



# WHO WAS JUDAS ISCARIOT?



**JUDAS ISCARIOT**

**IN THE**

**THE CHOSEN**

**JUDAS ISCARIOT**

**ACCORDING TO**

**THE BIBLE**

# JUDAS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

We are introduced to Judas before he was even born, from within the text of the Old Testament Scriptures. The New Testament cites **four** specific instances wherein Judas fulfilled the words of the Old Testament:

1. That the Anointed of God would be **betrayed** by a close friend (Ps 41:9; fulfilled in Jn 13:18; 17:12)
2. That the Shepherd of Israel would be **sold** for a low price, which would be thrown to the potter (Zech 11:12-14; fulfilled in Mt 26:14-16; 27:3-10)
3. That the enemy of God's Anointed would lie **desolate** (Ps 69:25; fulfilled in Ac 1:15-20)
4. That the enemy of God's Anointed would be **replaced** by another (Ps 109:8; fulfilled in Ac 1:15-20)

"The Death of Ahithophel," British School, 19<sup>th</sup> century



# WHAT DOES ISCARIOT MEAN?

There have been an endless amount of interpretations of what the name “Isca<sup>ri</sup>ot” means or what it might imply, but these are the five most common:

1. Judas was an **assassin/**usurper (from *sicarii*).
2. Judas was a **liar** (from Heb. *seger*, “to lie”).
3. Judas was the one who **handed Jesus over** (from Heb. *sagar*, “to close,” which can be translated “to hand over”).
4. Judas was in some way associated with the color **red** (from Aramaic *suqra*, “ruddy,” or perhaps “red dyer”).
5. Judas was from the town of **Kerioth** (in which case, Heb. *ish + kerioth* → “man of Kerioth”)

The general consensus is that Isca<sup>ri</sup>ot designates Judas as a “man from Kerioth.”





# BIOGRAPHICAL INFO

**NAME: JUDAS** (יהודה / Ἰούδας) – “praised” (Mt 10:4; Mk 3:19; Lk 6:16)

**NICKNAME(S): ISCARIOT** (Ἰσκαριώτης / איש־קריות) – “man of Kerioth”

**FATHER: SHIMON/SIMON** (שמעון / Σίμων) (Jn 6:71; 13:2, 26)

**MOTHER: ???**

**SIBLING(S): ???**

**SPOUSE: ???**

**HOMETOWN/PLACE OF RESIDENCE: KERIOTH** (Iscaiot = *Ish-Kerioth*)

**EDUCATION: ???**

**LANGUAGE: ARAMAIC** (likely understood Greek and Hebrew as well)

**OCCUPATION: ???**



# HOW OLD WAS JUDAS?

## HOW OLD WERE THE DISCIPLES?

- Jesus was around 30 when he began his ministry (Lk 3:23), the typical age for a rabbi.
- Students were usually younger than their rabbis. Jesus refers to them as “little children” (Mt 10:42; 11:25).
- Education ended between ages 12-15. Some disciples were already practicing trades (i.e. Lk 5:1-11; Mt 9:9).
- As far as we know, Simon was the only married one at the time (Mt 8:14-15; Mk 1:29-31; Lk 4:38-39) at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry; the average age for marriage was 18.
- As far as we know, by the third year of Jesus’ ministry, Simon was the only one who had to pay the temple tax (Mt 17:24-27), which began at age 20 (Ex 30:14).

**Most of the disciples were likely young teenagers at the time they began following Christ.**

**Judas was likely a young teenager (~14-16) at the time he began following Christ.**

# JUDAS ISCARIOT IN THE GOSPELS

Judas Iscariot is consistently listed last of all the Twelve, and he is never mentioned apart from his betrayal of Jesus.

- “Judas Iscariot, who **betrayed** him” (Mt 10:4)
- “Judas, who would **betray** him” (Mt 26:25)
- “Judas, his **betray**er” (Mt 27:3)
- “Judas Iscariot, who **betrayed** him” (Mk 3:19)
- “Judas Iscariot, who became a **traitor**” (Lk 6:16)
- “Judas the son of Simon Iscariot ... was going to **betray** him” (Jn 6:71)
- “Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to **betray** him” (Jn 12:4)
- “Judas, who **betrayed** him” (Jn 18:5)
- All other mentions of Judas detail the **betrayal itself**, or the events leading up to our following it.
- John goes out of his way to distinguish Judas of James as “Judas (not Iscariot)” (Jn 14:22)

MATTHEW 10	MARK 3	LUKE 6	ACTS 1
Simon Peter	Simon Peter	Simon Peter	Peter
Andrew	James of Zebedee	Andrew	John
James of Zebedee	John	James of Zebedee	James
John	Andrew	John	Andrew
Philip	Philip	Philip	Philip
Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Thomas
Thomas	Matthew	Matthew	Bartholomew
Matthew	Thomas	Thomas	Matthew
James of Alphaeus	James of Alphaeus	James of Alphaeus	James of Alphaeus
Thaddaeus	Thaddaeus	Simon the Zealot	Simon the Zealot
Simon the Zealot	Simon the Zealot	Judas of James	Judas of James
Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	



# JUDAS ISCARIOT IN THE GOSPELS

**FIRST ENCOUNTER/CALLING: ???**

**KEY MOMENTS:**

1. Being (unknowingly) called a “devil” by Jesus, who knew Judas would one day betray him (Jn 6:60-71)
2. Deceptively and self-righteously condemning Lazarus’ sister Mary for wasting ointment on Jesus rather than giving it to the poor (Jn 12:1-8; cf. Mt 26:6-13; Mk 14:3-9)
3. Betraying Jesus for thirty pieces of silver (Mt 26:14-16; Mk 14:10-11; Lk 22:3-6)



# JUDAS ISCARIOT IN THE GOSPELS

## LIFE AS A DISCIPLE:

### Like the rest of the Twelve, Judas...

- ...was appointed by Jesus (Mt 10:1-2; Mk 3:13-16; Lk 6:12-13)
- ...travelled with Jesus (Mt 26:20; Mk 14:17)
- ...received insight to Jesus' teachings (Mk 4:10)
- ...was sent out to preach (Mt 10:5-42; Mk 6:7-13; Lk 9:1-6)
- ...baptized people (Jn 4:2)
- ...performed miracles (Mk 6:13; Lk 9:1-2)
- ...was challenged by Jesus' teachings (Mk 9:36; Jn 6:67-71)
- ...heard Christ predict his death (Mt 20:17; Mk 10:32)

### Unlike the rest of the Twelve, Judas...

- ...never saw the resurrected Christ (Lk 24:33-49; Jn 20:19-28)
- ...never witnessed the ascension (Lk 24:50-53; Ac 1:6-11)



# JUDAS' FINAL HOURS

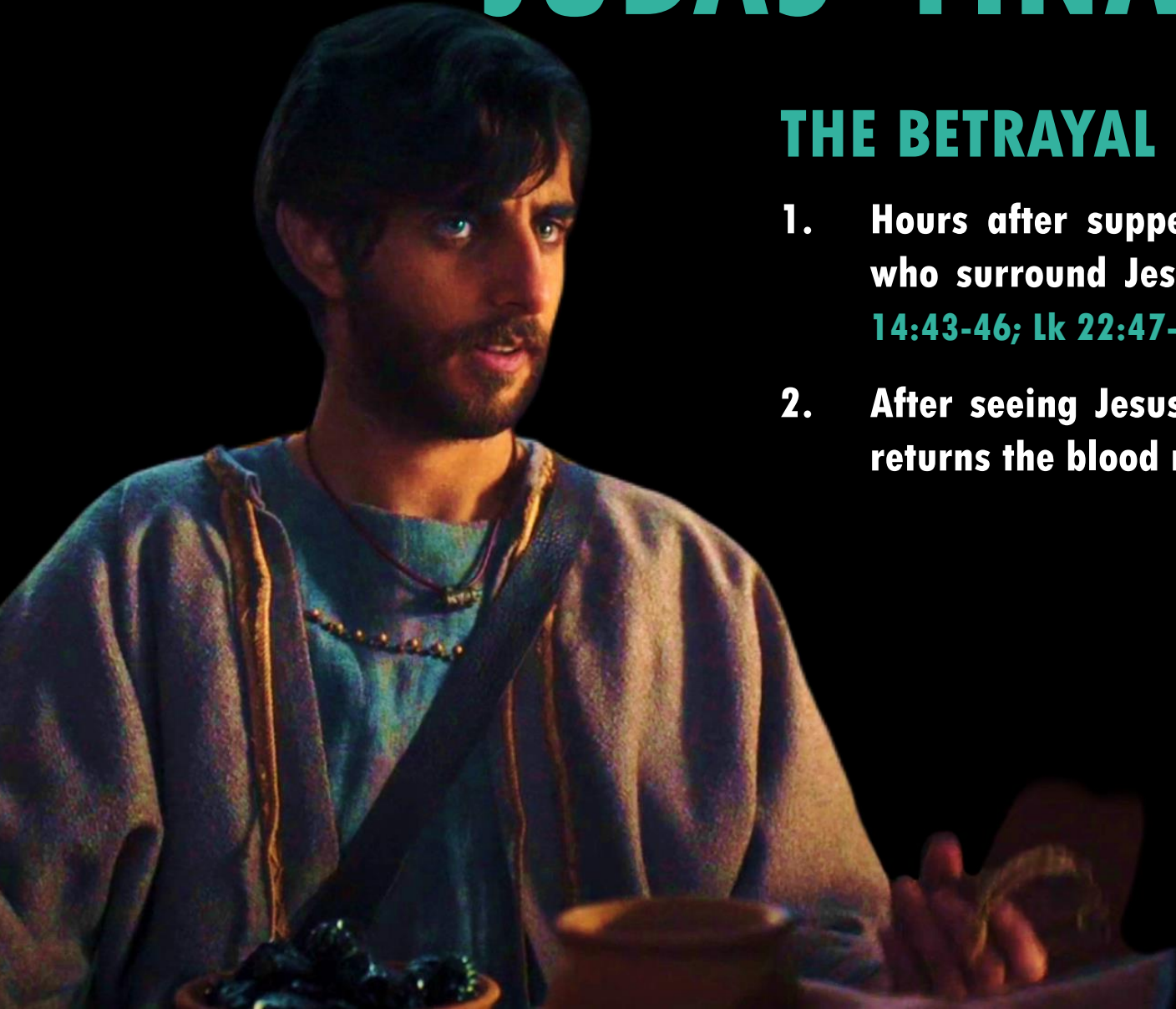
## THE LAST SUPPER

1. Before the supper, Jesus went around and washed all the disciples' feet (Jn 13:1-11).
2. During the supper, Jesus predicted that one of the Twelve would betray him (Mt 26:20-25; Mk 14:17-21; Lk 22:14-23).
3. Judas left the supper early to go and prepare for Jesus' arrest (Jn 13:21-30).





# JUDAS' FINAL HOURS



## THE BETRAYAL

1. Hours after supper, Judas returns with a squadron of soldiers, who surround Jesus and take him into custody (Mt 26:47-50; Mk 14:43-46; Lk 22:47-48; Jn 18:1-9).
2. After seeing Jesus condemned by the Jewish high council, Judas returns the blood money and kills himself (Mt 27:3-10; Ac 1:18-19).

# THE FATE OF JUDAS ISCARIOT

**There are two traditions regarding the fate of Judas:**

**1) He hanged himself after hearing of Christ's condemnation (Mt 27:3-10).**

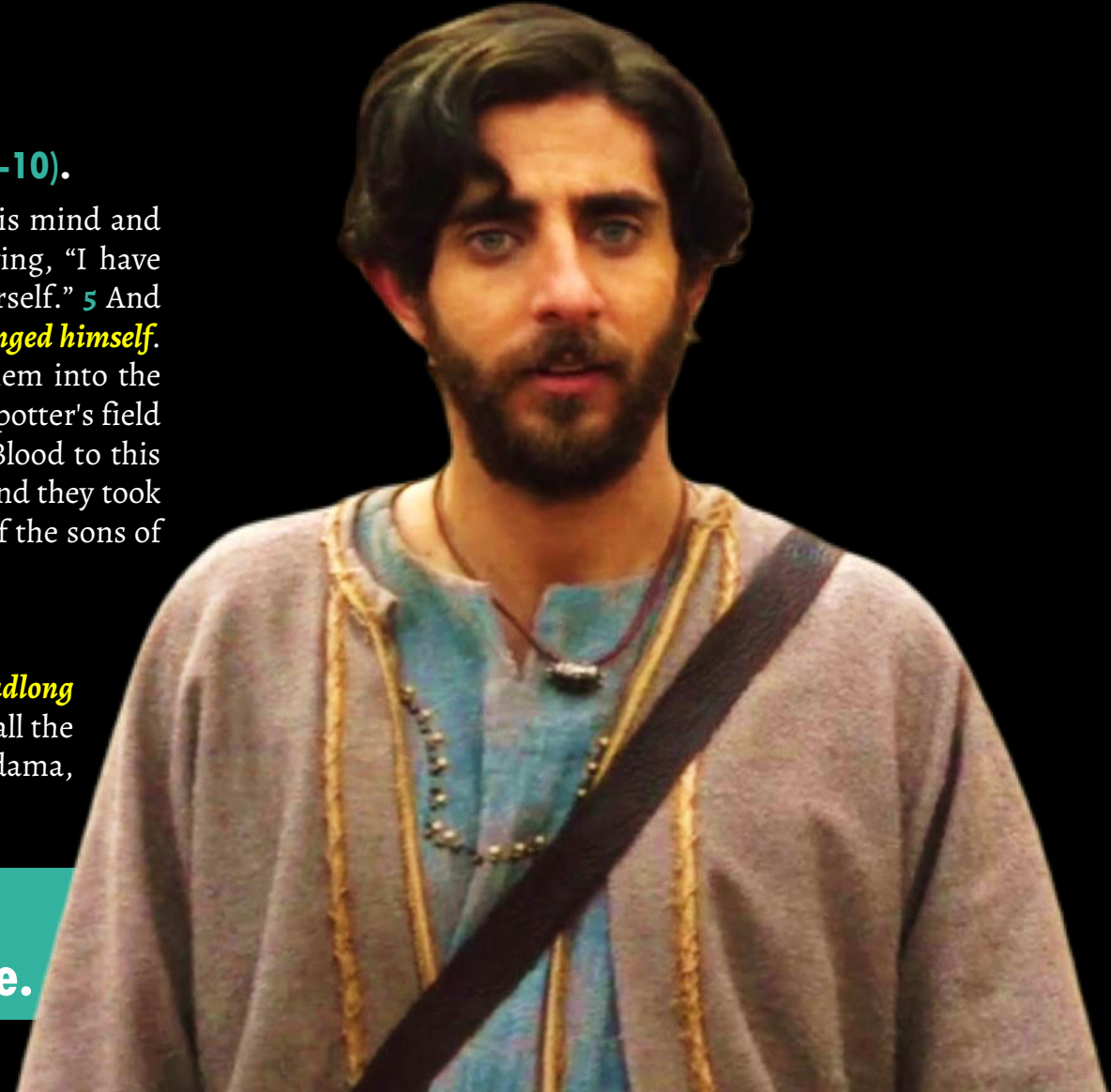
3 Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus[a] was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." 5 And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and *he went and hanged himself.* 6 But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money." 7 So they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field as a burial place for strangers. 8 Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. 9 Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, 10 and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me."

**2) He fell and burst open, and his bowels gushed out (Ac 1:18-19).**

18 (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and *falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.* 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.)

## CONCLUSION:

**Judas, remorseful yet unrepentant, committed suicide.**





# JUDAS ISCARIOT IN ACTS & THE EPISTLES

**Judas' death is one of the primary subjects of the first chapter of Acts.**

- **After Christ's ascension (1:6-11), the apostles return to Jerusalem (1:12-14).**
- **Peter asserts that Judas' death fulfilled Scripture and suggests that they need a replacement to take his place (1:15-20).**
- **After laying out the requirements of apostleship, the group devotes themselves to prayer (1:21-25).**
- **Matthias is chosen as Judas' replacement (1:26).**

**He isn't mentioned anywhere else in Scripture.**



**JUDAS ISCARIOT  
ACCORDING TO**

**TRADITION**

# INFLUENCE & TRADITION

- **Historically**, there was a non-canonical, heretical **“Gospel of Judas”** written in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, which received massive media attention around 2006. It presents Judas as the only disciple who truly understood Jesus, and to whom Jesus revealed many secret teachings. It contradicts many fundamental Judeo-Christian beliefs and is Gnostic in origin.
- **Culturally**, Judas’ name has become **synonymous with betrayal**.
- **Personally**, I’ve always thought that Judas’ failure is one of the most captivating and terrifying stories in all Scripture, and the reality that someone so close to Christ and do something so evil is **a sobering reminder** that has shaped much of my own ministry.

