

A Study of the Apostles

Jesus has many disciples (*a learner, pupil*), but He selected a limited number of apostles (*an ambassador, one who is sent*).

Matthew's Account

- 4:18-22 - Simon Peter and his brother, Andrew, James & John, sons of Zebedee. All four were fishermen.
- 9:9-13 - Matthew, a tax collector. Owned his own house.
- 10:1-4 - The calling of the twelve:
 1. Simon (hearing) Peter (stone). Son of Jonah - Matthew 16:17)
 2. Andrew (manly)
 3. James, son of Zebedee
 4. John, son of Zebedee (Jehovah has been gracious)
 5. Philip (a lover of horses)
 6. Bartholomew (son of Tolmai)
 7. Thomas (twin)
 8. Matthew (gift of God)
 9. James, son of Alphaeus
 10. Lebbaeus or Thaddaeus
 11. Simon, the Canaanite
 12. Judas (confessor of Jehovah) Iscariot (from Kerioth)

Mark's Account

- 1:16-20 - Simon, Andrew, James, John
 - 2:13-17 - Levi, son of Alphaeus
 - 3:13-19 - The calling of the twelve
 1. Simon Peter
 2. James, son of Zebedee
 3. John, son of Zebedee
 4. Andrew
 5. Philip
 6. Bartholomew
 7. Matthew
 8. Thomas
 9. James, son of Alphaeus
 10. Thaddaeus
 11. Simon, the Canaanite
 12. Judas Iscariot
- } Boanerges - Sons of Thunder

Luke's Account

- 5:1-11 - Simon (owned a boat), James & John, sons of Zebedee (partners with Simon).
- 5:27-32 - Levi (tax collector). Provided a *great feast* in his own house for tax collectors, scribes, and Pharisees.

- 6:12-16 - The calling of the twelve. Occurs after Jesus prayed all night. Jesus called the *disciples* to Himself and from them He chose twelve.
 1. Simon Peter
 2. Andrew, Simon's brother
 3. James
 4. John
 5. Philip
 6. Bartholomew
 7. Matthew
 8. Thomas
 9. James, son of Alphaeus
 10. Simon, the Zealot
 11. Judas, son of James (Tahddaeus, Lebbaeus)
 12. Judas Iscariot
- Acts 1:12-14, 26
 1. Peter
 2. James
 3. John
 4. Andrew
 5. Philip
 6. Thomas
 7. Bartholomew
 8. Matthew
 9. James, son of Alphaeus
 10. Simon, the Zealot
 11. Judas, son of James
 12. Matthias (1:26) (gift of Jehovah)

Acts 1:21-22 reveals two requirements of being an apostle:

1. Be with “them” from Jesus’ baptism.
2. Until Jesus’ ascension.

John's Account

- 1:35-42 - Andrew heard John the Baptizer identify Jesus as the Lamb of God. Andrew went and got Simon Peter, brought him to Jesus and Jesus called him Cephas (Aramaic)
- 1:43-51 - Philip and Nathaniel (gift of God - Hebrew) (same as Bartholomew). John never mentions Bartholomew. Matt., Mk., Lk. never mention Nathaniel. He is mentioned again in Jn. 21:2 among the other apostles to whom Jesus appeared.

Apostles abilities given by Jesus

Matthew 10:1; Mark 3:15; 16:17-20

Acts 8:14-19

2 Corinthians 12:12

1. Matthias (replacement for Judas Iscariot)
 - Mentioned only in Acts 1:15-26 as the apostles were selecting one to take Judas' place.
 - Matthias met the requirements of becoming an apostle (Acts 1:21-22).
 - Fox's Book of Martyrs says that he was stoned and beheaded in Jerusalem.

2. Simon the Canaanite (the Zealot)
 - Mentioned only 4 times in the NT: Matt. 10:4; Mk. 3:18; Lk. 6:15; Acts 1:13.
 - Was he a zealous Jew who wanted to get rid of the Romans or was he a zealous Jew in following the Law of Moses? Question not answered.
 - Fox's Book of Martyrs says that he was crucified in Britain.

3. Thaddaeus (Labbaeus, Judas)
 - Mentioned only 5 times in the NT: Matt. 10:3; Mk. 3:18; Lk. 6:16; Jn. 14:22; Acts 1:13.
 - Fox's Book of Martyrs says that he was crucified in Edessa.

4. James the son of Alphaeus (the Less)
 - Matt. 10:3; Mk. 3:18; Lk. 6:15; Acts 1:13.
 - Mark 15:40 and 16:1 mention James the Less and he is thought to be the same person. *Less* is from *mikrou* meaning "small in size, stature."
 - Fox's Book of Martyrs says that he was beaten and stoned by the Jews and then had his skull smashed with a club.

5. Matthew (Levi, son of Alphaeus)
 - Some suppose he was the brother of James.
 - Matthew 9:9-11 - a tax collector.
 - Mark 2:13-16 - owned a house and hosted many tax collectors and sinners.
 - Luke 5:27-30 - hosted a great feast with a great number of tax collectors and others present.
 - Fox's Book of Martyrs says that he was killed with a halberd in Ethiopia.
 - A Preview of Matthew's gospel:
 - He wrote to a Jewish audience. 12 OT quotes applied to the life of Christ.
 - 1:22; 2:15, 23; 4:14; 5:17; 8:17; 12:17; 13:14, 35; 21:4; 27:9.
 - Only gospel that uses the word *church* (16:18; 18:15-17).

6. Andrew
 - A disciple of John the Baptizer (Jn. 1:35-40) who brought Peter to Jesus.
 - Was involved in the feeding of the 5,000 (Jn. 6:8-10).
 - Was one of four apostles who asked Jesus privately about the destruction of Jerusalem (Mk. 13:3-4).
 - Brought some Greeks to Jesus (Jn. 12:20-22).
 - Fox's Book of Martyrs says that he was crucified in Edessa.

7. Bartholomew (Nathanael)

- Bartholomew - Matt. 10:3; Mk. 3:18; Lk. 6:14; Acts 1:13.
- Nathanael - Jn. 1:45-49; 21:2.
- Introduced to Jesus by Philip and was praised by Jesus as having no *guile* (trickery, deceit, subtlety).
- Fox's Book of Martyrs says that he was beaten and crucified in India.

8. Thomas (Didymus)

- Matt. 10:3; Mk. 3:18; Lk. 6:15; Acts 1:13.
- Only John refers to him as Didymus (twin) - Jn. 11:16; 20:24; 21:2.
- Expressed a willingness to die with Jesus (Jn. 11:7-8, 14-16).
- Asked Jesus as question (Jn. 14:5).
- Wanted the proof from Jesus that He had been raised from the dead (Jn. 20:24-29).
- Fox's Book of Martyrs says that he was thrust through with a spear in India.

9. Philip

- Matt. 10:3; Mk. 3:18; Lk. 6:14; Acts 1:13.
- John 1:43-48 - Brought Nathanael (Bartholomew) to Jesus.
- He was *tested* by Jesus (Jn. 6:5-7).
- Mentioned in Jn. 12:20-22.
- Asked to see the Father (Jn. 14:7-11).

10. James, son of Zebedee

- Mentioned 20 times in the NT (Matt. 4:21; 10:2; Mk. 3:17; Lk. 5:10; 6:14; Acts 1:13).
- He was one of the *inner circle* of friends that Jesus had:
 1. Matt. 17:1; Mk. 9:2; Lk. 9:28 - witnessed the transfiguration.
 2. Mk. 5:37; Lk. 8:51 - witnessed the resurrecting of Jairus' daughter.
 3. Matt. 20:20-28; Mk. 10:35-45 - wanted a special place in Christ's glory.
 4. Mk. 13:3-4 - was one of four who asked Jesus privately about the destruction of Jerusalem.
 5. Mk. 14:33 - was with Peter and John when Jesus went to pray.
 6. Lk. 9:51-56 - wanted to call down fire from heaven to destroy a village of Samaritans who rejected Jesus.
- He was martyred by Herod the King (Acts 12:2).

11. Judas Iscariot

- Mentioned 22 times in the NT (Matt. 10:4; Mk. 3:19; Lk. 6:16). Listed last each time. Every time he is mentioned it is noted that he was the one who would betray Jesus.
- Psalm 41:9 and Zechariah 11:12-13 are prophecies of the betrayal of Jesus and price Judas received. Acts 1:15-19 connects the writing of David to the fulfillment with Jesus and Judas.
- Why did Judas betray Jesus? Was it because he had no choice in the matter? Was there something in his character that led him to his decision?

- John 13:18-20 shows that Jesus knew who it would be. Jesus quotes Psalm 41:9 in this text.
- John 12:1-6 reveals the character of Judas.
- Matt. 26:14-16; Mk. 14:10-11; Lk. 22:3-6 all reveal that Judas was seeking an opportunity to betray Jesus for the money he was paid.
- Acts 1:16-17 states that Judas *obtained part in this ministry* with the other apostles. Some believe that he was singled out as the betrayer and had no choice in the matter. The Biblical text reveals otherwise.
- Acts 1:25 shows that Judas *by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.*

12. John, son of Zebedee

- Mentioned 35 times in the NT.
- In Luke 9:49-56 we find John in two similar situations. It appears from these verses that John wanted to handle things quickly and permanently!
- He was the disciple whom Jesus loved (Jn. 13:23; 19:25-27; 20:2; 21:7, 20-25).
- We find John and Peter suffering together in Acts 3-4 for healing a lame man and preaching to the people.
- Peter and John were later sent to Samaria to pass on the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-15).
- Mentioned again in Galatians 2:9 as one who preached specifically to the Jews.
- Wrote 5 books of the NT: John, 1st, 2nd, 3rd John and Revelation.
- Gospel of John Purpose - John 20:30-31. John recorded 7 *signs* that Jesus performed to prove that He was the Son of God (5:36).
- 1 John was written to reassure the recipients of their salvation (*know* used 38 times) and to remind them of God's love for them and their love for one another (*love* used 51 times).
- 2 John was written to *the elect lady and her children*. Whether a specific lady in the church, or the church itself is debated. It was written to encourage them to abide in the doctrine of Christ.
- 3 John was written to *Gaius* to encourage him to imitate what was good.
- Revelation was written to the seven churches in Asia (2-3) to encourage them to overcome the trials they were experiencing at the hands of Roman persecution. 17:14 is the "key verse."

13. Peter (Simon Peter, Cephas)

- Mentioned 212 times in the NT.
- Cephas 6 times in the NT (Jn. 1:42; 1 Cor. 1:12; 3:22; 9:5; 15:5; Gal. 2:9). A Syriac name meaning *rock*.
- Simon 44 times in the NT. A Greek name meaning *hearing*.
- Peter 162 times in the NT. A Greek name meaning *rock* or *stone*.

Peter mentioned in **Matthew**:

- He was married - Matt. 8:14-15; Mk. 1:29-31; Lk. 4:38-39.
- Called by Jesus - Matthew 10:2; Mk. 3:13; Lk. 6:14. Mentioned first every time.
- Walked on water to meet Jesus - Matt. 14:22-33.

- Asked for an explanation of a parable - Matt. 15:15-20.
- Confessed the divine nature of Christ - Matt. 16:13-20; Mk. 8:27-30; Lk. 9:18-20.
- Rebuked Jesus for speaking of His death - Matt. 16:21-23; Mk. 8:31-33.
- Witnessed the Transfiguration - Matt. 17:1-13; Mk. 9:2-8; Lk. 9:28-36.
- Questioned by tax collectors - Matt. 17:24-27.
- Asked Jesus about forgiveness - Matt. 18:21-35.
- Asked Jesus about reward - Matt. 19:23-30; Mk. 10:28-31; Lk. 18:28-30.
- Vowed he would not deny Jesus - Matt. 26:31-35; Mk. 14:27-31; Lk. 22:31-34; Jn. 13:36-38.
- In the garden with Jesus - Matt. 26:36-46; Mk. 14:32-42.
- Cut off Malchus' ear - Matt. 26:47-54; Mk. 14:46-47; Lk. 22:49-51; Jn. 18:10-11.
- Followed Jesus after His arrest - Matt. 26:58; Mk. 14:54; Lk. 22:54.
- Denies knowing Jesus - Matt. 26:69-75; Mk. 14:66-72; Lk. 22:54-62; Jn. 18:15-27.

Peter mentioned in **Mark**:

- Witnessed the raising of a dead girl - Mk. 5:21-24, 35-43; Matt. 9:18-26 (names not mentioned); Lk. 8:40-56.
- Asked Jesus about the fig tree - Mk. 11:20-24.
- Asked Jesus privately about destruction of Jerusalem - Mk. 13:3.
- Name singled out for being told that Jesus was raised - Mk. 16:6-7.

Peter mentioned in **Luke**:

- Worshiped Jesus at the great catch of fish - Lk. 5:5-8.
- Asked Jesus about a parable - Lk. 12:41.
- Sent with John to prepare the Passover - Lk. 22:7-13; Matt. 26:17-19; Mk. 14:12-16 (no names mentioned by Matthew or Mark).
- Ran to the tomb after hearing from the women that Jesus was gone - Lk. 24:1-14; Jn. 20:3-6.

Peter mentioned in **John**:

- From Bethsaida - Jn. 1:44. On NE shore of the Sea of Galilee.
- Confessed Christ - Jn. 6:66-69.
- Foot washing incident - Jn. 13:2-11.
- Wanted John to ask Jesus a question - Jn. 13:23-25.
- Asked Jesus where He was going - John 13:36-38.
- Went fishing after the resurrection and ate breakfast with Jesus - Jn. 21:1-13.
- Questioned by Jesus - Jn. 21:15-19.
- Rebuked by Jesus - Jn. 21:20-22.

Peter in **Acts**:

- Speaks to other apostles about appointing another apostle - 1:15-22.
- Pentecost sermon recorded - 2:14-38.
- With John healed a lame man - 3:1-10.
- Preached on Solomon's porch - 3:11-26.
- Arrested with John - 4:1-3.
- Spoke to rulers, elders, scribes - 4:5-12.
- Reported to brethren what happened - 4:23-31.

- Dealt with Ananias and Sapphira - 5:1-11.
- Healed many - 5:12-16.
- Arrested, beaten, released - 5:21-42.
- Sent to Samaria with John to pass on the Holy Spirit - 8:14-25.
- Healed Aeneas - 9:32-35.
- Raised Dorcas - 9:36-43.
- Saw a vision and preached to Cornelius' household - 10.
- Went to Jerusalem and told what happened - 11:1-18.
- Arrested, freed by an angel - 12:3-19.
- Spoke to gathering in Jerusalem about circumcision - 15:6-21.

Peter after Acts:

- Met Paul three years after his conversion - Gal. 1:18.
- Called the *apostle of the circumcision* - Gal. 2:7-10.
- Acted like a hypocrite - Gal. 2:11-21.
- 1 Peter - Written to Christians who were facing persecution (1:6-7). He encourages holy living for them as *strangers* and *pilgrims*. Dealt with domestic responsibilities (3:1-7) and the Christian's reaction to persecution (3:13-4:19). He was an elder in the church at Jerusalem (5:1).
- 2 Peter - Written to encourage the persecuted Christians to grow (1:5-11) and not be fooled by false teachers (2:1-3:18).
- Tradition tells us that he was crucified upside-down.

14. Saul (Hebrew) of Tarsus:

- Referred to as Saul 22 times.
- His pedigree – Philippians 3:4-6.
- A persecutor of the church – 1 Corinthians 15:9; 1 Timothy 1:13.
- Assisted on the martyrdom of Stephen - Acts 7:58.
- Made *havoc* (to ruin, treat violently) of the church – Acts 8:3.
- Was actively seeking to imprison and murder disciples - Acts 9:1-2; 22:4-5; 26:9-11.
- Confronted by Christ near Damascus, was made blind, and did not eat or drink for 3 days – Acts 9:3-9; 22:6-11; 26:12-18.
- Taught and baptized by Ananias – Acts 9:10-19; 22:12-16.
- Immediately began preaching Christ – Acts 9:20-30; 26:19-23.
- Worked with Barnabas for 1 year in Antioch with the church – Acts 11:25-26.
- Traveled with Barnabas to take money to poor Christians in Judea – Acts 11:27-30.
- Returned to Antioch with Barnabas after their “ministry” was fulfilled and took John Mark with them – Acts 12:25.

Paul (Roman):

- Referred to as Paul 162 times.
- Name change noted in Acts 13:9. Only referred to as Saul again after this point when he recounts his conversion (Acts 22:7, 13; 26:14).
- Born in Tarsus, brought up in Jerusalem - Acts 22:3.
- A free-born Roman citizen - Acts 22:25-28.
- Knew the laws of the land and used them – Acts 25:9-12.

- A tent maker - Acts 18:3.
- His education: Acts 22:3; 23:6; Galatians 1:11-14.
- His travels: Trip 1 - Acts 13:1-14:28. Traveled about 1,400 miles.
Trip 2 - Acts 15:36-18:22. Traveled about 2,800 miles.
Trip 3 - Acts 18:23-21:16. Traveled about 2,700 miles.
- His pre-conversion character: Zealous and blameless – Philippians 3:6.
Pure conscience – Acts 23:1.
Ignorant – 1 Timothy 1:12-13.
- His fearlessness: Acts 14:19-20.
Acts 21:26-36.
Acts 23:6-10.
Acts 26:24-32.
2 Corinthians 11:22-29.
- His care for others: Romans 14.
1 Corinthians 8-9.
1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1.

The “One Another” passages of Paul:

1. Members of one another – Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 4:25.
2. Be kindly affectionate to one another – Romans 12:10.
3. Give preference to one another – Romans 12:10.
4. Be of the same mind toward one another – Romans 12:16; 15:5.
5. Love one another – Romans 13:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:9.
6. Do not judge one another – Romans 14:13.
7. Edify one another – Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11.
8. Receive one another – Romans 15:7.
9. Admonish one another – Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16.
10. Salute one another – Romans 16:16.
11. Do not be puffed up one against another – 1 Corinthians 4:6.
12. Wait for one another – 1 Corinthians 11:33.
13. Have the same care for one another – 1 Corinthians 12:25.
14. Greet one another – 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12.
15. By love serve one another – Galatians 5:13.
16. Do not consume one another – Galatians 5:15.
17. Bear with one another – Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13.
18. Be kind to one another – Ephesians 4:32.
19. Submit to one another – Ephesians 5:21.
20. Do not lie to one another – Colossians 3:9.
21. Forgive one another – Colossians 3:13.
22. Abound in love toward one another – 1 Thessalonians 3:12.
23. Comfort one another – 1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11.