

Apostles - What We Know From Scripture And History

Week 4 – February 14 & 15

JAMES & JOHN

THE TWELVE DISCIPLES – WEESING

Peter, Andrew, James, and John, fishermen of Capernaum
Thomas and Saint Matthew too, Philip and Bartholemew
Simon Zealot, James, and Thaddeus and the betrayer, Judas Iscariot
12 Disciples here in all following the Master's call.

James & John

Who “were” they & who will they become? - Matthew 4:19-22

In partnership with Peter and Andrew. (Luke 5:10).

The Nickname: Mark 3:17 - Sons of Thunder

Perhaps because: Luke 9:51-56

Or this didn't help: Matthew 20:20-28 & Mark 10:35-45

Part of the level 1 list: Mark 5:37; Matthew 17:1; Mark 13:3; Mark 14:33

Matthew 10:2-4	Mark 3:16-19	Luke 6:14-16	Acts 1:13-26
Peter Andrew James John	Peter James John Andrew	Peter Andrew James John	Peter John James Andrew
Philip Bartholomew (Nathanael) Thomas Matthew	Philip Bartholomew (Nathanael) Matthew Thomas	Philip Bartholomew (Nathanael) Matthew Thomas	Philip Thomas Bartholomew (Nathanael) Matthew
James (Son of Alphaeus) Lebbaeus (surname Thaddeus) Simon Judas Iscariot	James (Son of Alphaeus) Thaddeus Simon Judas Iscariot	James (Son of Alphaeus) Simon Judas (Son of James) Judas Iscariot	James (Son of Alphaeus) Simon Judas (Son of James) Matthias

James (Greek *Iakobos*— the English word for Jacob meaning Israel or he who supplants his Brother).

James was the son of Zebedee (Mark 4:21)

Older brother of John (Mat 17:1)

James the Greater (height/age/prominence?)

James the Less-James son of Alphaeus-James the brother of Jesus

In "The Chosen": Big James / Little James

Concerning their deaths - , James was the first apostle killed (Acts 12:1-2) and the only one, other than Judas Iscariot, whose manner of death we know for certain.

Camino de Santiago

Tradition claims James son of Zebedee was a missionary to Spain and that his body was buried there, but since his death took place in Jerusalem very early in the history of the church, there are numerous challenges with this tradition. Nonetheless, the Camino de Santiago—a pilgrimage to the church where James is allegedly buried—was one of the most popular Christian pilgrimages for centuries, and Santiago de Compostela (the shrine dedicated to Saint James) is still a destination for more than 300,000 people every year.

John (Meaning – God is gracious)

Before Jesus – John 1:35-39.

He lived in Capernaum in Galilee - but likely a native of Bethsaida.

He was a fisherman on the Sea of Galilee along with his brother and father.

He was one of the three disciples, closest to Jesus, the others being Peter and James.

The humble arrogance: "the disciple whom Jesus loved."

This is in direct contrast to a "Son of Thunder."

John's connection - John 18:15-17

Jesus' connection - John 19:26-27

Historians believe that Mary eventually died in Ephesus under the direct care of John.

John's athleticism - John 20:1-10 (or Peter's lack thereof)

John the author - Gospel of John, I, II, and III John, and Revelation

John's central role – Galatians 2:9

We also see John was active with Peter after the beginning of the church in Acts.

What We Learn from John

Humility & Love

Only one to record the detail of Jesus washing the disciples' feet.

John is called the "apostle whom Jesus loved."

He uses the word *love* more than 80 times.

God sooooo LOVED the world ...

In I John 4:7-8, John teaches us that love is the characteristic of God.

John teaches us the clarity of being a faithful follower of Jesus.

- We are walking in the light or in darkness (I John 1).
- If we are born of God, we do not sin (I John 3:9).
- We are of God or of the world (I John 4:4-5).
- If we love we are born of God if we do not love, we are not born of God (I John 4:7-8).

John teaches - I John 5:13

John teaches faithfulness in spite of sin - I John 1:8-10; 2:1

John is viewed by Paul - Galatians 2:9

John's death - John 21:20-25

Many historians believe John died in Ephesus (Modern Turkey) in AD 98, during the reign of Emperor Trajan. There are several traditions about his death.

1. One is that John was arrested in Ephesus where he was tossed into a basin of boiling oil. According to this tradition, he was miraculously delivered from death and was sentenced to exile on the island of Patmos.
 2. Another tradition states that John was killed by a group of Jewish men.
 3. There is yet another report that he did not die but ascended into heaven like Enoch and Elijah.
- In any case, there is no scriptural record of his actual death.

The most likely tradition is that John died of old age.

He lived out his years caring for Mary, the mother of Jesus, in Ephesus. He journeyed from a "Son of Thunder" to a gentle man who had a peaceful death among those he loved.

A powerful note from John

"Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written." - John 21:25