

# WHAT HAPPENED TO THE APOSTLES?

For the most part, we cannot be sure. Only the death of James, the brother of John is recorded in the New Testament. For the rest, we are subject to many accounts from the 2nd, and 3rd centuries. These accounts are, to say the least, often contradictory, and at times highly fanciful. However, as a matter of curiosity, it may be interesting to some to hear some of the stories. Most of the following information is from a work by a German author which has been translated into English - THE APOSTLES, by Otto Hophan, Newman press, 1962.

**PETER** He appears to have spent most of his time in and around Jerusalem, with occasional visits to other cities such as Antioch of Syria. He even mentions being in Babylon (many believe this was a euphemism for Rome) at the end of his first epistle. There is good evidence that he was crucified (upside down at his own request) in Rome in 67 AD. It is claimed that he is buried under the central altar in the Vatican in Rome, although there is no proof of that.

**ANDREW** Claims are that he worked in Scythia, Bithynia, Pontus, Sinope, Kurdistan, Armenia, and Achaia. Report has it that he was crucified on an X shaped cross at Patras in Achaia by order of Governor Aegeas. It is said that he was tied to the cross rather than nailed so that he would suffer longer, and that he died after two days. His remains are claimed to be in Rome.

**JAMES** He is the only one whose death is recorded in the New Testament. He was beheaded by Herod Agrippa I to please the Jews (Acts 12:1-2). It is claimed that his remains are buried in Santiago de Compostella, Spain.

**JOHN** After living and working extensively in the area of Ephesus, he is said to have died at old age in 98 or 99 AD. According to legend, as he knew his death was near, he laid down in his grave, and died there in Ephesus where his remains are claimed to be to this day.

**PHILIP** It is said that he worked in Scythia, Phrygia, and was crucified in Hierapolis under Domitian. Others report that he died of natural causes. His remains are claimed to be in the church of the Twelve Apostles in Rome.

**BARTHOLOMEW** Report has it that he worked in Egypt, Syria, Armenia, and India. Tradition says he was flayed (killed by skinning) in Armenia at the order of Astyages, brother of King Polymius. His remains are claimed to be in Rome in the church of St. Bartholomew.

**THOMAS** He is said to have worked amongst Parthians, Medes, Persians, Hyrcanians, Bactrians, and finally in India. It is reported that he was martyred by King Mazdai of India who had four soldiers to spear him to death. Legend says his remains were taken to Edessa in the 3rd century, then to Chios in the Greek islands in 1258 before being finally laid to rest at Ortona.

**MATTHEW** He is reported to have worked extensively in Ethiopia and in Macedonia. One story says he died a natural death. Another says he was beheaded in Ethiopia by Hirtacus, brother of King Aeglippus. His remains have long been considered to be in Salerno, Italy.

**JAMES THE LESS** He is believed to have remained a leader of the church in Jerusalem where he was eventually stoned by Jews and buried in the Valley of Jehoshaphat.

**THADDAEUS** He is said to have preached the gospel in African languages, and also to have worked in Palestine and in Edessa. Greek sources claim he died a natural death. Others say he died by stoning in the Persian city of Suanir.

**SIMON** Early claims say he worked in Egypt, Libya, Mauretania and even Britain. One claim is that he was crucified during the reign of Emperor Trajan. Another is that he was sawed in pieces, while yet another reports that he was stoned with Thaddaeus in Persia. His remains are said to be preserved in the Vatican in Rome.

**JUDAS** Died by suicide in Jerusalem.

**PAUL** Labored extensively throughout Asia Minor, and Europe. There is good basis for the claim that following a second Roman imprisonment, he was beheaded in Rome under Nero in 67 AD, and is buried in the Church of St. Paul's Outside the Walls in Rome.

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