

The Twelve Apostles

Apostle	Meaning of Name	Also Called	Occupation	Key Facts / Notes	Main References
Peter	“Rock / Stone”	Simon, Cephas	Fisherman	Leader among the Apostles; denied Christ then restored; preached at Pentecost; author of 1 & 2 Peter	Matt 4:18–20; John 1:42; Acts 2; John 21
James (son of Zebedee)	“Supplanter”	James the Greater	Fisherman	Brother of John; part of the inner three; first Apostle martyred (by sword under Herod Agrippa I)	Matt 4:21–22; Mark 10:35–40; Acts 12:1–2
John	“Yahweh is gracious”	Son of Thunder	Fisherman	Brother of James; part of the inner three; author of John, 1–3 John, Revelation	Matt 4:21–22; Mark 3:17; John 13:23; Rev 1:1
Andrew	“Manly / Courageous”	—	Fisherman	Peter’s brother; first to follow Jesus; brought others to Christ	John 1:35–41; Matt 4:18–20
Philip	“Lover of horses”	—	Unknown	From Bethsaida; brought Nathanael to Jesus; questioned Jesus about the Father	John 1:43–46; John 14:8–9
Bartholomew	“Son of Tolmai”	Likely Nathanael	Unknown	Probably Nathanael (John 1); honest and without guile	John 1:45–51; Matt 10:3
Thomas	“Twin”	Didymus	Unknown	Doubted resurrection until seeing Jesus; loyal and courageous	John 11:16; John 20:24–29; 21:2
Matthew	“Gift of Yahweh”	Levi	Tax collector	Wrote Gospel of Matthew; left wealth to follow Jesus	Matt 9:9–13; Mark 2:14
James (son of Alphaeus)	“Supplanter”	James the Less	Unknown	Distinguished from James the Greater; little recorded	Matt 10:3; Mark 3:18; 15:40
Thaddaeus	“Courageous heart / Praise”	Judas (son of James), Lebbaeus	Unknown	Not Judas Iscariot; asked Jesus about manifesting Himself	Luke 6:16; John 14:22; Matt 10:3
Simon the Zealot	“He has heard”	Simon the Canaanite	Unknown	Member of the Zealots (political nationalist group); shows diversity of the Twelve	Matt 10:4; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:15
Judas Iscariot	Uncertain (possibly “man of Kerioth”)	—	Treasurer	Betrayed Jesus; replaced by Matthias; tragic warning of false discipleship	Matt 26:14–16; John 12:6; Acts 1:16–20
Matthias (Replacement for Judas)	“Gift of Yahweh”	—	Unknown	Chosen by lot to replace Judas; eyewitness of Jesus’ ministry required	Acts 1:21–26