

**HISTORY OF
EARLY
CHRISTIANITY
PART TWELVE**

THE TWELVE APOSTLES:

FACTS VS. MYTHS

DEDICATION

This class is dedicated to

SUE SORENSON

**whose initial encouragement help to
create this Early Christianity Series.**

LECTURE

ONE

QUOTE 1 BY A BIBLICAL SCHOLAR

“...our evidence of each of the apostles and of the apostles as a group is thinner than our evidence for a historical Jesus. Jesus’s existence tends to make the apostles more likely, not the other way around.”

Anonymous Author.

ADVISORY ON LECTURES - 1

In doing an online search on data about the Apostles and their lives, 2.7 million websites came up. Doing a search on Amazon for books about the Apostles of Jesus , 1274 books were listed. That is a lot of information and data on the Twelve. But what can it be based on? This course will cover what is known (and unknown) about

ADVISORY ON LECTURES - 2

the Apostles based on the books of the New Testament. All the information condensed down from these sources will not fill many pages in even a single book. What is known and not known about the Apostles, including the actual membership of this distinguished group, is a source of much contention and debate.

ADVISORY ON LECTURES - 3

Religious groups, NT scholars, and lay people can and do contend, rather acrimoniously at times, about who is or is not an Apostle and anything else connected to each individual. This lecture will try to lay out the basic facts of the first followers of Jesus. Anything else beyond this is mere speculation, old tradition and wishful thinking.

OVERVIEW - 1

The lecture will cover the “Twelve Apostles” only. The primary sources for identifying any individual who is or who is not a member of this elite and distinguished group of followers of Jesus of Nazareth will be the four Canonical Gospels and the 1st Chapter of the Acts of the Apostles and Paul.

THE

“TWELVE”

APOSTLES

HEAD OF A YOUNG APOSTLE BY RAPHAEL

**Winning bid was
\$47.8 million.**

**The apostles are
quite popular,
especially in art.**



PAUL THE APOSTLE MOVIE

Cost to make:

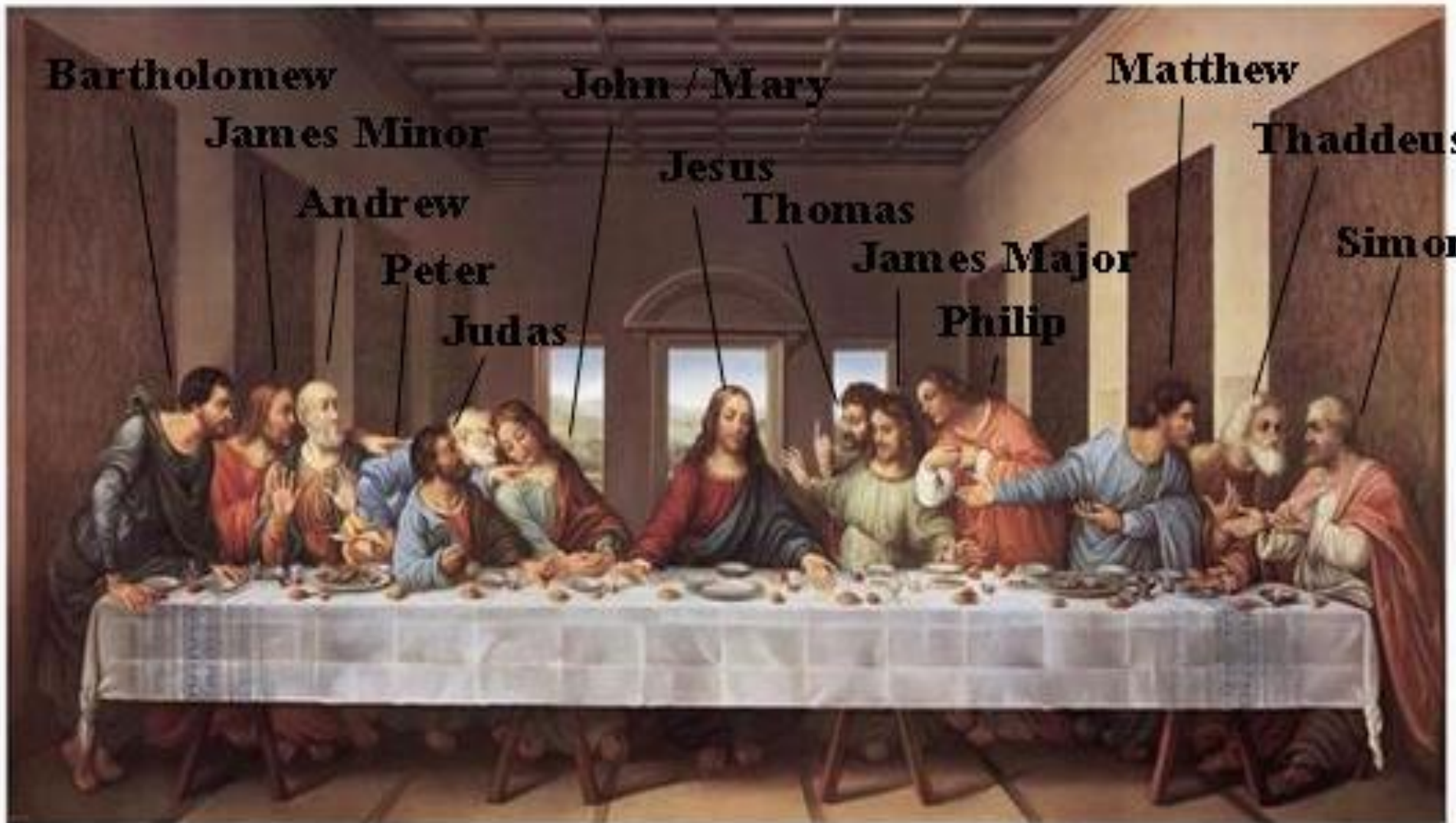
\$5 million.

Gross Revenue:

\$18.5 million.



THE LAST SUPPER



THE VALUE OF THE LAST SUPPER by Leonardo Da Vinci

**The minimum bid would
start at \$375 million and
grow from there. There is
no upper limit.**

QUOTE 2 BY A BIBLICAL SCHOLAR

“...but it is intended to preserve the independence of the apostolic witness: apostles cannot come to faith as of the result of the testimony of third parties. They must see and believe for themselves in order that they can provide **first-hand witness.”**

From Reginald Fuller: The Formation of the Resurrection Narratives

THE DEFINITION OF APOSTLE -1

The Greek word for Apostle is “apostello” which, literally, means “the sent one or embacery”. This word occurs over 70 times in the NT. Another related word in Greek is “apostolon” which translates as “messenger”.

THE DEFINITION OF APOSTLE - 2

Consequently, a set of criteria must be used in order to define who were the Apostles of Jesus of Nazareth.

Any set of points will always have more than 12 candidates. Therefore, it must be understood that there are two sets of Apostles.

THE DEFINITION OF APOSTLE - 3

St. John Chrysotom said this about Junia, the female Apostle according to Paul:

To be an apostle is something great. But to be outstanding among the apostles — just think what a wonderful song of praise that is! They were outstanding on the basis of their works and virtuous actions. Indeed, how great is the wisdom of this woman that she was even deemed worthy of the title of apostle (by Paul of Tarsis).

THE DEFINITION OF APOSTLE - 4

The term “Apostle” will be anyone in the early church who was sent forth to spread the “good news” by Jesus himself or his closest followers. And then there are the Twelve, who all were Apostles, but not all Apostles were members of “The Twelve”.

DEFINITION OF THE TWELVE - 1

There is no general agreement on what criteria should be used or how to define the Twelve Apostles. Most individuals use definitions, criteria, and techniques that usually fulfill their personal agenda or admit that there is an uncertainty.

DEFINITION OF THE TWELVE - 2

In this lecture the qualifications to be accepted as a member of The Twelve will be a general set of criteria that most reasonable individuals would accept as being a minimum set of requirements for a person to be included in the “Twelve Apostles”.

DEFINITION OF THE TWELVE - 3

The following criteria designate an individual as one of the Twelve:

- 1. The person was called directly by Jesus of Nazareth to “Follow Me.”**
- 2. The person served with him during his Earthly ministry.**

DEFINITION OF THE TWELVE - 4

- 3. The person saw Jesus of Nazareth after the Resurrection.**
- 4. The person's name appears in at least one Canonical Gospel or Acts or Epistle on a list of the 12.**
- 5. The person's name is, in some manner, associated with the designation or title, Apostle.**

THE TWELVE APOSTLES - 1

All four Gospels as well as a number of Epistles contain the phrase “The Twelve” or “The Twelve Apostles”. The Gospels of Mark, Matthew, and Luke as well as the Acts of the Apostles even list out the 12 names of these individuals. However, each Gospel has a different list of names (Acts and Luke are the same).

THE TWELVE APOSTLES - 2

And the Gospel of John further compounds the confusion by only naming 7 (or 9 depending on whom one thinks is an Apostle) of the 12 and obliquely saying the “Sons of Thunder” are Apostles as well without naming them. To further confuse the count, Paul indirectly refers to The Twelve and Peter as separate entities.

THE TWELVE APOSTLES - 3

On the next slides all Apostles will be listed. There are 18 names on the lists that fulfill the previous stated criteria. From four books of the New Testament, there are detailed lists of the 12. Each different name appears on the following list. The last two names appear because they can be argued as fitting the criteria in their own way.

THE EIGHTEEN APOSTLES - 1

- 1. Simon Peter (also called Cephas)**
- 2. James, son of Zebedee**
- 3. John, son of Zebedee**
- 4. Andrew, brother of Simon Peter**
- 5. Philip**
- 6. Bartholomew**
- 7. Matthew, the tax collector**
- 8. Thomas (Judas Didymos)**

THE EIGHTEEN APOSTLES - 2

- 9. James son of Alphaeus**
- 10. Thaddaeus (Lebbaeus)**
- 11. Simon the Zealot**
- 12. Judas Iscariot**
- 13. Judas son of James**
- 14. Levi, son of Alphaeus (tax collector)**
- 15. Nathanael**

THE EIGHTEEN APOSTLES - 3

16. Jude

17. Mary Magdalene

**18. The Beloved Disciple: The Risen
Youth or Lazarus or another
individual**

WHO ARE THE TWELVE? - 1

The major issue with the lists is that there are 17 different male names (plus Mary). Consequently, for centuries many scholars, theologians, and church officials have had to find a way to explain these discrepancies away in order to not have sacred scriptures contain any errors.

WHO ARE THE TWELVE? - 2

A common way that is still used today is to link different names of Apostles with other Apostle's names and say they are the same people. For example:

- 1. Bartholomew = Nathanael**
- 2. Jude = Thaddeus = Judas, son of James = Labbaeus**
- 3. Levi = Matthew**
- 4. John = Beloved Disciple**

WHO ARE THE TWELVE? - 3

There is NO basis for connecting these individual names together other than to get rid of the discrepancies or contradictions among the Gospel writers. If there are only 12 Apostles, then the following question must be answered: “Why are there more than 12 names from 6 different sources???” By linking names, there are now only 12 people.

WHO ARE THE TWELVE? - 4

Linking certain names is often based on questionable criteria.

1. Bartholomew is placed on the lists in the Gospels of Mark, Matthew, and Luke right after the name Philip. In the Gospel of John, Nathanael is brought to meet Jesus by Philip. Consequently, these facts suggest that the two names belong to the same person.

WHO ARE THE TWELVE? - 5

2. Levi and Matthew are linked because they are both identified as toll/tax collectors. Obviously, the different authors of the Gospels were describing the same person. But that points to the question as to why Peter, Andrew, James, and John who were all fishermen are allowed to retain their individual identities and are separate people.

WHO ARE THE TWELVE? - 6

3. John is too humble and modest to put his name in his own Gospel but refers to himself in the third person by the title, “Beloved Disciple”. But then one must wonder why he puts in a verse (JN21:2) the identifier, “the sons of Zebedee”, since that is who he is. But in the same verse, he states that the Beloved Disciple is a different person from them.

WHO ARE THE TWELVE? - 6

4. Thaddeus, Jude, Judas the son of James, Lebbaeus, Thaddaeus.

“Some have argued that there are two or more different people represented by these names, but most Bible scholars agree that these various names all refer to the same person.” (Jack Zavada – Evangelical Writer)

Most NT scholars do NOT agree.

WHY MARY MAGDALENE - 1

- 1. Appears in all four canonical Gospels as a member of Jesus of Nazareth's ministry group.**
- 2. Witness to the crucifixion, burial, and Resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.**
- 3. In GOJ, Mary is the first person to see and visit with Jesus after the Resurrection.**

WHY MARY MAGDALENE - 2

- 4. In 7 non-canonical Gospels she is called an Apostle and is given special teaching by Jesus Himself.**
- 5. As a female member of his ministry group, she could not have been there without Jesus specifically asking her to belong.**
- 6. She is called “the Beloved Disciple”.**

WHO IS THE BELOVED DISCIPLE -1

The question with the “Beloved Disciple” is not whether that individual was an Apostle. The question is “Who was that individual?”. The common answer by most modern Christians is “John, the son of Zebedee”. Unfortunately, there are no facts that support that selection other than it has been convenient.

WHO IS THE BELOVED DISCIPLE - 2

The strongest evidence as to who this individual is comes from the Longer Gospel of Mark that has the story of the youth raised by Jesus, a story very similar to the GOJ story of the raising of Lazarus. If these two stories are carefully analyzed, it supports the conclusion that the “Beloved Disciple” is Lazarus.

THE NUMBER OF VERSES - 1

One way to gauge the importance of each Apostle is how many times their names appear in verses in the Gospels. The list below is one approximation. It is NOT definitive because different translations will list a name differently, sometimes using a pronoun such as he or they rather than the given name of the individuals.

THE NUMBER OF VERSES - 2

1.	Simon Peter	93
2.	John, Son of Zebedee	48
3.	James, Son of Zebedee	21
4.	Judas Iscariot	15
5.	Mary Magdalene	12
6.	Judas Thomas Didymos	10
7.	Andrew	9
8.	Philip	9

THE NUMBER OF VERSES - 3

9.	Matthew	6
10.	Nathanael	6
11.	Levi, the son of Alphaeus	5
12.	Beloved Disciple	5
13.	James the son of Alphaeus	4
14.	Bartholomew	3
15.	Simon the Zealot	3

THE NUMBER OF VERSES - 4

16.	Thaddaeus (Lebbaeus)	2
17.	Judas, the son of James	1
18.	Jude	1

The last six names are, in most cases, a name on a list. For almost all the Apostles, there is actually very little said about them in the Gospels. If Acts was added in, the top three would increase but not the bottom.

LECTURE

TWO

PICTURES AND DATA

ABOUT THE

TWELVE APOSTLES

THE AGES OF THE APOSTLES

There are a large number of websites (6.7 million from a single search) that discuss the ages of each of the Apostles. One current controversy is whether all the Apostles were under the age of 20 years with the exception of Peter who was around 25 when asked to follow Jesus of Nazareth.

WHICH IS SIMON PETER?



WHO IS THIS APOSTLE?



THE DEATHS OF THE APOSTLES

Only one Apostle, James the son of Zebedee, has his death recorded in canonical writings (Acts). The stories of all the other Apostles tortures and gruesome deaths were written down decades and even centuries after the actual facts. There are no independent historical records on the death of any other Apostle.

REHABILITATION OF THE APOSTLES -1

ALL the Apostles denied, betrayed, abandoned, and did not believe in Jesus of Nazareth during the days surrounding his death. Not one Apostle is recorded to have gone to Jesus and begged his forgiveness. In the years after the departure of Jesus, these same Apostles were going to become the “founders” of the early Christian church.

REHABILITATION OF THE APOSTLES - 2

It was very necessary to show the Apostles in the best possible way, in other words rehabilitate them and give them characters that were deserving of the full respect and honor due to their station. The most prominent means of doing this was to make them all martyrs and have their deaths be particularly gruesome and noteworthy.

WHO IS THIS APOSTLE???

**He is said
to have been
martyred by
Crucifixion on an
X shaped cross
at the city of
Patras in Achaea.**



THE JOBS OF THE APOSTLES - 1

The occupations of five or six of the Apostles (the 12 Disciples) are stated in the Gospels. Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John (the sons of Zebedee) were all fishermen; Matthew and Levi were tax/toll collectors. None of the others have any reference to their jobs prior to meeting Jesus of Nazareth.

THE JOBS OF THE APOSTLES - 2

Matthew and Levi have historically been called tax collectors. However, a more accurate translation of the Greek word is actually a “toll collector” such as those on an Illinois Toll Highway. When approached by Jesus, they were sitting at a “toll booth”. This position would not have required an education or the ability to read or write.

THE JOBS OF THE APOSTLES - 3

If the job that Matthew or Levi had was a low level toll/tax collector, then it is very unlikely that either could have been the author of a Gospel which was written in classical Greek of a very high quality (at least to some scholars). Most Apostles are NOT directly connected to any profession in Canonical and even Non-canonical writings.

MARITAL STATUS OF THE APOSTLES-1

There are a large number of websites (10.5 million from a single search) that discuss the marital status of the Apostles. Only some Catholic websites state that none of the Apostles were married but many claim that those that were gave up their marital rights. Non-Catholic websites universally claim that ALL of the Apostles were married.

MARITAL STATUS OF THE APOSTLES-2

**From a STRAIGHT ANSWERS
website run by a major Christian
Institution:**

**“The Gospels, however, make no
mention of St. Peter’s wife, living or
nonliving. Therefore, St. Peter’s wife
must have died before Jesus called him
to be an apostle.” (Around 30 A.D.)**

MARITAL STATUS OF THE APOSTLES - 3

In 1Cor9:5 (53 A.D.), the following line written by Paul states that some of the Apostles had wives:

“Don’t we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord’s brothers and Cephas?”

And that is the only canonical reference on this subject and it is definitive.

PICTURE OF AN APOSTLE'S WIFE

There are **NO pictures of any Apostle with his wife. Throughout the centuries, no artist, for whatever reason, sketched a picture with any Apostle alongside a woman that was his wife. Peter, who was married, is shown alongside Paul of Tarsus in hundreds of paintings. But not one (that I could find) is he with his spouse.**

THE FAMILIES OF THE APOSTLES

Since it is obvious that some (or even all) of the Apostles had wives, it is probably safe to assume that they had children.

What is odd is that there are no historical records detailing any information about these decedents.

Any community associated with a family member of an “original” Apostle would clearly wish to proclaim that fact.

THE HOME TOWN OF THE APOSTLES

Prior to meeting Jesus of Nazareth, the Gospels stated that Peter, Andrew, and Phillip were from Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee. Matthew was located in Capernaum. Nothing is said about the home towns of the other Apostles in the canonical writings.

SIMON

THE

ZEALOT

SIMON THE ZEALOT



St. Simon by José de Ribera

SIMON THE ZEALOT -1

Here is a list of “claimed” facts that are attributed to Simon the Zealot from C. Ruffin as well as from other books and websites:

- 1. Born in 3 A.D.**
- 2. From the village of Capernaum.**
- 3. Was married (Protestant website) or a eunuch (Catholic website).**
- 4. Had a family.**

SIMON THE ZEALOT - 2

- 5. Was a merchant.**
- 6. Belonged to the ultra patriotic banned organization of Jewish Zealots.**
- 7. Was 28 years old when he was called to follow Jesus of Nazareth.**
- 8. Recruited by Peter for the group.**
- 9. Fiery agitator personality.**

SIMON THE ZEALOT - 3

- 10. Was in charge of diversions and relaxation for the Apostles and Disciples.**
- 11. Tended to be material minded.**
- 12. An effective debater.**
- 13. Understood Jewish legalistic minds and arguments.**
- 14. Went to Britain in 60 A.D.**

SIMON THE ZEALOT - 4

- 15. Went to Iran in 66 A.D.**
- 16. Died in 79 A.D. at the age of 76.**
- 17. Killed by a mob who stoned him
and then sawed him into pieces.**
- 18. He died with Jude, the Apostle.**
- 19. Buried in the Vatican.**

JOHN

THE SON OF

ZEBEDEE

JOHN, THE SON OF ZEBEDEE



JOHN, THE SON OF ZEBEDEE

Here is a list of “claimed” facts that are attributed to John from the book “THE TWELVE” by C. Ruffin as well as other books and websites:

- 1. Born in 3 A.D.**
- 2. From the village of Bethsaida.**
- 3. First cousin of Jesus of Nazareth.**
- 4. Was the “Beloved Disciple”.**

JOHN, THE SON OF ZEBEDEE - 2

- 5. Was acquainted with the family of the High Priest, Caiaphas.**
- 6. Never married (Catholic). Was married (Protestant) and had kids.**
- 7. Stood at the foot of the cross.**
- 8. Had an education in classical Greek.**
- 9. Could read and write in Greek.**
- 10. Went to Rome in the mid 60's.**

JOHN, THE SON OF ZEBEDEE - 3

- 11. His father was a man of “means”, i.e. rich with many boats.**
- 12. His uncle was Cleopas.**
- 13. The Emperor Nero (or Domitian) boiled him in oil but failed to kill him.**
- 14. Moved to Ephesus around 66 A.D.**
- 15. Took care of Mary, his aunt, until her death in Jerusalem.**

JOHN, THE SON OF ZEBEDEE - 4

- 16. Wrote the Gospel of John.**
- 17. Wrote the 3 Epistles of John.**
- 18. Wrote Revelations at the age of 93.**
- 19. Was the only Apostle not
sucessfully martyred.**
- 20. Exiled to Patmos by the Emperor
Domitian in 81 A.D.**
- 21. Moved back to Ephesus in 96 A.D.**

JOHN, THE SON OF ZEBEDEE - 5

- 22. His mother's name was Salome.**
- 23. Had his disciples dig his grave outside Ephesus (empty today).**
- 24. Died in 100 A.D. at the age of 97.**
- 25. Was the last Apostle to die.**
- 26. As a young man he was beardless, fair skinned, had very long brown colored hair and a certain frailness.**

JOHN, THE SON OF ZEBEDEE - 6

- 27. Read all three other Gospels before composing his own.**
- 28. Commanded that Easter be observed on the actual day of the Resurrection.**
- 29. Could be bigoted and somewhat intolerant.**
- 30. His strongest trait was his dependability.**

VERIFIABLE FACTS -1

How much of the all the preceding information including the pictures of all the Apostles are true, accurate, real, historical, verifiable facts?

NOT A SINGLE POINT!!!!!!

VERIFIABLE FACTS - 2

All the information listed on the previous slides are based on myths, legends, wishful thinking, suppositions, and traditions. In the thousands of books and websites on the Apostles, many of the points about the Apostles contradicted one another or proved to be impossible to have all of them to have occurred as stated.

QUOTE 3 BY A BIBLICAL SCHOLAR

“...since the Apostles were not concerned about passing down biographical details about Jesus of Nazareth, they were concerned even less about preserving information about their own background and careers.”

From C. Bernard Ruffin: The Twelve – The Lives of the Apostles

WHY IS

THIS SO

IMPORTANT

APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION - 1

The communities of early Christianity often went out of their way to directly connect with one of the Twelve Apostles. The reason behind this effort was that it gave their group a direct connection with Jesus of Nazareth and all the privileges, prestige and honors that this association entailed.

APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION - 2

The earliest writings on Apostles were to show that a member of the Twelve was responsible for founding their church group and its belief system. Especially important was that the Apostle picked their successor in the community (mostly Bishops) and passed his authority onto that person.

AUTHORSHIP OF WRITINGS - 1

Whether a Gospel or an Epistle, there is a need that the author had to be an Apostle. If it was written or dictated by an Apostle, then the book contains an eyewitness account by someone who was there, who saw and heard the living Jesus. Consequently, what they had put into the book would be the truth. If it was written many years later, it can be argued as not being from an eyewitness.

AUTHORSHIP OF WRITINGS - 2

The argument over discrepancies and contradictions are easier to show as being real if non-Apostles were the ones who wrote or dictated the books. What few facts that exist about the Apostles (any of the 18) do not support any (except Paul) as being literate and educated in classical Greek. Also, the dating of the books of the NT puts them late in the 1st century.

AUTHORSHIP OF WRITINGS - 3

If the books of the NT were written late in the 1st century, then most (or all) of the Apostles would not have been alive and thus, the books would not be eye-witness accounts. Therefore, the Apostles must be real people with real backgrounds. The best way is to have their life stories available for all future Christians to hear or read about.

ORAL TRADITIONS - 1

Thus, over the first 3 centuries of the Early Christian church (from 70 A.D. to 310 A.D.), many stories were “remembered” orally or even written down about ALL the “12” Apostles. But even after that time frame, more stories were written by communities that an Apostle came there and founded their church (like Scotland).

ORAL TRADITIONS - 2

No historical facts support these legends or myths or just plain fanciful stories. For Scotland it is virtually impossible that Andrew even traveled there as it was outside the empire, had no contiguous Christian tradition from the early centuries, and it contradicts where Andrew was supposed to have died and been buried (see earlier slide).

THE FLAG OF SCOTLAND



SUMMARY

OF THE

TWELVE APOSTLES

QUOTE 4 BY A BIBLICAL SCHOLAR

“One of the great mysteries of early Christian history is that we know a fair amount about Paul and James the Just was a real person. Yet neither of them is a member of the Twelve. So you have these 12 people who were the first followers of Jesus, yet there’s nothing about them in any secular source.” From Tom Bissell- Apostles: Travels Among the Tombs of the Twelve

SUMMARY - 1

With the exception of Peter, the roles of all the other Apostles in the formation of early Christianity is extremely uncertain and fragmentary. Very little exists in the NT writings. It is only, for the most part, Christian legends, myths, and created stories that supply any information to later Christians, even to modern times, with any substance of their possible involvement.

SUMMARY - 2

Outside of some verses in a few books of the NT, the very existence of most of the Twelve, the Christian faith's most crucial eyewitnesses, is historically uncertain.

There is no proof for some members of this group beyond being a name on a list.

Considering the importance placed on their testimony to the events that they supposedly witnessed first hand, these lack of facts are rather unusual.

SPRING OF 2019

- 1. THE LORD OF THE RINGS:
THE THREE ELVEN RINGS
(January) - NEW**
- 2. THE PASSION FROM FOUR
GOSPELS (March/April) -NEW**
- 3. THE RESURRECTION:
FACTS & ISSUES (April) -NEW**

TOTALLY UNKNOWN APOSTLES - 1

The following Apostles are just names mentioned on a list. Nowhere else in the New Testament is there written anything about them. There are no recorded questions or comments on or by them. They are totally and completely invisible figures. Any books that contain information about them are based on legends, myths, and made up stories.

TOTALLY UNKNOWN APOSTLES - 2

- 1. Bartholomew**
- 2. James son of Alphaeus**
- 3. Thaddaeus (Lebbaeus)**
- 4. Simon the Zealot**
- 5. Judas son of James**
- 6. Jude**
- 7. Levi, son of Alphaeus**

TOTALLY UNKNOWN APOSTLES - 3

Because there is nothing known about these Apostles, many religious groups over the years have sought to identify them with unnamed individuals in canonical writings. Consider the following quote on the Gospel of Luke Emmaus story and the unknown companion of Cleopas who were met by the Risen Jesus.

TOTALLY UNKNOWN APOSTLES - 4

“The companion has provided happy hunting ground...and the following have been proposed: Nathanael, Luke himself, Simon (the Zealot)...Of these, Nathanael was an obvious candidate for minor roles in the passion-resurrection narratives, for he was a near-disciple but accounted as one of the Twelve.”

Fuller-The Formation of Resurrection Narratives

TOTALLY UNKNOWN APOSTLES - 5

Another common speculation of some of these names come from Mark6:3 -

“...and brother of James and Joses and Judas (Jude) and Simon.” Many scholars agree that James is James the Just. Judas is ‘Jude’ or ‘Judas (not the Iscariot)’ and that Simon is ‘Simon the Zealot’. There is no real proof for the last two claims.

TOTALLY UNKNOWN APOSTLES - 8

The number of books written about:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Bartholomew | 4 |
| 2. James son of Alphaeus | 3 |
| 3. Thaddaeus (Lebbaeus) | 2 |
| 4. Simon the Zealot | 1 |
| 5. Judas son of James | 0 |
| 6. Jude | 33 |
| 7. Levi son of Alphaeus | 0 |

THE GOSPEL AND EPISTLES - 1

There are a number of Gospels and Epistles in the NT that are assigned to various Apostles as the authors. Many books and articles will argued in lengthy discourses that these books were indeed written by the specific individual. The fact is that there exist no definitive proof that any of the Gospels or Epistles were written by any of the Apostles.

THE GOSPEL AND EPISTLES - 2

- 1. Gospel of John, son of Zebedee**
- 2. Gospel of Matthew, tax collector**
- 3. Epistle of Jude (or Thaddeus)**
- 4. Epistles (1 & 2) of Peter**
- 5. Epistle of James the Just**
- 6. Epistles (1, 2, & 3) of John**
- 7. Revelations by John, son of Zebedee**

WHO IS JAMES THE JUST - 1

- 1. James the Just is the brother of Jesus of Nazareth as stated in the Gospel of Mark6:3 and by Paul in the Epistle of 1Corinthian15:7.**
- 2. The historian Josephus called James the Just the brother of Jesus of Nazareth.**
- 3. Paul states that Jesus appeared to his brother after the Resurrection.**

WHO IS JAMES THE JUST - 2

- 3. Most modern NT scholars agree that James the Just wrote or dictated the Epistle of James in the New Testament.**
- 4. According to Paul, James the Just was the Head of the Jerusalem church after the Ascension.**
- 5. At some point, Jesus had to have asked James to “Follow me.”**

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Did the Apostle Matthew write the Gospel named after him? Probably not. It is possible that he dictated or preached much of it that was used by a later editor who, then, put together along with other sources the Gospel that bears his name. However, there is no definitive proof other than tradition assigning him as the author.

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Did the Apostle John write the Gospel named after him? Definitely not. In Acts, it states quite explicitly that John was illiterate. Therefore, it is hardly possible for him to write in classical Koine. It is possible that he was the ultimate source for some of the material that made up the Gospel. Once again, there is no real proof, other than tradition or dogma.

MATTHEW, THE EVANGELIST

**Matthew writing
the Gospel. The
Holy Spirit aids
him.**



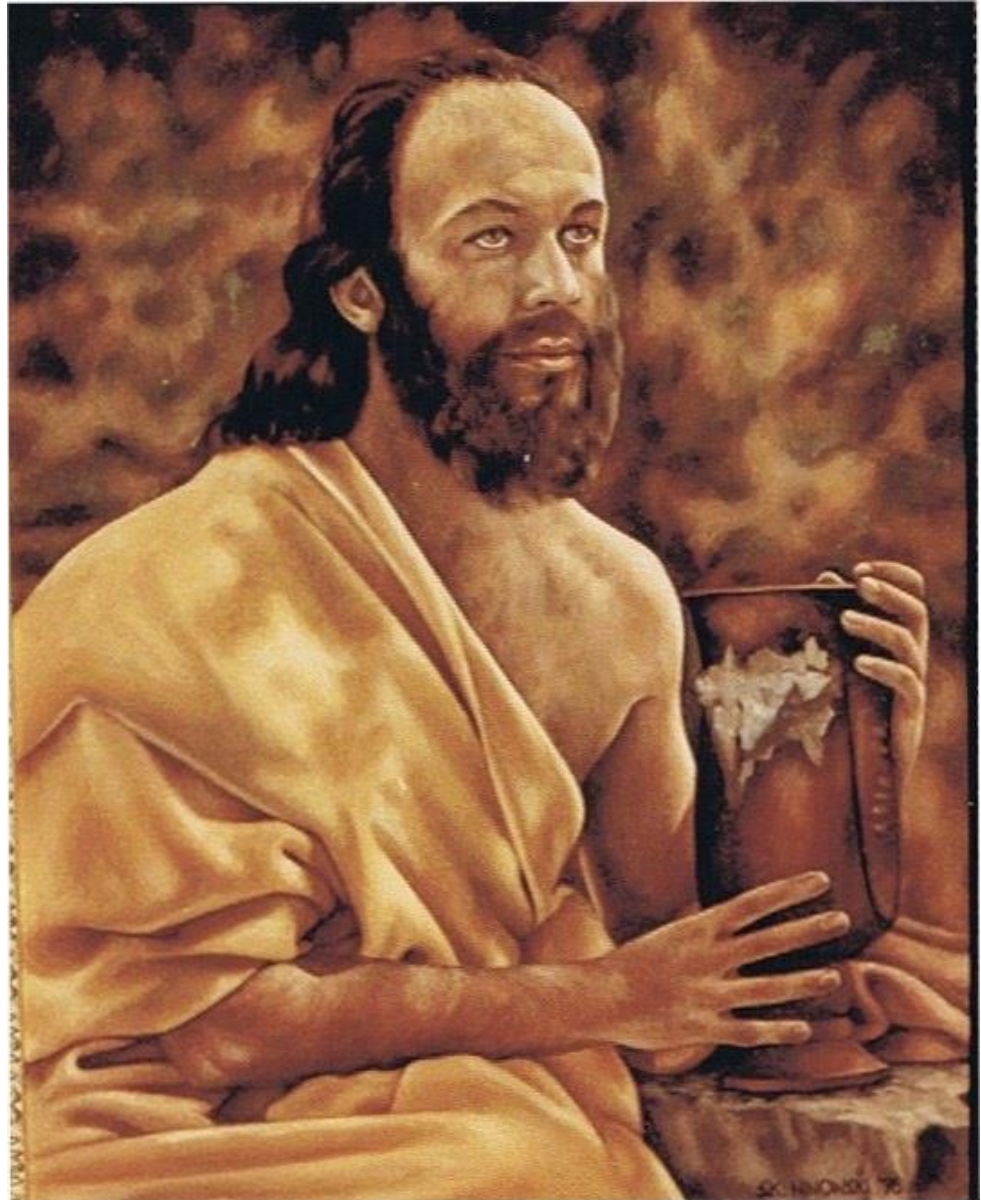
JAMES, THE SON OF ZEBEDEE

**James the Great
just before his
Martyrdom.**



BARTHOLOMEW, FRIEND OF PHILIP

**Bartholomew as
he was in Armenia
before his death.**



NATHANAEL, FRIEND OF PHILIP

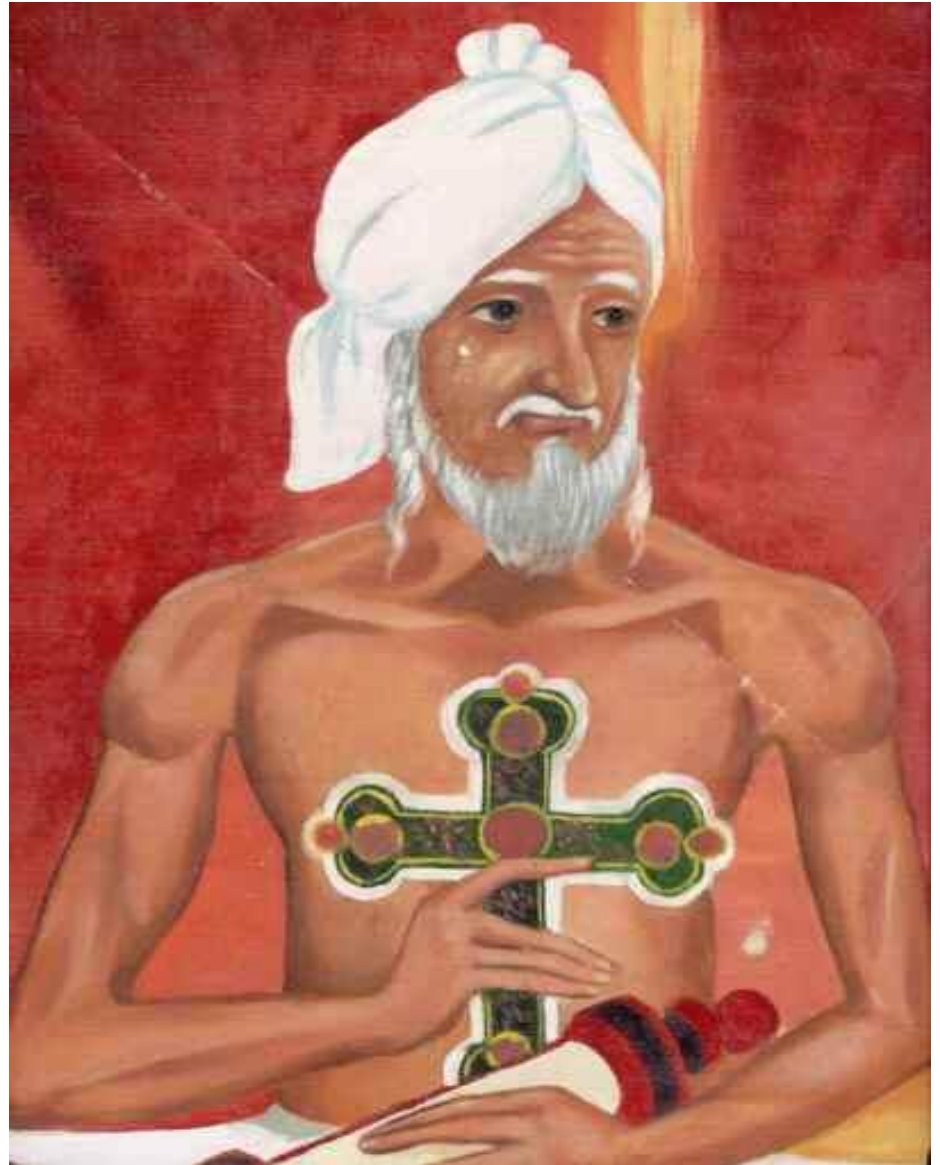
**Nathanael as the
Apostolic dreamer
and philosopher.**



Bartholomew /Nathaniel (detail) by El Greco

DOUBTING THOMAS

**Thomas as the
Apostle to India
around 50 A.D.**



LEVI, THE SON OF ALPHEAEUS

**Levi, the toll collector,
who is often assumed
to be Matthew, the tax
collector.**



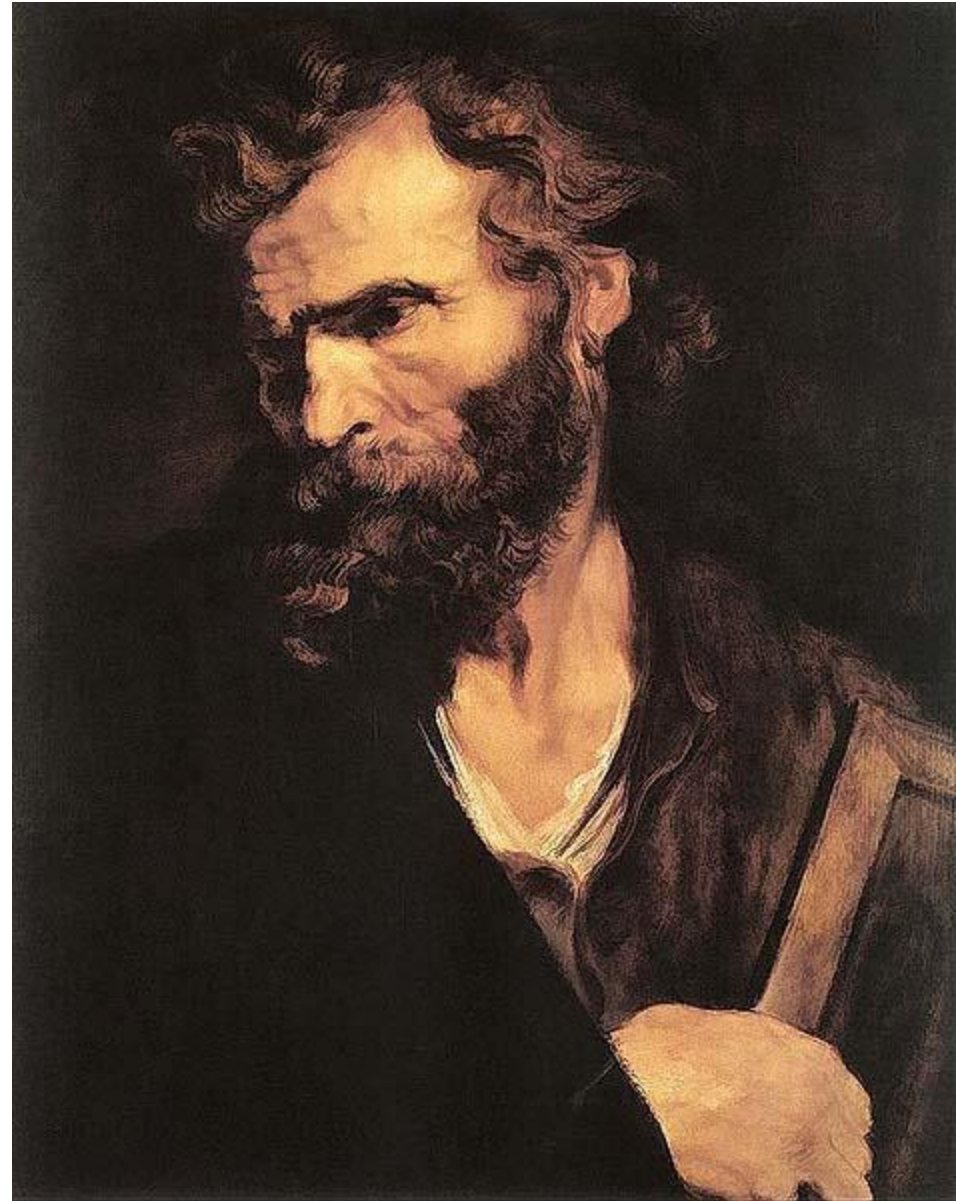
JAMES THE LESSER

**James the lesser,
holding the weapon
that was used to
martyred him. He is
said to be the
Brother of Levi.**



JUDE, THADDEUS, JUDAS SON OF JAMES

**Unfortunately, the
painters felt that
these three people
were all the same
person.**



EL GRECO APOSTLES

There is no Judas Iscariot.



https://www.wga.hu/html_m/g/greco_el/18/



WHO IS THIS APOSTLE?

**An Icon picture from
Byzantine period
from around
1000 A.D. to
1300 A.D.**



WHAT IS
NOT KNOWN
OF THE APOSTLES

UNKNOWN FACTS ON ALL THE APOSTLES - 1

Here is a list of facts that are **NOT known about all of the Apostles (with some minor exceptions):**

- 1. When they were born & their ages.**
- 2. The names of their wives or even if they were married.**
- 3. The villages of their births and child rearing.**

UNKNOWN FACTS ON ALL THE APOSTLES - 2

- 4. The names of their mothers (some fathers are known).**
- 5. Their education (John and Peter were illiterate).**
- 6. Their family economic status.**
- 7. Who were their friends, neighbors, or associates.**
- 8. Did they write or dictate anything.**

UNKNOWN FACTS ON ALL THE APOSTLES - 3

- 9. Where they died. (except James, the son of Zebedee).**
- 10. Why they died. (except James, the son of Zebedee).**
- 11. How they died. (except James, the son of Zebedee).**
- 12. When they died.**

UNKNOWN FACTS ON ALL THE APOSTLES - 4

- 13. What languages they spoke.**
- 14. What they looked like physically.**
- 15. Did they have any children.**
- 16. Who are their relatives (except for some brothers).**
- 17. Where they preached and travelled throughout their careers.**

UNKNOWN FACTS ON ALL THE APOSTLES - 5

- 18. Their individual personality traits and characteristics.**
- 19. How long they stayed in any location.**
- 20. What happened to their spouses.**
- 21. Where they are buried.**
- 22. Did they leave behind any relics.**