

HELEN SANDERS
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MARTYRS

Perhaps you wondered what happened to the original apostles that ministered with Jesus. Maybe you wish that you were part of that group. Here is a list of what happened to them. I suggest we count the cost of discipleship, and become passionate about our love of Jesus and be willing to do whatever it takes to spread the gospel:

HOW THE APOSTLES DIED.

1. Matthew - Suffered martyrdom in Ethiopia, killed by a sword wound.
2. Mark - Died in Alexandria, Egypt, after being dragged by Horses through the streets until he was dead.
3. Luke - Was hanged in Greece as a result of his tremendous preaching to the lost.
4. John - 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. He wrote his prophetic Book of Revelation on the Isle of Patmos. 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.
5. 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.
6. James the brother of Jesus and the leader of the church in Jerusalem, 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 fuller's club. As a side note, this was the same pinnacle where Satan had taken Jesus during the Temptation.
7. James the Son of Zebedee - was a fisherman by trade when Jesus Called him to a lifetime of ministry. As a strong leader of the church, James was 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 accept beheading as a Christian.
8. Bartholomew also known as Nathaniel, was a missionary to Asia. He witnessed for our Lord in present day Turkey. Bartholomew was martyred for his preaching in Armenia where he was flayed to death by a whip.

9. Andrew - 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 expired.

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

11. Jude - Was killed with arrows when he refused to deny his faith in Christ.

12. Matthias - the apostle chosen to replace the traitor Judas Iscariot, was stoned, and then beheaded.

13. Paul - was tortured and then beheaded 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.

Perhaps this is a reminder to us that our sufferings here are indeed minor compared to the intense persecution and cold cruelty faced by the apostles and disciples during their times for the sake of the Faith. As it says in Matthew 10:22, ***“And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: But he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”***