

APOSTLES

- ◆ **Peter**—He was also known as Simon. His name was changed to Cephas, meaning “rock.” He conducted his evangelistic work among the Jews and wrote the Books of 1 and 2 Peter. He may also have assisted in the writing of the Gospel of Mark.
- ◆ **Andrew**—He was Peter’s brother and introduced Peter to Jesus (Jn. 1:40–42). These brothers were fishermen from Bethsaida.
- ◆ **James**—He was John’s brother. Both were sons of Zebedee and Salome and worked with their father in Bethsaida. Sometimes called “the Greater,” James preached in Jerusalem and Judea. He was beheaded by Herod in A.D. 44, becoming the first apostolic martyr.
- ◆ **John**—He was James’ brother. Both were fishermen, along with their father (Mk. 1:19, 20). Jesus called the two brothers “Sons of Thunder” (Mk. 3:17). John labored among the churches of Asia Minor, especially Ephesus. In A.D. 95, he was exiled to Patmos, where he recorded the Revelation. His writings also include the Gospel of John and the Epistles of 1, 2, and 3 John.
- ◆ **Philip**—He was from Bethsaida. He told Nathanael about Jesus (Jn. 1:44–46).
- ◆ **Bartholomew**—He was probably the Nathanael of John’s Gospel Account (Jn. 1:44–46). He was from Cana of Galilee.
- ◆ **Thomas**—He was also called Didymus (“the twin”) (Jn. 11:16; 20:24; 21:2). His home was Galilee. He is claimed by Christians in Syria as the founder of the church in that country; he may also have established churches in Persia and India.
- ◆ **Matthew**—He was also known as Levi, son of Alphaeus (Mt. 9:9; Mk. 2:14). He was from Capernaum and served as a tax collector for the Roman government.
- ◆ **James**—Sometimes called “the Less,” this James was a son of Alphaeus and Mary (Mt. 10:3; 27:56). (Could James and Matthew have been brothers? We do not know.) He was from Galilee and was the writer of the Book of James.
- ◆ **Thaddaeus**—A son of James, this man was also called Judas or Jude (Mt. 10:3; Lk. 6:16). He was a Galilean.
- ◆ **Simon the Zealot**—He was also known as the Cananaean, another word for “zealot,” transliterated from an Aramaic term. Simon was from Galilee.
- ◆ **Judas Iscariot**—“Iscariot” probably indicates that he was from the city of Keriath in Judea. He betrayed Jesus and then committed suicide.
- ◆ **Matthias**—After Judas Iscariot’s death, Matthias was chosen by lot to replace him (Acts 1:26). We know from Acts 1:22 that Matthias had been with Jesus and His disciples “beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up.”
- ◆ **Paul**—Saul, later Paul, a persecutor of the church, was called to be a special apostle for the Gentiles (Rom. 11:13; 1 Cor. 1:1; 9:1; 15:9; 2 Cor. 12:12; Gal. 1:1; 1 Tim. 2:7). Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus. He wrote a vast amount of the New Testament.

The apostles were special messengers of the Lord, appointed by Him, who could give personal testimony regarding His life and resurrection. When Judas Iscariot was replaced, the new apostle was to be one who had been with Jesus and His followers throughout His earthly ministry (Acts 1:21). Later, Christ appeared to Paul to qualify him to become the apostle to the Gentiles (see 1 Cor. 15:8). Some information listed here was taken from Frank L. Cox, “The Glorious Company of the Apostles,” *The Minister’s Monthly* (February 1960): 254.