

Acts 1:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Analysis

Lot-casting, common in Old Testament practice (Proverbs 16:33), determined Matthias' selection. This was the last recorded biblical use of lots - afterward, the Spirit's direct guidance replaced mechanical methods. Matthias was 'numbered with the eleven,' restoring apostolic completeness.

Historical Context

The twelve apostles symbolized the twelve tribes of Israel, representing reconstituted Israel under Messiah's rule. This numerical restoration preceded Pentecost's universal outpouring.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Why might lot-casting have ceased after Pentecost?
2. What does the restoration of the twelve teach about God's covenantal purposes for Israel?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἔδωκαν κλῆρος αὐτῶν, καὶ ἐπεσεν ὁ κλῆρος
And they gave forth lots their And fell G3588 lots
G2532 G1325 G2819 G846 G2532 G4098 G2819

ἐπὶ Ματθίαν, καὶ συγκατεψηφίσθη μετὰ τῶν ἐνδεκα
upon Matthias And he was numbered with G3588 the eleven
G1909 G3159 G2532 G4785 G3326 G1733

ἀποστόλων

apostles

G652

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 16:8 (Parallel theme): And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat.

Joshua 18:10 (Parallel theme): And Joshua cast lots for them in Shiloh before the LORD: and there Joshua divided the land unto the children of Israel according to their divisions.

Jonah 1:7 (Parallel theme): And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.

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