

Apostleship

1. Definition: APOSTOLOS is from the APOSTELLO which means to be sent with full authority to accomplish some military (naval) task
 - A. It carries the meaning of being sent to perform a job.
 - B. It has full authority of Christ behind the gifts function.
 - C. Therefore apostle was the highest spiritual gift in the church age but it was temporary. Passed off the scene with the completion of the Canon of Scripture in 96 AD. John delegated his authority to 7 pastors.
 - D. Paul received his apostleship at salvation, however the other 11 apostles did not receive their gifts at salvation but rather when the church age began at the day of Pentecost they began to function.
 - E. Peter was an apostle to Israel, and then at Pentecost he became an apostle to the church.
 - F. The Holy Spirit determines who is to get this gift in the first century.
I Corinthians 12:11, 12:28
2. The apostles were not appointed into their office until after the body resurrection of Christ. Ephesians 4:8, 11. The 11 apostles of Israel then became the 11 apostles to the church age.
3. Extent of the gift. The spiritual gift exercised authority over all the churches. Today we do not have the spiritual gift of apostle working, for we have a completed Bible and all the knowledge that God wants us to know. Each church has its single authority, the Pastor teacher.
4. The apostle had to see physically the resurrected Christ. The 11 apostles to Israel saw Him and walked with Him for 40 days after He resurrected. Paul saw Him on the road to Damascus at the time of his salvation. Acts 1:22, I Corinthians 9:1, 15:8-9.
5. The apostles had absolute authority over all churches. He had the gifts of healings, tongues, miracles, knowledge and used these gifts to prove his authority. Acts 5:15, 16:16-18, 28:8-9.
6. There were 11 apostles to Israel, and Paul as the 12th. I Corinthians 15:7-10
7. Some men were not apostles but carried the delegated authority of an apostle to do certain jobs. Barnabas: Acts 14:14, Galatians 2:9, James: I Corinthians 15:7, Galatians 1:19, Apollos: I Corinthians 4:6-9, Sylvanus and Timothy: I Thessalonians 1:1, 2:6.