

The Original 12 Disciples

(**Simon**) **Peter** (Cephas, “Rock”) *one of the inner 3* - older brother, married, dominant personality, crucified upside-down(?) by Nero

and **Andrew** - younger brother, fishermen, both born in Bethsaida, then settled in Capernaum, early followers of John the Baptist, first to follow Jesus, crucified on an X-shaped cross (“St. Andrew’s Cross”)

James *one of the inner 3* - Sons of Zebedee, Jesus called them “Sons of Thunder,” first disciple martyred (beheaded) and only one recorded in scripture

and **John** *one of the inner 3* - known as “the disciple Jesus loved,” wrote John, and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John, and Revelation, exiled to Patmos under Domitian, but then returned to Ephesus and led churches in Asia, died in old age about 100 AD

Philip - Jewish as with all the disciples but with a Greek name, evangelistic (invited Nathanael), stoned and crucified in Hierapolis, Phrygia

Bartholomew (or Nathanael) - from Cana, sincere (“an Israelite I whom there is no deceit”), may have gone to India, probably knifed to death there

Thomas (Didymus—“a twin”) - called “Doubting Thomas,” known for courage and loyalty, may have gone to India, killed with a spear

Matthew (**Levi**) - son of Alphaeus, an **Herodian**, tax collector—despised by many as a result, took the gospel to Ethiopia and Egypt, killed with a spear

and **James** (the Less—not much known about him) - son of Alphaeus, mother’s name was Mary, brother named Joseph, possibly stoned to death in Jerusalem

Thaddeus (also called Judas or Jude) - son of James, took the gospel to Edessa in Mesopotamia, possibly clubbed to death for his faith

Simon (“the **Zealot**”) - fierce loyalties, may have gone to West Africa and then England, possibly crucified in England in 74AD

Judas (son of Simon **Iscaiot**) - from Judah near Jericho (the only non-Galilean disciple), treasurer for Jesus and the 12, betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, hanged himself after Jesus’ arrest

The Jews of Jesus’ Day: 5 responses to Hellenism (Greek) Culture

Hellenism: Made Man the center of a worldview for the first time—the gods serve Man, Man’s pleasure is key. Invented by Greeks, adopted by Rome, 5 Jewish responses in Jesus’ day:

Pharisees - *rejected Hellenism*, let God deal with Rome, devoted to obeying God, moved north to Chorazin, Capernaum, and Bethsaida (the Triangle area of Galilee)

Sadducees - *embraced Hellenism*, priest families in Jerusalem, almost entirely corrupt, partnered with Rome, invited Herod the Great to marry a Sadducee daughter to rule them

Herodians - *embraced Hellenism*, loved Rome and the latest inventions and entertainment, knew the culture well, wealthy

Essenes - *rejected Hellenism*, separated from the Romans and culture, committed to scripture (Dead Sea Scrolls)

Zealots - *rejected Hellenism*, zealous to overthrow Rome, believed in redemptive violence