

The Apostles Background

Simon Peter

- Simon Peter was the son of Jonah and brother of Andrew, who also was an apostle of Jesus. Simon Peter's other name was Cephas, or the Rock. He was born in Bethsaida but later settled in Capernaum. He was married and lived in his house with his mother-in-law. He was a fisherman before becoming an apostle of Jesus and a missionary. He wrote the books of first and second Peter in the Bible's New Testament. *He died in Rome as a martyr.*

Andrew

- Andrew was the son of Jonas, and he was Apostle Simon Peter's brother. He was born in Bethsaida and was a disciple of John the Baptist before becoming an apostle of Jesus. He was a fisherman and introduced Peter to Jesus.

Judas Iscariot

- Judas Iscariot, also known as the traitor, was the son of Simon Iscariot. He lived in Kerieth in southern Judea. Professionally, he was the apostles' treasurer. He died on the day of Christ's crucifixion by hanging himself. Judas' father, Simon, was not either of the men named Simon who were apostles.

John

- Often called the apostle of love, John also was known as *Boanerges*. He was the son of Zebedee and Salome and a brother of James the Great, who also was an apostle. He was Simon Peter's best friend. Several attempts were made to martyr him, but they failed. He died of old age.

James the Great

- James, also known as James the Great, was the son of Zebedee and Salome and a brother of John, who was an apostle. He lived in Capernaum, Jerusalem and Bethsaida and was a fisherman before joining Jesus in preaching. He preached in Spain prior to dying as a martyr.

Bartholomew

- Bartholomew's other name was Nathaniel, and he was the son of Talmai. He was introduced to Jesus by Philip, who was his close friend.

Jude, James the Lesser and Matthew

- Jude was the son of Cleophas, or Alpheus, and Mary. His other names were Lebbeus, Judas the Zealot and Thaddeus. He lived in Galilee and was James the Lesser's brother.

Also the son of Alpheus, or Cleophas, and Mary, James the Lesser was Jude's brother. He is sometimes referred to as the Lord's brother. He was the first Bishop of Jerusalem and was stoned to death after thrown from the pinnacle of the Jerusalem Temple.

Mathew was called Levi before he became a disciple. He was the son of Alphaeus and probably came from, or from near, Capernaum. He was a Sadducee who collected tax for the Jerusalem Temple.

Philip, Thomas Didymus and Simon the Zealot

- The genealogies of Apostles Philip, Thomas Didymus and Simon the Zealot are unknown, and very little is known about their lives.

Philip was of Greek descent and a native of Bethsaida. He was not Jewish and was the first apostle to be called by Jesus. *He wrote the book of Philip.*

Thomas Didymus is simply known as the doubting apostle. He was always skeptical. His work involved preaching in Persia, India and Parthia. He was speared in India.

Simon the Zealot is called that name or Canaanite to distinguish him from Simon Peter. He preached in diverse places, including Samaria, Egypt, Britain, Northern Africa, Persia, Iberia and on the Black Sea. He labored in Persia and died as a martyr in Iberia.

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