



EWTN

Global Catholic
Network

THE TWELVE BIOGRAPHIES AND QUOTES ON THE APOSTLES



ST. JOHN, THE "BELOVED DISCIPLE"

THE TWELVE: BIOGRAPHIES AND QUOTES ON THE APOSTLES



Copyright 2022 by EWTN Publishing, Inc.
5817 Old Leeds Road, Irondale, Alabama 35210 USA
Tel: 1.800.447.EWTN (3986) - www.ewtn.com

Cover image: *St. John the Evangelist* by Frans Hals

Scripture taken from the Catholic Edition of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible
copyright 1965, 1966
National Council of the Churches
of Christ in the United States of America.
Used by permission.
All rights reserved worldwide.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	Page 3
Saint Peter	Page 4
Saint Andrew	Page 5
Saint James the Greater	Page 6
Saint John	Page 7
Saint Philip	Page 8
Saint Bartholomew	Page 9
Saint Thomas	Page 10
Saint Matthew	Page 11
Saint James the Lesser	Page 12
Saint Judas Thaddeus	Page 13
Saint Simon the Zealot	Page 14
Saint Matthias	Page 15

“The apostles have preached the Gospel to us from the Lord Jesus Christ; Jesus Christ [has done so] from God. Christ therefore was sent forth by God, and the apostles by Christ. ... Having therefore received their orders, and being fully assured by the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and established in the word of God, with full assurance of the Holy Ghost, they went forth proclaiming that the kingdom of God was at hand.”

– Clement of Rome, Bishop (c. 90 A.D.), 1st Epistle, n.42.



Introduction

“Christ the Lord, in whom the entire Revelation of the most high God is summed up, commanded the apostles to preach the Gospel, which had been promised beforehand by the prophets, and which he fulfilled in his own person and promulgated with his own lips. In preaching the Gospel, they were to communicate the gifts of God to all men. This Gospel was to be the source of all saving truth and moral discipline.”

– *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraph 75

Jesus chose twelve men as His Apostles: Peter, Andrew, James the Greater, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James the Lesser, Judas Thaddeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot. When Judas Iscariot betrayed the Lord, he was replaced by Matthias.

The twelve faithful Apostles proclaimed the Gospel, spreading Christianity through the known world. Because of their missionary work – and the witness of their martyrdoms – Christianity grew far beyond the Holy Land.

This eBook gives brief biographies, as well as quotes regarding these great saints. We pray that you grow in faith as you learn about these courageous, faithful men.



Saint Peter

Saint Peter, the chief of the Apostles, is the Rock upon which Christ built His Church. Ever since Peter served as the first pope, there has been an unbroken transmission of spiritual authority to Peter's successors in Rome. Saint Peter was crucified in Nero's Circus on Vatican Hill, sometime between 64 and 68 A.D.



St. Peter Holding the Keys by Peter Paul Rubens

“Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.’”

– St. Peter (John 6:68-69)



Saint Andrew

Saint Andrew was the brother of Saint Peter. Like his brother, Andrew was a fisherman. In 60 or 62 A.D., Andrew was martyred in Greece on an X-shaped cross.



St. Andrew by Peter Paul Rubens

“The Apostle Andrew ... teaches us to follow Jesus with promptness (cf. Mt 4:20; Mk 1:18), to speak enthusiastically about him to those we meet, and especially, to cultivate a relationship of true familiarity with him, acutely aware that in him alone can we find the ultimate meaning of our life and death.”

– Pope Benedict XVI



Saint James the Greater

Saint James was one of Jesus' first Apostles. St. James was a fisherman who, with his brother the Apostle John, worked in their father Zebedee's business. He was martyred around 44 A.D.



St. James the Greater by Jusepe de Ribera

“Consequently, we can learn much from St. James: promptness in accepting the Lord’s call even when he asks us to leave the ‘boat’ of our human securities, enthusiasm in following him on the paths that he indicates to us over and above any deceptive presumption of our own, readiness to witness to him with courage, if necessary to the point of making the supreme sacrifice of life.”

– Pope Benedict XVI



Saint John

Saint John, the “beloved disciple,” was in a small group of Apostles, along with Peter and James (John’s brother), who witnessed the raising of Jairus’ daughter, the Transfiguration, and the events in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before Our Lord’s Passion. Saint John was the only Apostle present at the Crucifixion, and this is where Jesus asked him to care for the Blessed Virgin. St. John is the only Apostle who did not die a martyr’s death, dying in Ephesus about 100 A.D.



St. John the Evangelist by Frans Hals

“Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst.’”

– Jesus in the Gospel of John 6:35



Saint Philip

St. Philip the Apostle is mentioned in the Bible mostly in the Gospel of John. It is likely that he was a follower of John the Baptist and present when John said of Jesus, “Behold the Lamb of God.” His call came shortly afterward, when Jesus encountered him while returning to Galilee from the Jordan Valley. St. Philip died a martyr’s death, but we’re unsure of the place or date.



St. Philip by Peter Paul Rubens

“Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we shall be satisfied.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and yet you do not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.’”

– John 14:8–10



Saint Bartholomew

Though we don't know many details of the life of St. Bartholomew, he was likely of Hebrew descent. Some believe that he evangelized India after Jesus' Ascension into Heaven. According to tradition, St. Bartholomew was martyred in Armenia.



Saint Bartholomew by Jusepe de Ribera

“Nathanael [Bartholomew] said to him, ‘How do you know me?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.’ Nathanael answered him, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’”

– John 1:48–49



Saint Thomas

St. Thomas is upheld as an example of faith in our Lord despite his seeking of certainty and the doubts that he had – particularly having heard, but not seen, that Jesus had risen from the dead. In spite of his earlier doubts, he gave his life for the faith. It is believed that St. Thomas was martyred with a spear in India. Today the Catholic and Orthodox faithful descended from the first Indian believers are known as St. Thomas Christians.



The Doubting of St. Thomas by Caravaggio

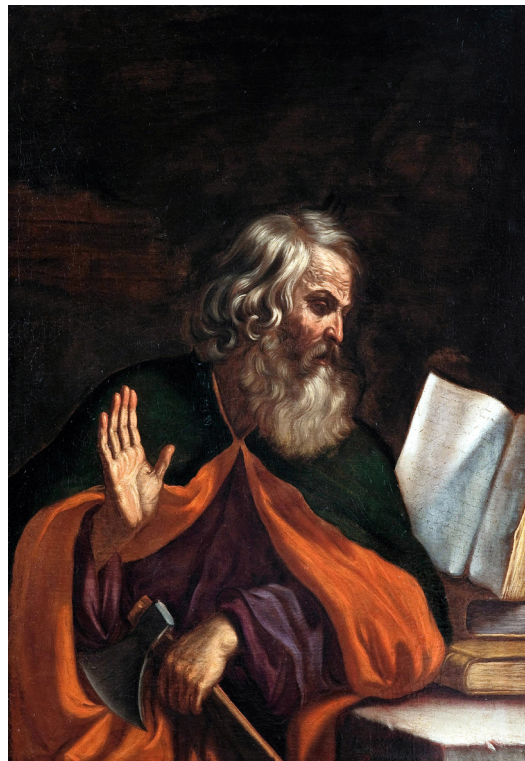
“Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.’”

– John 20:27–29



Saint Matthew

St. Matthew is best known for his profession as a tax collector and his role as one of the four evangelists (Gospel writers). He was martyred, but it is unknown whether he died by being burned, stoned, or beheaded.



St. Matthew the Apostle by Giovanni Francesco Barbieri

“[D]o not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?”

– Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew 6:25



Saint James the Lesser

St. James the Lesser was the brother of the Apostle Jude and a son of Alphaeus. There are differing views about the reason he was called “lesser.” Some think it was because he was called by Jesus after James the Greater. Others think that he was shorter in height. It is believed that he wrote the letter of James in the New Testament and, having served as the first bishop of Jerusalem, was stoned to death for his faith in Christ.



St. James the Lesser by Jusepe de Ribera

“Count it all joy, my brethren, when you meet various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

– James 1:2–4



Saint Judas Thaddeus (Jude)

St. Judas Thaddeus, brother of St. James the Lesser, was related to Our Lord. He wrote the book of Jude in the New Testament and was martyred in Persia by being beaten with a club.



St. Jude Thaddeus by Jusepe de Ribera

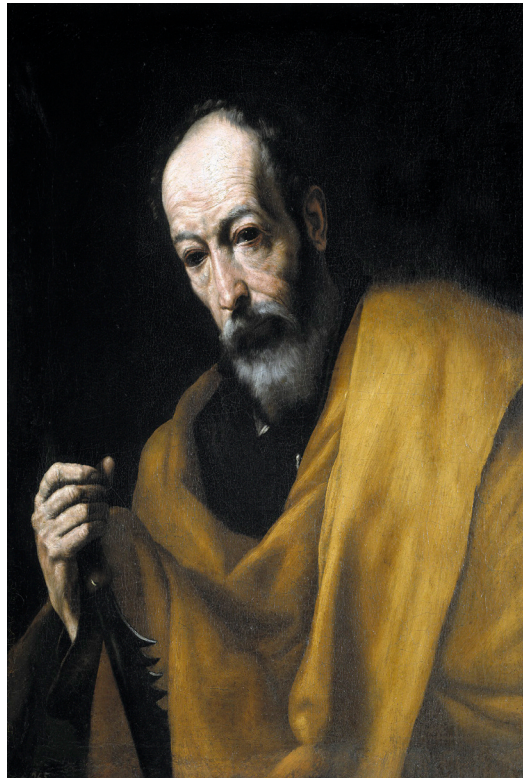
“[B]uild yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And convince some, who doubt; save some, by snatching them out of the fire; on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.”

– Jude 1:20–23



Saint Simon the Zealot

Not much is known about Simon the Zealot. The title seems to refer to his youthful participation in the Zealots, the Jewish faction most opposed to Roman occupation, and whose rebellion of 66–70 A.D. would lead to the destruction of the Temple. Simon would serve a different Kingdom, evangelizing in Egypt and Persia and being martyred in Persia along with St. Jude.



St. Simon by Jusepe de Ribera

“Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away; and when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.”

– Acts 1:12–14



Saint Matthias

Saint Matthias was a close disciple of Jesus from the time of his Baptism to His Ascension. After Jesus' Ascension, Matthias was the disciple chosen by the Apostles to replace Judas as the twelfth Apostle. He died a martyr's death, possibly by being stoned and then beheaded.



St. Matthias by Jusepe de Ribera

“We know nothing else about [Matthias], if not that he had been a witness to all Jesus' earthly events (cf. Acts 1:26), remaining faithful to him to the end. To the greatness of his fidelity was later added the divine call to take the place of Judas, almost compensating for his betrayal.”

– Pope Benedict XVI



About Us

Founded more than 40 years ago by a Poor Clare nun, Mother Mary Angelica of the Annunciation, PCPA, EWTN is the largest religious media network in the world. EWTN's 11 global TV channels are broadcast in multiple languages 24 hours a day, seven days a week to over 400 million television households in more than 150 countries and territories. EWTN platforms also include radio services transmitted through SIRIUS/XM, iHeart Radio, and over 500 domestic and international AM & FM radio affiliates; a worldwide shortwave radio service; one of the largest Catholic websites in the U.S. and second only to the Vatican worldwide; electronic and print news services, including Catholic News Agency, *National Catholic Register* newspaper, and several global news wire services; as well as EWTN Publishing, its book publishing division.

Learn More about EWTN

[EWTN](#)

[Seasons and Feasts](#)

[Television Programs](#)

[Radio Programs](#)

[For a one-time gift or to become a monthly donor](#)

