of these men which have accompanied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

Acts 1:22 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.

Acts 1:23 And they appointed two, ... Justus, and Matthias ... as candidates ...

1Co 9:1 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not the result of my work in the Lord?

1Co 15:5 and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.

1Co 15:6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

1Co 15:7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,

1Co 15:8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

1Co 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

13.5 There have been no de jure apostles since the death of John in A.D. c. 96. Future leaders had no opportunity to see our Lord.

13.6 Peter makes clear we haven't seen Christ.

1Pe 1:8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

14. In describing the New Jerusalem in the sky during the Millennium, the Bible says there are twelve apostles.

Rev 21:14 The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

15. The original apostles were the twelve disciples, minus Judas, plus Paul.

Joh 6:70 Then Jesus replied, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!"

Joh 6:71 (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.)

16. We must not be confused by the heterodoxy o"selecti" Matthias who though he was said to be numbered with the apostles, is not, and was not an apostle.

Acts 1:21 Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us ...

Acts 1:23 So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias.

Acts 1:24 Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen

Acts 1:25 to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs."

Acts 1:26 Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

17. The original twelve disciples are clearly named in several Scriptures:

Mat 10:1 He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Mat 10:2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John;
Mat 10:3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;
Mat 10:4 Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Mar 3:13 Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him.
Mar 3:14 He appointed twelve--designating them apostles--that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach
Mar 3:15 and to have authority to drive out demons.
Mar 3:16 These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter);
Mar 3:17 James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means Sons of Thunder);
Mar 3:18 Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot
Mar 3:19 and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Luk 6:12 One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.
Luk 6:13 When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles:
Luk 6:14 Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew,
Luk 6:15 Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot,
Luk 6:16 Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

18. There were other people called apostles; they can best be described as delegated apostles.

Gal 1:19 I saw none of the other **apostles**--only James, the Lord's brother.

1Co 4:6 Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and **Apollos** for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not take pride in one man over against another...

1Co 4:9 For it seems to me that God has put us **apostles** on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men.

1Th 1:1 Paul, **Silas** and **Timothy**, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you ...

1Th 2:6 We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else. As **apostles** of Christ we could have been a burden to you,

19. The apostles had authority over more than one local church, and the local pastors took orders from the apostles. They were removed and often transferred by their apostle bosses.

20. The apostles, it would seem, had all of the temporary gifts designed to show and establish their authority. These were whip gifts to get the attention of the people: miracles, healing, tongues, discerning of spirits, putting people out of the church to be toyed with by Satan, etc.

20.1 A few Scriptures to so demonstrate:

Acts 28:8 His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him.

Acts 28:9 When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured.

Acts 5:15 As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by.

1Co 5:5 hand this man guilty of incest over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.

Acts 5:1 Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property.

Acts 5:2 With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 5:3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?

Acts 5:4 Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."

Acts 5:5 When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened.

Acts 5:6 Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

Acts 5:7 About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

Acts 5:8 Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?" "Yes," she said, "that is the price."

Acts 5:9 Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

Acts 5:10 At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

Acts 5:11 Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

Acts 16:16 Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.

Acts 16:17 This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved."

Acts 16:18 She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

21. All temporary gifts passed away at the completion of the Canon.

21.1 Scripture:

1Co 13:8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

1Co 13:9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part,

1Co 13:10 but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.

21.2 Compare Paul's early demonstrated power with his later ministry where apparently, he could not heal.

Acts 19:11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul,

Acts 19:12 so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

Phi 2:27 Indeed Epaphroditus was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow.

2Ti 4:20 Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick in Miletus.

22. Paul's apostleship was questioned by the church at Corinth on numerous occasions.

2Co 11:5 But I do not think I am in the least inferior to those "super-apostles."

2Co 11:6 I may not be a trained speaker, but I do have knowledge. We have made this perfectly clear to you in every way.