

JOHN THE APOSTLE, THE REVELATOR

1. Not to be confused with John, the baptizer, whose ministry was recorded by Luke some 30 years prior to John's Revelation and whose ministry took place some 30 years or more prior to Luke's recording of it. John, the Apostle, was a disciple of John, the baptizer.
2. John, the Apostle, was the son of Zebedee, a fisherman residing near Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee (Mat 4:21, 22; Mar. 1:19, 20; Luk. 5:10). As the third woman accompanying the two women to the tomb is called Salome by Mark whereas Matthew calls her: "the mother of the sons of Zebedee", John's mother must be this same Salome. In John 19:25, the third woman at the cross is said to be the sister of Jesus' mother, hence Salome was also the sister of Mary, the Mother of Jesus (Mar. 15:40, 16:1; Mat. 27:56 with Joh. 19:25). Therefore John the Apostle was a first cousin to Jesus. This explains why Jesus placed Mary in John's keeping at the cross: "Son, behold thy mother" (John 19:27). . As Jesus' brothers were unbelievers until after the Resurrection (Joh. 7:2-3, cp. Acts 15:4-7), the Lord could not place Mary under James' or the other's (Joseph, Judas and Simon - Mar. 6:3) protection. Thus, as the nearest kinsman (kinsman-redeemer) that was a converted follower, John was given this charge.

JOHN 19:25	MATTHEW 27:56	MARK 15:40
1. Mary, mother of Jesus		
2. Jesus' mother's sister	mother of Zebedee's children	Salome
3. Mary, wife of Cleophas	Mary, mother of James and Joses	Mary, mother of James the less and Joses
4. Mary Magdalene	Mary Magdalene	Mary Magdalene

3. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was a (first) cousin to Elizabeth, the mother of John, the baptizer (Luk. 1:36). Therefore, Salome (from # 2 above) was a first cousin to Elizabeth, making John the Apostle (as well as Jesus) a second cousin to John the baptizer.
4. John, the Apostle, was the brother of James, the Apostle, who was put to death by Herod (Acts 12:1-2).
5. Salome and Zebedee, mother and father of John and James, the Apostles, were apparently wealthy. Zebedee owned his own fishing company, a business of sufficient size that it supported the sons, employed hired servants (Mar. 1:20), as well as Andrew and Peter (who were "partners", cp. Luk. 5:1-11 with Mar. 1:16-20, Mat. 4:18-22). Salome administered to Jesus of her goods and anointed the body of Jesus with costly spices (Mar. 15:40-41, 16:1). Their wealth could explain Salome's concern about the future of her sons in regard to their sitting at the right hand of Jesus. Having been accustomed to such prominence, she perhaps expected the highest positions for James and John in the hereafter.
6. John, the Apostle, was one of the three apostles closest to Jesus; the other two being Peter and his own brother, James. These three composed Jesus' innermost circle, and they witnessed the raising of Jairus' daughter.
7. All the apostles forsook Christ and fled (Mat.26:56) when He was arrested, but John soon recovered himself and courageously returned with Peter to be present at Jesus' trial. Through his acquaintance with the high priest, he secured entrance for Peter as well (Joh. 18:15-16).
8. In his younger days John was so temperamental he was referred to as the Son of Thunder ("Thunderclap" John). However, as he grew in Christian character he became known as The Beloved – a gentle teacher and shepherd who lovingly cared for "my little children."