

The Twelve +. How they died!

Judas Iscariot, originally one of the Twelve, died after the death of Jesus. Matthew 27:5 says that he hanged himself, and Acts 1:18 says that he fell, burst open, and his "bowels gushed out." Matthias was elected to take his place as one of the twelve.

According to Christian tradition:

- [Peter](#), crucified upside-down in Rome circa AD 64.
- [James, son of Zebedee](#) was [beheaded](#) in AD 44, first of the twelve to die (since the addition of Matthias)
- [John, son of Zebedee](#), natural causes due to old age, last of the twelve to die, only one of the twelve (or 13 counting Judas Iscariot) to die naturally (as mentioned by Christ at the end of his (John) Gospel.)
- [Andrew](#), Peter's brother, was crucified upon a [diagonal or X-shaped cross](#).
- [Philip](#) was crucified in AD 54.
- [Bartholomew](#) (also known as Nathaniel) was flayed alive (skinned) and then beheaded; some sources locate his death at Derbend on the Caspian Sea.^[1]
- [Matthew](#) killed by a [halberd](#) in AD 60.
- [Thomas](#) was killed by a spear in Mylapore, Madras, India in AD 72.
- [James, son of Alphaeus](#), beaten to death with a club after being crucified and stoned.
- [Jude](#) was crucified.
- [Simon the Zealot](#) was crucified in AD 74.
- [Judas Iscariot](#), according to the gospels, hanged himself after betraying Jesus.
- [Matthias](#), Judas' replacement, was stoned and beheaded.
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First Martyr – Stephen c. A.D. 34–35

[Acts of the Apostles](#) tells the story of how Stephen was tried by the [Sanhedrin](#) (priests) for [blasphemy](#) against [Moses](#) and [God](#) ([Acts 6:11](#)) and speaking against the [Temple](#) and the [Law](#) ([Acts 6:13-14](#)) (see also [Antinomianism](#)). He was [stoned](#) to death (c. A.D. 34–35) by an infuriated mob encouraged by Saul of Tarsus, the future [Saint Paul](#): "And Saul entirely approved of putting him to death" (8:1). ^[2] Stephen's final speech was presented as accusing the Jews of persecuting prophets who spoke out against their sins:

"Which one of the Prophets did your fathers not persecute, and they killed the ones who prophesied the coming of the Just One, of whom now, too, you have become betrayers and murderers." (7:52)