

James, son of Alphaeus

The Twelve · The Twelve Apostles

Distinguished from James the son of Zebedee by the designation 'the Less' (possibly meaning younger or smaller in stature), this apostle receives little individual mention in Scripture.

Note: Identifying this James poses challenges. Some equate him with 'James the Lord's brother' (Galatians 1:19), who led the Jerusalem church, though others distinguish them. The designation 'son of Alphaeus' may connect him to Matthew (also called 'son of Alphaeus' in Mark 2:14), possibly making them brothers. Church tradition claims he preached in Syria and Persia, suffering martyrdom by stoning or crucifixion.

His faithful service despite obscurity exemplifies humble discipleship.

Key Verses

Matthew 10:3

Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;

Mark 15:40

There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome;

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