

Biographical Sketch of the Apostles of Jesus Christ

James the Son of Alphaeus

Personal Information		Scripture References:
Name: Greek - James, Hebrew is Jacob.	Nickname: Possibly - James the Younger; James the Less	Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:18; 15:40; Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13 James the Less – Mark 15:40
Hometown: Capernaum	Region: Galilee	
Father: Alphaeus or Clopas	Age when called:	
Mother: Mary (Mark 15:40)	Occupation before meeting Jesus:	What he accomplished during Jesus ministry years: Disciple and Apostle of Jesus Obscurity Deserted Jesus during His trials and crucifixion
Spouse:	Tradition says he was a tax collector	
Address:	Manner of death: Beaten, stoned and clubbed to death for preaching Jesus as the Christ. ¹ Others say he was sawn in pieces	
Family: Possibly the brother of Matthew, both having a father with the same name; Alphaeus. Tribe of Levi??	Their writings: None	Major accomplishments after Jesus ministry: Aziz S. Atiya, in his "History of Eastern Christianity" says, " The seeds of Syrian Christianity had been sown in Jerusalem during the Apostolic age and the contention has been made that the first bishop of the Syrian church was none other than St. James of the Twelve Apostles, identified as 'St. James the Less'."
Special Events in his life:		
Passage	Event	Remarks
Unknown	Calling	
1 Corinthians 15:7	First appeared to James, then to all the Apostles	Pure speculation as Paul does not further define which James

¹ Fox's Book of Martyrs

THE APOSTLES

Notes on James the Son of Alphaeus:

There are two Apostles that have Alphaeus as their father, James and Matthew. Some have drawn the conclusion that Matthew and he were brothers, which is not beyond reason. Even though they were never referred to as brothers in the Scriptures, does not necessarily mean that they were not related. It is presumed that his mother's name is Mary and that she was one who went to the tomb of Jesus on resurrection morning.

There are five different references to "James" in the New Testament, yet very little scriptural or historical evidence about whether these are actually five different men.

1. James the son of Zebedee and the brother of John. He was the second martyr of the church; Stephen was the first.
2. James the Less, or James the Younger (Mark 15:40), who is mentioned several times in Scripture (see Matthew 27:56; Mark 16:1; Luke 24:10), and is sometimes called the son of Mary, or the brother of Joses. Some scholars believe this James is also the son of Alphaeus.
3. James, the brother of Judas (Luke 6:16; Acts 1:13), is most likely Thaddaeus in Matthew and Marks listing of the 12.
4. James the son of Mary and the Lord's half-brother (Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3). He was not a member of the 12 or of being an Apostle. He later became a follower and is the most likely the author of the Epistle of James as well becoming a church leader in Jerusalem (see Acts 12:17; 15:13; 21:18).
5. James, the son of Alphaeus, who is mentioned by this name only four times in the Bible (Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13).

Apostolic Symbol – represented as a man holding a book or a fuller's club. (Bing Images)

