

## **The Search For The 12 Apostles**

Most of the information here is based on Biblical accounts and Historian accounts. Little is known about some but what we should remind ourselves is of the great work that these 12 men did and the sacrifices they made to spread the Gospel and to tell the world about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### **Peter**

Peter was led to the top of the Vatican Mount near the TYBUR and crucified with his head downwards. Martyred in Rome about 66 AD, during the persecution under Emperor Nero. Peter was crucified, upside down at his request, since he did not feel he was worthy to die in the same manner as his Lord

His body was embalmed by Marcellinus the Presbyter after the Jewish manner, then buried in the Vatican near the Triumphal Way.

Over his body a small church was erected.

### **Andrew**

Tradition places Andrew ministry in Greece. There, according to tradition he was imprisoned, then crucified by order of the proconsul Aegeates, whose wife Maximilla had been estranged from her husband by the preaching of St. Andrew.

Supposedly Andrew was crucified on a cross, which instead of being made like the one upon which Jesus died, was made in the form of an "X".

To this day that type of cross is known as "St. Andrew's Cross."

### **James, the Son of Zebedee**

James was beheaded by Herod Agrippa I in or around 44 A.D.

The first Apostle to suffer martyrdom. 11 years after the death of Christ. From Acts 12: 1-2.

### **John**

Tertullian says that John was with Peter in Rome and for a time was in danger of his life. The legend is that he was submitted to the torture of being boiled in oil but was delivered miraculously.

Another tradition says that in Rome an attempt was made to poison John, but that when he took the cup the poison disappeared in the form of a serpent.

Thus the Roman Catholic symbol for this Apostle is a cup with a serpent issuing from it. Some bones of all other Apostles still exist, but the grave of John, which is perhaps the best attested of any Apostolic tomb by history and archaeology, contains no relics (bones), nor are there any historical traces or traditions of what may have become of them. Of all the Apostles, John was the only one to die of natural causes between 89 AD to 120 AD. He was the leader of the church in the Ephesus area and is said to have taken care of Mary the mother of Jesus in his home. During Domitian's persecution in the middle 90's, he was exiled to the island of Patmos. There he is credited with writing the last book of the New Testament--the Revelation. An early Latin tradition has him escaping unhurt after being cast into boiling oil at Rome.

### **Philip**

Philip preached at Hierapolis in Phrygia, where he found the people addicted to the worship of a monstrous serpent or dragon, or of the god Mars under that form. Taking compassion on their blindness, the Apostle commanded the serpent, in the name of the cross he held in his hand, to disappear, and immediately the reptile glided out from beneath the altar, at the same time emitting such a hideous stench that many people died, and among them the king's son fell dead in the arms of his attendants: but the Apostle, by Divine power, restored him to life.

Then the priests of the dragon were incensed against him, and they took him, and crucified him, and being bound on the cross they stoned him; thus he yielded up his spirit to God, praying, like his Divine Master, for his enemies and tormentors.

### **Bartholomew**

St. Bartholomew's labors and martyrdom in Armenia are generally acknowledged by all Christian Churches. It is said that after preaching in Arabia, the South of Persia and the borders of India, he proceeded to Armenia, where he suffered martyrdom by being flayed alive and then crucified, head downward, at Albac or Albanopolis, near Bashkale. There isn't much information about Bartholomew and there are various stories about his death.

### **Thomas**

Tradition says, Thomas died a martyr's death on a mountain now called Mount Thomas in Mylopur, a suburb of Madras. His death was accomplished by being put into a fiery furnace and pierced with spears until he gave up the Spirit.

### **Matthew**

Matthew returned to the Anthropophagi working miracles among them and the king became jealous of him. They bound Matthew, covered him with papyrus soaked in dolphin oil, poured brimstone, asphalt and pitch upon him, heaped up tow and wood and surrounded him with the golden images of the 12 gods of the people. But the fire turned to dew and the flames flew out and melted the metal of the images. Finally the fire took the form of a dragon, chased the king into his palace and curled around about him so that he could not move. Then Matthew rebuked the fire and prayed and gave up the ghost. The king was converted and became a priest and with 2 angels Matthew departed to Heaven.

### **James, Son of Alphaeus**

Was stoned by the Jews for preaching Christ. The Jewish historian Josephus reported that he was stoned and then clubbed to death.

### **Jude Thaddaeus**

One can only believe that he spent his years of evangelistic effort in Syria and Northern Persia. It is likely that he died there by a halberd.

### **Simon the Canaanite**

The evangelizing mission of Simon was short lived. He was finally arrested and was condemned to death. Not much information about his preaching or death.

**Judas Iscariot**

He died by hanging himself

**Matthias**

According to ancient church tradition, Matthias suffered martyrdom at the hands of the Jews either by lance or by the axe. Matthias was the apostle that was selected to replace Judas who hung himself. Acts 1:20-26 reveals how this was done, and some scholars say it may have fulfilled a prophecy in Psalm 69:25 and Psalm 109:8.

**John Mark**

John Mark was seized, dragged with a rope around his neck in the streets, and then incarcerated for the night. In the following morning the same ordeal was repeated until he gave up the ghost. His flesh was torn and bloody, and it was their intent to cremate his remains.

**Paul**

I have included Paul because he was an Apostle for the Lord Jesus Christ. Most historians, both secular and church, say that he was beheaded. Christ saved Paul and was used to do great things but as he neared his execution one can't help but think that he was ready to be with his Lord.