

Lesson Plan

"The Twelve Apostles"

Background:

After presenting a version of this workshop at study groups of First Society for Readers of The Urantia Book, which is in the Chicago area, several members of the society adapted the workshop and presented it at IC14, in Amherst, Massachusetts. The materials have been used by other study groups since then.

This Lesson Plan and handout has been adapted by the Education Committee of The Urantia Book Fellowship for any group of readers of The Urantia Book who would like to use it. It is designed apply some educational concepts and approaches in its study of the twelve apostles. Any group should feel free to adapt the materials as they see fit.

Audience:

This workshop is appropriate for anyone interested in learning about Jesus and the 12 apostles, as well as the apostles' development as participants in the unfolding of the 4th Epochal Revelation as depicted in *The Urantia Book*. The study group is designed to enrich the view of experienced readers as well as being accessible to new readers.

Objectives:

1. To learn more about each apostle.
2. To understand how the psychology and background of each apostle resulted in the person who was involved in the 4th Epochal Revelation both during Jesus' life and after the resurrection.
3. To apply the patterns drawn from all of the apostles' experiences, psychology, and capabilities in order to apply such understandings to our own lives and contributions to the 5th Epochal Revelation.
4. To understand better how the creators of *The Urantia Book* organize their information by aligning longitudinally references to each apostle, descriptions of their reactions to particular events, and advice from Jesus personally created for each individual.

Note: Study group leaders or facilitators might want to do the activity on their own before presenting it.

Materials:

1. Each person needs a copy of *The Urantia Book*.
2. Each participant needs a copy of the workshop handout.
3. There should be note paper for each person.
4. There must be posterboard paper and markers, for the study group, or in a larger setting each small group and the large group, and non-mark-leaving tape to display posters; it is suggested that the questions be written on the posterboard paper ahead of time so they will be large, readable, and parallel.
5. A white board or blackboard is helpful but not necessary.

Process

We encourage beginning with an opening prayer or worship.

If it is a large group, assign people to a particular apostle at the study group and do a large group example with one apostle.

1. Before the workshop is scheduled, group planners will decide how much time to devote to the workshop. To cover all 12 apostles adequately as well as the larger perspective that emerge from the patterns about them would ideally require at least 3 study group meetings of approximately 2 hours each. If only one session is scheduled, 5 or 6 apostles can be studied in depth and applied to the big questions and thematic discussion.

Note: If all 12 apostles will be scrutinized, it is recommended the Alphaeus twins be dealt with together, as *The Urantia Book* rarely deals with them as a pair.

2. A facilitator will distribute handouts and note paper.

3. (15 minutes, based on a 2-hour study group) A group leader or teacher will introduce the workshop. The leader will give an overview of the workshop and direct the group's attention to the objectives and big questions given in the beginning of the handout that will be considered throughout workshop and discussed at the end. The leader will lead the group through the highlights and features of the handout. Then the leader will outline the objectives and procedures for the workshop. **Note:** *This introduction should be repeated at the beginning of each session of the workshop should it continue for more than one meeting.*

4. (20 minutes, based on a 2-hour study group) One apostle will be chosen as a model. The leader or a second leader will lead the full group through the two pages of the specific background on that apostle as well as other pertinent information to be found in the handout. This examination of the background, tendencies, strengths, weaknesses, reactions to specific events, etc. will serve as a model for the small groups to follow. Questions and comments will be recorded on a posterboard.

5. (30 minutes, based on a 2-hour study group) The group will break into 4 or 5 small groups (of 4-5 group members?) each with a small group leader and each to take an in-depth look at a specific apostle. It is definitely preferable, but not absolutely mandatory, to have each small group leader chosen in advance so the she or he can become familiar with the questions on that specific apostle's page and perhaps to other preliminary research on that apostle. The small groups will designate a note taker and reporter to bring back to the large group. Each group will put its findings on the posterboard paper that has pre-written questions.

6. (25 minutes, based on a 2-hour study group) The whole group will reconvene. All of the small groups' posterboard paper will be displayed so that everyone can see them. With one of the leaders serving as moderator, each small group reporter will lead the group through its findings. The moderator should seek patterns and conclusions that can be drawn.

7. (30 minutes, based on a 2-hour study group) The big questions will be discussed. The objectives of this discussion will include an examination and better understanding of: patterns observed concerning the relationships among personality types, life experiences, and consequent life decisions and directions; *The Urantia Book's* lessons about human psychology, the self, and the consequent impact on spiritual lives; and lessons about the experiences of workers within the 4th Epochal Revelation to us, the workers of the 5th Epochal Revelation.

Evaluation:

Evaluation forms are provided for group participants to fill out. The Education Committee would like to receive copies, and we are interested in any comments the leaders might want to give us.

THE TWELVE APOSTLES:



How They Became Who They Were,

How Their Individual Gifts
Manifested Themselves During
the Fourth Epochal Revelation,

What We Can Learn
from Their Experiences
to Apply to Our Own Lives
and Our Contributions to
the Fifth Epochal Revelation

Cultural Continuum: How a culture results by projecting a people's natural endowments through the lens of their environment

Natural Endowments of a Cultural Group → (Impact of Environment) *CULTURAL LENS* → Resulting Culture

Personal Continuum: Analogous to The Cultural Continuum, the Dynamics at work in the life of an individual

Natural Endowments of an Individual → (Impact of Experiences and Choice) *EXPERIENTIAL LENS* → Resulting Character and Soul Development as well as that Individual's Impact on His or Her World

Two Related Readings:

Paper 110:2.1 (p. 1204.5) When Thought Adjusters indwell human minds, ...
... they are always subservient to your will.

Paper 160:1.2 (p. 1772.3) Human life consists in three great drives ...
to the higher realms of unexplored ideas and undiscovered ideals.

Summary of the 7 Main Suggested Readings about the Apostles' Personalities:

- 1) Paper 139 (p. 1548) The Twelve Apostles (Our introduction to them prior to the Ordination)
- 2) Paper 143:3 (p. 1610) Diversion and Relaxation (Enjoined after early preaching weeks among gentiles)
- 3) Paper 172:5 (p. 1883) The Apostles' Attitude (Sunday evening in Jerusalem, Jesus' final week)
- 4) Paper 174:0.2 (p. 1897.2) Tuesday Morning in the Temple (Jesus' personal greetings before going)
- 5) Paper 181:2 (p. 1955) Farewell Personal Admonitions (After the Last Supper)
- 6) Paper 191:0 (p. 2037) Appearances to the Apostles and Other Leaders
(Reactions Between Morontia Appearance #7 and #8, April 9)
- 7) Paper 192:2 (p. 2047) Visiting with the Apostles Two and Two (Morontia Appearance #13, April 21)

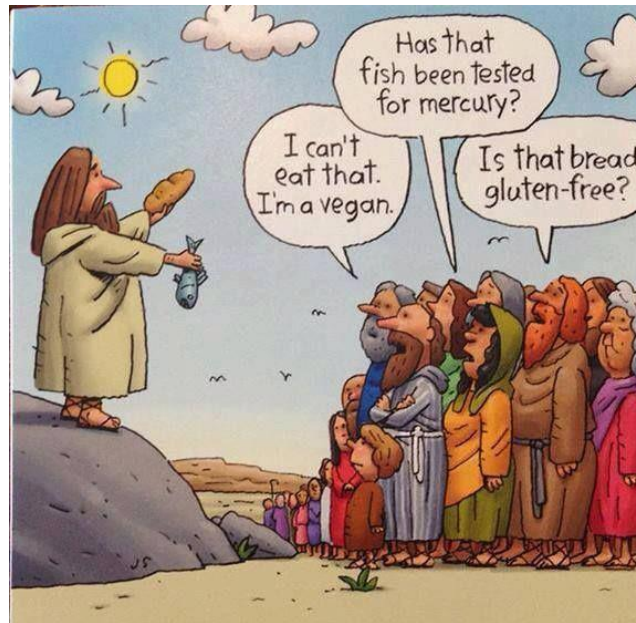
Ending Discussion Question:

Given each apostle's personality traits, spiritual successes and struggles, and responses to key moments, what can we learn for ourselves so that we can better cooperate with our Thought Adjusters and better contribute to the spiritual progress of Urantia?

THE TWELVE APOSTLES

Timeline summary for the Twelve Apostles:

AD 26	January 14 – Jesus baptized by John the Baptist February 23 and 24 – Jesus chose first 6 Apostles June 12 – John the Baptist imprisoned (After many months in prison, John was beheaded) June 23 – First 6 Apostles directed to choose another 6	P. 135:8.6 (p. 1504.4) P. 137:1-2 (p. 1524 ff) P. 135:10.3 (p. 1506.5) P. 138:1.1 (p. 1538.3)
AD 27	January 12 – Ordination of the 12 Apostles This entire year spent quietly taking over John’s work in Perea and Judea	P. 140:0.1 (p. 1568.1) P. 141:1.5 (p. 1588.3)
AD 28	January 18 – March 17 – First Preaching Tour May 3 – October 3 – Training Evangelists at Bethsaida October 3 – December 30 – Second Preaching Tour	P. 146:0.1 (p. 1637.1) P. 148:0.1 (p. 1657.1) P. 149:0.1 (p. 1668.1)
AD 29	Third Preaching Tour August 15 – The Transfiguration August 18 – September 16 – The Decapolis Tour	P. 150 (p. 1678 ff) P. 158:1.1 (p. 1752.3) P. 159:0.2 (p. 1762.2)
AD 30	February – Visit to Northern Perea April 2-6 – Final week in Jerusalem April 6-9 – Jesus’ arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection May 18 – The Master’s ascension	P. 166:0.1 (p. 1825.1) P. 171 ff (p. 1867 ff) P. 183 ff (p. 1971 ff) P. 193:5.1 (p. 2057.3)



If it happened today

CITATIONS are noted as follows:

Paper # [colon] Section # [period] paragraph # (page # [period] paragraph #)
With Upper Case "P." (with lower case "p.")

THE TWELVE APOSTLES

The Apostles in the Order They Were Called by Jesus

“Jesus was almost thirty-one and one-half years old when he was baptized.” P. 136:2.8 (p. 1512.4)
 From Monday, January 14, to Friday, February 22, A.D. 26, Jesus spent forty days in the Perea hills.
 On Saturday, February 23, and Sunday, February 24, A.D. 26, Jesus chose the first six apostles.

<u>Chosen by Jesus</u>	<u>Age when called</u>	---	<u>pages</u>
1) Andrew	33	---	4 and 5
2) Simon Peter	30	---	6 and 7
3) James Zebedee	30	---	8 and 9
4) John Zebedee	24	---	10 and 11
5) Philip	27	---	12 and 13
6) Nathaniel	25	---	14 and 15

Four months later, on Sunday, June 23, A.D. 26, Jesus announced that he desired to ordain a total of twelve apostles and authorized each of the first six to choose one man from among his early converts for membership in the projected corps of apostles. After two weeks of personal work, the first six apostles made their nominations in early July, A.D. 26. “Jesus, after each man had presented his selection for the new apostleships, asked all the others to vote upon the nomination; thus all six of the new apostles were formally accepted by all of the older six.” P. 138:2.2 (p. 1539.5)

<u>Nominated and accepted</u>	<u>Age when called</u>	<u>Recommended by</u>	<u>pages</u>
7) Matthew Levi	31	Andrew	16 and 17
8) Thomas Didymus	29	Philip	18 and 19
9) James Alpheus	26	James Zebedee	20 and 21
10) Judas Alpheus	26	John Zebedee	22 and 23
11) Simon Zelotes	28	Simon Peter	24 and 25
12) Judas Iscariot	30	Nathaniel	

Jesus was not afraid to identify himself with business men, laboring men, optimists, pessimists, philosophers, skeptics, publicans, politicians, and patriots.
 P. 139:11.8 (p. 1565.5)

<u>Appendix</u>	<u>page</u>
<u>A</u> : Prior Occupation, Apostolic Position, and What He Most Admired About Jesus	26
<u>B</u> : The 12 Apostles and Some Known Facts about Their Family Life	27
<u>C</u> : The 12 Apostles and Their Life Work after Jesus’ Ascension	28

ANDREW: The first apostle chosen

1a) Andrew's Strengths:

He was the peer of his associates in almost every way (excepting oratory); he was a good organizer but a better administrator; he was an efficient personal worker; he rendered a prompt decision on every matter brought to his notice that was within the domain of his authority; he was the best judge of men; he had a great gift for discovering the hidden resources and latent talents of young people; he was a man of clear insight, logical thought, and firm decision; he had superb stability; he was one of those all-round, even-tempered, self-made, and successful men of modest affairs. P. 139:1 (pp. 1548-1550)

1b) Andrew's Weaknesses:

He was never an effective preacher; his temperamental handicap was his lack of enthusiasm; he many times failed to encourage his associates by judicious commendation; he had a reticence to praise the worthy accomplishments of his friends. P. 139:1 (pp. 1548-1550)

2) Andrew's emotional state after weeks of teaching in gentile cities and working with John's followers: Andrew's head was full of problems. P. 143:3.5 (p. 1611.3)

3) Andrew's reaction to the Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem, as they returned to Bethany: Andrew was thoroughly bewildered, well-nigh confused. ... Andrew was busy watching some of his associates whom he feared might be led away by their emotions during the excitement, ... Andrew was troubled with serious doubts, ... he was too busy with the responsibilities of his office to be otherwise affected. P. 172:5.2 (p. 1884.1)

4) Jesus' personal greeting to Andrew on Tuesday morning before going into Jerusalem: To Andrew he said: "Be not dismayed by the events just ahead. Keep a firm hold on your brethren and see that they do not find you downcast." P. 174:0.2 (p. 1897.2)

5) Jesus' words of personal advice and parting blessing to Andrew after the Last Supper included: "... do your utmost to promote peace and harmony among the various groups of sincere gospel believers. Dedicate the remainder of your life to promoting the practical aspects of brotherly love among your brethren. Be kind to my brothers in the flesh when they come fully to believe this gospel; manifest loving and impartial devotion to the Greeks in the West and to Abner in the East. ..." P. 181:2.16-18 (p. 1958.3 – p. 1959.2)

6) Andrew's reaction to Resurrection Sunday morning: Andrew did much listening this day. He was exceedingly perplexed by the situation and had more than his share of doubts, but he at least enjoyed a certain sense of freedom from responsibility for the guidance of his fellow apostles. He was indeed grateful that the Master had released him from the burdens of leadership before they fell upon these distracting times. P. 191:0.6 (p. 2038.1)

7) Jesus' words to Andrew at the last breakfast (visiting with Andrew and James) included: "Andrew, do you trust me?" ... "Andrew, if you trust me, trust your brethren more – even Peter. I once trusted you with the leadership of your brethren. Now must you trust others as I leave you to go to the Father. ... And then go on trusting, for I will not fail you. ..." P. 192:2.7 (p. 2048.3)

Observations and Inspirations from: ANDREW



8) How would you summarize what kind of individual this apostle is?

9) How did this apostle's personality traits affect him during the entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? Paper 172:5 (p. 1883) [see item #3]

10) Given the personality traits of this apostle, why did Jesus say what he did to him in Bethany on the last Tuesday before the crucifixion? Paper 174:0.2 (p. 1897.2) [see item #4]

11) Given the personality traits of this apostle, why did Jesus say what he did to him at the last breakfast? Paper 192:2 (p. 2047) [see item #7]

12) Did his ultimate life destinies match his tendencies and seem predictable? [see Appendix C]

SIMON PETER: The second apostle chosen

1a) Simon Peter's Strengths:

He was a fluent speaker, eloquent and dramatic; he was a natural and inspirational leader of men; a quick thinker; he knew his mind fairly well, therefore he was a man of quick decision and sudden action; his great strength of character was loyalty, friendship; he was the outstanding preacher of the twelve; he became a great and saving light to thousands who sat in darkness. P. 139:2 (pp. 1550-1552)

1b) Simon Peter's Weaknesses:

He was an erratic and impulsive fellow. He had grown up permitting himself freely to indulge strong feelings; he persisted in speaking without thinking; he was not a deep reasoner; he was distressingly vacillating; he would suddenly swing from one extreme to the other; he was one of the most inexplicable combinations of courage and cowardice that ever lived on earth; he disliked to descend from the clouds of ecstasy and the enthusiasm of dramatic indulgence to the plain and matter-of-fact world of reality. P. 139:2 (pp. 1550-1552)

2) Simon Peter's emotional state after weeks of teaching in gentile cities and working with John's followers:

Peter was overwrought and had recently been more temperamental than usual. P. 143:3.5 (p. 1611.3)

3) Simon Peter's reaction to the Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem, as they returned to Bethany included:

Simon Peter was at first almost swept off his feet by this popular manifestation of enthusiasm; but he was considerably sobered by the time they returned to Bethany that night. ... He was terribly disappointed... The reaction from the spectacular procession into the city was disastrous to Simon Peter; by night he was sobered and inexpressibly saddened. P. 172:5.3 (p. 1884.2)

4) Jesus' personal greeting to Simon Peter on Tuesday morning before going into Jerusalem:

To Peter he said: "Put not your trust in the arm of flesh nor in weapons of steel. Establish yourself on the spiritual foundations of the eternal rocks." P. 174:0.2 (p. 1897.2)

5) Jesus' words of personal advice and parting blessing to Simon Peter after the Last Supper included:

"Peter, I know you love me, and that you will dedicate your life to the public proclamation of this gospel of the kingdom to Jew and gentile, but I am distressed that your years of such close association with me have not done more to help you think before you speak. ... And after you have really learned this needful lesson, you should strengthen your brethren and go on living a life dedicated to preaching this gospel, ..."P. 181:2.27-29 (p. 1962.1-3)

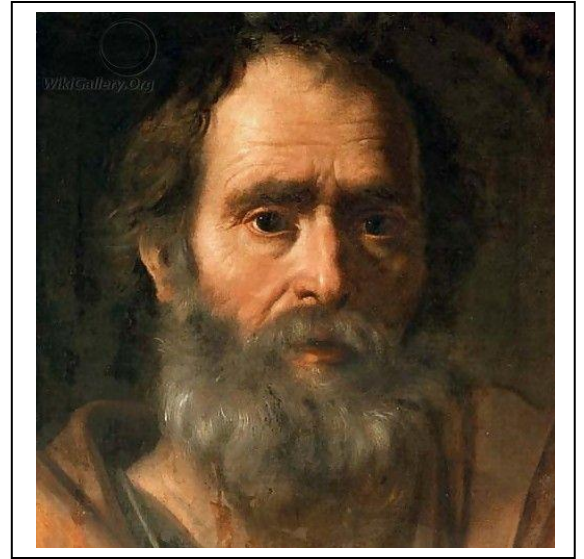
6) Simon Peter's reaction to Resurrection Sunday morning:

All this day Peter characteristically vacillated emotionally between faith and doubt concerning the Master's resurrection. ... Peter would grow sorrowful when he thought that maybe Jesus did not come to them on account of his presence among the apostles, because he had denied him that night in Annas's courtyard. And then he would cheer himself with the word brought by the women, "Go tell my apostles – and Peter." ...P. 191:0.4 (p. 2037.4)

7) Jesus' words to Simon Peter at the last breakfast (visiting with Peter and John) included:

"Peter, do you love me?" ... "If you love me, Peter, feed my lambs. Do not neglect to minister to the weak, the poor, and the young. Preach the gospel without fear or favor; remember always that God is no respecter of persons. ..." ... "Peter, do you really love me?" ... "Then take good care of my sheep. Be a good and true shepherd to the flock. ..." ... "Peter do you truly love me?" ... "Feed my sheep. ... Love the flock as I have loved you and devote yourself their welfare even as I have devoted my life to your welfare. ..." P. 192:2.2-4 (p. 2047.6-8)

Observations and Inspirations from: SIMON PETER



8) How would you summarize what kind of individual this apostle is?

9) How did this apostle's personality traits affect him during the entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? Paper 172:5 (p. 1883) [see item #3]

10) Given the personality traits of this apostle, why did Jesus say what he did to him in Bethany on the last Tuesday before the crucifixion? Paper 174:0.2 (p. 1897.2) [see item #4]

11) Given the personality traits of this apostle, why did Jesus say what he did to him at the last breakfast? Paper 192:2 (p. 2047) [see item #7]

12) Did his ultimate life destinies match his tendencies and seem predictable? [see Appendix C]

JAMES ZEBEDEE: The third apostle chosen

1a) James Zebedee's Strengths:

Next to Peter, unless it was Matthew, James was the best public orator among the twelve; he could be a very good talker and story teller; he had an ability to see all sides of a proposition; he came the nearest to grasping the real import and significance of Jesus' teaching; he was able to understand a wide range of human nature; he was a well-balanced thinker and planner; one of the more level-headed of the apostolic group; a vigorous individual; modest and undramatic; an unpretentious worker; he was brave and determined when his convictions were aroused and challenged.

P. 139:3 (pp. 1552-1553)

1b) James Zebedee's Weaknesses:

He was particularly vehement when his indignation was once fully aroused; he had a fiery temper when once it was adequately provoked; he had periodic upheavals of wrath; for days at a time he was the silent man, his one great weakness was these spells of unaccountable silence.

P. 139:3 (pp. 1552-1553)

2) James's emotional state after weeks of teaching in gentile cities and working with John's followers:

James was grievously troubled in his soul. P. 143:3.5 (p. 1611.3)

3) James Zebedee's reaction to the Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem, as they returned to Bethany:

To James Zebedee, this Sunday was a day of perplexity and profound confusion; he could not grasp the purport of what was going on; ... James was cruelly torn by his conflicting emotions of elation and gratification at what he saw and by his profound feeling of fear as to what would happen when they reached the temple. And then he was downcast and overcome by disappointment when Jesus climbed off the donkey and proceeded to walk leisurely about the temple courts. James could not understand the reason for throwing away such a magnificent opportunity to proclaim the kingdom. By night, his mind was held firmly in the grip of a distressing and dreadful uncertainty.

P. 172:5.4 (p. 1884.3)

4) Jesus' personal greeting to James Zebedee on Tuesday morning before going into Jerusalem:

To James he said: "Falter not because of outward appearances. Remain firm in your faith, and you shall soon know of the reality of that which you believe." P. 174:0.2 (p. 1897.2)

5) Jesus' words of personal advice and parting blessing to James Zebedee after the Last Supper included:

"... possess your soul in patience. When the new teacher comes, let him teach you the poise of compassion and that sympathetic tolerance which is born of sublime confidence in me and of perfect submission to the Father's will. Dedicate your life to the demonstration of that combined human affection and divine dignity of the God-knowing and Son-believing disciple. ..."

P. 181:2.15 (p. 1958.2)

6) James Zebedee's reaction to Resurrection Sunday morning:

James Zebedee at first advocated that they all go to the tomb; he was strongly in favor of doing something to get to the bottom of the mystery. It was Nathaniel who prevented them from going out in public in response to James's urging, and he did this by reminding them of Jesus' warning against unduly jeopardizing their lives at this time. By noontime James had settled down with the others to watchful waiting. He said little; he was tremendously disappointed because Jesus did not appear to them, and he did not know of the Master's many appearances to other groups and individuals.

P. 191:0.5 (p. 2037.5)

7) Jesus' words to James Zebedee at the last breakfast (visiting with Andrew and James) included:

"James, do you trust me?" ... "James, if you trust me more, you will be less impatient with your brethren. If you will trust me, it will help you to be kind to the brotherhood of believers. Learn to weigh the consequences of your sayings and your doings. Remember that the reaping is in accordance with the sowing. ..."

P. 192:2.8 (p. 2048.4)

Observations and Inspirations from: JAMES ZEBEDEE



8) How would you summarize what kind of individual this apostle is?

9) How did this apostle's personality traits affect him during the entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? Paper 172:5 (p. 1883) [see item #3]

10) Given the personality traits of this apostle, why did Jesus say what he did to him in Bethany on the last Tuesday before the crucifixion? Paper 174:0.2 (p. 1897.2) [see item #4]

11) Given the personality traits of this apostle, why did Jesus say what he did to him at the last breakfast? Paper 192:2 (p. 2047) [see item #7]

12) Did his ultimate life destinies match his tendencies and seem predictable? [see Appendix C]

JOHN ZEBEDEE: The fourth apostle chosen

1a) John Zebedee's Strengths:

The strongest trait in John's character was his dependability; he was prompt and courageous, faithful and devoted; a man of few words (except when his temper was aroused); he thought much but said little; he was gifted with a remarkable and creative imagination; he had a cool and daring courage which few of the other apostles possessed; one thing is certain, John was thoroughly dependable. P. 139:4 (pp. 1553-1556)

1b) John Zebedee's Weaknesses:

His greatest weakness was an inordinate but usually well-concealed conceit; he never overcame his disinclination to talk; he was somewhat bigoted and inordinately intolerant, but he was not the only one of the twelve who was tainted with this kind of self-esteem and superiority consciousness. P. 139:4 (pp. 1553-1556)

2) John's emotional state after weeks of teaching in gentile cities and working with John's followers: John was inordinately perplexed in his heart. P. 143:3.5 (p. 1611.3)

3) John Zebedee's reaction to the Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem, as they returned to Bethany: John Zebedee came somewhat near understanding why Jesus did this; at least he grasped in part the spiritual significance of this so-called triumphal entry into Jerusalem. ... he began to comprehend the symbolic significance of this Sunday-afternoon pageant. At least, he grasped enough of the meaning of this Scripture to enable him somewhat to enjoy the episode and to prevent his becoming overmuch depressed by the apparent purposeless ending of the triumphal procession. John had a type of mind which naturally tended to think and feel in symbols. P. 172:5.5 (p. 1884.4)

4) Jesus' personal greeting to John Zebedee on Tuesday morning before going into Jerusalem: To John he said: "Be gentle; love even your enemies; be tolerant. And remember that I have trusted you with many things." P. 174:0.2 (p. 1897.2)

5) Jesus' words of personal advice and parting blessing to John Zebedee after the Last Supper included: "... You should become the apostle of the new commandment which I have this night give you. Dedicate your life to teaching your brethren how to love one another, even as I have loved you." P. 181:2.2-5 (p. 1955.3-6)

6) John Zebedee's reaction to Resurrection Sunday morning: All day long John upheld the idea that Jesus had risen from the dead. He recounted no less than five different times when the Master had affirmed he would rise again and at least three times when he alluded to the third day. John's attitude had considerable influence on them, especially on his brother James and on Nathaniel. John would have influenced them more if he had not been the youngest member of the group. P. 191:0.2 (p. 2037.2)

7) Jesus' words to John Zebedee at the last breakfast (visiting with Peter and John) included: "John, do you love me?" ... "Then, John, give up your intolerance and learn to love men as I have loved you. Devote your life to proving that love is the greatest thing in the world. It is the love of God that impels men to seek salvation. Love is the ancestor of all spiritual goodness, the essence of the true and the beautiful." P. 192:2.1 (p. 2047.5)

Observations and Inspirations from: JOHN ZEBEDEE

8) How would you summarize what kind of individual this apostle is?



9) How did this apostle's personality traits affect him during the entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? Paper 172:5 (p. 1883) [see item #3]

10) Given the personality traits of this apostle, why did Jesus say what he did to him in Bethany on the last Tuesday before the crucifixion? Paper 174:0.2 (p. 1897.2) [see item #4]

11) Given the personality traits of this apostle, why did Jesus say what he did to him at the last breakfast? Paper 192:2 (p. 2047) [see item #7]

12) Did his ultimate life destinies match his tendencies and seem predictable? [see Appendix C]

PHILIP: The fifth apostle chosen

1a) Philip's Strengths:

He was a commonplace and matter-of-fact individual; he was a good steward; his strongest characteristic was his methodical thoroughness; he was both mathematical and systematic; he was not a man who could be expected to do big things, but he was a man who could do little things in a big way, do them well and acceptably; they seldom found him unprepared; the strongest point about Philip was his methodical reliability; he was not a good public speaker, but he was a very persuasive and successful personal worker; he was not easily discouraged; he was a plodder and very tenacious in anything he undertook. P. 139:5 (pp. 1556-1558)

1b) Philip's Weaknesses:

He was not necessarily dull, but he lacked imagination; his utter lack of imagination [symbolically] the absence of the ability to put two and two together to obtain four; mathematical in the abstract, but not constructive in his imagination; he was almost without discerning vision; he was unable to grasp the dramatic possibilities of a given situation; he was not pessimistic, he was simply prosaic; he was also greatly lacking in spiritual insight; he had an inability to adapt himself to a new situation. P. 139:5 (pp. 1556-1558)

2) Philip's emotional state after weeks of teaching in gentile cities and working with John's followers:

Philip was more and more nonplused by the way things were going. P. 143:3.5 (p. 1611.3)

3) Philip's reaction to the Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem, as they returned to Bethany:

Philip was entirely unsettled by the suddenness and spontaneity of the outburst. He could not collect his thoughts sufficiently while on the way down Olivet to arrive at any settled notion as to what all the demonstration was about. In a way, he enjoyed the performance ... By the time they reached the temple, he was perturbed by the thought that Jesus might possibly ask him to feed the multitude, ... Philip joined with Peter in the expression of disappointment that nothing was done to teach the multitude. That night Philip ... was tempted to doubt the whole idea of the kingdom; he honestly wondered what all these things could mean, but he expressed his doubts to no one; he loved Jesus too much. He had great personal faith in the Master. P. 172:5.6 (p. 1885.1)

4) Jesus' personal greeting to Philip on Tuesday morning before going into Jerusalem:

To Philip he said: "Be unmoved by the events now impending. Remain unshaken, even when you cannot see the way. Be loyal to your oath of consecration." P. 174:0.2 (p. 1897.2)

5) Jesus' words of personal advice and parting blessing to Philip after the Last Supper included:

"... Philip. you have always wanted to be shown, and very soon you shall see great things. Far better that you should have seen all this by faith, but since you were sincere even in your material sightedness, you will live to see my words fulfilled. And then, when you are blessed with spiritual vision, go forth to your work, dedicating your life to the cause of leading mankind to search for God and to seek the eternal realities with the eye of spiritual faith ..." P. 181:2.20 (p. 1960.1)

6) Philip's reaction to Resurrection Sunday morning:

Strange to record, the usually inexpressive Philip did much talking throughout the afternoon of this day. During the forenoon he had little to say, but all afternoon he asked questions of the other apostles. Peter was often annoyed by Philip's questions, but the others took his inquiries good-naturedly. Philip was particularly desirous of knowing, provided Jesus had really risen from the grave, whether his body would bear the physical marks of the crucifixion. P. 191:0.9 (p. 2038.4)

7) Jesus' words to Philip at the last breakfast (visiting with Matthew and Philip) included:

"Philip, do you obey me?" ... "If you would obey me, go then into the lands of the gentiles and proclaim this gospel. ... Cease to fear men: be unafraid to preach the good news of eternal life to your fellows who languish in darkness and hunger for the light of truth. ..." P. 192:2.11 (p. 2049.2)

Observations and Inspirations from: PHILIP

8) How would you summarize what kind of individual this apostle is?



9) How did this apostle's personality traits affect him during the entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? Paper 172:5 (p. 1883) [see item #3]

10) Given the personality traits of this apostle, why did Jesus say what he did to him in Bethany on the last Tuesday before the crucifixion? Paper 174:0.2 (p. 1897.2) [see item #4]

11) Given the personality traits of this apostle, why did Jesus say what he did to him at the last breakfast? Paper 192:2 (p. 2047) [see item #7]

12) Did his ultimate life destinies match his tendencies and seem predictable? [see Appendix C]

NATHANIEL: The sixth apostle chosen

1a) Nathaniel's Strengths:

Nathaniel and Judas Iscariot were the two best educated men among the twelve; he was “without guile;” this was his greatest virtue, he was both honest and sincere; he was the odd genius of the twelve; he was the apostolic philosopher and dreamer, but he was a very practical sort of dreamer; he alternated between seasons of profound philosophy and periods of rare and droll humor; he was probably the best storyteller among the twelve; he progressively took Jesus and the kingdom more seriously, but never did he take himself seriously. P. 139:6 (pp. 1558-1559)

1b) Nathaniel's Weaknesses:

The weakness of his character was his pride; he was inclined to go to extremes with his personal prejudices; he was disposed to prejudge individuals in accordance with his personal opinions. P. 139:6 (pp. 1558-1559)

2) Nathaniel's emotional state after weeks of teaching in gentile cities and working with John's followers: Nathaniel had been less humorous since they had come in contact with the gentile populations, P. 143:3.5 (p. 1611.3)

3) Nathaniel's reaction to the Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem, as they returned to Bethany: Nathaniel, aside from the symbolic and prophetic aspects, came the nearest to understanding the Master's reason for enlisting the popular support of the Passover pilgrims. ... He was not, therefore, in the least surprised that the Master made no further use of the cheering crowds when he had once got inside the walls of the city and had thus so forcibly impressed the Jewish leaders that they would refrain from placing him under immediate arrest. ... Nathaniel naturally followed along with more poise and was less perturbed and disappointed by Jesus' subsequent conduct than were the other apostles. Nathaniel had great confidence in Jesus' understanding of men as well as his sagacity and cleverness in handling difficult situations. P. 172:5.7 (p. 1885.2)

4) Jesus' personal greeting to Nathaniel on Tuesday morning before going into Jerusalem: To Nathaniel he said: “Judge not by appearances; remain firm in your faith when all appears to vanish; be true to your commission as an ambassador of the kingdom.” P. 174:0.2 (p. 1897.2)

5) Jesus' words of personal advice and parting blessing to Nathaniel after the Last Supper included: “... You should learn that the expression of even a good thought must be moderated in accordance with the intellectual status and spiritual development of the hearer. ... if you find yourself going off in quest of those who think as you do, in that event dedicate your life to proving that the God-knowing disciple can become a kingdom builder even when alone in the world and wholly isolated from his fellow believers. ...” P. 181:2.21-24 (p. 1960.2 – p. 1961.3)

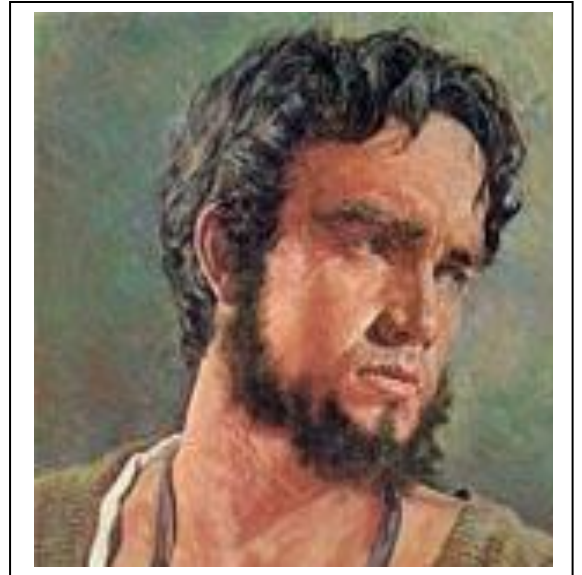
6) Nathaniel's reaction to Resurrection Sunday morning:

More than once during the long and weary hours of this tragic day, the only sustaining influence of the group was the frequent contribution of Nathaniel's characteristic philosophic counsel. He was really the controlling influence among the ten throughout the entire day. Never once did he express himself concerning either belief or disbelief in the Master's resurrection. But as the day wore on, he became increasingly inclined toward believing that Jesus had fulfilled his promise to rise again. P. 191:0.7 (p. 2038.2)

7) Jesus' words to Nathaniel at the last breakfast (visiting with Thomas and Nathaniel) included:

“Nathaniel, do you serve me?” ... “If, therefore, you serve me with a whole heart, make sure that you are devoted to the welfare of my brethren on earth with tireless affection. Admix friendship with your counsel and add love to your philosophy. ... Be faithful to men as I have watched over you. Be less critical; expect less of some men and thereby lessen the extent of your disappointment. ...” P. 192:2.10 (p. 2049.1)

Observations and Inspirations from: NATHANIEL



8) How would you summarize what kind of individual this apostle is?

9) How did this apostle's personality traits affect him during the entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? Paper 172:5 (p. 1883)[see item #3]

10) Given the personality traits of this apostle, why did Jesus say what he did to him in Bethany on the last Tuesday before the crucifixion? Paper 174:0.2 (p. 1897.2) [see item #4]

11) Given the personality traits of this apostle, why did Jesus say what he did to him at the last breakfast? Paper 192:2 (p. 2047) [see item #7]

12) Did his ultimate life destinies match his tendencies and seem predictable? [see Appendix C]

MATTHEW LEVI: The seventh apostle chosen

1a) Matthew Levi's Strengths:

He was a good business man, a good social mixer, and was gifted with the ability to make friends and get along smoothly with a great variety of people; he was a keen judge of human nature and a very efficient propagandist; he was a very earnest disciple; his strong point was his wholehearted devotion to the cause; he really was a shrewd politician, but he was intensely loyal to Jesus and supremely devoted to the task of seeing that the messengers of the coming kingdom were adequately financed. P. 139:7 (pp. 1559-1560)

1b) Matthew Levi's Weaknesses:

His weakness was his short-sighted and materialistic viewpoint of life. But in all these matters he made great progress as the months went by. P. 139:7 (pp. 1559-1560)

2) Matthew's emotional state after weeks of teaching in gentile cities and working with John's followers: Matthew was hard pressed for funds inasmuch as they had been sojourning among the gentiles. P. 143:3.5 (p. 1611.3)

3) Matthew Levi's reaction to the Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem, as they returned to Bethany: Matthew was at first nonplused by this pageant performance. He did not grasp the meaning ... until he recalled the Scripture in Zechariah where the prophet had alluded to the rejoicing of Jerusalem ... Matthew became ecstatic; he was certain that something extraordinary would happen when the Master arrived at the temple at the head of this shouting multitude. ... None of the twelve was more depressed on the way back to Bethany that evening. Next to Simon Peter and Simon Zelotes, he experienced the highest nervous tension and was in a state of exhaustion by night. But by morning Matthew was much cheered; he was, after all, a cheerful loser. P. 172:5.8 (p. 1885.3)

4) Jesus' personal greeting to Matthew Levi on Tuesday morning before going into Jerusalem: To Matthew he said: "Forget not the mercy that received you into the kingdom. Let no man cheat you of your eternal reward. As you have withstood the inclinations of the mortal nature, be willing to be steadfast." P. 174:0.2 (p. 1897.2)

5) Jesus' words of personal advice and parting blessing to Matthew Levi after the Last Supper included: "... And so, Matthew, dedicate your whole future life service to showing all men that God is no respecter of persons; that, in the sight of God and in the fellowship of the kingdom, all men are equal, all believers are the sons of God." P. 181:2.12-14 (p. 1957.2 – p. 1958.1)

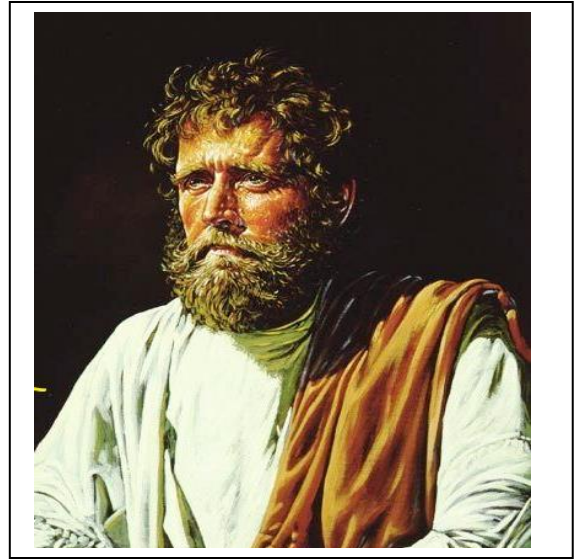
6) Matthew Levi's reaction to Resurrection Sunday morning:

Matthew was highly confused; he listened to the discussions of his fellows but spent most of the time turning over in his mind the problem of their future finances. Regardless of Jesus' supposed resurrection, Judas was gone, David had unceremoniously turned the funds over to him, and they were without an authoritative leader. Before Matthew got around to giving serious consideration to their arguments about the resurrection, he had already seen the Master face to face. P. 191:0.10 (p. 2038.5)

7) Jesus' words to Matthew Levi at the last breakfast (visiting with Matthew and Philip) included:

"Matthew, do you have it in your heart to obey me?" ... "Matthew, if you would obey me, go forth to teach all peoples this gospel of the kingdom. No longer will you serve your brethren the material things of life; henceforth you are also to proclaim the good news of spiritual salvation. From now on have an eye single only to obeying your commission to preach this gospel of the Father's kingdom. ..." P. 192:2.12 (p. 2049.3)

Observations and Inspirations from: MATTHEW LEVI



8) How would you summarize what kind of individual this apostle is?

9) How did this apostle's personality traits affect him during the entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? Paper 172:5 (p. 1883) [see item #3]

10) Given the personality traits of this apostle, why did Jesus say what he did to him in Bethany on the last Tuesday before the crucifixion? Paper 174:0.2 (p. 1897.2) [see item #4]

11) Given the personality traits of this apostle, why did Jesus say what he did to him at the last breakfast? Paper 192:2 (p. 2047) [see item #7]

12) Did his ultimate life destinies match his tendencies and seem predictable? [see Appendix C]

THOMAS DIDYMUS: The eighth apostle chosen

1a) Thomas's Strengths:

His was a logical, skeptical type of mind, but he had a form of courageous loyalty which forbade those who knew him intimately to regard him as a trifling skeptic; he had little education, but he possessed a keen, reasoning mind; he had the one truly analytical mind of the twelve; he was the real scientist of the apostolic group; he was superbly honest and unflinchingly loyal; he was perfectly sincere and unquestionably truthful; his great strength was his superbly analytical mind coupled with his unflinching courage; he was a good executive, an excellent businessman; he probably enjoyed the highest intellectual understanding and personality appreciation of Jesus of any of the twelve; he was a good loser; he did not hold grudges nor nurse wounded feelings; he was one of the bravest among the twelve; he is the great example of a human being who has doubts, faces them, and wins; he had a great mind; he was a logical thinker. P. 139:8 (pp. 1561-1563)

1b) Thomas's Weaknesses:

He grew up having a very disagreeable and quarrelsome disposition; he had a streak of suspicion which made it very difficult to get along peaceably with him; he was a natural-born faultfinder and had grown up to become a real pessimist; his analytical mind had become cursed with suspicion; his great weakness was his suspicious doubting; he was handicapped by his many moods; he was one man one day and another man the next; he was inclined toward melancholic brooding when he joined the apostles, but contact with Jesus and the apostles largely cured him of this morbid introspection; he had some very bad days, he was blue and downcast at times; he was afflicted with depression and harassed by doubts. P. 139:8 (pp. 1561-1563)

2) Thomas's emotional state after weeks of teaching in gentile cities and working with John's followers:

Thomas was in the midst of a severe season of depression. P. 143:3.5 (p. 1611.3)

3) Thomas's reaction to the Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem, as they returned to Bethany:

Thomas was the most bewildered and puzzled man of all the twelve. Most of the time he just followed along, gazing at the spectacle ... Down deep in his heart he regarded the whole performance as a little childish, if not downright foolish. ... He ... was at a loss to account for [Jesus'] strange conduct ... By bedtime the Master's cleverness in staging this tumultuous entry into Jerusalem had begun to make a somewhat humorous appeal, and he was much cheered by this reaction. P. 172:5.9 (p. 1886.1)

4) Jesus' personal greeting to Thomas on Tuesday morning before going into Jerusalem:

To Thomas he said: "No matter how difficult it may be, just now you must walk by faith and not by sight. Doubt not that I am able to finish the work I have begun, and that I shall eventually see all of my faithful ambassadors in the kingdom beyond." P. 174:0.2 (p. 1897.2)

5) Jesus' words of personal advice and parting blessing to Thomas after the Last Supper included:

"... Dedicate your life to the great work of showing how the critical material mind of man can triumph over the inertia of intellectual doubting when faced by the demonstration of the manifestation of living truth as it operates in the experience of spirit-born men and women who yield the fruits of the spirit in their lives, and who love one another, even as I have loved you. ..." P. 181:2.26 (p. 1961.5)

6) Thomas's reaction to Resurrection Sunday morning:

... Thomas was brooding over his troubles alone at Bethpage. He would have fared better had he remained with his fellow apostles, and he would have aided them to direct their discussions along more helpful lines. ... Thomas was in the midst of one of his typical spells of despairing depression. He slept a portion of the day and walked over the hills the rest of the time. He felt the urge to rejoin his fellow apostles, but the desire to be by himself was the stronger. P. 191:0.1,12 (p. 2037.1 and p. 2038.7)

7) Jesus' words to Thomas at the last breakfast (visiting with Thomas and Nathaniel) included:

"Thomas, do you serve me?" ... "If you would serve me, serve my brethren in the flesh even as I have served you. And be not weary in this well-doing but persevere as one who has been ordained by God for this service of love. ... Thomas, you must cease doubting; you must grow in faith and the knowledge of truth. Believe in God like a child but cease to act so childishly. ..."P. 192:2.9 (p. 2048.5)

Observations and Inspirations from: THOMAS DIDYMUS



8) How would you summarize what kind of individual this apostle is?

9) How did this apostle's personality traits affect him during the entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? Paper 172:5 (p. 1883) [see item #3]

10) Given the personality traits of this apostle, why did Jesus say what he did to him in Bethany on the last Tuesday before the crucifixion? Paper 174:0.2 (p. 1897.2) [see item #4]

11) Given the personality traits of this apostle, why did Jesus say what he did to him at the last breakfast? Paper 192:2 (p. 2047) [see item #7]

12) Did his ultimate life destinies match his tendencies and seem predictable? [see Appendix C]

JAMES (Thaddeus) ALPHEUS: The ninth apostle chosen and JUDAS (Lebbeus)ALPHEUS: The tenth apostle chosen

1a) The Alpheus twins' Strengths:

They loved their Master and Jesus loved them; they rejoiced to find themselves numbered among such a group of mighty men; always were they ready to lend a helping hand to any one of the apostles; they had neither strong points nor weak points; their minds were not of a high order, but they had a real experience in their spiritual natures; they believed in Jesus; they were good natured, simple-minded helpers, and everybody loved them; they were faithful; they were big hearted, kind, and generous; P. 139:9 and 10 (pp. 1563-1564)

1b) The Alpheus twins' Weaknesses:

They understood very little about the philosophical discussions or the theological debates of their fellow apostles; their minds were not of a high order; they might even reverently be called stupid; they were simple and ignorant. P. 139:9 and 10 (pp. 1563-1564)

2) The twins' emotional state after weeks of teaching in gentile cities and working with John's followers: Only the twins were normal and unperturbed. P. 143:3.5 (p. 1611.3)

3) The Alpheus twins' reaction to the Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem, as they returned to Bethany: To the Alpheus twins this was the perfect day. They really enjoyed it all the way through, and not being present during the time of quiet visitation about the temple, they escaped much of the anticlimax of the popular upheaval. They could not possibly understand the downcast behavior of the apostles when they came back to Bethany that evening. ... And the memory of the elation of this Sunday afternoon carried them on through all of the tragedy of this eventful week, ... They fully approved of all they saw and long cherished the memory. P. 172:5.11 (p. 1886.3)

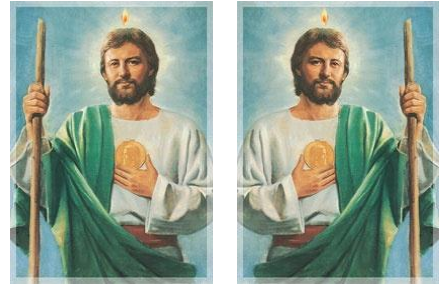
4) Jesus' personal greeting to James and Judas Alpheus on Tuesday morning before going into Jerusalem: To the Alpheus twins he said: "Do not allow the things which you cannot understand to crush you. Be true to the affections of your hearts and put not your trust in either great men or the changing attitude of the people. Stand by your brethren." P. 174:0.2 (p. 1897.2)

5) Jesus' words of personal advice and parting blessing to the Alpheus twins after the Last Supper included: "... You may not understand all that will befall you and your brethren, but never doubt that you were once called to the work of the kingdom. ... Dedicate your lives to the enhancement of commonplace toil. ... To you who have worked with me, all things have become sacred, and all earthly labor has become a service even to God the Father. ..." P. 181:2.19 (p. 1959.3)

6) The Alpheus twins' reaction to Resurrection Sunday morning: The Alpheus twins took little part in these serious discussions; they were fairly busy with their customary ministrations. One of them expressed the attitude of both when he said, in reply to a question asked by Philip: "We do not understand about the resurrection, but our mother says she talked with the Master, and we believe her." P. 191:0.11 (p. 2038.6)

7) Jesus' words to James and Judas Alpheus at the last breakfast included: "James and Judas, do you believe in me?" ... "You believe in me – you are my apostles, and you always will be. Go on believing and remembering your association with me, when I am gone, and after you have, perchance, returned to the work you used to do before you came to live with me. ... Never forget that, when you are a faith son of God, all upright work of the realm is sacred. Nothing which a son of God does can be common. ..." P. 192:2.13 (p. 2049.4)

Observations and Inspirations from: THE ALPHEUS TWINS



8) How would you summarize what kind of individuals these apostles were?

9) How did these apostles' personality traits affect them during the entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? Paper 172:5 (p. 1883) [see item #3]

10) Given the personality traits of did these apostles, why did Jesus say what he did to them in Bethany on the last Tuesday before the crucifixion? Paper 174:0.2 (p. 1897.2) [see item #4]

11) Given the personality traits of this apostle, why did Jesus say what he did to them at the last breakfast? Paper 192:2 (p. 2047) [see item #7]

12) Did their ultimate life destinies match their tendencies and seem predictable? [see Appendix C]

SIMON ZELOTES: The eleventh apostle chosen

1a) Simon Zelotes's Strengths:

He was an able man of good ancestry; he was a very efficient organizer of the play life and recreational activities of the twelve; his strength was his inspirational loyalty; he was an enthusiastic advocate of salvation through faith in God; he gradually subdued his fiery nature until he became a powerful and effective preacher of "Peace on earth and good will among men;" he was a great debater; he was a man of intense loyalties and warm personal devotions, and he did profoundly love Jesus. P. 139:11 (pp. 1564-1565)

1b) Simon Zelotes's Weaknesses:

He was a fiery agitator and was also a man who spoke much without thinking; his great weakness was his material mindedness; he could not quickly change himself from a Jewish nationalist to a spiritually minded internationalist; he was a rabid revolutionist, a fearless firebrand of agitation. P. 139:11 (pp. 1564-1565)

2) Simon's emotional state after weeks of teaching in gentile cities and working with John's followers:

Simon was unusually upset in his efforts to reconcile his patriotism with the love of the brotherhood of man. P. 143:3.5 (p. 1611.3)

3) Simon Zelotes's reaction to the Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem, as they returned to Bethany:

This Sunday started off as a great day for Simon Zelotes. He saw visions of wonderful doings in Jerusalem the next few days, and in that he was right, ... Simon saw the nationalists springing into action as soon as the kingdom was announced, and himself in supreme command of the assembling military forces of the new kingdom. ... He was the noisiest man in the whole multitude. By five o'clock that afternoon he was a silent, crushed, and disillusioned apostle. He never fully recovered from the depression which settled down on him as a result of this day's shock; at least not until long after the Master's resurrection. P. 172:5.10 (p. 1886.2)

4) Jesus' personal greeting to Simon Zelotes on Tuesday morning before going into Jerusalem:

And to Simon Zelotes he said: "Simon, you may be crushed by disappointment, but your spirit shall rise above all that may come upon you. What you have failed to learn from me, my spirit will teach you. Seek the true realities of the spirit and cease to be attracted by unreal and material shadows." P. 174:0.2 (p. 1897.2)

5) Jesus' words of personal advice and parting blessing to Simon Zelotes after the Last Supper included:

"... Dedicate your life, Simon, to showing how acceptably mortal man may fulfill my injunction concerning the simultaneous recognition of temporal duty to civil powers and spiritual service to the brotherhood of the kingdom. ..." P. 181:2.7-11 (p. 1956.2 – p. 1957.1)

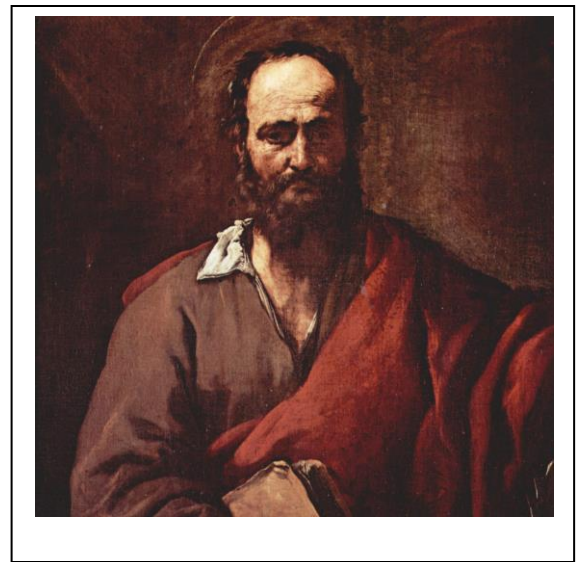
6) Simon Zelotes's reaction to Resurrection Sunday morning:

Simon Zelotes was too much crushed to participate in the discussions. Most of the time he reclined on a couch in a corner of the room with his face to the wall; he did not speak half a dozen times throughout the whole day. His concept of the kingdom had crashed, and he could not discern that the Master's resurrection could materially change the situation. His disappointment was very personal and altogether too keen to be recovered from on short notice, even in the face of such a stupendous fact as the resurrection. P. 191:0.8 (p. 2038.3)

7) Simon Zelotes was not present at the last breakfast when Jesus visited with the apostles two and two.

... All eleven of the apostles had come down from Jerusalem together, but Simon Zelotes grew more and more despondent as they drew near Galilee, so that, when they reached Bethsaida, he forsook his brethren and returned to his home. P. 192:1.10 (p. 2047.3)

Observations and Inspirations from: SIMON ZELOTES



8) How would you summarize what kind of individual this apostle is?

9) How did this apostle's personality traits affect him during the entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? Paper 172:5 (p. 1883) [see item #3]

10) Given the personality traits of this apostle, why did Jesus say what he did to him in Bethany on the last Tuesday before the crucifixion? Paper 174:0.2 (p. 1897.2) [see item #4]

11) Given the personality traits of this apostle, why did Jesus say what he did to him at the last breakfast? Paper 192:2 (p. 2047) [see item #7]

12) Did his ultimate life destinies match his tendencies and seem predictable? [see Appendix C]

JUDAS ISCARIOT: The twelfth apostle chosen

1a) Judas Iscariot's Strengths:

He was probably the best educated man among the twelve; he had no outstanding trait of personal strength, though he had many outwardly appearing traits of culture and habits of training; he was a good thinker but not always a truly *honest* thinker; he discharged the responsibilities of his office honestly, faithfully, and most efficiently; he was a good businessman; it required tact, ability and patience, as well as painstaking devotion, to manage the financial affairs of such an idealist as Jesus; he was a great executive, a farseeing and able financier; he was a stickler for organization; he grew intellectually regarding Jesus' teaching but he did not make progress in the acquirement of spiritual character. P. 139:12 (pp. 1565-1567)

1b) Judas Iscariot's Weaknesses:

He was a good thinker but not always a truly *honest* thinker; he was not really sincere in dealing with himself; he was never able to rise above his Judean prejudices against his Galilean associates; when very young, he was pampered and petted; he was a spoiled child; he had exaggerated ideas about his self-importance; he was a poor loser; he had loose and distorted ideas about fairness; he was given to the indulgence of hate and suspicion; he cultivated the habit of getting even; his sense of values and loyalties was defective; he yielded to the sour and sordid dictates of a proud and vengeful mind. P. 139:12 (pp. 1565-1567)

2) Judas's emotional state after weeks of teaching in gentile cities and working with John's followers:

Judas was suffering from a periodic attack of sensitiveness and selfishness. P. 143:3.5 (p. 1611.3)

3) Judas Iscariot's reaction to the Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem, as they returned to Bethany:

Of all the apostles, Judas Iscariot was the most adversely affected by this processional entry into Jerusalem. His mind was in a disagreeable ferment because of the Master's rebuke the preceding day in connection with Mary's anointing ... Judas was disgusted with the whole spectacle. ... He heartily resented the whole performance. ... By the time the triumphal procession had entered the city, Judas had about made up his mind to abandon the whole idea of such a kingdom; ... And then he thought of the resurrection of Lazarus, and many other things, and decided to stay on with the twelve at least for another day. ... On the way back to Bethany that night his conduct did not seem strange since all of the apostles were equally downcast and silent. P. 172:5.12 (p. 1886.4)

4) Jesus' personal greeting to Judas Iscariot on Tuesday morning before going into Jerusalem:

And to Judas Iscariot he said: "Judas, I have loved you and have prayed that you would love your brethren. Be not weary in well doing; and I would warn you to beware the slippery paths of flattery and the poison darts of ridicule." P. 174:0.2 (p. 1897.2)

5) Jesus' actions regarding Judas Iscariot after the Last Supper included:

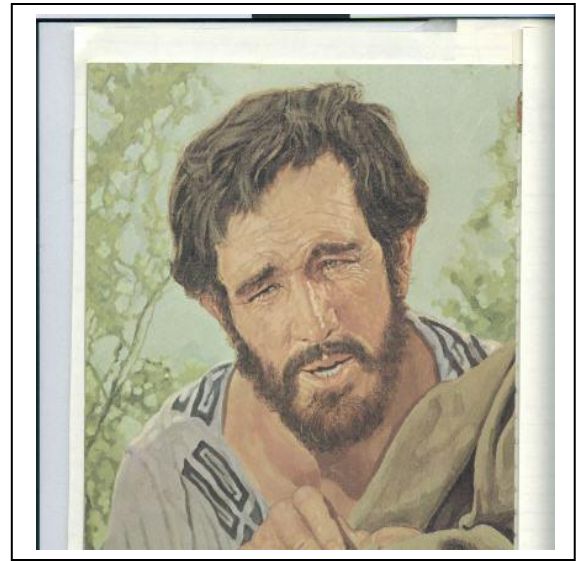
And then the Master, passing around his own seat, paused a moment by side of the place of Judas Iscariot. The apostles were rather surprised that Judas had not returned before this, and they were very curious to know the significance of Jesus' sad countenance as he stood by the betrayer's vacant seat. But none of them, except possibly Andrew, entertained even the slightest thought that their treasurer had gone out to betray his Master, as Jesus had intimated to them earlier in the evening and during the supper. So much had been going on that, for the time being, they had quite forgotten about the Master's announcement that one of them would betray him. P. 181:2.6 (p. 1956.1)

6) and 7) Judas Iscariot committed suicide the same day as Jesus' crucifixion, prior to the Resurrection and prior to the morontia visits that Jesus held with the other apostles. P. 186:1 (p. 1997)

See Paper 193, Section 4 (p. 2055) for additional information about "Causes of Judas's Downfall."

Observations and Inspirations from: JUDAS ISCARIOT

8) How would you summarize what kind of individual this apostle is?



9) How did this apostle's personality traits affect him during the entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? Paper 172:5 (p. 1883) [see item #3]

10) Given the personality traits of this apostle, why did Jesus say what he did to him in Bethany on the last Tuesday before the crucifixion? Paper 174:0.2 (p. 1897.2) [see item #4]

11) Given the personality traits of this apostle, why did Jesus say what he did to him at the last breakfast? Paper 192:2 (p. 2047) [see item #7]

12) Did his ultimate life destinies match his tendencies and seem predictable? [see Appendix C]

APPENDIX A

SUMMARY of some of the facts from THE TWELVE APOSTLES as presented in *The Urantia Book* Paper 139 (p. 1548)

<u>The 12 Apostles</u>	<u>Prior Occupation</u>	<u>Apostolic Position</u> P. 138:10 (p. 1547) See also P. 141:3.2 (p. 1589.3)	<u>What He Most Admired About Jesus</u>
1) Andrew	Fisherman	Chairman and director general of the twelve	his consistent sincerity, his unaffected dignity
2) Simon Peter	Fisherman	Personal companion of Jesus	his supernal tenderness, Jesus' forbearance, his forgiving character
3) James Zebedee	Fisherman	Personal companion of Jesus	his sympathetic affection, understanding interest in the small and the great
4) John Zebedee	Fisherman (these first 4 men worked together)	Personal companion of Jesus and personal agent of Jesus in dealing with the Master's family	his love and unselfishness
5) Philip	From a family of fishermen	Steward of the group, provide food	his unfailing generosity; this ever-present and unfailing liberality
6) Nathaniel	Wanted to become a merchant	Watched over the needs of the families of the twelve	his tolerance, the broadmindedness and generous sympathy
7) Matthew Levi	Customs collector in Capernaum	Fiscal agent and publicity spokesman	his forgiving disposition
8) Thomas Didymus	Carpenter/stone mason, then fisherman	Manager of the itinerary, arrange lodgings, select places for teaching	his superbly balanced character, his matchless symmetry of personality
9) James Alpheus and 10) Judas Alpheus	Fisherman	The management of the multitudes as chief ushers, to maintain order	his simplicity his unostentatious humility linked with personal dignity
11) Simon Zelotes	Merchant before joining the patriotic organization of the Zealots	Given charge of recreation and play, relaxation and diversion	his calmness, his assurance, poise and inexplicable composure
12) Judas Iscariot	Worked father's business enterprises, until became follower of John the Baptist	Appointed Treasurer, paid all expenses, kept the books	the generally attractive and exquisitely charming personality of the Master

SUMMARY of some of the facts from THE TWELVE APOSTLES
as presented in *The Urantia Book* Paper 139 (p. 1548)

The 12 ApostlesSome Known Facts about Their Family Life

- 1) Andrew Born in Capernaum; the oldest child in a family of five – himself, his brother Simon, and three sisters; his father had been a partner of Zebedee; unmarried; lived with his married brother, Simon Peter.
P. 139:1.1 (p. 1548.5)
- 2) Simon Peter Married; had three children; lived at Bethsaida; his brother, Andrew, and his wife’s mother lived with him; his wife was a member of the women’s corps, accompanied him on all his missionary excursions, and she was killed in Rome.
P. 139:2.1,14 (p. 1550.4) (p. 1552.3)
- 3) James Zebedee Was the older of the two apostle sons of Zebedee; married; had four children; lived near his parents in the outskirts of Capernaum.
P. 139:3.8 (p. 1553.4)
- 4) John Zebedee Was unmarried and lived with his parents at Bethsaida; the youngest member of the Zebedee family; he functioned as the personal agent of Jesus in dealing with the Master’s family, and continued to bear this responsibility as long as Mary the mother of Jesus lived; after James’ martyrdom, John married his brother’s widow.
P. 139:4.1,12 (p. 1553.6) (p. 1555.5)
- 5) Philip Lived at Bethsaida; when joined the apostles he had recently been married, but he had no children at this time; he came from a family of seven, three boys and four girls; he was next to the oldest; he baptized his entire family into the kingdom; his wife was a member of the women’s corps, became actively associated with the evangelistic work after fleeing Jerusalem; their eldest daughter, Leah, continued their work.
P. 139:5.1,2,4,11 (p. 1556.1,2,4) (p. 1557.5)
- 6) Nathaniel Was youngest of a family of seven; was unmarried, and the only support of aged and infirm parents, with whom he lived at Cana; his brothers and sister were either married or deceased, and none lived there; his father was called Bartholomew.
P. 139:6.2,9 (p. 1558.3) (p. 1559.4)
- 7) Matthew Levi Belonged to a family of tax gatherers, or publicans, but was himself a customs collector in Capernaum, where he lived; he was married and had four children.
P. 139:7.1 (p. 1559.5)
- 8) Thomas Didymus Was married and had four children; resided at Tarichea on the west bank of the Jordan, and was regarded as the leading citizen of this little village; the son of excellent parents, who lived at Tiberias; his wife was glad to see him join the apostles; she was relieved by the thought that her pessimistic husband would be away from home most of the time.
P. 139:8.2,3 (p. 1561.2,3)
- 9) James Alpheus The twin fishermen lived near Kheresa; both married; James having three children, and
10) Judas Alpheus Judas two; were almost identical in personal appearance, mental characteristics, and extent of spiritual perception; were also called Thaddeus and Lebbeus.
P. 139:9.1,2,5 (p. 1563.2,3,6)
- 11) Simon Zelotes Was an able man of good ancestry and lived with his family at Capernaum.
P. 139:11.10 (p. 1565.8)
- 12) Judas Iscariot Was born in Kerieth, a small town in southern Judea; when a lad, his parents moved to Jericho; when he joined John the Baptist’s disciples, they disowned him; he was unmarried; was probably the best-educated man among the twelve; the only son of unwise parents, pampered and petted; he was a spoiled child.
P. 139:12.1,2,6 (p. 1565.9) (p. 1566.1,5)

APPENDIX C

SUMMARY of some of the facts from THE TWELVE APOSTLES as presented in *The Urantia Book* Paper 139 (p. 1548)

The 12 Apostles

Their Life Work after Jesus' Ascension

- 1) Andrew Journeyed through Armenia, Asia Minor and Macedonia, and after bringing many thousands into the kingdom, was finally apprehended and crucified in Patrae in Achaia.
 P. 139:1.12 (p. 1550.3)
- 2) Simon Peter Traveled extensively, visiting all the churches from Babylon to Corinth. ... Simon Peter was crucified in Rome.
 P. 139:2.11, 15 (p. 1551.7) (p. 1552.4)
- 3) James Zebedee The first of the apostles to experience martyrdom, being early put to death with the sword by Herod Agrippa.
 P. 139:3.8 (p. 1553.4)
- 4) John Zebedee When in temporary exile on Patmos, John wrote the Book of Revelation, which you now have in greatly abridged and distorted form. ... after becoming bishop of the Asia churches, settled down at Ephesus. ... He died a natural death at Ephesus in A.D. 103 when he was one hundred and one years of age.
 P. 139:4.14,15 (p. 1555.7,8)
- 5) Philip He went into Samaria preaching and baptizing believers, as he had been instructed by his Master. ... he was finally crucified for his faith and buried at Hierapolis.
 P. 139:5.9,12 (p. 1557.3) (p. 1558.1)
- 6) Nathaniel Went into Mesopotamia and India proclaiming the glad tidings of the kingdom and baptizing believers. His brethren never knew what became of their onetime philosopher, poet, and humorist. ... Nathaniel died in India.
 P. 139:6.9 (p. 1559.4)
- 7) Matthew Levi Journeyed north preaching the gospel of the kingdom and baptizing believers. ... on he went ... through Syria, Cappadocia, Galatia, Bithynia, and Thrace. And it was in Thrace, at Lysimachia, that certain unbelieving Jews conspired with the Roman soldiers to encompass his death.
 P. 139:7.10 (p. 1560.6)
- 8) Thomas Didymus Went to Cyprus, Crete, the North African coast, and Sicily; ... until he was apprehended by agents of the Roman government and was put to death in Malta.
 P. 139:8.13 (p. 1563.1)
- 9) James Alpheus The twins served faithfully until the end, until the dark days of trial, crucifixion, and despair. ... Soon after their Master was crucified, they returned to their families and nets; their work was done.
10) Judas Alpheus P. 139:9.11 (p. 1564.5)
- 11) Simon Zelotes Went to Alexandria and, after working up the Nile, penetrated into the heart of Africa, ... And he died and was buried in the heart of Africa.
 P. 139:11.10 (p. 1565.8)
- 12) Judas Iscariot On April 7, AD 30, committed suicide the same day as Jesus' crucifixion.
 P. 186:1 (p. 1997)