

# **BETWEEN THE LINES**

## ***A Deeper Look...***

### **#970- THE APOSTLES: Born to Die**

One of the things we really enjoy doing on *Between the Lines* is providing new understandings of Bible issues from accurate Jewish backgrounds. At first glance it may appear that the concept of "Apostle" is a decidedly Christian element. This just is not so. Within Judaism the idea of a intimate cluster of followers under the direct tutelage/discipline of a prominent teacher was a standard practice. The two best-known "schools" of the day were, of course, the followers of Hillel and Shammai.

Just as it is helpful to understand that type of fact it enhances other understandings to know that those who have dealt with the Gospels from a Jewish framework have looked at the apostles and have noticed...

- Luke 9: He endowed them with power and *authority*... If you remember the concept of "authority" is a very predominant demand made by the leadership of Judaism when they confronted Jesus.
- Matthew 10: Jesus' command to avoid "the way of the gentiles" and "any city of the Samaritans" was a temporary, but necessary, accommodation due to the prejudice of both the disciples and the Jews they were trying to reach.
  - It was commonly held that the dust of the heathen road defiled and eating the bread of a Samaritan is equal to eating the flesh of a swine.
- Matthew 10: The admonition to "freely give for you received freely" seemed to Jewish ears to simply be an echo of the command of Deuteronomy 4.
- Luke 10: "Don't worry about the provision of your purse" was also an expectation of entering the temple according to Berakoth IX in the Mishnah.
- Mark 6: "Shake the dust" symbolized "any cursed thing that would cling to you" according to Deuteronomy 13. In the Mishnah dust could also be of "an evil tongue", "usury", and "idolatry". Was Jesus really saying, "Don't let an evil town pollute you"?
- Luke 10: Commission of 70 seems a lot like the number of the clan of Jacob (Exodus 1) and the elders who oversaw Israel in the wilderness (Exodus 24).
- Matthew 10: Having greater loyalty to your "Master" was echoed in the common statement of the day, "Reveal more gratitude to the one who gave you eternal life than to the one who only gave you life on this earth."

*Where there are no little ones, there are no disciples;  
and where no disciples, no sages; no sages, there no elders; where no elders, there no  
prophets; and where no prophets, there does God not cause His Shekinah to rest.  
(Commentary on Isaiah 8:16)*

- **A History of the Apostles**

<b>Name/s</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>Relatives</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Called</b>	<b>Major Interactions With Jesus</b>	<b>Post-Resurrection</b>	<b>Death</b>
Andrew	Bethsaida/ Capernaum	Peter-Brother Jonas-Father	Fisherman	Matthew 3	John 1, 6	Nothing Specific	Crucified/ Achaia
Bartholomew/ Nathanael	Cana	Talmai-Father	?	John 1	John 1	No References	Disputed/ India
James	Bethsaida/ Capernaum	Zebedee-Father John-Brother	Fisherman	Mark 1	Mark 3, 9; Luke 5	First Martyr/ Acts 12	Beheaded/ Jerusalem
James	?	Jude-Brother Matthew-Brother?	?	?	None Recorded	Epistle of James?	Sawn?
John	Bethsaida/ Capernaum	Zebedee-Father James-Brother	Fisherman	Mark 1	Mark 3,9 Luke 5 John 19, Revelation	Last Survivor Ephesus?	Natural Causes
Judas	Kerioth of Judea	Simon-Father	?	?	John 12,13	Dead	Suicide/ Jerusalem
Jude/ Thaddeus/ Labbeus	Galilee	James-Father	Fisherman?	?	John 14	No References	Disputed
Matthew/ Levi	Capernaum	Alpheus-Father James-Brother?	Publican	Matthew 9 Luke 5	Luke 5	Wrote Gospel	Halberd in Nadabah?
Philip	Bethsaida	?	Fisherman?	John 1	John 6,12,14	No References	Hierapolis
Simon	Cana	?	?	?	?	No References	Crucified? N. Africa?
Simon/ Peter	Bethsaida/ Capernaum	Jonas-Father Andrew-Brother	Fisherman	Matthew 4 John 13	Mark 14,16 Acts 1-5,10	John 21	Crucified/ Rome
Thomas	?	?	?	?	John 11,14,20	No References	Disputed
Saul/Paul	Tarsus	?	Tentmaker	Acts 9	Acts 9	Acts 9,13-28	Beheaded/ Rome

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