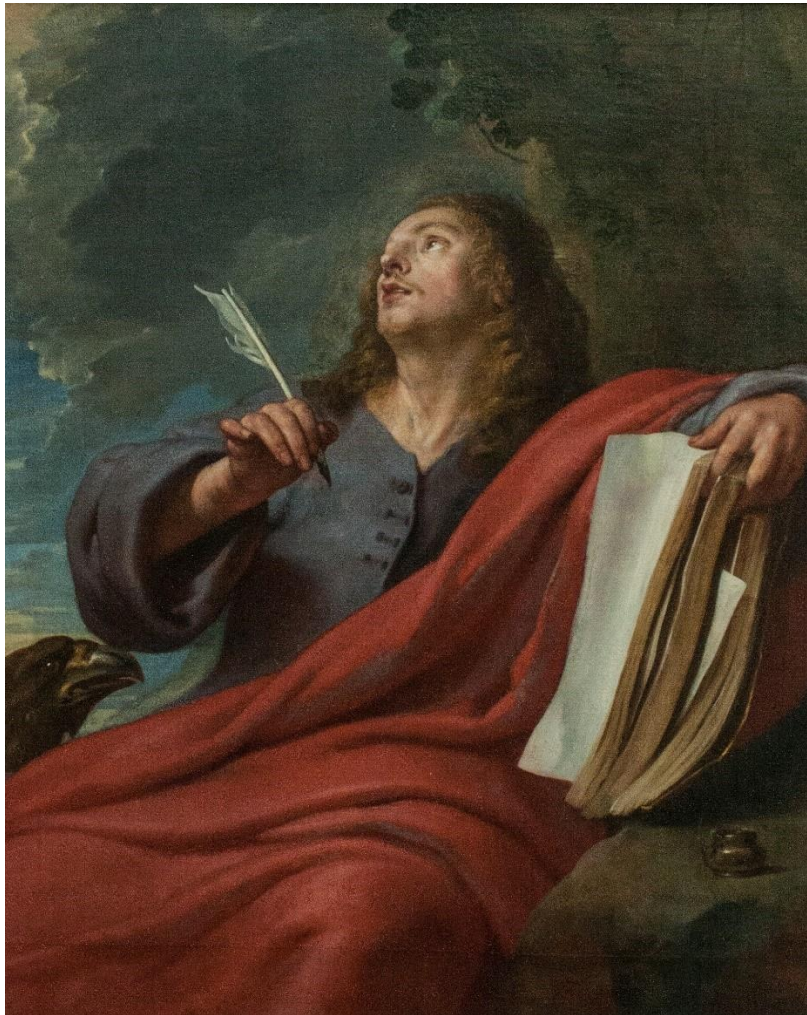


LIVING GODS WILL

The Apostle

JOHN

Son of Zebedee



St. John On Patmos by Caspar de Crayer

The Apostle JOHN

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Born: 6 AD, Bethsaida near the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Died: 100 AD (aged 94), Ephesus, Greece

Died: Natural causes at age 94

He was the son of **Zebedee** and the younger brother of the **Apostle James**.

His mother was **Salome**.

He was a **fisherman** and the oldest Apostle to die.

The Apostle Paul authored 5 books of the Holy Bible

1. **The Book of John**
2. **The Book of 1st John**
3. **The Book of 2nd John**
4. **The Book of 3rd John**
5. **The Book of Revelation**

John the Apostle (c. AD 6 – c. 100) was one of the **Twelve Apostles** of Jesus according to the New Testament. Generally listed as the **youngest apostle**, he was the son of Zebedee and Salome. His brother was **James**, who was another of the Twelve Apostles.

The Church Fathers identify him as **John the Evangelist**, **John of Patmos**, **John the Elder** and the **Beloved Disciple**, and testify that he outlived the remaining apostles and that he was the only one to die of natural causes. The traditions of most Christian denominations have held that John the Apostle is the author of several books of the **New Testament**.

John the Apostle was the son of **Zebedee** and the **younger brother of James**, son of Zebedee (**James the Greater**). According to Church tradition, their mother was Salome.

He was **first a disciple of John the Baptist**. John is traditionally believed to be one of two disciples (the other being Andrew) recounted in **John 1: 35-39**, who upon hearing the Baptist point out Jesus as the "**Lamb of God**", followed Jesus and spent the day with him.

Zebedee and his sons fished in the Sea of Galilee. Jesus then called Peter, Andrew and these two sons of Zebedee to follow him. James and John are listed among the Twelve Apostles. Jesus referred to the pair as "**Boanerges**" (translated "**sons of thunder**").

A gospel story relates how the brothers wanted to call down heavenly fire on an inhospitable Samaritan town, but Jesus rebuked them. John lived for more than half a century following the martyrdom of **James**, who was the **first Apostle to die a martyr's death**.

Peter, James and John were the only witnesses of the **raising of the Daughter of Jairus**.

All three also witnessed the **Transfiguration**, and these same three witnessed the **Agony in Gethsemane** more closely than the other Apostles did.

John was the disciple who reported to Jesus that they had 'forbidden' a non-disciple from casting out demons in Jesus' name, prompting Jesus to state that **'he who is not against us is on our side'**.

Jesus sent only John and Peter into the city to make the preparation for the final Passover meal (**the Last Supper**).

At the meal itself, the "**disciple whom Jesus loved**" sat next to Jesus. It was customary to lie along upon couches at meals, and this disciple leaned on Jesus. Tradition identifies this disciple as **Saint John**.

After the arrest of Jesus, Peter and the "**other disciple**" (according to Sacred Tradition), John followed him into the palace of the high-priest.

John alone among the Apostles remained near Jesus **at the foot of the cross on Calvary** alongside myrrh bearers and numerous other women.

Following the instruction of Jesus from the Cross, John took **Mary, the mother of Jesus** into his care as the last legacy of Jesus.

After Jesus' **Ascension** and the descent of the **Holy Spirit at Pentecost**, John, together with Peter, took a prominent part in the founding and guidance of the church.

He was with Peter at the healing of the lame man at Solomon's Porch in the Temple and he was also thrown into prison with Peter.

He went with Peter to visit the newly converted believers in Samaria.

While he remained in Judea and the surrounding area, the other disciples returned to Jerusalem for the Apostolic Council (about AD 51).

Paul, in opposing his enemies in Galatia, recalls that **John** explicitly, along with **Peter** and **James the Just**, were referred to as "**pillars of the church**" and refers to the recognition that his Apostolic preaching of a **gospel free from Jewish Law** received from these three, the most prominent men of the messianic community at Jerusalem.

The disciple whom Jesus loved is referred to, specifically, six times in John's gospel:

It is this disciple who, while reclining beside Jesus at the **Last Supper**, asks Jesus, after being requested by **Peter** to do so, **who it is that will betray him**.

Later at the crucifixion, Jesus tells his mother, "**Woman, here is your son**", and to the **Beloved Disciple** he says, "**Here is your mother**."

When **Mary Magdalene** discovers the empty tomb, she runs to tell the **Beloved Disciple** and Peter. The two men rush to the empty tomb and the Beloved Disciple is the first to reach the empty tomb. However, Peter is the first to enter.

In **John 21**, the last chapter of the Gospel of John, the **Beloved Disciple** is one of seven fishermen involved in the **miraculous catch of 153 fish**.

Also in the book's final chapter, after Jesus hints to Peter how Peter will die, Peter sees the **Beloved Disciple** following them and asks, "What about him?" Jesus answers, "**If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!**"

Again in the gospel's last chapter, it states that the very book itself is based on the written testimony of the **disciple whom Jesus loved**.

None of the other Gospels has anyone in the parallel scenes that could be directly understood as the **Beloved Disciple**. For example, in **Luke 24:12**, Peter alone runs to the tomb. Mark, Matthew and Luke do not mention any one of the twelve disciples having witnessed the crucifixion.

There are also two references to an unnamed "**other disciple**" in **John 1:35-40** and **John 18:15-16**, which may be to the same person based on the wording in **John 20:2**.

New Testament Author

Church tradition has held that John is the author of the **Gospel of John** and four other books of the New Testament — the **three Epistles of John** and the **Book of Revelation**.

In the Gospel, authorship is internally credited to the "**disciple whom Jesus loved**" in **John 20:2**. **John 21:24** claims that the Gospel of John is based on the written testimony of the "**Beloved Disciple**".

Book of Revelation

According to the Book of Revelation, its author was on the **island of Patmos** "for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus", when he was honored with the vision contained in Revelation.

John is considered to have been exiled to **Patmos**, during the persecutions under **Emperor Domitian**. **Revelation 1:9** says that the author wrote the book on Patmos: "I, John, both your brother and companion in tribulation... was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ."

Early tradition says that John was banished to **Patmos** by the Roman authorities. This tradition is credible because banishment was a common punishment used during the Imperial period for a number of offenses.

Among such offenses were the practices of magic and astrology. Prophecy was viewed by the Romans as belonging to the same category, whether Pagan, Jewish, or Christian.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

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.

John 19:25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

THE BASILICA OF SAINT JOHN, EPHESUS

