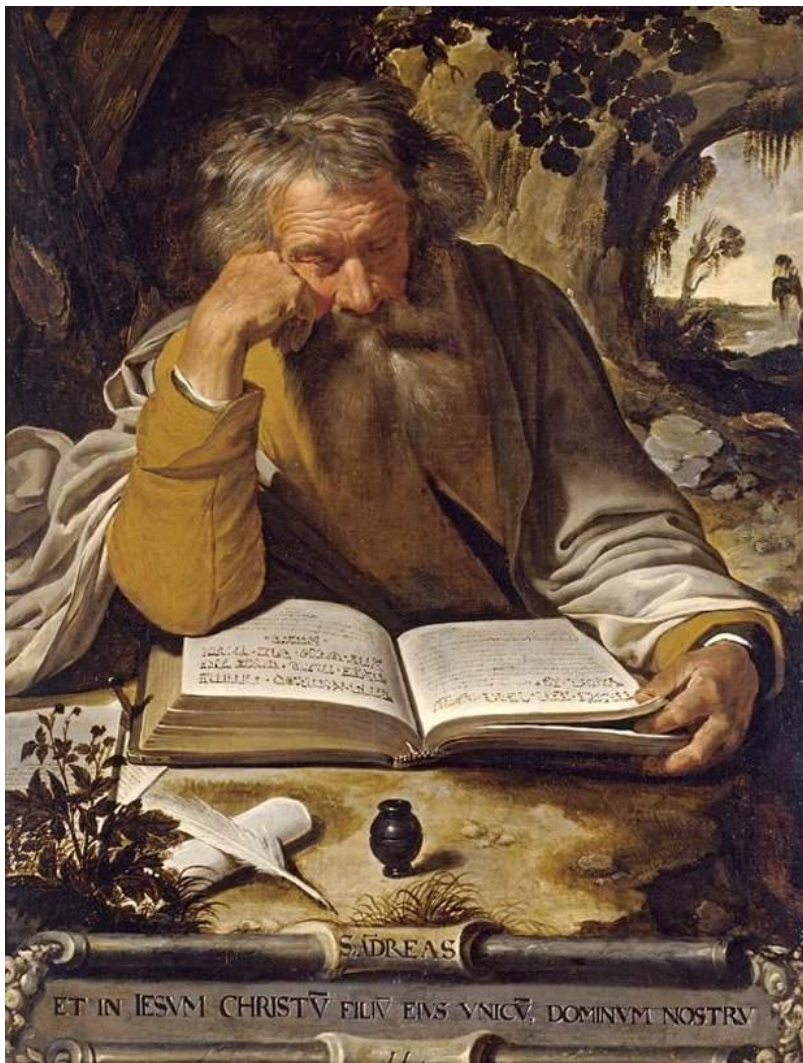


LIVING GODS WILL

The Apostle

ANDREW



Saint Andrew the Apostle by Artus Wolffort

The Apostle **ANDREW**

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Born: 5 BC, Bethsaida near the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Died: AD 62 (aged 67), Patras, Greece

Death: Crucified on a "X" shaped cross in Patras

He was the son of **Jonah** and the brother of the **Apostle Peter**.

He was a **fisherman** and a **disciple** of **John the Baptist**.

The Holy Apostle Andrew the **First-Called** was the first of the Apostles to follow Christ, and he later brought his own brother, the holy **Apostle Peter**, to Christ (**John 1:35-42**). The future apostle was from Bethsaida, and from his youth he turned with all his soul to God. He did not enter into marriage, and he worked with his brother as a fisherman.

When the holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist **John** began to preach, Saint Andrew became his closest disciple. Declaring Christ to be the Lamb of God, Saint John the Baptist himself sent to Christ his own two disciples, the future Apostles **Andrew and John the Theologian**.

The Gospels record three episodes involving the Apostle Andrew. He and three other disciples asked Jesus about his prophecy that the Temple would be torn down (**Mark 13:3-4**). Andrew brought a boy with two fish and five barley loaves to Jesus, who multiplied them to feed 5,000 people (**John 6:8-13**). Philip and Andrew brought some Greeks to Jesus who wanted to meet him (**John 12:20-22**).

It is not recorded in the Bible, but church tradition says Andrew was crucified as a martyr on a Crux Decussata, or **X-shaped cross**.

After the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, Saint Andrew went to the Eastern lands preaching the Word of God. He went through Asia Minor, Thrace, Macedonia, he reached the River Danube, went along the coast of the Black Sea, through Crimea, the Black Sea region and along the River Dniepr he climbed to the place where the city of Kiev now stands.

He stopped overnight on the hills of Kiev. Rising in the morning, he said to those disciples that were with him: "See these hills? Upon these hills shall shine forth the beneficence of God, and there will be a great city here, and God shall raise up many churches." The apostle went up around the hills, blessed them and set up a cross.

Having prayed, he went up even further along the Dniepr and reached a settlement of the Slavs, where Novgorod was built. From here the apostle went through the land of the Varangians towards Rome for preaching, and again he returned to Thrace, where in the small village of Byzantium, the future Constantinople, he founded the

Church of Christ. The name of the holy Apostle Andrew links the mother, the Church of Constantinople, with her daughter, the Russian Church.

On his journeys the First-Called Apostle endured many sufferings and torments from pagans: they cast him out of their cities and they beat him. In Sinope they pelted him with stones, but remaining unharmed, the persistent disciple of Christ continued to preach to people about the Savior.

Through the prayers of the Apostle, the Lord worked miracles. By the labors of the holy Apostle Andrew, Christian Churches were established, for which he provided bishops and clergy. The final city to which the Apostle came was the city of Patras, where he was destined to suffer martyrdom.

The Lord worked many miracles through His disciple in Patras. The infirm were made whole, and the blind received their sight. Through the prayers of the Apostle, the illustrious citizen **Sosios** recovered from serious illness and **Maximilla and Stratokles**, the wife and brother of the governor of Patras, were healed. The miracles accomplished by the Apostle and his fiery speech enlightened almost all the citizens of the city of Patras with the true Faith.

Few pagans remained at Patras, but among them was the prefect of the city, **Aegeatos**. The Apostle Andrew repeatedly turned to him with the words of the Gospel. But even the miracles of the Apostle did not convince **Aegeatos**. The holy Apostle with love and humility appealed to his soul, striving to reveal to him the Christian mystery of life eternal, through the wonderworking power of the Holy Cross of the Lord. The angry **Aegeatos** gave orders to crucify the apostle. The pagan thought he might undo Saint Andrew's preaching if he were to put him to death on the cross.

Saint Andrew the **First-Called** accepted the decision of the prefect with joy and with prayer to the Lord, and went willingly to the place of execution. In order to prolong the suffering of the saint, Aegeatos gave orders not to nail the saint's hands and feet, but to **tie** them to the cross. **For two days the apostle taught the citizens who gathered about.**

The people, in listening to him, with all their souls pitied him and tried to take Saint Andrew down from the cross. Fearing a riot of the people, Aegeatos gave orders to stop the execution. But the holy apostle began to pray that the Lord would grant him death on the cross. Just as the soldiers tried to take hold of the Apostle Andrew, they lost control of their hands.

The crucified apostle, having given glory to God, said: "Lord Jesus Christ, receive my spirit." **Then a blazing ray of divine light illumined the cross and the martyr crucified upon it.** When the light faded, the holy Apostle Andrew had already given up his holy soul to the Lord. **Maximilla**, the wife of the prefect, had the body of the saint taken down from the cross, and buried him with honor.

A few centuries later, under the emperor **Constantine the Great**, the relics of the holy Apostle Andrew were solemnly transferred to **Constantinople** and placed in the

church of the Holy Apostles beside the relics of the holy **Evangelist Luke** and Saint Paul's disciple **Saint Timothy**.

He hungered for the **truth**. He found it, first in **John the Baptist**, then in **Jesus Christ**. The Apostle Andrew is mentioned fourth in the list of disciples, indicating he stayed close to Jesus. Like the other apostles, Andrew abandoned Jesus during his trial and crucifixion.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

John 1:41 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ).

Matthew 4:18 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

John 6:8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"

**Crucifixion of Saint Andrew
by Juan Correa de Vivar**

