

May 13, 2025



PETER



JAMES (the Elder)

The Twelve Disciples



PHILIP



ANDREW

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY



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JAMES THE ELDER



JAMES THE YOUNGER



JOHN



JUDAS



PETER



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SIMON



THADDEUS



THOMAS

THE

TWELVE
DISCIPLES

Who Were the 12 Disciples?

Jesus Begins His Ministry

- After being baptized by John the Baptist and spending 40 days in the wilderness, Jesus started teaching and many people started following him.
- After a night of prayer and meditation, Jesus chose twelve men out of all those who were following him.

Who Were the 12 Disciples?

“He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.”—*Matthew 10:1–4*

Who Were the 12 Disciples?

Purpose and Mission

- These twelve men would be Jesus' main followers.
- These apostles were selected to let the world know of God's love, and that God sent Jesus to redeem the world (John 17:23).
- These are the twelve men who, for the most part, would prove to be friends and followers of Jesus.

Who Were the 12 Disciples?

Purpose and Mission

- Their instruction and conversations would become the teachings, knowledge, and instruction for the church that would later grow and spread.
- Jesus knew their personalities, strengths and weaknesses.
- Jesus knew that these twelve would sometimes disappoint him, desert him, deny him, and betray him.

Who Were the 12 Disciples?

Purpose and Mission

- Jesus knew that these twelve, once filled with the Holy Spirit, would be the first witnesses of the Gospel, carrying God's message of redemption to Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.
- The twelve tribes of Israel were blessed in order to be a blessing to all nations. In a similar way, these twelve men, along with all followers of Jesus, were to bless all nations (Galatians 3:8).

Who Were the 12 Disciples?

Backgrounds

- The apostles were from the Galilee region except for Judas Iscariot who was from Judea.
- Their occupations ranged from fishermen to tax collectors and revolutionaries.
- Some were married (Mark 1:29–31; 1 Corinthians 9:3–6).
- Some were well-versed in Scripture (John 1:46).



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JAMES THE YOUNGER



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Peter



PETER



Peter

Simon, son of Jonah
Cephas (“rock” or stone)

Encounters with Jesus

- Peter was called to be a fisher of men. Left everything to follow Jesus (Mathew 4:19; Luke 5:11).
- Peter’s given name, Simon, was changed by Jesus.
- Simon (Peter) said Jesus is the Christ, Son of the living God. Jesus named him Peter (rock) and said, “on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it” (Matthew 16:16-19a; John 1:42-44).
- Was reprimanded because he refused to accept that Jesus had to die (Matthew 16:23).



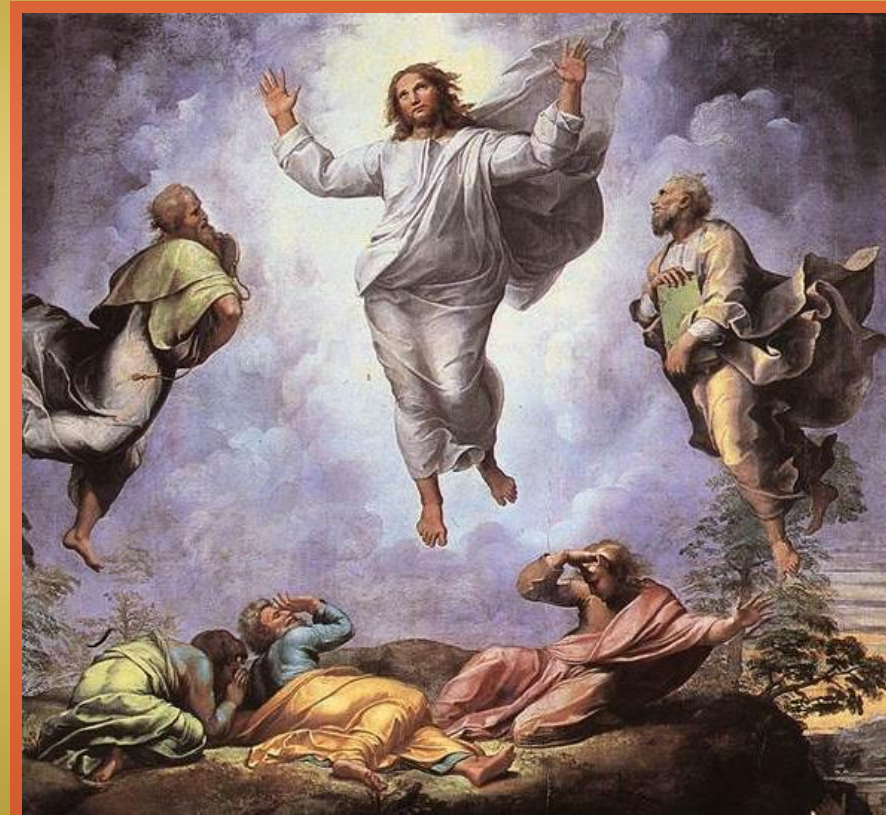
Peter

Simon, son of Jonah
Cephas (“rock” or stone)

Encounters with Jesus

- Witnessed Jesus’
Transfiguration (where
Jesus was shown to be
God) (Mark 9:2-4).

The Transfiguration
Sanzio Raffaello
(1518-1520)





Peter

Simon, son of Jonah
Cephas (“rock” or stone)

Encounters with Jesus

- Was sent to prepare the upper room for the Last Supper (Luke 22:8).
- Jesus accurately predicted that Peter would deny knowing him three times (Luke 22:31-34).
- Peter is one of the three apostles in the core group of apostles.
- Was with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:37-39).



Peter

Simon, son of Jonah
Cephas (“rock” or stone)

Encounters with Jesus

- When Jesus appeared to the apostles beside the Sea of Galilee following his resurrection, he tested Peter’s loyalty by asking Peter if he loved him.
- After testing Peter, Jesus instructed him to “feed his sheep” (John 21:17-19).

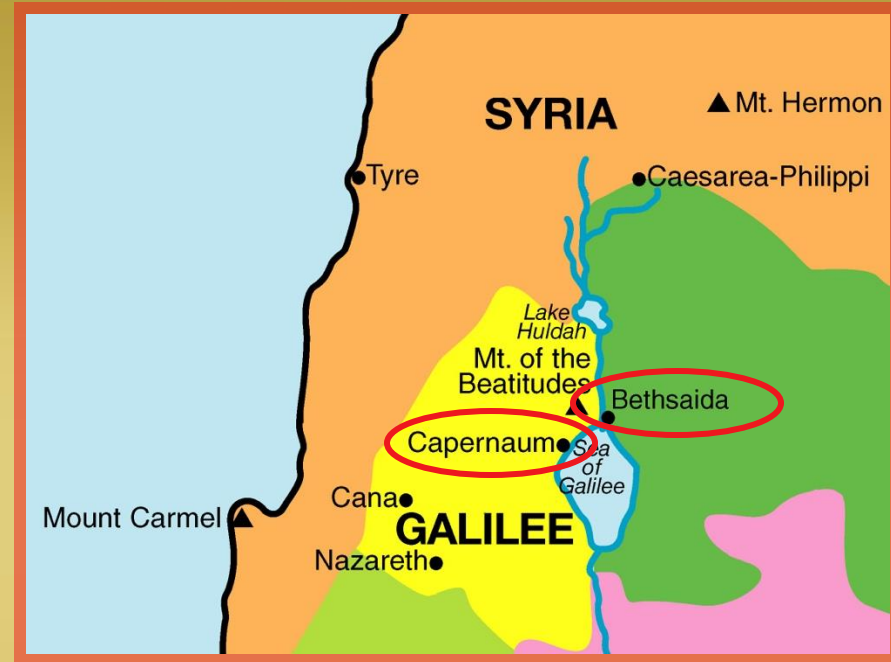


Peter

Simon, son of Jonah
Cephas (“rock” or stone)

General Information

- Son of John and born in Bethsaida (John 1:42-44).
- Lived in Capernaum (Matthew 8:5-7, 14).
- Fisherman (Matthew 4:18).
- Brother of Andrew (Matthew 4:18).
- Partner with James and John (Luke 5:10).





Peter

Simon, son of Jonah
Cephas (“rock” or stone)

General Information

- Married (Matthew 8:14).
- One of the pillars of the Jerusalem church (Galatians 2:9).
- Boldly preached, healed, and ministered to Jews and Gentiles after Pentecost (Acts 2:38; 3:6-7).



Peter

Simon, son of Jonah
Cephas (“rock” or stone)

General Information

- Imprisoned by Herod for preaching; was rescued by an angel of the Lord. (Acts 12:4-7).
- Called to be an apostle to the Jews (Galatians 2:8).
- Wrote 1 and 2 Peter.



The Liberation of St. Peter
Hendrick van Steenwyck (1619)



Peter

Simon, son of Jonah
Cephas (“rock” or stone)

Personality and Character

- Impulsive, yet cowardly (Matthew 14:28-30; 26:69-70).
- Hot tempered (John 18:10), yet tenderhearted (Matthew 26:75).
- Insightful (Matthew 16:16), yet ignorant (Matthew 16:21-23).
- Courageous and solid after Pentecost (Acts 5:28-30), yet was hypocritical (Galatians 2:11-13).



Peter

Simon, son of Jonah
Cephas (“rock” or stone)

Key Lesson

- Peter denied knowing Jesus three times (Matthew 26:69-70).
- After Jesus rose from the dead, three times he asked Peter if he loved him. Jesus forgave Peter and commissioned him to “feed his sheep”(John 21:17-19).
- After Pentecost, Peter becomes a bold preacher and leader, who no longer feared death.



Peter

Simon, son of Jonah
Cephas (“rock” or stone)

Key Lesson

- God can forgive sins and strengthen the faith of those who love him.



The Denial of St. Peter



Peter

Simon, son of Jonah
Cephas (“rock” or stone)

Other Stories About Peter

- Some say Peter later ministered to Judea, Syria, Asia Minor, and Rome.





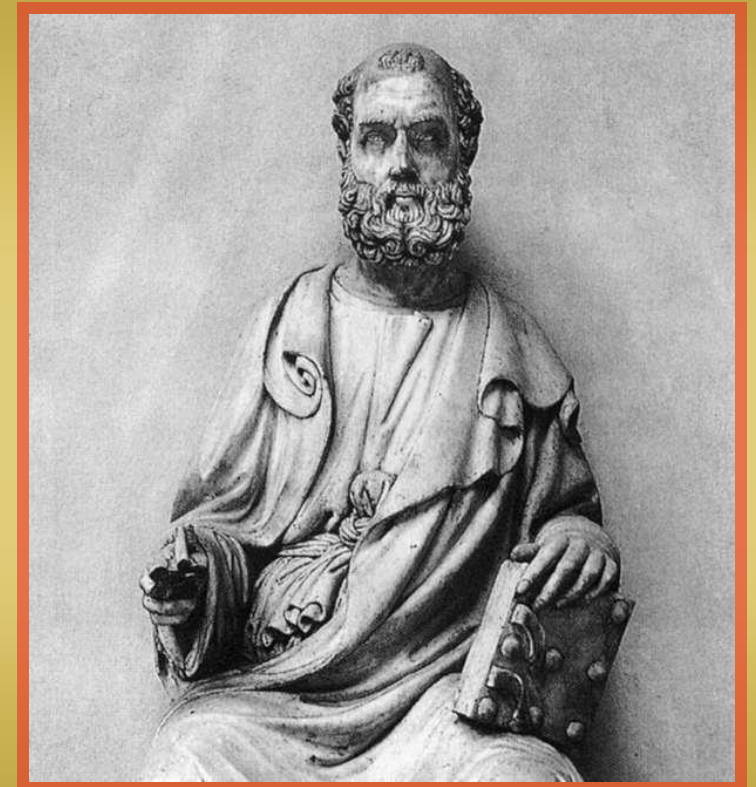
Peter

Simon, son of Jonah
Cephas (“rock” or stone)

Other Stories About Peter

- Papias (second-century Christian) recorded that Mark served as Peter’s scribe and wrote the Gospel of Mark based on Peter’s testimony.

St. Mark, Niccolò Di Pietro
Lamberti (1410-1412)





Peter

Simon, son of Jonah
Cephas (“rock” or stone)

Other Stories About Peter

- According to some stories, Peter asked to be crucified upside down.
- Peter may have been crucified during the reign of Nero in Rome.



*The Crucifixion
of Saint Peter*



Peter

Simon, son of Jonah
Cephas (“rock” or stone)

Other Stories About Peter

- Symbols for Peter are keys, representing the keys to the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 16:19a).



James, son of Zebedee



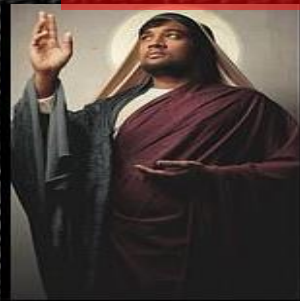


James

Son of Zebedee
Boanerges (Son of Thunder)
“James the Elder”
“James the Great”

Encounters with Jesus

- James was called to be a fisher of men; left everything to follow Jesus (Mathew 4:19; Luke 5:11).
- One of the three apostles in the core group of Jesus’ apostles (Mark 5:37; 9:2; 13:3; 14:33).
- Jesus named him and his brother John “Sons of Thunder” (Mark 3:17).
- Was criticized with his brother John for requesting God to rain fire on a Samaritan village (Luke 9:54-55).



James

Son of Zebedee
Boanerges (Son of Thunder)
“James the Elder”
“James the Great”

Encounters with Jesus

- Witnessed Jesus’ Transfiguration (where Jesus was shown to be God) (Mark 9:2-4).
- Jesus responded to James and John’s request to sit at his right and left in the kingdom (Mark 10:38-40).
- Was with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:37-39).
- Witnessed the miraculous catch of fish on the Sea of Galilee after Jesus’ resurrection (John 21:2-4).



James

Son of Zebedee
Boanerges (Son of Thunder)
“James the Elder”
“James the Great”

General Information

- Son of Zebedee (Matthew 4:21).
- Son of Salome (Mark 16:1).
- Fisherman with his father and his brother (Matthew 4:18-20).
- Brother of John (Matthew 4:21).
- Partner with Peter (Luke 5:10).



James

Son of Zebedee
Boanerges (Son of Thunder)
“James the Elder”
“James the Great”

General Information

- Put to death by the sword by Herod Agrippa I. The only one of the twelve apostles who died for his faith whose death was recorded in Scripture (Acts 12:2).



The Martyrdom of St. James the Great, Jean Fouquet (1452-60)



James

Son of Zebedee
Boanerges (Son of Thunder)
“James the Elder”
“James the Great”

Personality and Character

- Vengeful and fiery (Luke 9:54).
- At times, he was selfish and conceited (Mark 10:35-37).
- After Pentecost, he was committed to Christ and courageous to the end (Acts 12:2).



James

Son of Zebedee
Boanerges (Son of Thunder)
“James the Elder”
“James the Great”

Key Lesson

- Herod Agrippa I hoped that persecuting the early Christians would please the Jews.
- Herod had James executed because he was preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



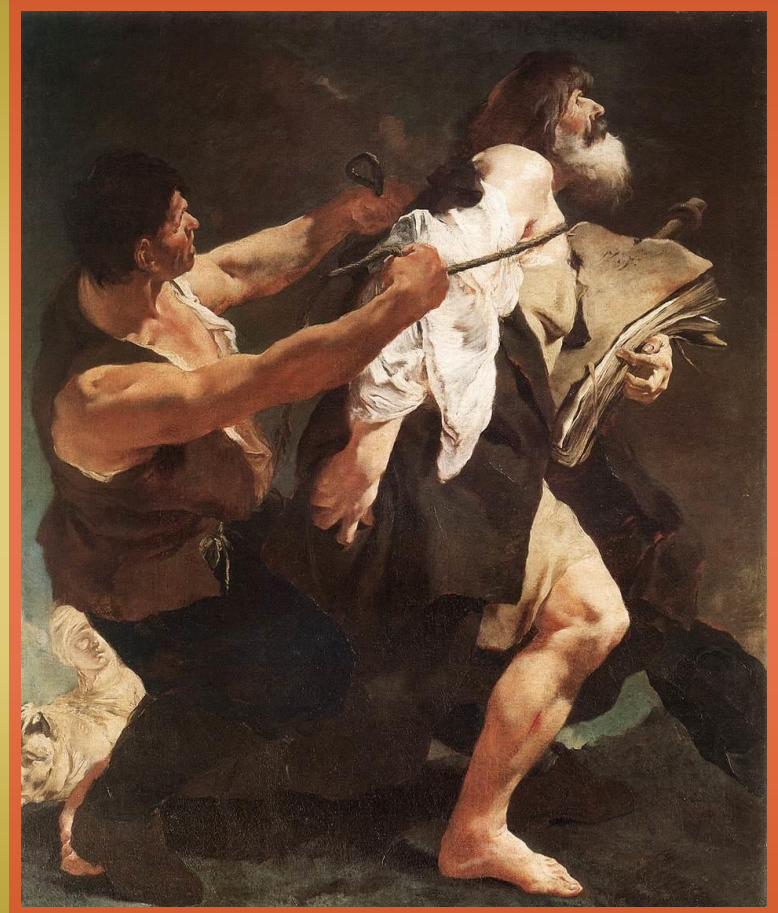
James

Son of Zebedee
Boanerges (Son of Thunder)
“James the Elder”
“James the Great”

Key Lesson

- Stand firm in the face of persecution.

St James Brought to Martyrdom
Giovanni Battista Plazzetta (1722-23)





James

Son of Zebedee
Boanerges (Son of Thunder)
“James the Elder”
“James the Great”

Other Stories About James

- Some say he was the first bishop in Spain before he was executed.





James

Son of Zebedee
Boanerges (Son of Thunder)
“James the Elder”
“James the Great”

Other Stories About James

- One symbol for James includes the bishop's hat, in reference to his being the first bishop of Spain.
- Another symbol is a sword, in reference to his martyrdom.

Apostle St. James the Greater
El Greco (1610-1614)

John, son of Zebedee





John

Son of Zebedee
Boanerges (Son of Thunder)
The Beloved Disciple
The Evangelist; The Revealer

Encounters with Jesus

- John was one of the three apostles in the core group of apostles (Mark 5:37; 9:2; 13:3; 14:33).
- Suggested that driving out demons could only be performed by those who follow Jesus and his apostles (Mark 9:38).
- Amazed at Jesus' Transfiguration (where Jesus was shown to be God) (Mark 9:2-4).
- Was sent to prepare the upper room for the Last Supper (Luke 22:8).



John

Son of Zebedee
Boanerges (Son of Thunder)
The Beloved Disciple
The Evangelist; The Revealer



The Last Supper



John

Son of Zebedee
Boanerges (Son of Thunder)
The Beloved Disciple
The Evangelist; The Revealer

Encounters with Jesus

- Reclined next to Jesus during the Last Supper (John 13:23).
- Was given the responsibility at the cross to take care of Mary, Jesus' mother (John 19:26-27).
- Ran ahead of Peter to see Jesus' empty tomb and expressed faith by "seeing and believing" (John 20:3-6, 8).
- Witnessed the miraculous catch of fish on the Sea of Galilee after Jesus' resurrection (John 21:2-4).



John

Son of Zebedee
Boanerges (Son of Thunder)
The Beloved Disciple
The Evangelist; The Revealer

General Information

- Son of Zebedee (Matthew 4:21).
- Son of Salome (Matthew 27:56; Mark 16:1).
- Fisherman with his father and his brother (Matthew 4:18-20).
- Brother of James (Matthew 4:21).
- Partner with Peter (Luke 5:10).
- One of the pillars of the Jerusalem church (Galatians 2:9).

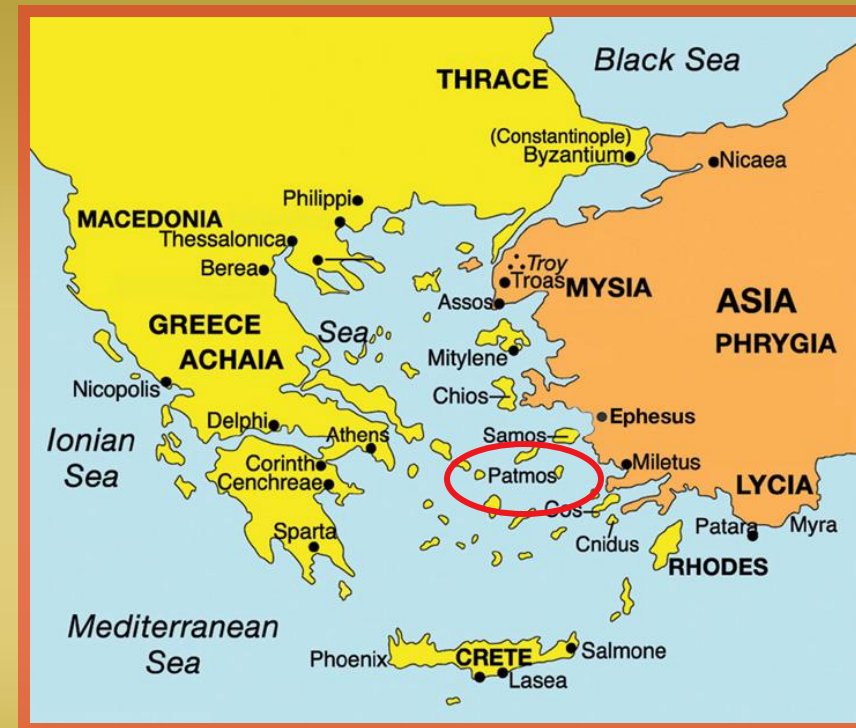


John

Son of Zebedee
Boanerges (Son of Thunder)
The Beloved Disciple
The Evangelist; The Revealer

General Information

- Healed and preached (Acts 3:1; 4:18; 8:25).
- Exiled to the island of Patmos (Revelation 1:1, 9).
- Wrote the Gospel of John; 1, 2, and 3 John; and Revelation.





John

Son of Zebedee
Boanerges (Son of Thunder)
The Beloved Disciple
The Evangelist; The Revealer

Personality and Character

- Vengeful and fiery (Luke 9:54).
- Judgmental (Mark 9:38).
- Selfish (Mark 10:35-37).
- Bold, loving and compassionate after Pentecost (Acts 4:13; 1 John 4:7-10).



John

Son of Zebedee
Boanerges (Son of Thunder)
The Beloved Disciple
The Evangelist; The Revealer

Key Lesson

- After Pentecost, John wrote the Gospel of John and 1, 2 and 3 John, in which he encouraged people to love one another.
- John wrote that it is because of God's love that those who believe in Jesus are saved (John 3:16).
- John also wrote that we must love others (1 John 4:11).



John

Son of Zebedee
Boanerges (Son of Thunder)
The Beloved Disciple
The Evangelist; The Revealer

Key Lesson

- God's love, evident in Jesus Christ, saves, transforms, and unites all believers.



Isle of Patmos



John

Son of Zebedee
Boanerges (Son of Thunder)
The Beloved Disciple
The Evangelist; The Revealer

Other Stories About John

- Some stories suggest that John was released from exile on the island of Patmos and returned to Ephesus (Turkey today).
- Stories suggest that John died in Ephesus around AD 100.





John

Son of Zebedee
Boanerges (Son of Thunder)
The Beloved Disciple
The Evangelist; The Revealer

Other Stories About John

- Symbols of John include the eagle and a book because of Revelation 4:7.



Andrew





Andrew

“Protokletos”
(First-Called)

Encounters with Jesus

- Andrew was the first to follow Jesus (John 1:35-37, 40).
- Called to be a fisher of men (Matthew 4:19).
- Sent out on a mission to the Jews to preach “the kingdom of heaven is at hand,” heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out demons (Matthew 10:5-8).



Andrew

“Protokletos”
(First-Called)

Encounters with Jesus

- Informed Jesus that several Greeks wanted to see him (John 12:20-22).
- When the crowd of 5000 was hungry, Andrew told Jesus of the boy with five loaves of bread and two fish (John 6:8-9).



*The Miracle of the Loaves
and Fishes*



Andrew

“Protokletos”
(First-Called)

Encounters with Jesus

- With the apostles when Jesus appeared after the Resurrection (John 20:19-20).
- Was present when Jesus sent his apostles to all nations to make disciples, baptize, and teach them. (Matthew 28:16-19).
- Witnessed Jesus being taken up into heaven (Acts 1:8-9).



Andrew

“Protokletos”
(First-Called)

Personality and Character

- Enthusiastic about Christ (John 1:35-37, 40).
- Determined (John 1:35-37).
- Resourceful (John 6:8-9).



Andrew

“Protokletos”
(First-Called)

Key Lesson

- Andrew was the first apostle called.
- He was so impressed with Jesus that he went and told Simon Peter about him.
- Andrew was the first evangelist.
- His passion to share the truth he discovered, provides all believers with an example to follow.



Andrew

“Protokletos”
(First-Called)

Key Lesson

- Go out and eagerly share the good news about Jesus Christ.



Calling of Peter and Andrew
Duccio di Buoninsegna (1308-1311)



Andrew

“Protokletos”
(First-Called)

Other Stories About Andrew

- Some suggest that Andrew preached in Greece, Asia Minor, and Russia.





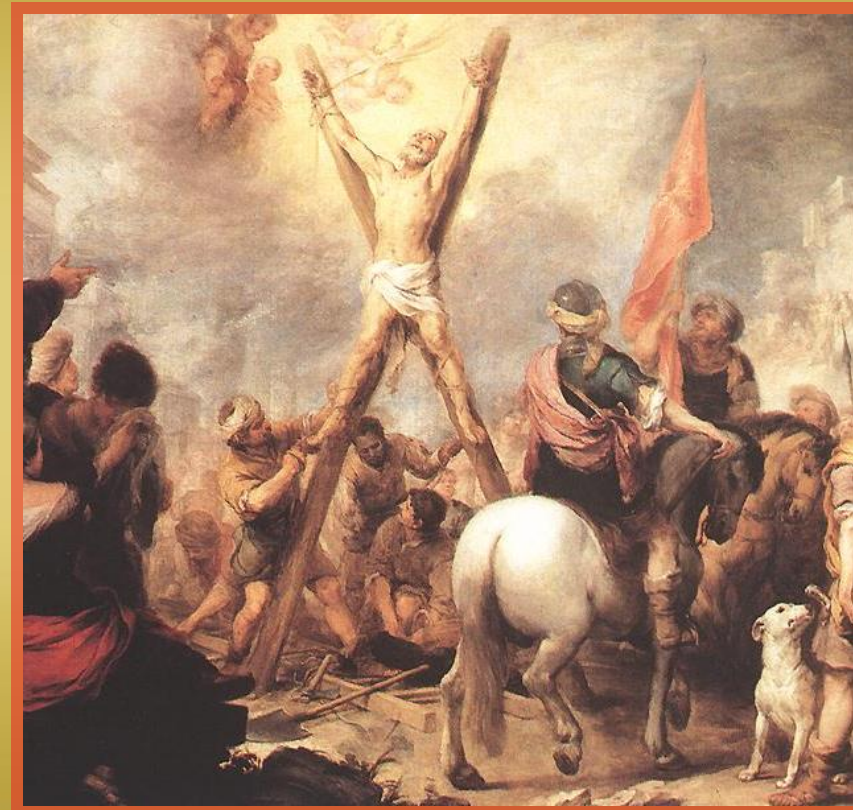
Andrew

“Protokletos”
(First-Called)

Other Stories About Andrew

- A seventh-century story suggests that Andrew was crucified on an X-shaped cross.

The Martyrdom of St. Andrew,
Bartolome Esteban Murrillo
(1675-82)





Andrew

“Protokletos”
(First-Called)

Other Stories About Andrew

- The symbol for Andrew is the X-shaped cross.



Philip





Philip

Encounters with Jesus

- The third apostle Jesus called (John 1:43).
- Brought Nathanael (Bartholomew) to Jesus (John 1:45-46).
- Jesus tested him regarding the feeding of the multitude (John 6:5-7).



Philip

Encounters with Jesus

- Informed Jesus that several Greeks wanted to see him (John 12:20-21).
- Asked Jesus to show him the Father (John 14:8-9).
- Was present at the Last Supper.



Philip

Encounters with Jesus

- Was present when Jesus appeared to the apostles after the Resurrection (John 20:19-20).
- Was present for the Great Commission and Jesus' Ascension into heaven (Matthew 28:16-19).
- Witnessed Jesus being taken up into heaven (Acts 1:8-9).



Philip

General Information

- Born in Bethsaida (John 1:44).
- Well versed in Scripture (John 1:45-46).
- Listed as one of Christ's twelve apostles (Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:16-19; Luke 6:14-16).

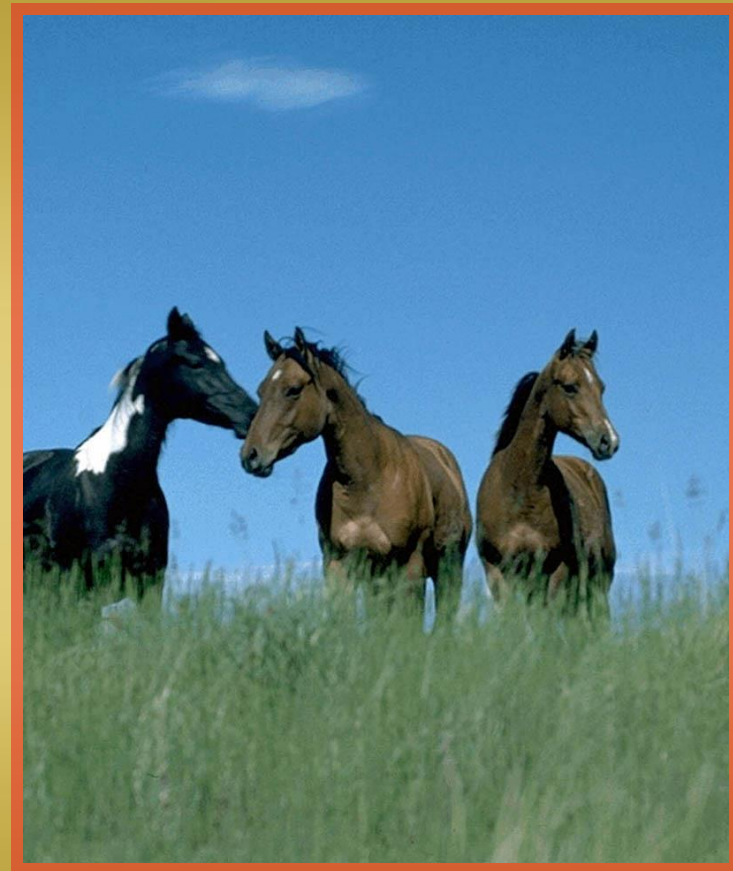




Philip

General Information

- The apostle Philip is often confused with Philip the evangelist found in Acts.
- The name Philip derives from Greek, meaning “he who loves horses.”
- Philip probably spoke Greek (John 12:20-21).





Philip

Personality and Character

- Practical (John 6:7).
- Helpful (John 12:20-21).
- Literal and confused about Jesus being God (John 14:8).



Philip

Key Lesson

- Before the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus asked Philip where he was going to buy bread for all the people in order to test him.
- Philip said that six month's wages wouldn't be enough money to buy the amount of bread needed to feed all the people.
- Jesus then taught Philip and the rest of the apostles a greater truth.



Philip

Key Lesson

- With God, all things are possible. Practical knowledge does not compare to the truth found in Jesus.



Philip

Other Stories About Philip

- Tradition suggests Philip lived and preached in Scythia (Ukraine today).

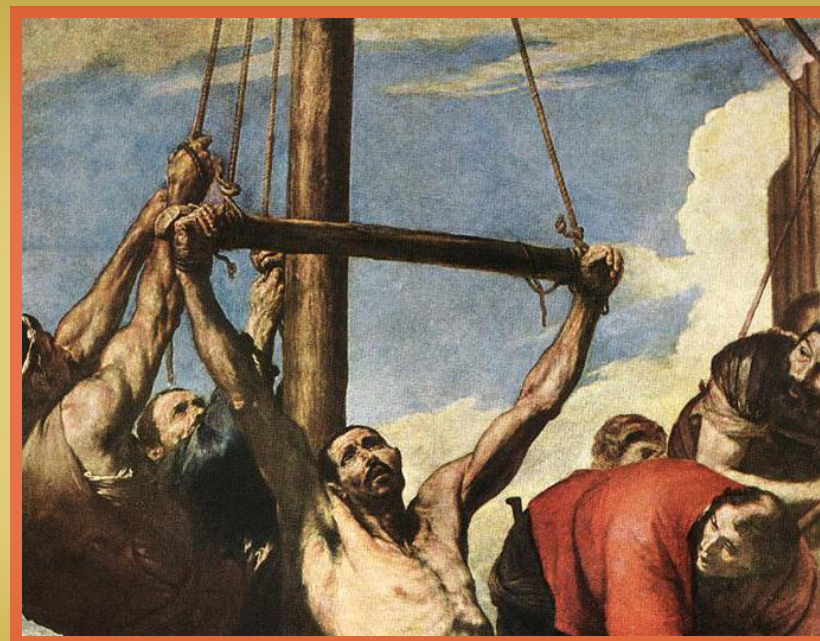




Philip

Other Stories About Philip

- Some stories suggest that Philip was crucified on a tall cross at Hierapolis of Phrygia (Turkey today).



Martyrdom of St. Philip
Jusepe de Ribera (1639)



Philip

Other Stories About Philip

- Symbols for Philip include loaves of bread and a tall cross (John 6:5-7).

