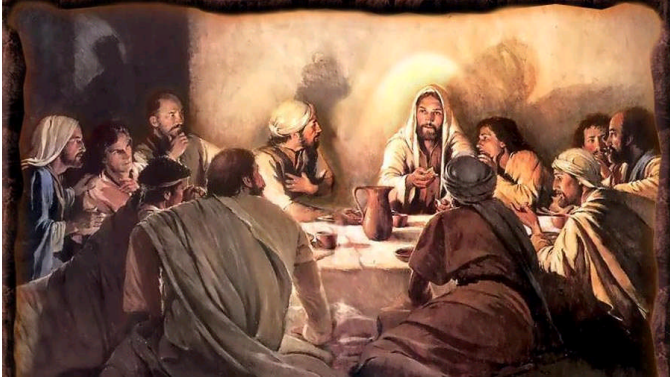


## How the Apostles Died

### Overview

Have you ever wondered how the Apostles died? Scriptures does not have much information but tradition can fill in some of the blanks. Let's look at each one of them – and note we have included Saint Paul.



### Matthew

He suffered martyrdom in Ethiopia, and was killed by a sword wound.

### Mark

He died in Alexandria, Egypt, after being dragged by horses through the streets until he was dead.

### Luke

Luke was hanged in Greece as a result of his tremendous preaching to the lost sheep.

### John

He faced martyrdom when he was boiled in 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. The apostle John was later freed and returned to serve as Bishop of Edessa in modern Turkey. He died as an old man, the only apostle to die peacefully.

### Peter

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

### James the lesser

As the leader of the church in Jerusalem, he 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 survived the fall, his enemies beat James to death with a club. Legend says this was the same pinnacle where Satan had taken Jesus during the Temptation.

### James the Great

A son of Zebedee, he was a fisherman by trade when Jesus called him to a lifetime of ministry. As a strong leader of the church, James was ultimately beheaded at 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 also accept beheading as a Christian

### Bartholomew

He was also known as Nathaniel and was a missionary to Asia. He witnessed for our Lord in present day Turkey – and was martyred for his preaching in Armenia where he was flayed to death by a whip.

### 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 finally expired.

### Thomas

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

### Jude

He was killed with arrows when he refused to deny his faith in Christ.

### Matthias

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

### Paul

Paul was tortured and then beheaded – not crucified because he was a Roman citizen - by the evil Emperor Nero at Rome in A.D. 67. Paul endured a lengthy imprisonment, which allowed him to write his many epistles to the churches he had formed throughout the Roman Empire. These letters, which taught many of the foundational doctrines of Christianity, form a large portion of the New Testament and predate the Gospels.