

Four Lists of the Original Twelve Apostles

| MARK | MATTHEW | LUKE | ACTS |
|---------|---------|---------|------|
| 3:16–19 | 10:2–4 | 6:14–16 | 1:13 |

FIRST GROUP OF FOUR

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Simon Peter | Simon Peter | Simon Peter | Peter |
| James son of Zebedee | Andrew his brother | Andrew his brother | James |
| John brother of James | James son of Zebedee | James | John |
| Andrew | John his brother | John | Andrew |

SECOND GROUP OF FOUR

| | | | |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Philip | Philip | Philip | Philip |
| Bartholomew | Bartholomew | Bartholomew | Thomas |
| Matthew | Thomas | Matthew | Bartholomew |
| Thomas | Matthew the Publican | Thomas | Matthew |

THIRD GROUP OF FOUR

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| James son of Alphaeus | James son of Alphaeus | James son of Alphaeus | James son of Alphaeus |
| Thaddeus | Thaddeus | Simon the Zealot | Simon the Zealot |
| Simon the Cananean | Simon the Cananean | Jude brother of James | Jude brother of James |
| Judas Iscariot | Judas Iscariot | Judas Iscariot | |

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Explanation

The Twelve Apostles are listed not only in the three synoptic gospels, but also in Acts. While the lists vary in order, they include the same individuals. The only discrepancy is that Mark and Matthew identify Jude as Thaddeus. Scholars suggest this was done to avoid confusion with the infamous Judas Iscariot. Elder James Talmage (*Jesus the Christ*, 224–25) agrees that Jude and Thaddeus are one and the same. The listings appear in three groupings, always with the same four apostles in each group. The first group always includes the inner circle of Peter, James, and John, with Peter listed first, no doubt as an indication of his presidency within the quorum. It is unclear why the order of names within their groupings is different from one list to another.

References

James E. Talmage, *Jesus the Christ* (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1972), 217–29.
John P. Meier, “The Circle of the Twelve,” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 116 (winter 1997): 646.
“Church Organization,” *WRC*, 10–13.