



The Apostle from Charioth

An examination of the life of Judas Iscariot and the lessons to be learned from it

Background

- In Greek, Judas is called Ιούδας Ισκάριωθ and Ισκαριώτης. Judas, spelled “Ioudas” in Greek and “Iudas” in Latin, pronounced yudas in both, is the Greek form of the common name Judah (יהודה , Yehûdâh, Hebrew for “God is praised”)
- Iscariot comes from Hebrew , אִישׁ־קִרְיֹוֹת, Īš-Qrîyôth, or “man of Kerioth,” or Charioth, a Judean town 10 miles south of Hebron. There are five other theories on the meaning of the name, but are not well documented or accepted.
- This makes Judas the only apostle not from Galilee.

Background

- Judas carried the disciples' common fund and embezzled.
- He betrayed Jesus for a bribe of thirty silver denarii by identifying him with a kiss, an act of trust and affection, to the temple police of High Priest Caiaphas, who then turned Jesus over to Pontius Pilate's soldiers
- He died a suicide by hanging himself after his betrayal of Jesus.
- Controversy over his life

Background

- We are compelled by the search for truth to ask: What does the word of God say about the apostle Judas?
 - He was an apostle chosen by the Lord
 - He was the apostate betrayer of the Lord
 - He was the agent of his own destruction

Background

- Matt. 26:14-16 - “Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you? And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. 16 So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.”

Judas Was An Apostle Chosen By The Lord

- Listed among the twelve apostles
 - Matt. 10:1-2, 4 - “And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these ... 4 ... and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.”
 - Mark 3:19
 - Luke 6:16 - “...became a traitor”

Judas Was An Apostle Chosen By The Lord

- He ate the Passover without rejection from Jesus
 - Matt. 26:27 - “Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink from it, all of you.”
 - Mark 14:23 - “Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it.”
- Jesus specifically chose Judas to be one of the apostles

Judas Was An Apostle Chosen By The Lord

- Was Judas part of Jesus' ministry serving Him as an apostle? He was until he transgressed
 - Acts 1:25 - “to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place”

Judas Was An Apostle Chosen By The Lord

- He sat at Jesus' feet and heard His teaching for three years.
- He was taught the gospel and heard of the kingdom - Luke 8:1
- He heard the interpretation of the parable of the sower - Mark 4:10
- He was taught that the last shall be first - Mark 9:35
- He knew about Jesus betrayal and death - Matt. 20:17; Mark 10:32; Luke 18:31

Judas Was An Apostle Chosen By The Lord

- He was sent out to preach to the lost sheep of the house of Israel and given power to confirm the word.
- He was given power over unclean spirits - Matt. 10:1
- He preached the gospel to Israel - Matt. 10:5-7
- He was among those sent out by twos in the limited commission - Mark 6:7
- Before he was a betrayer, he was a disciple and servant of Jesus

Judas Was An Apostle Chosen By The Lord

- Judas' life proves that men can fall from grace and be lost
 - 1Cor. 10:12 - "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."

Judas Was The Apostate Betrayer Of The Lord

- He engaged in conspiracy, took money for betrayal, and schemed to deceive the public
 - Luke 22:5-6 - “So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. 5 And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. 6 So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude.”

Judas Was The Apostate Betrayer Of The Lord

- He was motivated by greed
 - John 12:6 - “This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it”
 - Matt. 26:15 - “What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you? And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.”
- Judas knew better
 - Luke 12:15 - “And He said to them, Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

Judas Was The Apostate Betrayer Of The Lord

- He knew that Jesus knew that he would betray Him
 - John 6:70-71 - “Jesus answered them, Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil? 71 He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.”
 - Matt. 17:22, 26:21, 25
- He did it deliberately
 - John 13:26-27; Mark 14:10

Judas Was The Apostate Betrayer Of The Lord

- Judas allowed Satan to enter his heart
 - John 13:2 - “And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him”
 - Luke 22:3 - “Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve.”

Judas Was The Apostate Betrayer Of The Lord

- He led the guards to Jesus' place of prayer near the Garden of Gethsemane.
- Jesus made that place the crux of eternity, and Judas made it the site of the vilest betrayal in eternity - John 18:2-3; Matt. 26:47; Mark 14:43

Judas Was The Apostate Betrayer Of The Lord

- He identified Jesus with a kiss to complete his betrayal, an incredible use for an act of trust and affection
 - Matt. 26:48-49 - “Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him. 49 Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, Greetings, Rabbi! and kissed Him.”
 - Mark 14:44-45
- Jesus even asked him if that was his intent, giving him yet another opportunity to consider his choices
 - Luke 22:48 - “But Jesus said to him, Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

Judas Was The Agent Of His Own Destruction

- He regretted that Jesus was to be killed because he knew He was innocent.
 - Matt. 27:3-4 - The word used for remorse is not “metanoia” (compunction for guilt, including reformation; reversal of decision, repentance - Strong's), but metamelomai” (to care afterwards, regret - Strong's)
- Judas did not have a change of heart that resulted in a reformed life and change of character, but rather, deep regret that led to more sinful choices.

Judas Was The Agent Of His Own Destruction

- To his credit, he did try to restore the money he had taken, but the priests refused it
 - Matt. 27:3-8 - “Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, I have sinned by betraying innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? You see to it! 5 Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself. 6 But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood. 7 And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. 8 Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.”

Judas Was The Agent Of His Own Destruction

- Matt. 27:9-10 - “Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, 10 and gave them for the potter's field, as the LORD directed me.”
- Matthew's description of the death as fulfilment of a prophecy “spoken through Jeremiah the prophet” does not correspond to any known version of the Book of Jeremiah, but does appear in the Book of Zechariah - Zech. 11:12-13
- It is possible that it was in a book by Jeremiah that was not preserved and canonical, or it may refer to a compilation of texts in the Book of Jeremiah (18:1-4, 19:1-13, 32:6-15)

Judas Was The Agent Of His Own Destruction

- Judas hanged himself, died, and fell
 - Acts 1:16-19 - “Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; 17 for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry. 18 (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. 19 And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.)”

Judas Was The Agent Of His Own Destruction

- He had regret, but not godly sorrow
 - 2Cor. 7:10 - “For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”

The Apostle from Charioth

- “Unmasking the Betrayer” by John MacArthur
- No one has ever fallen so far. Or have they? You can
 - Heb. 6:4-6 - “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.”

The Apostle from Charioth

- 2Peter 2:20-22 - “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: A dog returns to his own vomit, and, a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”