

Four Lists of the Original Twelve Apostles

Explanation

The Twelve Apostles are listed not only in the three synoptic gospels, but also in Acts. While the lists vary in order, they include the same individuals. The only discrepancy is that Mark and Matthew identify Jude as Thaddeus. Scholars suggest this was done to avoid confusion with the infamous Judas Iscariot. Elder James Talmage (*Jesus the Christ*, 224–25) agrees that Jude and Thaddeus are one and the same. The listings appear in three groupings, always with the same four apostles in each group. The first group always includes the inner circle of Peter, James, and John, with Peter listed first, no doubt as an indication of his presidency within the quorum. It is unclear why the order of names within their groupings is different from one list to another.

References

James E. Talmage, *Jesus the Christ* (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1972), 217–29.
John P. Meier, “The Circle of the Twelve,” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 116 (winter 1997): 646.
“Church Organization,” *WRC*, 10–13.

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MARK	MATTHEW	LUKE	ACTS
3:16–19	10:2–4	6:14–16	1:13

FIRST GROUP OF FOUR

Simon Peter	Simon Peter	Simon Peter	Peter
James son of Zebedee	Andrew his brother	Andrew his brother	James
John brother of James	James son of Zebedee	James	John
Andrew	John his brother	John	Andrew

SECOND GROUP OF FOUR

Philip	Philip	Philip	Philip
Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Thomas
Matthew	Thomas	Matthew	Bartholomew
Thomas	Matthew the Publican	Thomas	Matthew

THIRD GROUP OF FOUR

James son of Alphaeus	James son of Alphaeus	James son of Alphaeus	James son of Alphaeus
Thaddeus	Thaddeus	Simon the Zealot	Simon the Zealot
Simon the Cananean	Simon the Cananean	Jude brother of James	Jude brother of James
Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	