

**THE DEATHS OF JESUS CHRIST, HIS APOSTLES & KEY EARLY CHURCH FIGURES**

*"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them." — Hebrews 11:13 (KJV)*

#	Name	Role	Year Died	Method of Death	Location	Government / Authority Responsible	System	Martyred?	KJV Bible Reference	Historical Source	Notes	
1	<b>Jesus Christ</b>	Son of God — The First Martyr of the New Covenant	c. 33 AD	Crucifixion — nailed to a cross on Golgotha (Calvary) outside Jerusalem	Jerusalem, Judea (Roman Province)	Roman Empire (Pontius Pilate, Governor of Judea) & Sanhedrin (Jewish High Priests Annas & Caiaphas)	Roman Imperial State / Jewish Religious Authority	<b>Yes — Executed by the State</b>	Matthew 27:35 — <i>And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet:</i> John 19:30 — <i>When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.</i>	Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19 (KJV); Tacitus, Annals XV.44	Crucified between two thieves. Died after 6 hours on the cross. Rose from the dead on the third day. His death is the foundation of the Christian faith.	
2	<b>Stephen (First Christian Martyr)</b>	Deacon — First Martyr of the Christian Church	c. 34–36 AD	Stoned to death by a mob, sanctioned by the Sanhedrin. Saul of Tarsus (later Paul) witnessed and approved.	Jerusalem, Judea	Sanhedrin / Jewish Religious Authority (with Roman tolerance)	Jewish Theocratic Authority	<b>Yes — Stoned</b>	Acts 7:59-60 — <i>And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.</i>	Acts 6:8–7:60 (KJV)	Stephen's dying prayer for his murderers mirrors Christ's prayer on the cross (Luke 23:34). His death triggered the first great persecution of the Church (Acts 8:1). Saul of Tarsus held the coats of those who stoned him.	
3	<b>Simon Peter (Apostle)</b>	Leader of the Twelve Apostles; 'Rock' of the Church	c. 64–68 AD	Crucified upside down at his own request — he felt unworthy to die in the same manner as Jesus Christ	Rome, Roman Empire (Nero's persecution)	Roman Empire — Emperor Nero	Roman Imperial State / Pagan Polytheism	<b>Yes — Crucified Upside Down</b>	John 21:18-19 — <i>'Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God.'</i>	Eusebius, Church History (quoting Origen); Acts of Peter (2nd century); Clement of Rome, 1 Clement	Jesus prophesied Peter's death in John 21:18-19. Peter was crucified in Rome after Nero Blamed Christians for the Great Fire of Rome (64 AD). He requested to be crucified upside down, declaring himself unworthy to die as his Lord did.	
4	<b>James (son of Zebedee)</b>	One of the 'Sons of Thunder'; Inner Circle of Jesus (with Peter and John)	c. 44 AD	Beheaded by the sword — the ONLY apostle whose death is explicitly recorded in the New Testament	Jerusalem, Judea	Herod Agrippa I (Jewish King under Roman authority)	Roman Client Kingdom / Jewish Monarchy	<b>Yes — Beheaded (Biblical Record)</b>	Acts 12:1-2 — <i>'Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.'</i>	Acts 12:1-2 (KJV) — only Biblical record of an apostle's martyrdom; Eusebius, Church History (quoting Clement of Alexandria)	James was the FIRST of the Twelve Apostles to be martyred. Herod Agrippa I had him executed to please the Jewish religious leaders (Acts 12:3). According to Eusebius, the soldier who guarded James was so moved by his testimony that he also confessed Christ and was beheaded alongside James.	
5	<b>John (son of Zebedee)</b>	The Beloved Disciple; Author of Gospel of John, 1-3 John, Revelation	c. 98–100 AD	Died of natural causes in Ephesus — the ONLY apostle traditionally believed to have died of old age. However, Tertullian records he was thrown into boiling oil in Rome and survived miraculously.	Ephesus, Asia Minor (modern Turkey)	Roman Empire — Emperor Domitian (exile to Patmos); survived into reign of Nero/Trajan	Roman Imperial State	<b>No — Died of Natural Causes (after surviving boiling oil)</b>	John 19:26-27 — <i>'When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith she to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.'</i> Revelation 1:9 — <i>I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.'</i>	Tertullian, Prescription Against Heretics (c. 200 AD); Eusebius, Church History; Polycrates of Ephesus	John was exiled to the island of Patmos by Emperor Domitian, where he received the Book of Revelation. He was the only apostle present at the crucifixion and was entrusted with the care of Mary, the mother of Jesus. He is the only apostle who did not die a martyr's death, though he suffered greatly.	
6	<b>Andrew (brother of Peter)</b>	First called by Jesus; brought Peter to Christ	c. 60–70 AD	Crucified on an X-shaped cross (crux decussata) — now called 'St. Andrew's Cross'. He was bound, not nailed, and reportedly preached from the cross for two days before dying.	Petres, Achaea (modern Greece)	Roman Empire — Proconsul Aegaeus of Achaea	Roman Imperial State	<b>Yes — Crucified (X-shaped cross)</b>	Matthew 10:18-19 — <i>'And Peter, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.'</i>	Acts of Andrew (2nd century apocrypha); The Catholic Tition, 10 Jan 2026	Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland, Russia, and Greece. His X-shaped cross became the national symbol of Scotland (the Saltire). He reportedly refused to be taken down from the cross and continued preaching for two days. He said: 'I have long desired and expected this happy hour.'	
7	<b>Philip (Apostle)</b>	Brought Nathanael (Bartholomew) to Jesus	c. 80 AD	Most likely martyred in Hierapolis (modern Turkey). Traditions vary: crucified upside down, beheaded, or stoned. The Acts of Philip records he was crucified.	Hierapolis, Phrygia (modern Turkey)	Roman Empire — local Proconsul	Roman Imperial State	<b>Yes — Martyred (method disputed)</b>	John 1:43-44 — <i>'The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.'</i> John 14:8-9 — <i>'Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip?'</i>	Acts of Philip (apocrypha); Polycrates of Ephesus (letter to Pope Victor); Foxe's Book of Martyrs	Philip is often confused with Philip the Evangelist (Acts 8). He ministered in Phrygia (modern Turkey). His daughters were prophetesses. The exact manner of his death is disputed among early sources.	
8	<b>Bartholomew (Nathanael)</b>	Called by Philip; 'an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile' (Jesus)	c. 68–71 AD	Flayed alive (skinned) and then beheaded in Armenia. Some traditions say he was crucified upside down. The most prevalent tradition is that he was skinned alive for converting the king.	Albanopolis, Armenia (modern Azerbaijan)	Armenian pagan authorities / King Astyages of Armenia	Pagan Monarchy	<b>Yes — Flayed Alive and Beheaded</b>	John 1:47 — <i>'Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile'</i>	The Golden Legend (Jacobus de Voragine, 13th century); Foxe's Book of Martyrs; about-jesus.org; The Catholic Tition, 10 Jan 2026	Bartholomew is depicted in Michelangelo's Last Judgment in the Sistine Chapel holding his own skin — a reference to his flaying. He is the patron saint of Armenia. He is said to have translated the Gospel of Matthew into the Armenian language.	
9	<b>Thomas (Didymus — 'Doubting Thomas')</b>	Known for doubting the Resurrection; later became the apostle to India	c. 72 AD	Stabbed/pierced with spears (lances) by Hindu priests on a hill called St. Thomas Mount near Madras (Chennai), India	Mylapore, Madras (Chennai), India	Local Hindu religious authorities / King Misaeus of India	Hindu Monarchy / Pagan Religious Authority	<b>Yes — Pierced with Spears</b>	John 20:27-28 — <i>'Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.'</i>	Acts of Thomas (3rd century); Roman Martyrology (3 July); St. Thomas who was pierced with a lance in India's; Foxe's Book of Martyrs; St. Thomas Mount, Chennai (archaeological site)	Thomas travelled further than any other apostle — all the way to India. The Mar Thomas Church in Kerala, India, traces its founding directly to Thomas. His tomb is believed to be at the Basilica of the Apostle Thomas in Chennai. His doubt became the foundation of one of the most powerful confessions of faith in Scripture: 'My Lord and my God.'	
10	<b>Matthew (Levi the Tax Collector)</b>	Author of the Gospel of Matthew; former tax collector	c. 60–70 AD	Most traditions say he was killed by a sword (halberd) in Ethiopia/Parthia. Some early sources (Clement of Alexandria) suggest he may have died of natural causes.	Nadabab, Ethiopia (or Parthia — disputed)	Local pagan authorities in Ethiopia/Parthia	Pagan Monarchy	<b>Probable — Killed by Sword/Halberd (disputed)</b>	Matthew 9:9 — <i>'And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.'</i>	Foxe's Book of Martyrs (slain with a halberd in the city of Nadabab, AD 60?); Clement of Alexandria, Stromata (suggests natural death); Eusebius, Church History	Matthew was a despised tax collector for Rome before Jesus called him. His Gospel was written primarily for a Jewish audience to prove Jesus is the Messiah. He is the patron saint of tax collectors and accountants.	
11	<b>James son of Alphaeus (James the Less)</b>	One of the Twelve; possibly same as James the Just (brother of Jesus)	c. 62–70 AD	Thrown from the pinnacle of the Temple in Jerusalem, then beaten with a fuller's club and stoned. Some traditions say he was crucified in Egypt.	Jerusalem, Judea	Sanhedrin / Jewish Religious Authority (High Priest Annas)	Jewish Theocratic Authority	<b>Yes — Thrown from Temple and Stoned/Club bed</b>	Galatians 1:19 — <i>'But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.'</i>	Josephus, Jewish Antiquities XX.8.1 (records death of James the Just, 62 AD); Eusebius, Church History; Hippolytus, On the Twelve Apostles	Josephus records that High Priest Annas had James stoned to death in 62 AD during a gap between Roman governors. This is one of the most historically reliable accounts of an apostle's death outside the Bible. James was known as 'James the Just' for his righteous life and constant prayer — his knees were reportedly as calloused as a camel's from his prayer.	
12	<b>Jude (Thaddaeus / Lebbaeus)</b>	One of the Twelve; author of the Epistle of Jude	c. 65–80 AD	Killed with an axe (or halberd) in Persia/Armenia, together with Simon the Zealot. Some traditions say he was crucified.	Persia (modern Iran) or Armenia	Persian/Armenian pagan religious authorities	Pagan Monarchy / Zoroastrian Religious Authority	<b>Yes — Killed with Axe/Halberd</b>	John 14:22 — <i>'Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?'</i> Jude 1:3 — <i>'Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.'</i>	Acts of Simon and Jude (apocrypha); The Golden Legend; Foxe's Book of Martyrs; dot-in.org; The Twelve Apostles'	Acts of Simon and Jude (apocrypha); The Golden Legend; Foxe's Book of Martyrs; dot-in.org; The Twelve Apostles'	Jude is the patron saint of desperate and lost causes. His epistle is one of the most urgent warnings in the New Testament against false teachers — remarkably relevant to the present age. He and Simon the Zealot are traditionally believed to have been martyred together.
13	<b>Simon the Zealot</b>	One of the Twelve; former political revolutionary (Zealot movement)	c. 65–80 AD	Traditions vary widely: crucified in Persia/Armenia, together with Jude; or stoned by cannibals in Aethiopia (Georgian); or died of old age in Jerusalem (Hippolytus of Rome).	Persia (modern Iran) — most common tradition	Persian pagan religious authorities	Pagan Monarchy / Zoroastrian Religious Authority	<b>Probable — Method Disputed</b>	Matthew 10:4 — <i>'Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.'</i>	Moses of Chorene (5th century); The Golden Legend; Justus Lipsius (16th century); dot-in.org; The Twelve Apostles'	Simon was a Zealot — a member of a Jewish political movement that violently opposed Roman occupation. That Jesus called both a Zealot and a tax collector (Matthew) to be apostles demonstrates the radical, reconciling power of the Gospel. The exact manner of his death is the most disputed of all the apostles.	
14	<b>Judas Iscariot</b>	The Betrayer — sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver	c. 33 AD	Suicide — hanged himself (Matthew 27:5). Acts 1:18 side that he 'fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out.' Both accounts are consistent (the rope may have broken after death).	Jerusalem, Judea — the 'Field of Blood' (Akeldama)	Self-inflicted — not executed by a government	N/A — Suicide	<b>No — Suicide (Betrayer)</b>	Matthew 27:5 — <i>'Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.'</i> Acts 1:18 — <i>'Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his intestines fell out.'</i>	Matthew 27:3-10 (KJV); Acts 1:16-20 (KJV)	Judas is the only apostle who was not martyred for the faith. His death fulfilled Psalm 41:9 ('Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me') and Zechariah 11:12-13 (the 30 pieces of silver). His replacement was Matthias (Acts 1:26).	
15	<b>Matthias (Replacement for Judas)</b>	Chosen by lot to replace Judas Iscariot as the twelfth apostle	c. 70–80 AD	Traditions vary: stoned and then beheaded in Jerusalem by Jews; or stoned by cannibals in Aethiopia (Georgian); or died of old age in Jerusalem (Hippolytus of Rome).	Jerusalem or Aethiopia (Georgia) — disputed	Jewish religious authorities or local pagan rulers	Jewish Theocratic Authority / Pagan Monarchy	<b>Probable — Stoned and Beheaded (disputed)</b>	Acts 1:24-26 — <i>'And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen. That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.'</i>	Hippolytus of Rome, On the Twelve Apostles; Foxe's Book of Martyrs; Reddit r/Christianity compilation	Matthias is the most obscure of all the apostles. He was chosen to replace Judas by casting lots — a practice of discerning God's will in the Old Testament. Little is known of his ministry or death with certainty.	
16	<b>Paul (Saul of Tarsus)</b>	Apostle to the Gentiles; author of 13 New Testament epistles	c. 64–68 AD	Beheaded by sword in Rome under Emperor Nero. As a Roman citizen, he was entitled to beheading rather than crucifixion. This is one of the best-documented apostolic martyrdoms.	Rome, Roman Empire — the Ostian Way	Roman Empire — Emperor Nero	Roman Imperial State / Pagan Polytheism	<b>Yes — Beheaded</b>	2 Timothy 4:8-9 — <i>'For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.'</i> Acts 9:15-16 — <i>'But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bring forth my name unto the Gentiles, when they had fulfilled their ministry, and took with them John, whose surname was Mark.'</i> 2 Timothy 4:11 — <i>'Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.'</i>	Clement of Rome, 1 Clement (earliest record, c. 96 AD); The Acts of Paul (2nd century); Tertullian, Prescription Against Heretics (c. 200 AD); Eusebius, Church History	Paul was formerly Saul — the chief persecutor of the Church (Acts 8:3; 9:1). After his miraculous conversion on the road to Damascus, he became the greatest missionary in Christian history. He wrote: 'I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith' (2 Tim 4:7) — his final testament before execution. He was beheaded at the Tr Fontane Abbey site in Rome.	
17	<b>Mark (John Mark)</b>	Author of the Gospel of Mark; companion of Peter and Paul	c. 68 AD	Dragged through the streets of Alexandria by horses until dead. He was tied to a horse and dragged over cobblestones on Easter Sunday (April 24, 68 AD).	Alexandria, Egypt	Roman Egypt — local pagan mob (during reign of Nero)	Roman Imperial State / Pagan Polytheism	<b>Yes — Dragged by Horses</b>	Colossians 4:14 — <i>'Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.'</i> 2 Timothy 4:11 — <i>'Only Luke is with me.'</i>	Foxe's Book of Martyrs; Eusebius, Church History II.16; Facebook post by Pastor Marcus Gilt (citing tradition)	Mark founded the Church of Alexandria, one of the oldest Christian communities in the world. He was arrested while celebrating Easter and dragged through the streets. He died the following day from his injuries. The Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria traces its founding directly to Mark and considers him their first Pope.	
18	<b>Luke (the Physician)</b>	Author of the Gospel of Luke and Acts of the Apostles; companion of Paul	c. 84 AD	Tradition says he was hanged on an olive tree in Greece (Achaia/Boeotia) after the death of Paul. Some traditions say he died of natural causes.	Achaea or Boeotia, Greece (disputed)	Local pagan authorities in Greece	Pagan Monarchy / Roman Provincial Authority	<b>Probable — Hanged on Olive Tree (disputed)</b>		Foxe's Book of Martyrs; Jerome, De Viris Illustribus; Gaudentius of Brescia (4th century)	Luke was a Gentile physician and the only non-Jewish author of a New Testament book. He wrote more of the New Testament than any other single author (Luke + Acts = 27.5% of NT). He was Paul's faithful companion to the very end. His Gospel emphasises the compassion of Christ for the poor, the sick, and the outcast.	

**SUMMARY: 12 confirmed martyrs | 4 probable martyrs | 1 died of natural causes | 1 suicide (Judas) | TOTAL: 18 figures listed**

COLOR KEY: Red rows = Martyred for the faith | Blue rows = Died of natural causes | Gold rows = Suicide (Judas) | Orange rows = Probable martyrdom (disputed)