

LIVING GODS WILL

The Apostle

JAMES

Son of Zebedee



Saint James Zebedee by Guido Reni

Born: AD 3, Bethsaida near the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Died: AD 44 (aged 41), Jerusalem

Death: Beheaded on order of King Herod Agrippa I of Judea

He was the son of **Zebedee** and the older brother of the **Apostle John**.

His mother was **Salome**.

He was a **fisherman** and the first apostle to be **martyred**.

The son of **Zebedee** and **Salome** is James, styled "**the Greater**", to distinguish him from the **Apostle James "the Less"**, with greater meaning older or taller, rather than more important. He was the **brother** of **John the Apostle**.

James is described as one of the first disciples to join Jesus. The Synoptic Gospels state that James and John were with their father by the seashore when Jesus called them to follow him. James was one of only three apostles whom Jesus selected to bear **witness to his Transfiguration**.

James and John (or, in another tradition, their mother) asked Jesus to grant them seats on his right and left in his glory. Jesus rebuked them, and the other apostles were annoyed with them. James and his brother wanted to call down fire on a Samaritan town, but were rebuked by Jesus.

The Acts of the Apostles records that "Herod the king" (traditionally identified with **Herod Agrippa**) had James **executed by the sword**. James the Greater is traditionally believed to be the first of the Apostles martyred for his faith. Nixon suggests that this may have been caused by James's fiery temper, for which he and his brother earned the nickname **Boanerges** or "**Sons of Thunder**".

Saint James is the **patron saint of Spain** and, according to legend, his remains are held in **Santiago de Compostela in Galicia**. (The name Santiago is the local evolution of Vulgar Latin Sanctu Iacobu, "**Saint James**", with San Diego also being a derivative of Santiago.) The traditional pilgrimage to the grave of the saint, known as the "Way of St. James", has been the most popular pilgrimage for Western European Catholics from the Early Middle Ages onwards.

The site of martyrdom is located within the Armenian Apostolic Cathedral of St. James in the Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem. The Chapel of St. James the Great, located to the left of the sanctuary, is the traditional place where he was martyred, when **King Agrippa ordered him to be beheaded (Acts 12:1-2)**. His head is buried under the altar, marked by a piece of red marble and surrounded by six votive lamps.

According to Catholic tradition, Apostle James, son of Zebedee, spread Christianity in Spain. In the year 44, he was beheaded in Jerusalem and his remains were later transferred to Galicia in a stone boat, to the place where stands Santiago de Compostela Cathedral.

The 12th-century Historia **Compostelana** commissioned by bishop **Diego Gelmírez** provides a summary of the legend of St. James, as it was believed at Compostela at that time. Two propositions are central to it: first, that St. James preached the gospel in Spain, as well as in the Holy Land; second, that after his martyrdom at the hands of **Herod Agrippa**, his disciples carried his body by sea to Iberia, where they landed at Padrón on the coast of Galicia, then took it inland for burial at **Santiago de Compostela**.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

Acts 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

Matthew 17:1 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

Luke 9:52 And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?"

Mark 5:37 And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James.

Matthew 26:36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.

**Saint James the Great Parish Church
Located at Bolinao, Philippines**

