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.

Four Lists of the Original Twelve Apostles

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 Andrew his Andrew his James Zebedee brother brother

John brother of James son of James John

John his brother

James Zebedee

Iohn

SECOND GROUP OF FOUR

Andrew

Philip Philip Philip Philip

Bartholomew Bartholomew Thomas

Matthew Thomas Matthew Bartholomew

Thomas Matthew the Thomas Matthew

THIRD GROUP OF FOUR

James son of James son of James son of Alphaeus Alphaeus Alphaeus Alphaeus

Thaddeus Simon the Zealot Simon the Zealot

Simon the Simon the Jude brother Jude brother Cananean of James of James

Judas Iscariot Judas Iscariot Judas Iscariot

Publican

Andrew