THE QUESTION

How did the early church remember the twelve apostles, and why did Jesus choose them?

Asked by a THF member on July 26, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 15 numbered quotations · the 31 early Christian passages and 173 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/how-did-the-early-church-remember-the-twelve-apostles-and-why-did-jesus

The short answer *Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words*

Jesus chose twelve men to be with Him and then sent them to preach, heal and found His Church. The early writers remembered them as ordinary, unlearned men, even sinners, whom Christ judged faithful and filled with God's power. Judas fell away, but the rest spread the Gospel with modesty and courage.

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POINT 1 OF 8

Jesus chose twelve to be with Him

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Tatian's Gospel harmony lists the twelve by name and gives the purpose: first to be with Jesus, then to be sent out to preach, heal and drive out demons. Barnabas links their number to the twelve tribes of Israel.

1 “These twelve he chose to be with him, so that he might send them to preach, and to have power to heal the sick and cast out demons.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Diatessaron* 8 (c. 150–180 AD) **Source 5, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

2 “To them He gave authority to preach the Gospel, being twelve in number, corresponding to the twelve tribes of Israel.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Barnabas,** *Epistle of Barnabas* (c. 70–132 AD) **Source 2, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 8

They were plain, unlearned working men

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Answering a critic who mocked them, Origen notes that only Matthew was a tax collector, while Peter, Andrew, James and John were fishermen. Justin stresses that they were not trained speakers, yet God's power carried their message to every nation.

3 “It is clear to all of us who have the Gospel accounts, which Celsus does not seem even to have read, that Jesus chose twelve apostles, and that Matthew alone among them was a tax collector.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Against Celsus* 62 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 15, page 7** Read it in the library ›
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4 “These men were uneducated and not skilled in speaking, but by the power of God, they proclaimed to every nation that they were sent by Christ to teach the word of God to all.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *First Apology* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 4, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 8

Christ called sinners He came to save

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Origen admits that an early writing called the apostles great sinners before their call. He points to Peter calling himself a sinful man, and to Paul's word that Christ came into the world to save sinners.

5 “Now in the general Epistle of Barnabas, from which Celsus perhaps took the statement that the apostles were notoriously wicked men, it is written that Jesus chose His own apostles as men more guilty of sin than all other evildoers.”

later in the same passage

“And in the Gospel according to Luke, Peter says to Jesus, "Depart from me, O Lord, for I am a sinful man."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Against Celsus* 63 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 14, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 8

He chose them knowing they would prove faithful

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Alexandria says the Lord judged the twelve worthy and faithful. He adds that they were not apostles because of some special nature, since Judas was chosen too. Christ chose them foreseeing how each would turn out.

6 “I have chosen you twelve disciples, judging you worthy of me," whom the Lord wanted to be apostles, after judging them faithful.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 6.6 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 8, page 7** Read it in the library ›
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7 “This does not mean they became apostles because they were chosen for some special difference in their nature, since Judas also was chosen with them.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 6.13 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 9, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 8

Judas fell, but the others stood firm

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian points out that one chosen apostle betrayed the Lord, yet this did not weaken the faith of the rest. Lactantius records that Matthias took the traitor's place and that Paul was later added.

8 “But because the traitor Judas fell away from their fellowship, the faith and firmness of the apostles did not fail on that account.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 19, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

9 “At that time, His apostles numbered eleven. Then Matthias was added in place of the traitor Judas, and later Paul was added.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Of the Manner in Which the Persecutors Died* 2 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 26, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 8

They preached with modesty and assurance

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Aristides describes the twelve going out through the known world, showing Christ's greatness with modesty and uprightness. Clement of Rome says they went out sure of the resurrection and full of the Holy Spirit.

10 “Then these twelve disciples went out throughout the known parts of the world and kept showing his greatness with all modesty and uprightness.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Aristides,** *Apology* 2 (c. 125–140 AD) **Source 3, page 6** Read it in the library ›
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11 “Having received their orders, and being fully assured by the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and established in the word of God, with full assurance of the Holy Ghost, they went forth proclaiming that the kingdom of God was at hand.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Source 31, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 8

Sent by Christ as Christ was sent

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Rome sees an orderly chain: God sent Christ, and Christ sent the apostles. Lactantius adds that they spent years laying the foundations of the Church in every province and city.

12 “The apostles have preached the Gospel to us from the Lord Jesus Christ; Jesus Christ has done so from God. Christ was therefore sent forth by God, and the apostles by Christ.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Source 31, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

13 “For twenty-five years, until the beginning of the reign of the Emperor Nero, they devoted themselves to laying the foundations of the Church in every province and city.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Of the Manner in Which the Persecutors Died* 2 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 26, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 8 OF 8

The twelve are the Church's foundation

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Hippolytus reads the crown of twelve stars in Revelation as the twelve apostles who founded the Church. Chrysostom, on Paul's words, says the apostles and prophets together are the foundation, with Christ binding the whole building.

14 “And the words, "on her head a crown of twelve stars," refer to the twelve apostles by whom the Church was founded.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Treatise on Christ and Antichrist* 1 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 13, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
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15 "Built," he says, "upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets." That means the Apostles and Prophets are a foundation."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **John Chrysostom,** *Homilies on Ephesians* 6 (c. 386–407 AD) **Source 28, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don't tell us

- These passages say little about the personal character of most of the twelve one by one.
- Apart from Peter, Judas and Matthias, they do not tell the later life of each apostle.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 31 early Christian passages and 173 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–31, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 32–122, in Bible order), then 82 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *31 passages from 16 writers*

Barnabas, *c. 70–132 AD · sources 1–2*

1 *Epistle of Barnabas* (on point 3) "great miracles and signs, He preached the truth to them and greatly loved them. But when He chose His apostles to preach His Gospel, He chose them from among those… [continues online] **read ›**

2 *Epistle of Barnabas* (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 2** "these He gave authority to preach the Gospel, being twelve in number, corresponding to the twelve tribes of Israel… [continues online] **read ›**

Aristides, *c. 125–140 AD · source 3*

3 *Apology* 2 (1885 English) **Quote 10, page 4** "these twelve disciples went forth throughout the known parts of the world, and kept showing his greatness with all modesty and uprightness… [continues online] **read ›**

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Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · source 4*

4 *First Apology* (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** "we who formerly used to murder one another do not only now refrain from making war upon our enemies, but also, that we may not lie nor deceive our examiners… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · sources 5–6*

5 *Diatessaron* 8 **Quote 1, page 2** "Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain. He called his disciples and chose twelve from them, and these are the ones he named apostles: Simon, whom he named… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Diatessaron* 20 (1885 English; on point 5) "6:70 Jesus said to them, Did not I choose you, 11 ye company of the twelve, and of you one is a devil… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · source 7*

7 *Against Heresies: Book II* (1885 English; on point 5) "that Judas the traitor is the twelfth in order, is agreed upon by all, there being twelve apostles mentioned by name in the Gospel… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 8–9*

8 *Stromata* 6.6 **Quote 6, page 3** "in the Preaching of Peter, the Lord says to the disciples after the resurrection, "I have chosen you twelve disciples, judging you worthy of… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Stromata* 6.13 **Quote 7, page 4** "moves through righteous knowledge, by the love of God, to the holy dwelling place, just as the apostles did. This does not mean they became apostles because they were chosen… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 10–11*

10 *Against Marcion* 9 (1885 English; on point 2) "of so many kinds of occupations, why indeed had He such respect for that of fishermen, as to select from it for apostles Simon and the sons of Zebedee (for… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Against Marcion* 12 (on point 1) "why was it that He chose twelve apostles, Luke 6:13-19, and not some other number… [continues online] **read ›**

Early Liturgies, *c. 200–400 AD · source 12*

12 *Divine Liturgy of St. Mark* 1 (1885 English; on point 7) "Sovereign Lord our God, who hast chosen the lamp of the twelve apostles with its twelve lights, and hast sent them forth to proclaim throughout the whole world and teach… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · source 13*

13 *Treatise on Christ and Antichrist* 1 **Quote 14, page 5** "the woman clothed with the sun, he very clearly meant the Church, clothed with the Father's word, whose brightness is greater than the sun. And by the moon under… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 14–18*

14 *Against Celsus* 63 **Quote 5, page 3** "Celsus has called the apostles of Jesus men with a shameful reputation, saying that they were tax collectors and sailors of the worst kind, we must say in reply to… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Against Celsus* 62 **Quote 3, page 2** saying such things, and showing that he does not even know the number of the apostles, he goes on like this: "Jesus gathered around Himself ten or eleven men of… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Against Celsus* 19 (on point 8) "Paul also says, "Being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ our Lord being the chief cornerstone… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Commentary on John* 10 (1885 English; on point 2) "He began to preach, and chose the four fishermen for His Apostles, and taught in the synagogues of the whole of Galilee and healed those who were brought to Him… [continues online] **read ›**

18 *Commentary on Matthew* 12 (on point 8) if you suppose that the whole church is built by God on that one Peter only, what would you say about John, the son of thunder, or about each one… [continues online] **read ›**

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Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 19–21*

19 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 4** "For the Lord chose Judas also among the apostles, and yet afterwards Judas betrayed the Lord… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Epistles* (1885 English) "of the apostles whom the Lord chose… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Epistles* (on point 7) "But deacons ought to remember that the Lord chose apostles, that is, bishops and overseers… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 22–24*

22 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 5) "this heresy then seemed more able to deceive people, and the whole Church was in danger, we twelve gathered together in Jerusalem. Matthias had been chosen as an apostle in… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 7) "priests, and Levites were ordained by Moses, the man most beloved by God. By our Savior we apostles, thirteen in number, were ordained. And by the apostles, I James, and… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) and Andrew; James and John, sons of Zebedee; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew; James the son of… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · source 25*

25 *Disputation with Manes* 1 "and gone to speak with His mother and His brothers? Would not such a thought at once lower the character of the Person Himself? Again, when He chose certain men… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · source 26*

26 *Of the Manner in Which the Persecutors Died* 2 (1885 English) **Quotes 9, 13, pages 4, 5** "apostles were at that time eleven in number, to whom were added Matthias, in the room of the traitor Judas, and afterwards Paul… [continues online] **read ›**

John Chrysostom, *c. 386–407 AD · sources 27–30*

27 *Homilies on Hebrews* 16 (1885 English; on point 7) "twelve Apostles too He sent, saying, Bear ye witness before God… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *Homilies on Ephesians* 6 (1885 English) **Quote 15, page 6** "is, the Apostles and Prophets are a foundation, and he places the Apostles first, though they are in order of time last, doubtless to represent and express this, that both… [continues online] **read ›**

29 *Homilies on First Corinthians* 38 (1885 English; on point 5) "of what twelve apostles does he here speak… [continues online] **read ›**

30 *Homilies on Acts* (1885 English) "having said it, he alleges the College of Apostles. Whereof we are witnesses, he says… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *source 31*

31 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Quotes 11, 12, page 5** "apostles have preached the Gospel to us from the Lord Jesus Christ… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *91 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

32 **Genesis 42:32** We are twelve brothers, sons of our father. One is no more, and the youngest is with our father today in the land of Canaan.' **read ›**

33 **Genesis 49:28** All these are the twelve sons of Jacob, and these things their father spoke to them, and he blessed them; each according to his blessing he blessed them. **read ›**

34 **Exodus 24:11** And of the chosen ones of Israel not even one was missing; and they appeared in the place of God, and they ate and drank. **read ›**

35 **Exodus 28:21** The stones shall be according to the names of the sons of Israel, twelve, according to their names; engravings of seals, each according to its name; they shall be for the twelve tribes. **read ›**

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36 **Exodus 36:21** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

37 **Exodus 39:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

38 **Leviticus 8:3** and assemble all the congregation at the door of the tabernacle of witness." **read ›**

39 **Numbers 1:44** This is the count made by Moses and Aaron and the leaders of Israel, twelve men: one man for each tribe; they were by tribes, according to the houses of their families. **read ›**

40 **Numbers 11:16** Then the Lord said to Moses, "Gather to me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you yourself know to be elders of the people and their scribes; and bring them to the tabernacle of witness, and they shall stand there with you. **read ›**

41 **Deuteronomy 1:23** The proposal pleased me, and I took twelve men from you, one man for each tribe. **read ›**

42 **Deuteronomy 10:15** Yet the Lord preferred your fathers, to love them, and he chose their seed after them—you—above all the nations, as at this day. **read ›**

43 **Deuteronomy 18:5** For the Lord has chosen him out of all your tribes, to stand before the Lord God, to minister and to bless in his name, he and his sons among the children of Israel. **read ›**

44 **Deuteronomy 19:15** One witness shall not stand to testify against a man for any unrighteousness, or for any offense, or for any sin that he commits. At the mouth of two witnesses or at the mouth of three witnesses every word shall stand. **read ›**

45 **Joshua 3:12** Choose for yourselves twelve men from the children of Israel, one from each tribe. **read ›**

46 **Joshua 4:4** So Jesus called twelve men of distinction from the children of Israel, one from each tribe, **read ›**

47 **Joshua 24:27** And Jesus said to the people, "Behold, this stone shall be among you as a witness, for it has heard all the words spoken to it by the Lord, for he has spoken to you today; and it shall be among you as a witness in the last days, whenever you deal falsely with the Lord my God." **read ›**

48 **1 Samuel 12:5** Samuel said to the people, "The Lord is witness among you, and his anointed is witness this very day, that you have not found anything in my hand." And they said, "He is witness." **read ›**

49 **1 Samuel 12:6** Samuel said to the people, "The Lord is witness, he who appointed Moses and Aaron and who brought our fathers up out of Egypt. **read ›**

50 **1 Kings 18:31** And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of Israel, as the Lord had spoken to him, saying, "Israel shall be your name." **read ›**

51 **1 Chronicles 25:12** the fifth, Nathan; his sons and his brothers, twelve; **read ›**

52 **1 Chronicles 25:18** the eleventh, Azarel; his sons and his brothers, twelve; **read ›**

53 **1 Chronicles 25:19** the twelfth, Hashabiah; his sons and his brothers, twelve; **read ›**

54 **1 Chronicles 25:20** the thirteenth, Shebuel; his sons and his brothers, twelve; **read ›**

55 **1 Chronicles 25:21** the fourteenth, Mattithiah; his sons and his brothers, twelve; **read ›**

56 **1 Chronicles 25:24** the seventeenth, Joshbekashah; his sons and his brothers, twelve; **read ›**

57 **1 Chronicles 25:27** the twentieth, Eliathah; his sons and his brothers, twelve; **read ›**

58 **1 Chronicles 25:30** the twenty-third, Mahazioth; his sons and his brothers, twelve; **read ›**

59 **1 Chronicles 25:31** the twenty-fourth, Romamti-ezer; his sons and his brothers, twelve. **read ›**

60 **1 Chronicles 27:15** The twelfth, for the twelfth month, was Heldai the Netophathite, of Othniel; and in his division were twenty-four thousand. **read ›**

61 **Ezra 6:9** And whatever is lacking—young bulls and rams and lambs for whole burnt offerings to the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, oil—let it be given to them according to the word of the priests in Jerusalem, day by day, whatever they ask, **read ›**

62 **Proverbs 2:3** for if you call upon wisdom, and give your voice to understanding, **read ›**

63 **Proverbs 3:17** Her ways are good ways, and all her paths are in peace. **read ›**

64 **Proverbs 5:16** Do not let waters from your spring be spilled over for you, but let your waters go through your streets. **read ›**

65 **Proverbs 5:17** Let them be yours alone, and let no stranger share them with you. **read ›**

66 **Proverbs 8:17** I love those who love me, and those who seek me will find me. **read ›**

67 **Proverbs 13:8** A man's own wealth is the ransom of his soul, but the poor man does not stand up under threats. **read ›**

68 **Proverbs 14:19** The evil will fall before the good, and the ungodly will wait at the doors of the righteous. **read ›**

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69 **Proverbs 16:2** All the works of the humble are manifest before God, but the ungodly will perish in an evil day. **read ›**

70 **1 Esdras 5:40** And Nehemiah and Attharias told them not to share in the holy things until a high priest should arise clothed with the Manifestation and the Truth. **read ›**

71 **1 Esdras 5:57** and they laid the foundation of the temple of God on the new moon of the second month of the second year after they came to Judea and Jerusalem. **read ›**

72 **1 Esdras 6:9** building a great house for the Lord, new, of costly polished stones, with timber laid in the walls; **read ›**

73 **1 Esdras 8:66** ninety-six rams, seventy-two lambs, and twelve he-goats for a peace offering, all a sacrifice to the Lord. **read ›**

74 **Wisdom of Sirach 36:20** A crooked heart will give sorrow, but a man of much experience will repay him. (Septuagint Wisdom of Sirach 36:25 (Wisdom of Sirach 36:20 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

75 **Wisdom of Sirach 45:4** In his faithfulness and meekness he sanctified him; he chose him out of all flesh. **read ›**

76 **Wisdom of Sirach 49:10** And may the bones of the twelve prophets flourish again from their place; and he comforted Jacob, and redeemed them in the faithfulness of hope. **read ›**

77 **1 Maccabees 2:56** Caleb, for bearing witness in the assembly, received an inheritance in the land. **read ›**

78 **1 Maccabees 3:17** When they saw the army coming to meet them, they said to Judas, “How shall we, so few, be able to fight against so great and strong a multitude? And we are faint, having eaten nothing today.” **read ›**

79 **1 Maccabees 3:55** After this Judas appointed leaders of the people, commanders of thousands and of hundreds and of fifties and of tens. **read ›**

80 **1 Maccabees 4:42** He chose unblemished priests, devoted to the law; **read ›**

81 **1 Maccabees 5:16** When Judas and the people heard these words, a great assembly gathered to decide what they should do for their brothers who were in trouble and were being attacked by them. **read ›**

82 **1 Maccabees 5:17** Then Judas said to Simon his brother, “Choose men for yourself, and go and rescue your brothers in Galilee; and I and Jonathan my brother will go into Gilead.” **read ›**

83 **1 Maccabees 8:17** So Judas chose Eupolemus the son of John, the son of Accos, and Jason the son of Eleazar, and sent them to Rome to establish friendship and alliance with them, **read ›**

84 **1 Maccabees 11:64** He went to meet them, but left his brother Simon in the country. **read ›**

85 **1 Maccabees 13:8** and they answered with a loud voice, saying, “You are our leader in place of Judas and Jonathan your brother. **read ›**

86 **1 Maccabees 14:19** And these were read before the assembly in Jerusalem. **read ›**

87 **1 Maccabees 14:38** And King Demetrius confirmed him in the high priesthood accordingly, **read ›**

88 **1 Maccabees 16:2** Simon called his two eldest sons, Judas and John, and said to them, “I and my brothers and my father’s house have fought the enemies of Israel from our youth to this day, and it has prospered in our hands to deliver Israel many times. **read ›**

89 **2 Maccabees 12:42** and they turned to pleading, asking that the sin that had been committed might be wholly blotted out. And the noble Judas urged the multitude to keep themselves free from sin, since they had seen with their own eyes what had happened because of the sin of those who had fallen. **read ›**

90 **2 Maccabees 13:20** And Judas sent in what they needed to those inside. **read ›**

91 **2 Maccabees 14:13** giving orders to kill Judas himself, to scatter those with him, and to install Alcimus as high priest of the greatest temple. **read ›**

92 **2 Maccabees 14:24** He kept Judas always in his presence; he was warmly attached to the man. **read ›**

93 **4 Maccabees 12:17** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

94 **1 Enoch 51:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

95 **1 Enoch 89:77** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

96 **1 Enoch 90:22** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

97 **Matthew 10:2** Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: The first, Simon, who is called Peter; Andrew, his brother; James the son of Zebedee; John, his brother; **read ›**

98 **Mark 3:13** He went up into the mountain and called to himself those whom he wanted, and they went to him. **read ›**

99 **Mark 3:14** He appointed twelve, that they might be with him, and that he might send them out to preach **read ›**

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100 **Mark 3:16** Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); **read ›**

101 **Mark 3:18** Andrew; Philip; Bartholomew; Matthew; Thomas; James, the son of Alphaeus; Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot; **read ›**

102 **Luke 6:13** When it was day, he called his disciples, and from them he chose twelve, whom he also named apostles: **read ›**

103 **Luke 6:14** Simon, whom he also named Peter; Andrew, his brother; James; John; Philip; Bartholomew; **read ›**

104 **Luke 24:48** You are witnesses of these things. **read ›**

105 **John 6:70** Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?” **read ›**

106 **John 15:16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you. **read ›**

107 **John 21:2** Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. **read ›**

108 **Acts 1:13** When they came in, they went up to the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. **read ›**

109 **Acts 1:15** In those days Peter stood up among the disciples—the gathering numbered about a hundred and twenty—and said, **read ›**

110 **Acts 1:22** beginning with the baptism of John until the day he was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.” **read ›**

111 **Acts 1:26** They drew lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was counted with the eleven apostles. **read ›**

112 **Acts 2:32** This Jesus God raised up, to which we all are witnesses. **read ›**

113 **Acts 4:33** With great power, the apostles gave their testimony of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Great grace was on them all. **read ›**

114 **Acts 5:32** We are his witnesses of these things; and so also is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.” **read ›**

115 **Acts 6:2** The twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not appropriate for us to forsake the word of God and serve tables. **read ›**

116 **Acts 8:2** Devout men buried Stephen and lamented greatly over him. **read ›**

117 **Acts 13:31** and he was seen for many days by those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses to the people. **read ›**

118 **Acts 19:7** They were about twelve men in all. **read ›**

119 **Acts 28:16** When we entered into Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard, but Paul was allowed to stay by himself with the soldier who guarded him. **read ›**

120 **Ephesians 2:20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone, **read ›**

121 **1 Timothy 2:7** for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie—a teacher of the Gentiles in faithfulness and truth. **read ›**

122 **Revelation 21:14** The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *82 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Numbers 19:2

Psalms 22:16 · 51:7

Proverbs 1:17 · 30:19

Isaiah 1:18 · 2:3 · 43:19 · 60:17 · 63:3

Micah 4:1

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Matthew 4:19 · 5:6 · 5:17 · 7:24 · 9:13 · 9:37 · 10:3 · 10:5 · 10:37 · 16:18 · 16:19 · 16:21 · 16:23 · 19:4 · 19:6

Mark 2:17 · 7:9 · 16:15

Luke 2:32 · 4:27 · 4:32 · 4:34 · 5:1 · 5:8 · 5:12 · 5:14 · 5:32 · 6:12 · 10:16 · 11:23 · 12:47 · 12:50

John 2:19 · 5:31 · 12:32 · 20:22

Acts 1:8 · 1:20 · 9:5 · 10:13 · 10:34 · 11:15 · 15:1 · 15:7 · 15:9 · 15:13 · 15:23

Romans 9:33 · 10:10

1 Corinthians 1:30 · 2:4 · 5:11 · 6:10 · 9:25 · 10:4 · 10:20 · 13:11 · 14:33

2 Corinthians 3:18

Galatians 3:27

Ephesians 4:2 · 5:32

Philippians 1:18 · 2:9 · 3:13

1 Timothy 1:15

Hebrews 2:14 · 9:13

1 Peter 2:5 · 2:8

1 John 2:27

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “How did the early church remember the twelve apostles, and why did Jesus choose them?” on July 26, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

Library only. This study was written only from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed above, with a link to read it.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY