

WHO WERE THE TWELVE?

MARK 3:16-19	MATTHEW 10:2-4	LUKE 6:14-16	JOHN (no list)
Simon (Peter)	Simon (Peter),	Simon (Peter)	Simon Peter (1:41-42)
Andrew	Andrew, his brother	Andrew, his brother	Andrew (1:40)
James Zebedee	James Zebedee	James	Sons of Zebedee (21:2)
John Zebedee	John Zebedee	John	Sons of Zebedee
Philip	Philip	Philip	Philip (1:43)
Bartholomew ⁴	Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Nathanael (1:45 & 21:2)
Thomas	Thomas	Thomas	Thomas (14:5)
Matthew	Matthew	Matthew	
James Alphaeus	James Alphaeus	James Alphaeus	
Thaddaeus ¹	Lebbaeus (Thaddaeus) ²	Judas Alphaeus ³	Judas, not Iscariot (14:22)
Simon, the Canaanite	Simon, the Canaanite	Simon Zelotes	
Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot (6:71)

Biblical Scholars generally agree that this was the first of the gospels and that it was the primary source for the authors of *Matthew* and *Luke*. The UB says that it was written in 68 A.D. (Biblical scholars generally agree it was the first gospel written) by John Mark (a young boy in the time of Jesus), under the direction and influence of the Apostle Peter. It may therefore be regarded as the *Gospel According to Peter*.

The UB tells us that *Matthew* was written by Isador, a disciple of the Apostle Matthew. He wrote in 71 A.D. using Mark's gospel (Peter's) and the notes of Matthew written in 40 A.D. These notes are called the "M" source by Biblical scholars. He also had a record of the sayings of Jesus which Matthew prepared soon after the crucifixion. This long lost source is called the "Q" document by Biblical Scholars who have been unable to identify it.

Luke was written in 82 A.D. by an Antioch physician named Luke. He was a disciple of Paul and his story is based primarily on Paul's version of the life of Jesus. (Luke wrote after Paul's death) Luke also had a copy of *Mark & Matthew* and a later document written by a believer named Cedus. This source is called the "L" source by Biblical Scholars.

John was written in 101 A.D. by a protegee of the Apostle John named Nathan. (It was later edited to make it appear to be the personal work of John. John did write a cover letter for Nathan's work which is known as *1st John*) John had no written records of his own and provided the information from memory. Nathan also had the 3 previously written gospels for reference.

1. The UB tells us that Thaddaeus was actually another name by which James Alphaeus was called. (p.1563) His brother Judas was also called Lebbaeus. So, what we have here is James Alphaeus listed twice to the exclusion of Judas A.

2. Here Judas Alphaeus is on the list under his other name, Lebbaeus, but the scripture incorrectly states that Lebbaeus and Thaddaeus are the same person—a later attempt to reconcile Isador's sources with previously written *Mark*.

3. Luke correctly names and distinguishes between Judas and James Alphaeus—he was writing with the authority of Paul who no doubt knew the facts. He does, however sustain Peter's list as concerns Nathanael vs. Bartholomew.

4. The discrepancy regarding Bartholomew vs. Nathanael as an Apostle is most interesting. It does not represent a matter of confused identity and dual names as does the Alphaeus mix-up, although many frustrated Biblical scholars claim that Bartholomew and Nathanael are the same person. A clear solution to the problem is found in the UB which tells us that Bartholomew was, in fact, the father of Nathanael. Nevertheless, Nathanael's absence from the Apostolic list is not an accident or misunderstanding. The key to this mystery can be found in the activities of the Apostles shortly after the ascension of Jesus. On page 1559, 4th paragraph we learn that Nathanael parted company with the other Apostles shortly after Pentecost, went to Mesopotamia and India to preach, and was never again heard from by the others. Why did Nathanael leave? The answer is found on page 2058. It seems that Peter and Nathanael had a strong disagreement about Peter's inclination to preach *about* Jesus, the glorified Christ, rather than continue to teach the Gospel of the Kingdom as Jesus taught them. Their disagreement escalated to the point that Nathanael walked out on the other Apostles and their leader, Peter, and was never heard from again. Now, considering that the first gospel written was in reality the gospel according to Peter, who was recognized as the head of the Christian church (the first Pope), it is not surprising that he removed the deserter Nathanael from the first published list of the Apostles some 40 years after the death of Christ (replacing him with his deceased Father whom Peter warmly regarded), and that the later early Christian writers adhered to Peter's list even though their sources surely indicated the error. John, whose gospel was written some 30 years later, knew full well that Nathanael was the real Apostle and John, who came to be known as the "Apostle of Love," had probably mellowed much by age 99 and apparently felt no obligation to support Peter's "excommunication" of Nathanael, and in his gospel restored him to his rightful place among the twelve.