

# The Twelve Disciples

**Peter** - Original name was Simon (Jesus changed it). His father was Jonah, Jonas or John. He was married; his wife accompanied him on some of his ministry trips. He originated from the city of Bethsaida, was a fisherman by trade, not highly educated but always listed first among disciples.

**Andrew** - Name in Greek means "manly." Brother to Peter, also from Bethsaida and a fisherman. He was probably crucified in Achaia. Disciple of John the Baptist. When he introduced Peter to Jesus, he became first home missionary. When he introduced the Greeks to Jesus, he became the first foreign missionary.

**James** - Hebrew name was Jacob. Also a Galilean fisherman, one of Jesus' inner circle. Nicknamed "Son of Thunder". Slain by Herod Agrippa 1 (Acts 12:1-2).

**John** - Brother of James, probably younger. His mother was Salome (accompanied the Marys to Jesus' tomb). Salome considered to be the sister of Mary, mother of Jesus. If so, James and John were Jesus' cousins. Also a member of Jesus' inner circle. Writer of the fourth gospel, the epistles bearing his name and Revelation. Called "the beloved disciple." Died of old age in Ephesus. According to Luke 5:10, Peter, Andrew, James and John were partners in a fishing business. They were called to discipleship at same time.

**Philip** - Greek name means "horse lover." Called to discipleship the day after Peter, Andrew, James and John. Same hometown-- Bethsaida. He brought Nathanael to Jesus (John 1:45). His name always occurs 5th in the list of disciples. Unable to suggest to Jesus how to feed the 5,000. Met his death in Hierapolis in Syria, according to Eusebius.

**Bartholomew** - In Aramaic, name means "Son of Tolmai"--Bar + Tolmai. Name appears only in the lists of disciples. In Matthew, Mark and Luke, Philip and Bartholomew are constantly mentioned together. Nathanael is *never* mentioned. But in John, Philip and Nathanael are mentioned together, Bartholomew *not* mentioned. i.e. Bartholomew is Nathanael. Nathanael, son of Tolmai

**Thomas** - Name means "twin." His Greek name is Didymus. His real name may have been Judas, but since there is another famous Judas in the Twelve, they called him by his nickname--twin. Remembered for his doubting, but John 11:16 says he was prepared to die for Jesus. Tradition says he preached in India and died by a lance there.

**Matthew** - A tax collector, resident of Capernaum. Also called Levi. He is the son of Alphaeus. Jesus first guested with sinners and publicans at his house.

**James** - Often called "James the Less." Perhaps meaning James the younger (Mark 16:1). Son of Mary who accompanied Mary Magdalene to the tomb.



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**Lebbaeus** - Name occurs only in the lists of disciples. Also called Thaddeus. Here in Luke his name appears as Judas, son of James--not Judas Iscariot--so you can see why they called him Thaddeus.

**Simon** - "The Canaanite", actually "the Cananean." An adherent to a party of Jewish zealots named Cananeans. He was not a Canaanite; he was definitely Jewish. In Luke and again in Acts he is called Simon the Zealot.

**Judas** - His name always appears last in the lists of disciples, usually with the infamous stigma "who also betrayed him." He is called Judas Iscariot. Ish in Hebrew means man. He was Judas, a man from Kerioth. Kerioth-Hezron was a city 12 miles south of Hebron which makes Judas the only one of the Twelve who did not hail from Galilee. He was the treasurer of the apostolic band and called a thief in John 12:6 because he was pilfering money entrusted to him.



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