

HOW THE APOSTLES DIED.

1. Matthew

Suffered martyrdom in Ethiopia. Killed by a sword wound.

2. Mark

Died in Alexandria, Egypt, after being dragged by horses through the streets until he was dead. He wrote the Gospel of Mark in 58-60 AD, 28 to 30 years after the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. His was the first Gospel to be written, and tradition has it that he essentially recorded Peter's memories of Jesus' ministry.

3. Luke

Was hanged in Greece as a result of his tremendous preaching to the lost. He wrote the Gospel of Luke (61 – 64 AD) and the Book of Acts (66 – 68 AD).

4. John

Faced martyrdom when he was boiled in a huge basin of boiling oil during a wave of persecution in Rome. However, he was miraculously delivered from death. John was then sentenced to the mines on the prison Island of Patmos where he wrote his prophetic Book of Revelation (95 AD). The apostle John was later freed and returned to serve as Bishop of Edessa in modern Turkey.

John wrote the Gospel that bears his name in 85 AD, and his three letters, 1, 2 & 3 John between 85 & 90 AD. He died as an old man, the only apostle to die peacefully.

5. Peter

He was crucified upside down on an x-shaped cross in 67/68 AD. According to church tradition it was because he told his tormentors that he felt unworthy to die in the same way that his Lord Jesus had died.

6. James

The leader of the church in Jerusalem and brother of Jesus, was thrown over a hundred feet down from the southeast pinnacle of the Temple when he refused to deny his faith in Christ. When they discovered that he had survived the fall, his enemies beat James to death with a fuller's club.

* This was the same pinnacle to which Satan had taken Jesus during the Temptation.

7. James the Son of Zebedee (John's older brother)

He was a fisherman by trade when Jesus called him to a lifetime of ministry. As a strong leader of the church, James was beheaded in Jerusalem. The Roman officer who guarded James watched amazed as James defended his faith at his trial. Later, the officer walked beside James to the place of execution. Overcome by conviction, he declared his new faith to the judge and knelt beside James to accept beheading as a Christian.

8. Bartholomew

Also known as Nathaniel, he was a missionary to Asia. He witnessed for our Lord in present day Turkey. Bartholomew was martyred for his preaching in Armenia where he was flayed to death with a whip.

9. Andrew

He was crucified on an x-shaped cross in Patras, Greece. After being whipped severely by seven soldiers they tied his body to the cross with cords to prolong his agony. His followers reported that, when he was led toward the cross, Andrew saluted it in these words: "I have long desired and expected this happy hour. The cross has been consecrated by the body of Christ hanging on it." He continued to preach to his tormentors for two days until he expired.

10. Thomas

He was stabbed with a spear in India during one of his missionary trips to establish the church in the sub-continent.

11. Jude

Another brother of Jesus, he was killed with arrows when he refused to deny his faith in Christ. He wrote the New Testament book that bears his name in 65 AD.

12. Matthias

The apostle chosen to replace the traitor Judas Iscariot, was stoned and then beheaded.

13. Paul

Was tortured and then beheaded by the evil Emperor Nero at Rome in AD 67/68. Paul endured a lengthy imprisonment/house arrest (57 to 62 AD), during which he wrote his many epistles to the churches he had founded throughout the Roman Empire. These letters, which teach many of the foundational Doctrines of Christianity, form a large portion of the New Testament.

Paul came to faith in Jesus on the Damascus road in 35 AD, five years after Jesus' crucifixion. His first letter, written to the Galatians to refute false teachings, was written in 49 AD, just 19 years after Jesus' crucifixion and 14 years after Paul's conversion.

14. Thaddeus

Another of Jesus' disciples, also known as Jude Thaddeus. Tradition holds that Jude preached the Gospel in Judea, Samaria, Idumaea, Syria, Mesopotamia and Libya. He is also said to have visited Beirut and Edessa, though the emissary of the latter mission is also identified as Thaddeus of Edessa, Addai, one of the Seventy. The 14th-century writer Nicephorus Callistus makes Jude the bridegroom at the wedding at Cana. He was martyred in about 65 AD in Beirut, in the Roman province of Syria, together with the apostle Simon the Zealot, with whom he is usually connected. He was possibly killed with the axe that he is depicted as carrying in ancient pictures.

Perhaps this is a reminder to us all that our sufferings here are indeed minor compared to the intense persecution and cold cruelty faced by the apostles and disciples during their times for the sake of the Faith. Jesus said: "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: But he that endureth to the end shall be saved."