

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Christian Initiatory Teachings

The Calling of the Twelve (Cont.)

And he ordained twelve that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach.

And to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out devils:

And Simon he surnamed Peter.

And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder.

And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite,

And Judas Iscariot who also betrayed him; and they went into an house.

—*Mark 3:14-19*

The name Peter in the Egyptian language meant "the opened eye." In Greek, Peter (petra) means rock. One of the utterances of the Master was, "Upon this rock I will build my church." A stone is universally used as a symbol of the Initiate. Initiation is the foundation of religion and is in that sense the rock upon which the Church is established — a fact to be generally recognized in the coming age.

Jerome states that the Jude of Luke, Lebbeus of Matthew, and Thaddeus of Mark, all refer to the same Disciple. This Disciple did not become prominent until after the Ascension.

Simon, Zelotes, belonged to the nationalist, patriotic sect of the Zealots, whose aim was to throw off the Roman yoke, restore the freedom of the Jewish State and then conquer the world under the banner of the Messiah, with fire and sword. Simon "the Zealot" was to learn, however, that the most effective weapon of all is the power of the Christ love and that it is the only weapon with which to achieve world conquest.

Information relative to Thomas is

found chiefly in the Gospel of John and in certain apocryphal documents. Thomas was slow to believe. He was pessimistic and despondent. Yet so intense was his devotion to the Master that he was willing to die for Him. He was a skeptic, yet he was filled with earnestness and aspiration, and later became one of the most glorious of the Disciples. He was particularly revered by the philosophically trained Gnostics.

Judas Iscariot was the man of mystery, the betrayer of the Christ. He came from Kerioth, which belonged to the tribe of Judah. This tribe is governed by Leo, the heart sign, and symbolizes one in whom the love nature is linked with the sense life. Judas portrays the state of the average man who daily betrays the Christ, the Higher Self, within.

Each of the twelve Disciples represents a specific faculty or attribute of man himself: Judas, therefore, will play his role in human evolution until such time as the lower nature of the race shall be redeemed. He destroyed himself, as all evil ultimately destroys itself, and was replaced by Matthias, the symbol of the redeemed man of the New Age and the new race.

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The Lenten Season is a time of soul work preparatory to receiving the inflow of the Easter Mysteries, just as the Advent Season is a preparatory time for the reception of the Christmas Mysteries. The Lenten Season is a period of forty days preceding Easter. While this is according to the calendar, the mystic Christian understands that there is a deeper significance in the numerical value of this period.—Corinne Heline, in *Mystery of the Christos*.