

Mat 19:27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? 28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Thomas

Thomas is an Aramaic word: tâ'ôwm, which means "twin." Several passages also say he was called Didymus – a Greek word for "the twin." However, the Bible never mentions his twin.

Aside from the four lists of apostles, Thomas is mentioned four times in the Bible, all of which occur in the Gospel of John.

The Death of Lazarus John 11:16 Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellow disciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.

"I go to prepare a place for you" John 14:5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

Jesus appears to His disciples John 20:24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.²⁶ And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. ²⁷Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. ²⁸And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.²⁹ Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

Jesus appears at the Sea of Galilee John 21:1 After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself. 2 There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples.

The earliest mention of Thomas' missionary work comes from Eusebius of Caesarea, who quotes Origen (a scholar who died in the mid 3rd century) as saying that Thomas was sent to Parthia, which is in modern day Iran.

According to more popular church tradition, Thomas travelled to India around 50 AD and evangelized the people there, possibly establishing as many as seven churches. In fact, there has

existed in India, a large body of Christians, who give themselves the name of "St. Thomas's Christians."

Christian tradition says Thomas was martyred in India, noting that he was killed with a spear.

James, the Less

Bearing the same name with James the son of Zebedee, he was designated to be called by some additional title, to distinguish him from the other apostle James. In all the apostolic lists, he is designated by a reference to the name of his father, as is the first James. As the person first mentioned by this name is called James, the son of Zebedee, the second is called James, the son of Alphaeus.

But in one passage of Mark's account of the crucifixion, it is mentioned, that among the women present, was Mary the mother of **James the less**. The ESV calls him "the younger."

Mark 15:40 KJV There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of **James the less** (g3398 mikros)...

Mark 15:40 ABP And there were also women from far off viewing, among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the one of **James the less** (mikron, singular of g3398)...

Mark 15:40 ESV There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of **James the younger**...

Among the "James trio" in the New Testament, James, son of Alphaeus has the smallest profile. He receives no credit for a single question, comment, or action during his years with Christ. We know him as one of the Twelve Apostles.

The exact time and manner of his death is not certain. According to Flavius Josephus, the Jewish historian, the high priest Ananias ordered James killed by stoning. But Hegesippus, an early Christian writer, quoted by the third-century Christian historian Eusebius, says James was cast down from the pinnacle of the temple where he was to deny Christ before the people. Instead, he boldly proclaimed Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah. The multitudes praised God. However, James was cast down and stoned. But the fall and stoning only broke his legs, so on his knees he prayed to God for those who were attacking him, saying, "Lord, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Then he was struck in the head by a club and died.

Simon (the Zealot)

There are nine people named Simon in the New Testament. Two of them are among Jesus' Twelve Apostles – Simon Peter and Simon the Zealot.

The name “Zealot” comes from the Greek word *zēlōtēs*, which Luke used in both his gospel and in Acts to distinguish this Simon from Simon Peter. The word *zēlōtēs* means “one burning with zeal, a zealot.” Matthew and Mark give him the title Canaanite *kananaios*, which comes from the Aramaic word *qannâ*, meaning “zealous.”

Since Simon is only named in the list of the apostles, and is completely absent from the Gospel of John, there is not much we know about him.

There are no early church records of Simon the Zealot’s ministry, so it is hard to say where he spread the gospel. The Golden Legend, which is a collection of hagiographies, compiled by Jacobus de Voragine in the thirteenth century, records that he preached in Egypt.

There are numerous accounts of Simon the Zealot’s death, but the earliest records come centuries after his death. Like many of the apostles, it’s hard to conclude exactly which tradition (if any) can be trusted:

- In the fifth century, Moses of Chorene wrote that Simon the Zealot was martyred in the Kingdom of Iberia.
- The Golden Legend says he was martyred in Persia in 65 AD.
- Ethiopian Christians believe he was crucified in Samaria.
- Another account says he was crucified in 61 AD in Britain.
- In the sixteenth century, Justus Lipsius claimed he was sawed in half.
- Eastern tradition claims he died of old age in Edessa.

Judas (Thaddaeus)

Among the Twelve Apostles there are two Simons, two Jammeses, and two Judases.

Depending on the translation, we may see Judas listed as Jude. These are two variations of the same Greek name, which is derived from the Hebrew name, Judah. Some scholars believe “Jude” first worked its way into our English translations to help avoid confusion with Judas Iscariot, whose name practically became a synonym for traitor.

Judas appears in John 14:22, and John makes a point of telling us this is not Judas Iscariot.

John 14:22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

Some suggest this aversion to the name Judas is the same reason why Matthew and Mark replaced it with Thaddeus in their lists of disciples.

Matthew and Mark, in giving the names of the apostles, mention in the tenth place, the name of Thaddeus, to whom the former evangelist also gives the name of Lebbeus which means “a

man of heart.". They give him a place before Simon Zelotes, and immediately after James, the son of Alphaeus.

Mat 10:2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; 3 Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and **Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus**; 4 Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

Luke gives the tenth place to Simon Zelotes, in both his lists, and after him mentions " Judas (*the brother*) of James."

Luke 6:13 And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles; 14 Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, 15 Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes, 16 And **Judas (*the brother*) of James**, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.

Acts 1:13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and **Judas (*the brother*) of James**.

The ABP translation calls him in both Luke 6:13 and Acts 1:13 **Judas of James**.

Opinions are divided on whether Jude the apostle was also Jude, the half-brother of Jesus, the traditional author of the Epistle of Jude. But we know that Jesus' half-brothers were not the 12 Apostles.

John 7:5 ABP For neither his brothers adelphós believed in him.

It is traditionally believed that Judas was martyred in Syria on his missionary journey with Simon the Zealot.