

# THE BOOK OF ACTS

## ACTS 1:9-26 | LESSON SUMMARY

### Prayer

**ACTS 1:9**, "And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight." (ESV)

- Clouds: enormously significant in Scripture—from Exodus (Exodus 13:22) to Jesus' baptism (Matthew 17:5), to the transfiguration (Mark 9:7) to Revelation (Revelation 1:7).

- Emphasizes God's consistent presence

- Matthias: man is not consistent, however, and although the disciples trust that God has a plan, there is a clear void left by Judas.

- Unity: the upper room is another frequently referenced and symbolically significant reference.

**ACTS 1:14**, "All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers." (ESV)

- Their return to Jerusalem was an act of unified obedience to Jesus' instruction



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**ACTS 1:19**, "And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood." (ESV)

- Judas: Luke doesn't spare the gory details, but he's making a point. His focus remains in his account of Judas' death on Peter's speech, which was first and foremost a recitation of Psalms, to justify replacing Judas.

- Their decision was not only based in Scripture but foretold by prophetic word.
- NOTE: Akeldama doesn't only refer to Judas' gruesome death, but the "blood money" with which he paid for the field. Furthermore, the location of the "Field of Blood" is on the south slope of the Hinnom Valley. Sound familiar? This is the valley referenced through the Old Testament as a place for practicing child sacrifice. It's also known as Gehenna, which literally translates to "hell."

### Casting of Lots

**ACTS 1:26**, "And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles." (ESV)



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- The casting of lots was a very common cultural practice, but it is important to note that the apostles were postured in prayer.
  - After this point Matthias is not featured again in Scripture.
  - Except for Peter and John, none of the original twelve are ever mentioned again.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** David Guzik, Acts; Verse by Verse Commentary, Walter Elwell, Encountering the New Testament, Randall Price, Zondervan Handbook of Biblical Archeology

