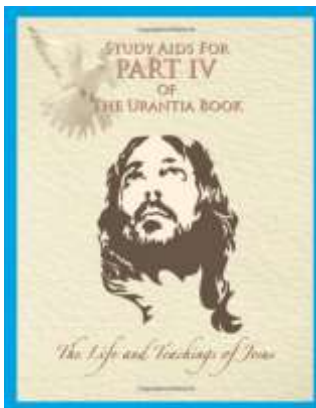


Extracts from *The Urantia Book* about the Apostles are summarised in table form by Ruth Renn in her "Study Aids for Part IV " of *The Urantia Book* , 1975

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THE TWELVE APOSTLES

	The group who labored with Jesus in the work of establishing the new kingdom of God in the hearts of men.	
	"The term apostle was employed to distinguish the chosen family of Jesus' advisers from the vast multitude of believing disciples who subsequently followed him." 1525:5	Reference
First apostle Head of apostolic group	<p>Andrew Chosen in A.D. 26. Was one of John the Baptist's disciples. Andrew was profoundly impressed with Jesus when he met him at John's camp at Pella. He made up his mind to follow Jesus. He said, "I would sit at your feet and learn the whole truth about the kingdom."</p> <p>Born in Capernaum, was unmarried, lived with his married brother, Simon Peter. Both were fishermen and partners of James and John, the sons of Zebedee.</p> <p>He was ablest man of the twelve, except in oratory. Was never jealous of his brother's oratorical ability.</p> <p>An efficient personal worker. Best judge of men. Man of clear insight, logical thought and firm decision.</p> <p>Andrew admired Jesus because of his consistent sincerity, his unaffected dignity.</p> <p>Soon after Jesus' ascension Andrew began the writing of a record of many of Jesus' sayings and doings. The last of these copies was destroyed by fire at Alexandria one hundred years later.</p> <p>When the last persecution finally scattered the apostles from Jerusalem, Andrew brought thousands into the kingdom as he journeyed through Armenia, Asia Minor, and Macedonia.</p> <p>He was crucified in Patrae in Achaia. It was two full days before he finally died on the cross. Throughout these tragic hours he continued to proclaim the glad tidings.</p>	1524 1549:8 1550:4
Second apostle Jesus gave him the name "Peter"	<p>Simon Peter A disciple of John the Baptist, presented to Jesus by Andrew, his brother.</p> <p>He lived at Bethsaida, near Capernaum, was married and the father of three children. His brother, Andrew, and his wife's mother lived with him. Peter and Andrew were fishing partners of James and John, the sons of Zebedee.</p>	1524 1550:5

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		Reference
Second apostle (contd.)	Simon Peter was impulsive and spoke without thinking. He was optimistic, a quick thinker, but not a deep reasoner, a man of quick decision, and sudden action, vascillating, swinging from one extreme to the other. Could not stand ridicule but could withstand persecution.	1551:3
	Was first apostle to make confession of Jesus' combined humanity and divinity. Was outstanding preacher of the twelve. Did more than any other one man except Paul to establish the kingdom and send its messengers to all parts of the earth, and in one generation.	1551:6
	The one trait which Peter most admired in Jesus was his supernal tenderness. He never forgot the lesson about forgiving the wrongdoer, not only seven times but seventy times seven. Peter really and truly loved Jesus.	1551:2
	After his denials of the Master he was assured that Jesus had forgiven him and he became a saving light to thousands who sat in darkness.	
	Peter and Paul worked together for the upbuilding of the churches during their later years. When Peter was driven out of Jerusalem, his wife accompanied him upon his journeys, visiting the churches from Babylon to Corinth.	1551:8
	Peter considered it a high honor when his captors informed him that he must die as his Master had died – upon the cross. Simon Peter was crucified in Rome. Peter's wife was thrown to the wild beasts in the arena on the same day.	1552:4
Third apostle	James Zebedee	1525
James and John were nicknamed "Sons of Thunder"	James and John Zebedee had been searching in the hills for Jesus. Upon returning to camp at Pella they also joined Andrew and Peter as Jesus' followers.	
	James lived near his parents in the outskirts of Capernaum, Bethsaida; was married and the father of four children. He was a fisherman in association with his younger brother, John, and with Andrew and Simon. James and John had known Jesus longer than any of the other apostles.	1552
	James was a well-balanced thinker and planner, and had the ability to see all sides of a proposition. Was a vigorous individual, never in a hurry. He was modest, undramatic, a daily server, and an unpretentious worker. He had a fiery temper and spells of silence, and was brave and determined. Next to Peter, James was the best public speaker among the twelve.	
	Of all the twelve he came the nearest to grasping the real import and significance of Jesus' teaching. James and John were tolerant of each other and had great affection for one another.	

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		Reference
Third apostle (contd.)	<p>The characteristic of Jesus which James most admired was the Master's sympathetic affection, his understanding interest in the small and the great, the rich and poor.</p> <p>James was the first apostle to experience martyrdom, being put to death with the sword by Herod Agrippa. James lived his life to the full, and when the end came, he bore himself with such grace and fortitude that his accuser who attended his trial and execution was so touched that he rushed from the scene of James' death to join the disciples of Jesus.</p>	1553:3 1553:5
Fourth apostle John with Peter, and James as- signed as person- al aids to Jesus	<p>John Zebedee</p> <p>John was the youngest member of the twelve, was unmarried, and lived with his parents at Bethsaida. He was a fisherman and worked with his brother, James, in partnership with Andrew and Peter.</p> <p>Before and after becoming an apostle he worked as a personal agent of Jesus in dealing with the Master's family. He continued this responsibility as long as Mary, the mother of Jesus, lived.</p> <p>John was very dear to the Master but Jesus did not show favoritism of loving one of his apostles more than the others.</p> <p>John had many lovely traits of character but one which was not so lovely was his conceit. His association with Jesus lessened this but after growing old and becoming childish his self-esteem reappeared to a certain extent.</p> <p>He had a remarkable and creative imagination.</p> <p>He was a man of few words, bigoted and intolerant.</p> <p>John's life was influenced by Jesus which produced marked and permanent changes in John's character.</p> <p>John had cool and daring courage, and was thoroughly dependable. Dependability was his strongest trait.</p> <p>Those characteristics of Jesus which John most appreciated were the Master's love and unselfishness. John's life became dominated by love and brotherly devotion. He talked about love and wrote about love. He became the apostle of love.</p> <p>John married his brother James' widow. The last 20 years of his life he was cared for by a loving grand-daughter.</p>	1553 1553:7 1554:3 1554:6 1555:1 1554:4 1554:5 1555:5

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		Reference
Fourth apostle (contd.)	<p>John was in prison several times and was banished to the Isle of Patmos for four years until another emperor came to power in Rome. When in temporary exile on Patmos John wrote the Book of Revelation. We have it in only fragmentary and distorted form.</p> <p>John was closely associated with Peter in early activities of the Christian movement. He traveled much, and after becoming Bishop of the Asia churches, settled down in Ephesus. He directed his associate, Nathan, in writing the so-called "Gospel according to John" when he was ninety-nine years old.</p> <p>In A.D. 103 when he was 101 years old, he died a natural death.</p>	1555:4
Fifth apostle	<p>Philip, The Curious</p> <p>Lived at Bethsaida, was married, and had no children at time he became apostle. He came from a family of three boys and four girls. After Jesus' resurrection he baptized his entire family. Philip's people were fisherfolk.</p>	1556:3
The nickname the apostles gave him signified curiosity		
Was made steward and supplied group with provisions	<p>On Sunday morning, February 24, A.D. 26, Jesus and his four apostles left John the Baptist at Pella and departed for Cana of Galilee. Before they crossed the Jordan, Philip with a friend, Nathaniel, came toward them on their way to visit John at Pella. Philip had been an admirer of Jesus. Peter urged Philip to volunteer for service.</p>	1526:2
	<p>Philip said to Jesus, "Teacher, shall I go down to John or shall I join my friends who follow you?" Jesus answered, "Follow me."</p>	1526:6
	<p>Philip was always wanting to be shown, asking foolish questions. Great weakness of his character is that he lacked imagination. His strongest characteristic was his methodical thoroughness. He was a man who could do little things in a big way, do them well. Jesus was patient with Philip, a slow thinking mortal.</p>	1556:3
	<p>Philip was not a good public speaker but a very persuasive and successful personal worker. He was not easily discouraged.</p>	1557:2
	<p>Philip admired Jesus' quality of unfailing generosity.</p>	1556:7
	<p>After Jesus' death Philip participated in the reorganization of the twelve.</p>	1557:4
	<p>Philip's wife was a member of the women's corps, and associated with her husband in his evangelical work after flight from Jerusalem.</p>	1557:5
	<p>Philip was a mighty man in the kingdom – was crucified for his faith.</p>	1558:2

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Reference

		Reference
Sixth apostle.	Nathaniel	
Looked after families of the twelve.	Honest Nathaniel – the apostles soon began to speak of him in terms that meant honesty.	1558:5
	On the road to Cana of Galilee, Sunday morning, February 24, A.D. 26, just after Philip made the decision to follow Jesus he broke the news to his friend Nathaniel who was waiting under a nearby tree. Philip told him that he had found the deliverer, Jesus of Nazareth.	1526
	Nathaniel said, "Can any such good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip took him by the arm and said, "Come and see." Philip led Nathaniel to Jesus who said, "Follow me."	1527
	Nathaniel was unmarried. He was the only support of aged and infirm parents with whom he lived in Cana. His six brothers and sisters were married or deceased. He had planned to become a merchant. Nathaniel and Judas were the two best educated men among the twelve.	1558:4
	Nathaniel's great virtues were honesty and sincerity. His weakness of character was his pride but he was not obstinate. He was the apostolic philosopher and dreamer. He alternated between profound philosophy and rare droll humor. He was the best story-teller of the twelve. He never took himself seriously but he took Jesus and the kingdom seriously.	1558:5
	When things became tense Nathaniel would relieve them with a bit of philosophy or a flash of good humor.	1559:1
	Nathaniel revered Jesus for his tolerance. He went to Mesopotamia and India proclaiming the glad tidings of the kingdom. He died in India.	1559:3
Seventh apostle	Matthew Levi – Chosen by Andrew	1559:5
The apostles called him the "money-getter"	Jesus asked that each of the six apostles choose one man from among the early converts for membership in the corps of apostles.	1538:4
Financial representative of the apostles	Jesus and the six went to call upon Matthew, the customs collector in Capernaum. He was awaiting them, having balanced his books. His affairs were turned over to his brother. Jesus said to Matthew, "Follow me."	1540:4
	Matthew was married and had four children. He was the only one of any means belonging to the apostolic group. He was a good business man and social mixer, also a shrewd politician.	1559:5

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		Reference
Seventh apostle (contd.)	All of his financial work was done in a quiet and personal way. He gave practically the whole of his modest fortune to the work of the Master and his apostles. Only Jesus knew of his generosity.	1560:4
	His strong point was his wholehearted devotion to the cause. His weakness was his shortsighted and materialistic viewpoint of life.	1559:7
	It was Jesus' forgiving disposition which Matthew most appreciated.	1559:8
	He made extensive notes of the sayings of Jesus, and these notes were used as the basis of Isadore's subsequent narrative which has become known as the "Gospel According to Matthew."	1560:1
	Matthew journeyed north, preaching and baptising believers. In Thrace unbelieving Jews and Roman soldiers conspired to cause his death.	1560:6
Eighth Apostle Assigned to arrange and manage the itinerary	<p>Thomas Didymus Selected by Philip.</p> <p>A fisherman of Tarichea, one-time carpenter and stone mason of Gadara, regarded as the leading citizen of the village of Tarichea. Had little education but he possessed a keen, reasoning mind. Was married and father of four children.</p> <p>He had the one truly analytical mind of the twelve; he was the real scientist of the group.</p> <p>His parents were not happy in their married life, and he had lost his twin sister at the age of nine years. His early home life was reflected in his adult experience. He had a disagreeable and quarrelsome disposition. His wife was glad to see him join the apostles, which meant he would be away from home most of the time.</p> <p>Thomas had a streak of suspicion, was a faultfinder and a pessimist. He was superbly honest, unflinchingly loyal, sincere, and truthful.</p> <p>The association with the master began to transform Thomas' whole disposition. He never fully overcame his suspicious doubting which was his great weakness.</p> <p>His great strength was his analytical mind coupled with his unflinching courage. He was a good executive, an excellent business man but was handicapped by many moods. At times he was despondent and depressed. He was a good loser; did not hold grudges. Was one of the bravest among the twelve. It was always Thomas who said, "Let's go."</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">1561</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1561:3</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1561:3</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1561:4</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1562:2</p>

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		Reference
Eighth apostle (contd.)	He revered the Master because of his superbly balanced character.	1562:1
	When persecution scattered the believers Thomas went to Cyprus, Crete, North African coast, and Sicily to preach. He was put to death in Malta.	1563:2
Ninth and tenth apostles	James and Judas Alpheus James was selected by James Zebedee, Judas was selected by John Zebedee	
Called Thaddaens and Lebbaeus	All nine of the apostles went with Jesus by boat to Kheresa to call upon the twins. The fisherman twins were expecting them and were waiting on the shore. James presented them to the Master who said, "Follow me."	1541:4
Their work was policing the multitudes: were chief ushers, general servants and errand boys of the twelve	The twins were commonplace fisherfolk living near Kheresa. Both were married. James was the father of three, and Judas of two.	1563:3
	These two were almost identical in appearance, mental characteristics, and extent of spiritual perception. They knew they were the least of all the apostles and were cheerful about it. They rejoiced to find themselves numbered among such a group of mighty men.	1563:4
	The twins were good-natured, simple-minded helpers, and everybody loved them. They were little but faithful, simple and ignorant, but big-hearted and generous. James Alpheus loved Jesus because of his simplicity. Judas was drawn toward Jesus because of the Master's humility linked with dignity. They (with John) were the first to believe in Jesus' resurrection.	1564:2
	Soon after their Master was crucified they returned to their families and nets, their work was done. They had not the ability to go on in the complex battles of the kingdom.	1564:5
Eleventh apostle	Simon Zelotes – Selected by Peter When Peter led Jesus to Simon the Master only said, "Follow me."	1564:6 1540:4
Had charge of diversions and relaxation	Simon Zelotes gave up a position as a high officer in the patriotic organization of the Zealots to join Jesus' apostles. He had been a merchant. He was unmarried, an able man of good ancestry, and lived with his family in Capernaum. His strength was his inspirational loyalty.	1540:1 1564:6
	His great weakness was his material-mindedness. He could not quickly change from a Jewish nationalist to a spiritually minded internationalist. Simon liked to argue. He was a man of intense loyalties and warm personal devotions. He profoundly loved Jesus.	1565:2

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		Reference
Eleventh Apostle (contd.)	The one thing about Jesus which Simon so much admired was the Master's clamness, his assurance, poise, and inexplicable composure.	1565:3
	After the dispersion because of the Jerusalem persecutions Simon went into temporary retirement. He was literally crushed.	1565:8
	In a few years he went to Alexandria, up the Nile and into the heart of Africa, everywhere preaching the gospel and baptising believers. He labored until he was old and feeble. He died and was buried in the heart of Africa.	1565:9
Twelfth Apostle	Judas Iscariot – Chosen by Nathaniel	1565
Treasurer of the group	Judas was unmarried, the only son of wealthy Jewish parents living in Jericho. He had become attached to John the Baptist so his parents had disowned him.	1540:2
	He was the only Judean in the group, the best educated man among the twelve, and a good business man. He was a good thinker but not always an honest thinker.	1566:2
	The apostles loved Judas.	1566:5
	When Judas was very young he had been pampered by unwise parents. He was a spoiled child. As he grew up he had exaggerated ideas about his self-importance. He was a poor loser, and had a habit of getting even with those whom he thought had mistreated him. His sense of values and loyalties was defective.	1566:6
	Jesus understood his weakness but wanted to give him a chance for salvation and survival.	
	There was no special trait about Jesus which Judas admired above the generally attractive and exquisitely charming personality of the Master.	1566:4
	Judas grew intellectually regarding Jesus' teachings about the kingdom, but failed to make satisfactory personal progress in spiritual experience.	1567:2
	He was emotionally loveless and unforgiving. His brooding over disappointment finally became resentment. He became suspicious of his best friends, even of the Master.	2057:1
	Judas entered into intrigue to betray his Lord. Complete despair. Committed suicide after betraying Jesus.	1567:6
	Causes of Judas' downfall.	2055-57

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Their Age When They Joined Jesus As Apostles	Their Names	Manner of Death
33	1. Andrew	Crucified in Patrae in Achaia
30	2. Simon Peter	Crucified in Rome
30	3. James Zebedee	Put to death with sword by Herod Agrippa
24	4. John Zebedee	Natural death at 101 years of age
27	5. Philip, the Curious	Crucified, buried at Hierapolis
25	6. Nathaniel	Died in India
31	7. Matthew Levi	Put to death by unbelieving Jews and Roman soldiers
29	8. Thomas Didymus	Put to death in Malta
26	9. James Alpheus	Natural death
26	10. Judas Alpheus	Natural death
28	11. Simon Zelotes	Died in Africa
30	12. Judas Iscariot	Suicide
	(Mathias took Judas' place)	

