

Article Title— **“How The Apostles Died”**Article Category— **Church History**[www.Link1.info](http://www.Link1.info)

When Jesus' disciples prompted him to behold the beauty of the temple at Jerusalem he told them that the time will come when not one stone of the temple will be left standing on another. Much of Jerusalem and most of the temple were, in fact, destroyed In A.D. 70. Having finally acquired ears-to-hear, they asked him about that prediction and about what Paul Harvey would've called "the rest of the story."

> "...the disciples came to him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall those things be? and what [shall be] the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" —Matthew 24:3

As recorded at Matthew 13, Jesus had already laid the groundwork for the time when He knew they would finally have acquired ears-to-hear. Jesus' responses on that pivotal day are recorded at chapters 24 and 25 of Matthew, at Mark 13 and at Luke 21. His responses included some warnings. At Matthew 24:9 he said, "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake." The burning question is whether Jesus intended that message just for those 12 disciples. Might he have intended it for us, too? In either case, those hand-picked men were to learn, first-hand, that Jesus had included them. Here's how each of them died:



**Andrew** was crucified on an X-shaped cross. He died in Patras, Greece. After seven soldiers had whipped him severely 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 with 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 drew his last breath.

**Bartholomew**, also known as Nathaniel, was a missionary to Asia. He represented our Lord in the region that is present-day Turkey. He was martyred for his preaching in Armenia. He was flayed to death, there, by a whip.

**James**, the leader of the church at Jerusalem, was thrown a hundred feet down from the southeast pinnacle of the Temple when he refused to deny his faith in Christ. Upon discovering that he had survived the fall, his enemies beat him to death with a fuller's club. (That was the same pinnacle where Satan had taken Jesus for his Temptation after 40 days in the wilderness.)

**James the Great**, son of Zebedee, was a fisherman by trade. He became a strong leader of the church. He was ultimately beheaded at Jerusalem. The Roman officer who guarded James watched in amazement as James defended his faith at the trial. Later, the officer walked beside him to the place of execution. Overcome by conviction, he declared his new faith to the judge and knelt beside James to accept his own beheading as a Christian.

**John** faced martyrdom in huge basin of boiling oil during a wave of persecution at Rome but, for a reason only God only knows, he didn't die from it. He was then sentenced to the mines on the prison island of Patmos. There, he wrote the Book of Revelation. Later, he was freed and returned to serve as Bishop of Edessa in modern Turkey. He died as an old man—the only apostle to die peacefully.

**Jude** was killed by arrows when he refused to deny his faith in Christ.

**Luke** was hanged in Greece because of his effective preaching to the lost.

I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.  
I knew what my denomination believed and that's what I taught.  
Yes, I should've checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn't I do that? Well, maybe I didn't do that for the same reason that you haven't really checked out what your denomination teaches.

"In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Samuel Clemens



**Mark** was dragged by horses through the streets of Alexandria, Egypt, until he was dead. While it's true that Mark was not an apostle, nor among Jesus' original 12 disciples, he kept close company with them. He was considerably younger than they and the attraction was apparently mutual. The book he wrote quickly gained recognition as part of The Holy Scriptures.

**Matthew** suffered martyrdom in Ethiopia, by a sword.

**Matthias**, the apostle chosen to replace Judas Iscariot, was stoned and then beheaded.

**Paul** was tortured and then beheaded by the Roman Emperor, Nero, in A.D. 67. Except for Paul's lengthy imprisonment we likely wouldn't have the epistles he wrote to the churches he had established throughout the Empire. Those letters, which still teach the foundational doctrines of Christianity, are a big part of the New Testament.

**Peter**, like Andrew, was crucified on an X-shaped cross. Tradition says that He personally asked to be crucified upside down, though, because he felt unworthy to die in the same way that Jesus had died.

**Thomas** died from stabbing with a spear during one of his missionary trips to establish the church in the sub-continent of India.



So, was Jesus' Matthew 24:9 warning just for His original disciples? Per recent estimates, 11 Christians are martyred every minute in this 21st Century. Thousands of Christians are raped, sold as sex slaves, tortured, beheaded or burned alive. But many American Christians have come to believe that they're special. They're fully convinced that they'll get raptured before anything like that comes to the U.S.A. That's what my trusted mentors taught me and that's what I taught, too, for decades. It was only after I had retired that my Bible Explorers Club, LLC, colleagues and I were able to discover the definitive scriptural and historical truth about all that. We learned that nobody taught or wrote about such a thing prior to the early 19th Century and that there was nothing written or preached about it in the U.S.A. until the 20th Century. Scripturally, that's a new wind of doctrine.

- > "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive." —Paul, at Ephesians 4:14
- > "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and [I saw] the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received [his] mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and THEY lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." —Revelation 20:4 (Emphasis via capitalization is mine.)

The curriculum for our Online Study series includes our conclusions on that topic along with the scriptural and historical info that led us to those conclusions. You'll find these critical words near the bottom of our "About Us" page: "You'll be wise to be skeptical of our conclusions and then to do your own due diligence to yield personally informed conclusions."


The key to your success may well be the profound message of Acts 17:11. Read that in several Bible versions." Please know that we harbor no desire to convince you, but to create in you a burning passion for doing precisely what those Berean Jews, there, did. For it was what they did that caused them to be called "more noble." Just read the Series Introduction to determine if studying with us is for you...or not. Here's the link: <https://www.link1.info/online-study>.

Meanwhile, your questions and scriptural rebuttals are always welcome: <https://www.link1.info/contact-us>.

—T. C. Newsome 

PS: To participate in Bible discussions about articles like this one – or to just read and enjoy them – join us at TC's Friends Club. Here's the hot link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/136708110091989/>

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