

Matthew 10:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;

Analysis

Matthew begins the apostolic list with 'the first, Simon, who is called Peter' (πρωτος Σιμων ο λεγομενος Πετρος). 'First' (πρωτος) indicates both chronological primacy and leadership position. Peter's prominence throughout the Gospels confirms his role as spokesman and leader among the Twelve. His given name 'Simon' connects to his Jewish heritage, while 'Peter' (Πετρος, rock) reflects Jesus' renaming (16:18), signifying transformed identity. Paired with 'Andrew his brother,' the list emphasizes relationships—these aren't isolated individuals but a community called together. The Twelve represent reconstituted Israel (19:28), with twelve apostles corresponding to twelve tribes. Their commissioning extends Jesus' ministry, demonstrating kingdom multiplication through sent servants.

Historical Context

The Twelve were diverse: fishermen (Peter, Andrew, James, John), tax collector (Matthew), zealot (Simon), and others. This cross-section of Galilean society—some educated, others not; some wealthy, others poor—showed Jesus' kingdom transcends social boundaries. Jewish expectation of Messiah included gathering and restoring the twelve tribes. Jesus' selection of twelve apostles signaled messianic restoration. Early church recognized apostolic authority as foundational (Ephesians 2:20). The apostles' eyewitness testimony authenticated the gospel and established doctrine.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does the diversity of the twelve apostles teach about God's kingdom?
2. How does Peter's transformation from Simon to Peter encourage us about identity change in Christ?
3. Why did Jesus choose twelve apostles specifically rather than some other number?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	δώδεκα	ἀποστόλων	ὁ	ὀνόματά	ἐστὶν
the son of	Now	of the twelve	apostles	the son of	the names	are
G3588	G1161	G1427	G652	G3588	G3686	G2076
ταῦτα·	πρῶτος	Σίμων	ὁ	λεγόμενος	Πέτρος	καὶ
these	The first	Simon	the son of	is called	Peter	and
G5023	G4413	G4613	G3588	G3004	G4074	G2532
Ἀνδρέας	ὁ	ἀδελφὸς	αὐτοῦ	Ἰάκωβος	ὁ	ὁ
Andrew	the son of	brother	his	James	the son of	the son of
G406	G3588	G80	G846	G2385	G3588	G3588
Ζεβεδαίου	καὶ	Ἰωάννης	ὁ	ἀδελφὸς	αὐτοῦ	
Zebedee	and	John	the son of	brother	his	
G2199	G2532	G2491	G3588	G80	G846	

Additional Cross-References

Acts 1:13 (References Peter): And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.

Matthew 4:21 (References John): And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.

Matthew 4:18 (References Peter): And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

John 12:22 (Parallel theme): Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus.

John 6:8 (References Peter): One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,

Luke 5:10 (References John): And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.