

DAVID TATE

WHO WAS BIG JAMES?



BIG JAMES

IN THE

THE CHOSEN

**BIG JAMES
ACCORDING TO**

THE BIBLE

BIOGRAPHICAL INFO

NAME: JACOB/JAMES (יַעֲקֹב / Ἰάκωβος) – “supplanter”

NICKNAME(S):

Boanerges (Βοανηργές) – “Sons of Thunder” (w/ John, Mk 3:17)

James the Great (tradition; in contrast with “James the younger,” Mk 15:40)

FATHER: ZEBEDEE (Mt 4:21; 10:2; Mk 1:19-20; 3:17; 10:35; Lk 5:10)

MOTHER: SALOME (?) (see Mt 27:55-56; Mk 15:40-41; Jn 19:25)

SIBLING(S): JOHN (Mt 4:21; 10:2; Mk 1:19-20; 3:17; 10:35; Lk 5:10)

SPOUSE: ???

HOMETOWN: CAPERNAUM?

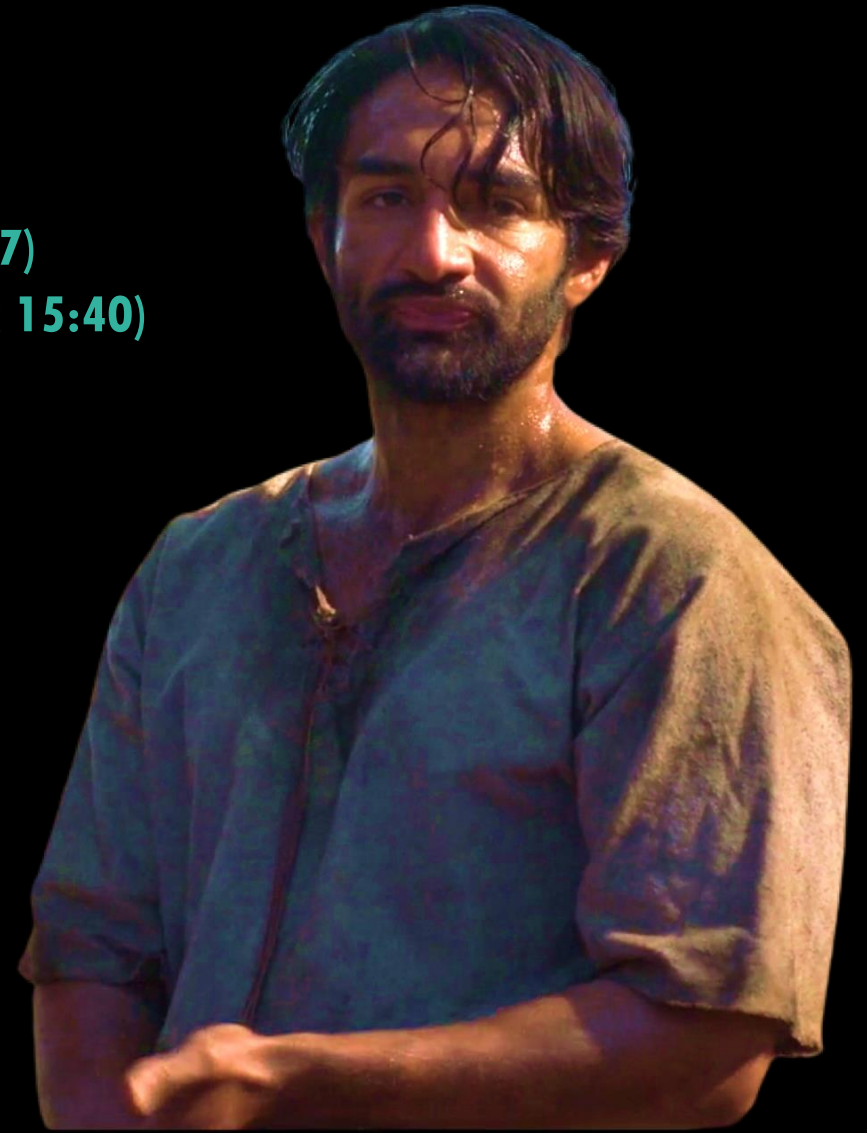
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: CAPERNAUM (Mk 1:19-20, 29)

EDUCATION: LIMITED (cf. Ac 4:13)

LANGUAGE: ARAMAIC (likely understood Greek and Hebrew as well)

OCCUPATION: FISHERMAN (Mt 4:18-22; Mk 1:16-20; Lk 5:1-11)

OTHER: (POSSIBLY) FROM A WEALTHY FAMILY (Mk 1:20; Jn 18:15)



JAMES & JESUS: COUSINS?

1) Who were the women present at the cross?

WOMEN PRESENT DURING CHRIST'S PASSION				
CROSS	Mt 27:55-56	Mk 15:40-41		Jn 19:25
	Mary Magdalene	Mary Magdalene		Jesus' mother
	Mary, mother of James & Joseph	Mary, mother of James (lesser) & Joses		Jesus' mother's sister
	Mother of the sons of Zebedee	Salome		Mary wife of Clopas
				Mary Magdalene
BURIAL	Mt 27:61	Mk 15:47	Lk 23:55-56	
	Mary Magdalene	Mary Magdalene	Women from Galilee	
	The other Mary	Mary mother of Joses		
EMPTY TOMB	Mt 28:1	Mk 16:1	Lk 24:10	
	Mary Magdalene	Mary Magdalene	Mary Magdalene	
	The other Mary	Mary mother of James	Joanna	
		Salome	Mary mother of James	
		Other women		

JAMES & JESUS: COUSINS? (CONT.)

WOMEN PRESENT AT CHRIST'S CROSS		
Mt 27:55-56	Mk 15:40-41	Jn 19:25
Mary Magdalene	Mary Magdalene	Jesus' mother
Mary, mother of James & Joseph	Mary, mother of James (lesser) & Joses	Jesus' mother's sister
Mother of the sons of Zebedee	Salome	Mary wife of Clopas
		Mary Magdalene

If #1-3 correct...
Salome =
Mother Mary's sister =
mother of James & John

JAMES & JOHN = JESUS' COUSINS

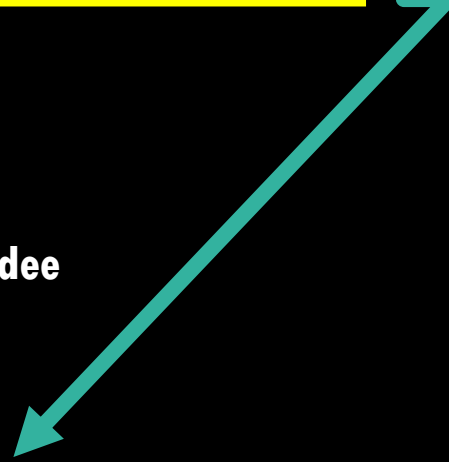
2) Who is "the mother of the sons of Zebedee"?

What We Know:

1. Mary Magdalene ≠ mother of sons of Zebedee
2. Mary, mother of James & Joses ≠ mother of sons of Zebedee
3. Mary, mother of Jesus ≠ mother of sons of Zebedee

What We Don't Know:

1. Mary, mother of James & Joses = Mary, wife of Clopas?
2. Mother of sons of Zebedee = Salome?
3. Salome = Mother Mary's sister?
4. Were there additional women?



HOW OLD WAS JAMES?

HOW OLD WERE THE DISCIPLES?

- Jesus was around 30 when he began his ministry (Lk 3:23), the typical age for a rabbi.
- Students were usually younger than their rabbis. Jesus refers to the Twelve as “little children” (Mt 10:42; 11:25).
- Education ended between ages 12-15. Some disciples were already practicing trades (i.e. Lk 5:1-11; Mt 9:9).
- As far as we know, by the third year of Jesus’ ministry, Simon Peter was the *only* member of the Twelve who had to pay the temple tax (Mt 17:24-27), which began at age 20 (Ex 30:14).
- The Twelve often acted in manners more fitting of younger people (i.e., Mk 10:13-16; Lk 8:24; 22:24-30).
- It appears that **James and John were still living with their father** at the time they began following Jesus (Mt 4:21; Mk 1:20), which seems to imply they were unmarried at the time. The average age for marriage was 18.
- James and John’s **mother still seemed to be have a fair amount of influence** over their lives (Mt 20:20-28).

Most of the disciples were likely **young teenagers at the time they began following Christ.**

James was likely a **young teenager (~14-16) at the time he began following Christ.**

JAMES' CHARACTER

- **Proud, self-seeking** (Mt 20:20-28; Mk 10:35-45)
- **Impetuous, zealous** (Lk 9:51-56)
- **Loud, boisterous** (Mk 3:17)
- **Faithful, bold** (Ac 12:1-2)



JAMES IN THE GOSPELS

CALLING: Jesus called James to follow him after the miraculous catch of fish (Mt 4:18-22; Mk 1:16-20; Lk 5:1-11).

LIFE AS A DISCIPLE: James is consistently listed in the first group of disciples (Mk 5:37; 9:2; 14:33).

- James was in the Inner Three, with Peter and John. They were uniquely present at certain key moments:
 1. The Healing of Jairus' Daughter (Mk 5:37; Lk 8:51)
 2. The Transfiguration (Mt 17:1; Mk 9:2; Lk 9:28; 2 Pe 1:16-18)
 3. The Agony in Gethsemane (Mt 26:37; Mk 14:33)

MATTHEW 10	MARK 3	LUKE 6	ACTS 1
Simon Peter	Simon Peter	Simon Peter	Peter
Andrew	James of Zebedee	Andrew	John
James of Zebedee	John	James of Zebedee	James
John	Andrew	John	Andrew
Philip	Philip	Philip	Philip
Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Thomas
Thomas	Matthew	Matthew	Bartholomew
Matthew	Thomas	Thomas	Matthew
James of Alphaeus	James of Alphaeus	James of Alphaeus	James of Alphaeus
Thaddaeus	Thaddaeus	Simon the Zealot	Simon the Zealot
Simon the Zealot	Simon the Zealot	Judas of James	Judas of James
Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	

JAMES IN THE GOSPELS (CONT.)

Like the rest of the Twelve, James...

- ...was appointed by Jesus (Mt 10:1-2; Mk 3:13-16; Lk 6:12-13)
- ...travelled with Jesus (Mt 26:20; Mk 14:17)
- ...received insight to Jesus' teachings (Mk 4:10)
- ...was sent out to preach (Mt 10:5-42; Mk 6:7-13; Lk 9:1-6)
- ...baptized people (Jn 4:2)
- ...performed miracles (Mk 6:13; Lk 9:1-2)
- ...was challenged by Jesus' teachings (Mk 9:36; Jn 6:67-71)
- ...heard the predictions of Christ's death (Mt 20:17; Mk 10:32)
- ...fled at Christ's arrest (Mt 26:56; Mk 14:50)

KEY MOMENTS:

1. Requesting that Jesus permit them to cast fire down upon the Samaritans (Lk 9:51-56)
2. Requesting that Jesus permit them to sit at his right hand in the coming kingdom (Mt 20:20-28; Mk 10:35-45)



JAMES IN ACTS & EPISTLES

James is only mentioned twice in the Book of Acts: in **1:13** (the list of the eleven apostles) and in **12:1** (his death).

Although he isn't the first Christian to die for his faith, he is the first of the Twelve.

He isn't mentioned anywhere in the epistles.



THE FATE OF JAMES

James is the only apostle (other than Judas Iscariot) whose cause of death can be absolutely certain from Scripture.

1 About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. **2** He killed James the brother of John with the sword, **3** and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread.

Acts 12:1-3

This probably happened during
the Passover of AD 44.

SEAN McDOWELL'S CONCLUSIONS:

- 1. JAMES EXPERIENCED MARTYRDOM IN JERUSALEM UNDER HEROD AGRIPPA – highest possible probability**



**BIG JAMES
ACCORDING TO**

TRADITION



VARIOUS TRADITIONS

There are some traditions that James travelled to India and Spain before his death in Judea, but these traditions date relatively late, so they are usually dismissed as legendary.

Sean McDowell:

“Even though Jesus had earlier commanded the apostles to spread out and reach the world (1:8), the tipping point seemed to come at the death of James. With his death, persecution was no longer propagated by the religious leaders of the Jews, but by Herod Agrippa I, an official of the state. The apostles were forced to leave Jerusalem and begin reaching out to the ‘ends of the earth.’” (*Fate of the Apostles*, 188-89)

While we can't know for sure, it is believed by some that the **Armenian Apostolic Cathedral of St. James in the Old City of Jerusalem is located over the site where James was martyred, and that James' remains can be found at **Santiago de Compostela** in Galicia, Spain.**