

THE TWELVE APOSTLES

APOSTLE	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN	ACTS
Full List	Mt 10:2–4	Mk 3:16–19	Lk 6:14–16	–	Ac 1:13
Simon Peter	Mt 4:18–22, 10:2, 14:28–31, 16:16–19, 26:33–75	Mk 1:16–19, 3:16, 8:29–33, 14:29–72	Lk 5:1–11, 6:14, 9:20, 22:31–62	Jn 1:40–42, 6:68, 13:6–38, 18–21	Ac 1–15:7–11
Andrew	Mt 4:18, 10:2	Mk 1:16, 3:18, 13:3	Lk 6:14	Jn 1:40–44, 6:8, 12:22	Ac 1:13
James son of Zebedee	Mt 4:21, 10:2, 17:1, 20:20–23	Mk 1:19, 3:17, 5:37, 9:2, 10:35–41	Lk 6:14, 9:28–54	–	Ac 1:13, 12:2
John son of Zebedee	Mt 4:21, 10:2, 17:1, 20:20–23	Mk 1:19, 3:17, 5:37, 9:2, 10:35–41	Lk 6:14, 9:28–54	Author (implied)	Ac 1:13, 3:1–4:31, 8:14–25
Philip	Mt 10:3	Mk 3:18	Lk 6:14	Jn 1:43–48, 6:5–7, 12:21–22, 14:8–9	Ac 1:13
Bartholomew (Nathanael)	Mt 10:3	Mk 3:18	Lk 6:14	As Nathanael: Jn 1:45–51, 21:2	Ac 1:13
Thomas (Didymus)	Mt 10:3	Mk 3:18	Lk 6:15	Jn 11:16, 14:5, 20:24–29, 21:2	Ac 1:13
Matthew (Levi)	Mt 10:3; author (implied)	Mk 2:14, 3:18	Lk 5:27–29, 6:15	–	Ac 1:13
James son of Alphaeus	Mt 10:3	Mk 3:18	Lk 6:15	–	Ac 1:13
Thaddaeus (a.k.a. Jude son of James / Lebbaeus)	Mt 10:3	Mk 3:18	Lk 6:16, as “Judas son of James”	Jn 14:22	Ac 1:13
Simon the Zealot	Mt 10:4	Mk 3:18	Lk 6:15	–	Ac 1:13
Judas Iscariot	Mt 10:4, 26:14–27:5	Mk 3:19, 14:10–45	Lk 6:16, 22:3–48	Jn 6:71, 12:4, 13:2–30, 18:2–5	Ac 1:16–20
Matthias (Judas’ Replacement)	–	–	–	–	Ac 1:21–26

The Bible Teaches that the Original 12 Apostles of JESUS CHRIST were:

*Peter, **

Andrew,

*John, the son of Zebedee, **

*James, the son of Zebedee, **

Philip,

Bartholomew/Nathanael,

Thomas,

Matthew,

James the son of Alphaeus,

Thaddaeus/Jude

Simon the Zealot,

Judas Iscariot. Judas betrayed JESUS initiating his arrest and journey to be Crucified on the Cross.

Matthias replaced Judas.

**** JESUS's Inner Circle***

The 12 Apostles, also referred to as the 12 Disciples or simply "the Twelve," were JESUS CHRIST's 12 Closest Followers.

Each of them (with the exception of Judas Iscariot), were Major Leaders in the Movement which became Christianity and helped Spread the Gospel throughout the world.

Their work was So Important – That the Twelve Foundations of The New Jerusalem bear their Names!

How Did the 12 Apostles Die?

Reports and legends abound, and they are not always reliable, but it is safe to say that the Apostles went far and wide as Custodians of The Message of the Risen CHRIST.

The Book of Acts tells us that they cast lots and divided up the world, to determine who would go where, so all could hear about JESUS.

They suffered greatly for their Faith, and in most cases, met violent deaths because of their Bold Witness and Faith IN CHRIST.

Peter and Paul

Both were martyred in Rome about 66 AD, during the persecution under Emperor Nero. Paul was beheaded.

Peter was crucified upside down at his request, since he did not feel worthy to die in the same manner as his LORD.

Andrew

He went to the "land of the man-eaters" in what is now the Soviet Union.

Christians there claim him as the first to bring the Gospel to their land. He also preached in Asia Minor, modern-day Turkey, and Greece - where he is said to have been crucified.

John

The only one of the Apostles generally thought to have died a natural death from old age. He was the Church Leader in the Ephesus area and is said to have taken Care of Mary, the mother of JESUS in his home.

During Domitian's persecution in the middle '90s, he was exiled to the Island of Patmos. There he is credited with writing the last Book of the New Testament – Revelation.

The Apostle John was thrown into a Vat of boiling oil in Rome, but miraculously survived unscathed.

Key Facts About the Tradition

- *The Incident: During the persecution of Christians under the Roman Emperor Domitian (r. 81–96 AD), John was allegedly brought to Rome and plunged into a cauldron of boiling oil near the Latin Gate (Porta Latina).*
- *Miraculous Survival: Legend states that John emerged completely unharmed and even appeared rejuvenated. After this failed execution attempt, he was banished to the Island of Patmos, where he wrote the [Book of Revelation](#).*
- *Primary Source: The earliest record of this event comes from the theologian Tertullian (c. 200 AD) in his work The Prescription of Heretics. It was later popularized in medieval works like the Golden Legend.*
- *Biblical Evidence: This event is not mentioned in the Bible. It is considered an extra-biblical tradition or "pious legend" rather than a Scriptural fact.*
- *Legacy: In Rome, the San Giovanni in Oleo Chapel stands on the site where the miracle is traditionally said to have occurred.*

James, the son of Zebedee

James is the only Apostle whose martyrdom is Recorded in the Bible ([Acts 12:2](#)).

Herod had him killed by sword, and he was likely beheaded.

Philip

He possibly had a powerful ministry in Carthage in North Africa and Asia Minor, where he converted the wife of a Roman Proconsul.

In retaliation, the Proconsul had Philip arrested and cruelly put to death.

Bartholomew aka Nathanael

Most would argue that his other name is Nathanael, since Nathanael appears to be an Apostle in the [Gospel of John](#).

He had widespread missionary travels attributed to him by tradition: to India with Thomas and back to Armenia, Ethiopia, and Southern Arabia.

There are various accounts of how he met his death as a martyr for the Gospel.

Thomas

He was probably most active in the area east of Syria. Tradition has him preaching as far east as India, where the ancient Marthoma Christians revere him as their founder.

They claim that he died there when pierced through with the spears of four soldiers.

Matthew

He was the tax collector, and writer of a Gospel, and ministered in Persia and Ethiopia.

Some of the oldest reports say he was not martyred, while others say he was stabbed to death in Ethiopia.

James

He was the son of Alphaeus and is one of at least three James referred to in the New Testament. There is some confusion as to which is which, but this James is reckoned to have ministered in Syria.

The Jewish historian Josephus, reported that he was stoned and then clubbed to death.

Jude/Thaddeus

Thaddeus, also known as Jude the Apostle, died a martyr in Armenia around 66 AD.

Executed by order of King Sanatruk, often depicted being martyred with an axe, though other traditions place his martyrdom in Beirut with Simon the Zealot.

Simon, the Zealot

As the story goes, he ministered in Persia and was killed after refusing to sacrifice to the sun god.

Judas Iscariot

Judas, who betrayed JESUS, and then went out and hanged himself.

“So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.” — Matthew 27:5.

Matthias

He was the Apostle Chosen to replace Judas. Tradition sends him to Syria and to death by burning.

What about Paul?

Paul was an Apostle, but he was Not one of the Twelve.

Paul—also known as Saul—is easily one of the most widely-known Biblical figures.

He wrote the most New Testament Books, after all.

The Apostle Paul often appears on lists of the most influential people who have ever lived.

Paul did more to help Spread the Gospel throughout the world than anyone else in the early Church.

But he wasn't one of the Twelve.

Before his dramatic conversion, Paul was a member of the Pharisees—a group of religious elites who opposed JESUS and Persecuted His followers.

Acts even records that Paul watched and approved while people stoned the First Christian martyr (Stephen) to death (Acts 8:1).

On the road to Damascus, where Paul intended to arrest Christians,

JESUS appeared to him, asking: “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”
(Acts 9:4).

Then The LORD told Paul, “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do” (Acts 9:6).

Paul was struck blind, and JESUS used a man named Ananias to restore his sight in Jerusalem.

From that point forward, Paul became the Apostle to the Gentiles (Romans 1:13), and claimed JESUS had specifically called him to reach non-Jewish communities (Acts 22:21).

What about JESUS's Brothers?

JESUS had four named brothers—James, Joses (or Joseph), Simon, and Jude (Judas)—and unnamed sisters, according to the New Testament.

Interpretations vary on whether they were full siblings, half-siblings (children of Joseph from a prior marriage), or cousins.

Named Brothers:

- James (Jacob): *The most prominent, leader of the Jerusalem Church, and author of the Book of James. He was Not an Apostle.*
- Joses (Joseph): *A name often shortened or used interchangeably.*
- Simon: *Another brother mentioned alongside the others.*
- Jude (Judas): *Also mentioned as a brother, NOT Judas Iscariot.*

Biblical Mentions:

- Matthew 13:55 & Mark 6:3: *List these names (James, Joses/Joseph, Simon, Jude) as JESUS's brothers.*
- Acts 1:14 & Galatians 1:19: *Mention James and other brothers Praying with Mary, after JESUS's Resurrection, indicating their Presence and Importance in the early Church.*

Interpretations:

- *Literal Siblings: The most common view among Protestants is that they were children of Mary and Joseph, born after JESUS, making them his half-brothers.*
- *Stepbrothers: The Eastern Orthodox tradition views them as children of Joseph from a previous marriage (Joseph as a widower), preserving Mary's perpetual virginity.*

In essence, the New Testament clearly names these four brothers and also mentions unnamed sisters, but theological traditions differ on the precise nature of their relationship to JESUS.

The Key Difference is Scope and Commission (Apostle and Disciple):

A Disciple is a broad term for any Learner or Follower of JESUS (a "student").

While an Apostle is a Specific, Authorized "Messenger" Personally Chosen by JESUS, to Spread His Message and Lead the Early Church.

This means all Apostles were Disciples, but not all Disciples became Apostles.

Apostles had a Unique Authority and a Mission to be Sent Out!

After the Resurrection of JESUS: *It is Safe to say; That 11 of the 12 Apostles that were with JESUS, Died a gruesome Death for their Faith IN CHRIST.*

The Only one that escaped this was John.

NOT one, Denied JESUS – knowing they would or could be killed! NOT one.

For they were with GOD and have Seen GOD!

The 'sons of Thunder':

¹⁷ ***James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means "sons of thunder"), Mark 3:17.***

"Sons of Thunder" (Aramaic: Boanerges) is a nickname JESUS gave to the Apostles James and John, sons of Zebedee, likely referring to their passionate, bold, and quick-tempered personalities.

Jesus bestowed this title, perhaps humorously, in Mark 3:17, acknowledging their intense energy and tendency to be aggressive, such as wanting to call fire from heaven on a Samaritan village.

They were part of Jesus's Inner Circle (along with Peter), witnessing key events like the Transfiguration.

While initially impulsive, John later became known as the "Apostle of love," showing that Jesus channeled both their intense energy into Godly Service.