

### **What Happened to the Twelve Apostles?**

Where did the Apostles go after Pentecost? In Acts of the Apostles, the Bible tells us a little about the first few years of Sts. Peter and Paul but not much more. We know two apostles wrote Gospels and four wrote Epistles, but for anything else about them we have to rely on non-Biblical sources. There are early Christian and some secular references and also some oral traditions that were recorded later. These stories are generally not matters of faith, but most are as much a reliable history as anything we know about kings and other people of this time.

The Apostles stayed together in Jerusalem for a few early years where they sorted things out in the Holy Spirit and unscrambled and organized all they experienced when Jesus was alive with them. Most of the earliest *world evangelism* was done by Jewish converts who, for political and economic reasons, left Jerusalem and settled in various parts of the Roman Empire. God sent St. Paul, who was not one of the original twelve, to keep these new groups connected to the true Gospel and to the unity of the apostolic Church. The apostles, together, under Peter, supervised the early development of the Universal Church from Jerusalem.

What happened then? Let's begin with St. Peter. As conditions for Jews became difficult in Jerusalem, Peter moved Church headquarters to Antioch. After a few years he moved to Rome, the Capital of the Empire. From his ministry center in Rome, Peter traveled widely about the Empire visiting the various Christian Communities. In 67 AD he was crucified upside down in Rome, after watching his wife, Perpetua, suffering martyrdom the same day.

St. Andrew, the younger brother of St Peter, ministered in what today is Turkey. He ordained the first bishop of Byzantium which later became Constantinople. He rescued the apostle Mathias from blond, blue eyed cannibals north of the Black sea. Andrew died, tied on an X cross by the Black Sea in 69 AD from which he preached and converted a large crowd as he starved to death.

St. John lived to an old age and died a natural death in the year 100 AD. He ministered in Ephesus where he took care of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

There are two apostles named James. One was martyred by the sword, the first apostle to be killed. The other was crucified.

Nathaniel preached the good news in Ethiopia, Arabia, Persia, India, and Armenia. He was martyred by being skinned alive in Armenia.

St Thomas arrived in India in 49AD. He preached in Burma, Indo-China and Malaysia and back in India. He was martyred with a spear by a Hindu priest on July 3, 72 AD.

Little is known about some others. St Jude was martyred by arrows, Matthew by the sword; Philip and Simon the Zealot were crucified. They intercede in heaven for the Church.