

• The Twelve Apostles •

The original twelve apostles may be considered, with one exception (i.e. Judas), to be some of the most fortunate people that ever lived. Often referred to simply as "The Twelve," they were chosen by Jesus Christ Himself, and actually lived and worked with Him during His Ministry.

The names of the Twelve are listed in 4 places in the Bible (Matthew 10:2-4, Mark 3:16-19, Luke 6:12-19, Acts 1:13) with some minor differences due to the various uses of first, family, or nick-names at different times. Here they are listed in the possible order in which they were martyred for their faith...

- **Judas Iscariot.** The groups treasurer, who eventually betrayed Jesus and afterwards committed suicide. Later, **Matthias** was chosen to replace him by the casting of the lot (Acts 1:26).
- **James (or, James the Great).** Known also in church tradition as "James the Greater". This James was the older brother of John, the son of Zebedee. He was the first of the Twelve to be martyred, he was beheaded.
- **Philip.** From Bethsaida, as were Andrew and Peter. After Jesus called Philip, the first thing he did was go and tell someone else about Jesus. Eventually martyred, possibly at Hierapolis, in Phrygia. He was scourged, thrown into prison, and afterwards crucified.
- **Matthew.** Also called "Levi", a tax-collector at Capernaum, he became one of the more prominent apostles. He wrote his gospel in Hebrew, which was afterwards translated into Greek by James the Less. The scene of his labors was Parthia, and Ethiopia, in which latter country he suffered martyrdom, being slain with a halberd in the city of Nadabah.
- **James (or, James the Less).** Known also as "James the Younger", "James the Lesser", or "James the son of Alphaeus", he may have written the epistle which bears his name (though some believe James, the *actual* brother of Jesus, wrote it, because James the Brother Christ later became the head of the Jerusalem Church). James the Less was beaten and stoned by the Jews; and finally had his brains dashed out with a fuller's club.
- **Andrew.** He was active in bringing people to Jesus, including his brother Peter. He preached the gospel to many in Asia. On his arrival at Edessa he was taken and crucified on a cross, the two ends of which were fixed transversely in the ground, and appeared to resemble an "X". Hence the derivation of the term, "St. Andrew's Cross".
- **Peter (or, Simon Peter).** Also known as "Simeon" (which may have been his *actual* Hebrew name, but in the modern English that comes out as "Simon"; then the Greek form of that was Peter, and in that ancient culture sometimes people were referred to by their original name AND their translated name, hence... "Simon Peter" [Hebrew/Greek]), or "Cephas" (which was the Aramaic form of Simon/Simeon, and like Peter, means "rock" or "stone"). He was the brother of Andrew. A fisherman from the Sea of Galilee. He was the oldest of the group, and considered to be the most impulsive, always ready to speak up, and swing a sword on occasion (e.g. the cutting off of a man's ear at the time of Jesus' arrest: John 18:10). Some traditions hold that he was eventually crucified, upside down, by the Romans.
- **Thaddaeus (or, Jude).** Also known as "Judas the brother of James;" while John probably referring to the same person, speaks of "Judas, not Iscariot." He was crucified at Edessa.
- **Bartholomew.** John's gospel refers to him as "Nathanael the Galilean". Earlier church tradition says that he translated the Gospel of Matthew into the language of India. He was one of the disciples to whom Jesus appeared at the Sea of Tiberias after His resurrection, and ultimately witnessed Christ's Ascension.
- **Thomas.** He was also called "Didymus" which is the Greek version of his name. Not easily convinced, he has the nickname "Doubting Thomas" because he wanted to actually see and touch Jesus after His Resurrection. Thomas preached the Gospel in Parthia and India, he was martyred by being thrust through with a spear.
- **Simon, the Zealot.** The Zealots were a nationalistic sect with very strong political views (there seemed to be a wide variety of personalities among the apostles). Early church tradition says he preached the Gospel in Mauritania Africa, and possibly even in Britain, where he was believed to have been crucified.
- **John.** Sometimes called "John the Beloved", referred to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (John 13:23, 19:26, 21:7 & 21:20). He was most likely the only Apostle who died a natural death. According to Mark 3:17, Jesus gave to he and his brother James the name (or surname) *Boanerges*, which means *Sons of Thunder*. The churches of Smyrna, Pergamos, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea, and Thyatira, were founded by him.

NAMES OF THE APOSTLES – WORD SEARCH

Jesus had 12 apostles. Are you able to find all 12 in this word search?

- Simon Peter, Andrew, James Son of Zebedee, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas,
 Matthew, James Son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, Judas Iscariot

Q	J	Y	A	N	D	R	E	W	E	R	T	Y	I	Q
R	A	G	T	Y	T	O	N	S	W	R	T	Y	O	Z
T	M	H	W	T	R	W	E	H	T	T	A	M	P	W
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P	S	I	S	I	O	P	U	H	G	A	F	E	F	S
A	O	K	U	K	M	T	Y	W	A	O	T	W	I	W
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F	O	O	A	W	S	B	E	Z	V	W	I	X	W	V
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S	E	P	W	A	S	A	Y	W	X	J	G	A	E	U
W	B	R	E	B	D	W	T	W	R	T	O	W	X	Q