

A COMPARISON OF THE 4 GOSPEL ACCOUNTS OF THE 12 APOSTLES

Floyd Nolen Jones, Th.D., Ph.D.

Excerpt from Apples of Gold

“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.” Proverbs 25:11

The following is a synopsis of a study conducted by this author. It largely confirms the findings of Dr. A.T. Robertson, *A Harmony of the Gospels for Students of the Life of Christ*, (NY: Harper & Row, 1922), "Notes on Special Points", pp. 271-273.

A comparison of the four lists of Jesus' chosen apostles as given by Matthew, Mark, Luke and Acts reveals the following interesting facts.

Mark 3:16 ff	Matthew 10:2 ff	Luke 6:14 ff	Acts 1:13 ff
1. Simon Peter	Simon Peter	Simon Peter	Simon Peter
2. James	Andrew	Andrew	James
3. John	James	James	John
4. Andrew	John	John	Andrew
5. Philip	Philip	Philip	Philip
6. Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Thomas
7. Matthew	Thomas	Matthew	Bartholomew
8. Thomas	Matthew	Thomas	Matthew
9. James the son of Alpheus	James the son of Alpheus	James the son of Alpheus	James the son of Alpheus
10. Thaddeus	Thaddeus	Simon the Zealot	Simon the Zealot
11. Simon the Cananaean	Simon the Cananaean	Judas the brother of James	Judas the brother of James
12. Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	Now apostate & dead is Judas Iscariot

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Note: 3 groups of 4 names in each list:

- Peter is always *first* in group 1.
- Philip is always *first* in group 2.
- James the son of Alpheus is always *first* in group 3.

Each group has **the same four persons in each list** though there is **variety** in the order *after* the first name:

Peter is always *first* – Judas Iscariot is always *last*.

There are three pairs of brothers:

- Simon & Andrew
- James & John
- James the son of Alpheus & Judas the brother of James.

It was common_in Bible days and today to have *names of endearment* or "*nicknames*":

- "Zealot" is merely a translation into Greek of the Aramaic "Cananaean".
- Peter is Greek – his other name is "Cephas" (besides "Simon").
- Matthew is also called "Levi".
- Thomas is also called "Didymus".
- Thaddeus is also "Judas the brother of James" and "Lebbeus".
- Bartholomew occurs on every list – is also "Nathanael".