

12 The journeys of the APOSTLES

—by Peter Hammond



Andrew

Andrew was the first of the Apostles to follow Jesus. Throughout the Gospels we see him bringing people to the Lord, including the little boy with the five loaves and two fish. After the Day of Pentecost, Andrew engaged in widespread missions to the Caucasian Mountains, (present day Georgia), to the Scythians on the Caspian Sea, to Byzantium (present day Turkey), to Greece, to Thrace and Macedonia. Church historian Eusebius records that Andrew preached to the Scythians, Sogdians and the Saxons.

In Patros he was martyred, crucified on an X-shaped cross which today is known as the St Andrews cross. The governor of the Edessenes, Ageas, attempted to force all Christians to sacrifice to the Roman idols. Andrew publicly confronted him and was condemned to death. Andrew declared: "I would not have preached the honour and glory of the Cross if I feared the death of the Cross." Andrew was martyred 30 November AD80. Four countries claim Andrew as their patron Saint: Russia, Greece, Germany and Scotland. 30 November is St. Andrews Day and the St. Andrew's cross is the national flag of Scotland.



Peter

Simon, whom the Lord Jesus renamed Peter, was born in Bethsaida, in Galilee. He was a fisherman, the son of Jonah. His brother, Andrew brought him to the Lord.

It was Peter who preached so powerfully on the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem, winning over 3 000 to Christ. After being imprisoned several times in Jerusalem, Peter and his wife ministered in Babylon, from where he wrote his first Epistle (1 Peter). While ministering in Rome, John Mark (the writer of the Gospel of Mark), served as his translator. Mark wrote his Gospel under the apostolic authority of Peter, who was eyewitness to much of what was recorded.

The emperor Nero personally condemned the Apostle Peter to death in AD68. Peter insisted that he was not worthy to be crucified in the same manner as His Lord and was thus crucified upside down. Before he met his death at the hands of the Romans, he converted his jailers, Processus and Martinianus, and 47 others in the prison, to the Lord.

Simon

Simon the Zealot ministered throughout North Africa, including in the great city of Carthage. He planted the Gospel in Spain and ministered in Britain where he was martyred 10 May, AD 61 in Caistor, Lincolnshire.



Rome

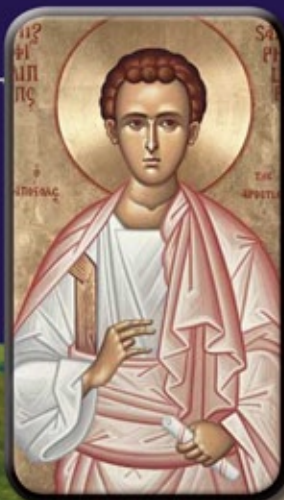
Turkey

Jerusalem



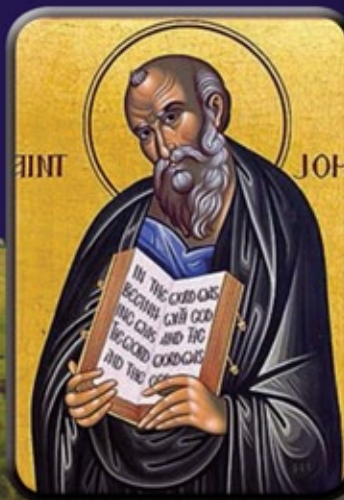
James

James, the elder brother of the Apostle John, was the first Apostle to suffer martyrdom. By order of King Herod Agrippa, James was beheaded in Jerusalem in AD44.



Philip

After the Ascension of Christ, Philip travelled into Scythia (in what is today Southern Russia) and ministered there for twenty years. Philip is also believed to have ministered as far as Gaul (present day France). After this he ministered in Asia Minor (what is today Turkey), where, in Hiralpolis, he was used of the Lord to heal the wife of the Roman proconsul. For this he was crucified.



John

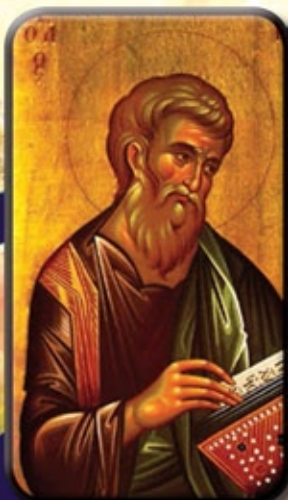
The Apostle John was the son of Zebedee, a fisherman of Galilee. His mother, Salome, was the sister of Mary, the mother of Jesus. John, his brother James, and the Apostles Peter and Andrew, were all partners in a fishing business prior to their calls by the Lord. John's brother, James, was the first of the Apostles to die, John was the last. All of the Apostles except John met a violent death. However, John lived a martyr's life. The Lord Jesus entrusted His mother Mary to the care of John. John founded churches throughout Asia, wrote the Book of Revelation, the Gospel according to John and 1, 2 and 3 John. He died naturally at Ephesus in about AD 100.

"Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy."
1 Peter 4:12-13

Russia

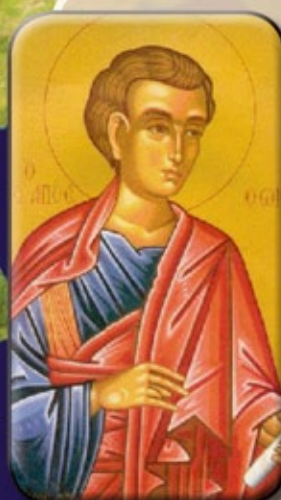
Persia (Iran)

India



Matthew

Matthew was a tax collector before being called by the Lord. He was a gifted writer, and perhaps the most educated of the Apostles. He is the writer of the Gospel according to Matthew. He undertook missions to Persia, Egypt and Ethiopia where he was martyred for Christ.



Thomas

Thomas Didymas (the twin) was a fisherman from Galilee. After the Ascension, Thomas went as missionary to Babylon, Iraq where he established the first Christian churches there. Thereafter he ministered in Persia and India, winning many converts. The Bar Thomas Church endures in India to this day. He was martyred in Mylapore (what today is a suburb of Madras).



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"For to this you were called because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that you should follow in His steps."

1 Peter 2:21



Matthias

Matthias was chosen as an Apostle to replace the traitor Judas. Matthias evangelised in Armenia and the Ukraine, planting churches in Colchis and Sebastopol. He was martyred in Adjure, in what is today Georgia, in the Caucasian Mountains.

Bartholomew

The Apostle Bartholomew ministered through Asia Minor, including in Hirapolis, Laodicea, and Colosse, in Armenia and in India. In AD68, Bartholomew was martyred in Albanopolis, (now Derbend in Azerbaijan), after he converted the king of Armenia to Christianity. The king's pagan brother murdered Bartholomew in retaliation.



James the Younger

James, (the son of Alphaeus) was the brother of Matthew and the son of Mary, (the wife of Cleopas another follower of the Lord). James came from Capernaum. He established the churches in Syria. For preaching Christ, he was thrown down from the Temple by the Scribes and Pharisees and then stoned to death in Jerusalem.



Jude (Thaddeus)

The Apostle Jude took the Gospel to Armenia where he established the church in Edessa. Armenia became one of the first Christian kingdoms. Later he evangelised in Syria and Persia. Jude was martyred in Kara Kalisa, near the Caspian Sea, 40 miles from Tabriz (in what is today Iran). ■