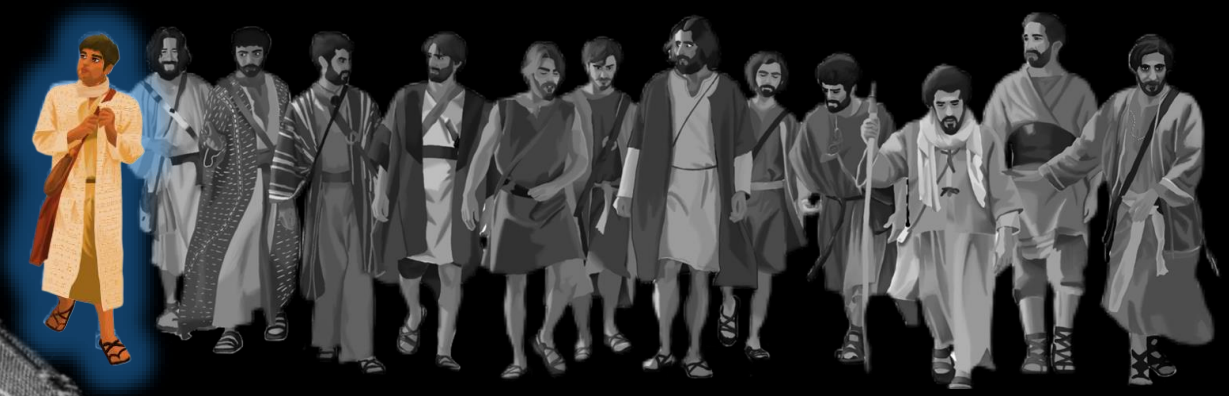


MATTHEW



WHO WAS MATTHEW?



MATTHEW

IN THE

THE CHOSEN

MATTHEW

ACCORDING TO

THE BIBLE

MATTHEW = LEVI?

- The Synoptic Gospels each record an event where Jesus called a tax collector to follow him. Matthew records the tax collector's name as **Matthew** (Mt 9:9), whereas Mark and Luke record his name as **Levi** (Mk 2:14; Lk 5:27, 29).
- All four lists of the Twelve refer to Matthew as an apostle (Mt 10:3; Mk 3:18; Lk 6:15; Ac 1:13). Levi is never mentioned again in the biblical text.
- Given that accounts appear to be telling the same story, the options seem to be either that (1) **Matthew inserted himself into the text** or (2) **Matthew and Levi are the same person**.

While there are arguments to be made from both perspectives, the most natural explanation is that Matthew and Levi are one and the same person.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFO

NAME: MATTHEW (מַתְתִּיָּהוּ / Ματθαῖος) – “Gift of YHWH”

NICKNAME(S): LEVI (לֵוִי / Δεῦῖς) – “attached”

FATHER: ALPHAEUS (Mk 2:14)

MOTHER: ???

SIBLING(S): JAMES?? (Mt 10:3; Mk 3:18; Lk 6:14; Ac 1:13)

SPOUSE: ???

HOMETOWN: ???

PLACE OF RESIDENCE: CAPERNAUM (Mk 2:1-14)

EDUCATION: ADVANCED

LANGUAGE: ARAMAIC & GREEK (most likely Latin & Hebrew as well)

OCCUPATION: TAX COLLECTOR (Mt 9:9; 10:3; Mk 2:13-14; Lk 5:27-28)



MATTHEW & JAMES ... BROTHERS?

- Matthew (**Levi**) is described as “the son of Alphaeus” (Mk 2:14); one of the other apostles, **James**, is also described as “the son of Alphaeus” (Mt 10:3; Mk 3:18; Lk 6:14; Ac 1:13).
- However, the Bible doesn’t seem to suggest a connection.
- Matthew himself doesn’t seem to present them as brothers:

Matthew 10:2b-3: ...πρῶτος Σίμων ὁ λεγόμενος Πέτρος καὶ Ἀνδρέας ὁ ἀδελφὸς αὐτοῦ, καὶ Ἰάκωβος ὁ τοῦ Ζεβεδαίου καὶ Ἰωάννης ὁ ἀδελφὸς αὐτοῦ, Φίλιππος καὶ Βαρθολομαῖος, Θωμᾶς καὶ Μαθθαῖος ὁ τελώνης, Ἰάκωβος ὁ τοῦ Ἀλφαίου καὶ Θαδδαῖος...

Greek	English
Σίμων ὁ λεγόμενος Πέτρος καὶ Ἀνδρέας ὁ ἀδελφὸς αὐτοῦ	...Simon, the one called Peter, and Andrew his brother...
Ἰάκωβος ὁ τοῦ Ζεβεδαίου καὶ Ἰωάννης ὁ ἀδελφὸς αὐτοῦ	...Jacob the son of Zebedee and John his brother...
Μαθθαῖος ὁ τελώνης, Ἰάκωβος ὁ τοῦ Ἀλφαίου	...Matthew the tax collector, Jacob the son of Alphaeus...

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	

Ultimately, we can’t come to a definitive conclusion, but the evidence would seem to suggest that Matthew and James were **not** brothers.

HOW OLD WAS MATTHEW?

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 them 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, Simon was the only married one at the time (Mt 8:14-15; Mk 1:29-31; Lk 4:38-39) at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry; the average age for marriage was 18.
- As far as we know, by the third year of Jesus’ ministry, Simon was the only one who had to pay the temple tax (Mt 17:24-27), which began at age 20 (Ex 30:14).
- Matthew was a **practicing tax collector** when he began following Jesus (Mt 9:9; 10:3; Mk 2:13-14; Lk 5:27-28), and the importance of his calling suggests that he had a lot to give up, so he might have been older than most.

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

MATTHEW was likely a teenager/young adult (~16-18) at the time he began following Christ.

MATTHEW IN THE GOSPELS

FIRST ENCOUNTER: ???

CALLING & KEY MOMENTS:

- **Jesus came to Matthew at his tax booth and personally called him to follow (Mt 9:9; Mk 2: 13-14; Lk 5:27-28).**

27 After this [Jesus] went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me." *28* And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.

Luke 5:27-28

- **Matthew hosted a feast for Jesus, leading to an incident with the scribes and Pharisees (Mt 9:10-13; Mk 2:15-17; Lk 5:29-31).**



MATTHEW IN THE GOSPELS

LIFE AS A DISCIPLE:

Like the rest of the Twelve, Matthew...

- ...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)
- ...witnessed the resurrected Christ (Lk 24:33-49; Jn 20:19-28)
- ...witnessed the ascension (Lk 24:50-53; Ac 1:6-11)

MATTHEW 10	MARK 3	LUKE 6	ACTS 1
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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
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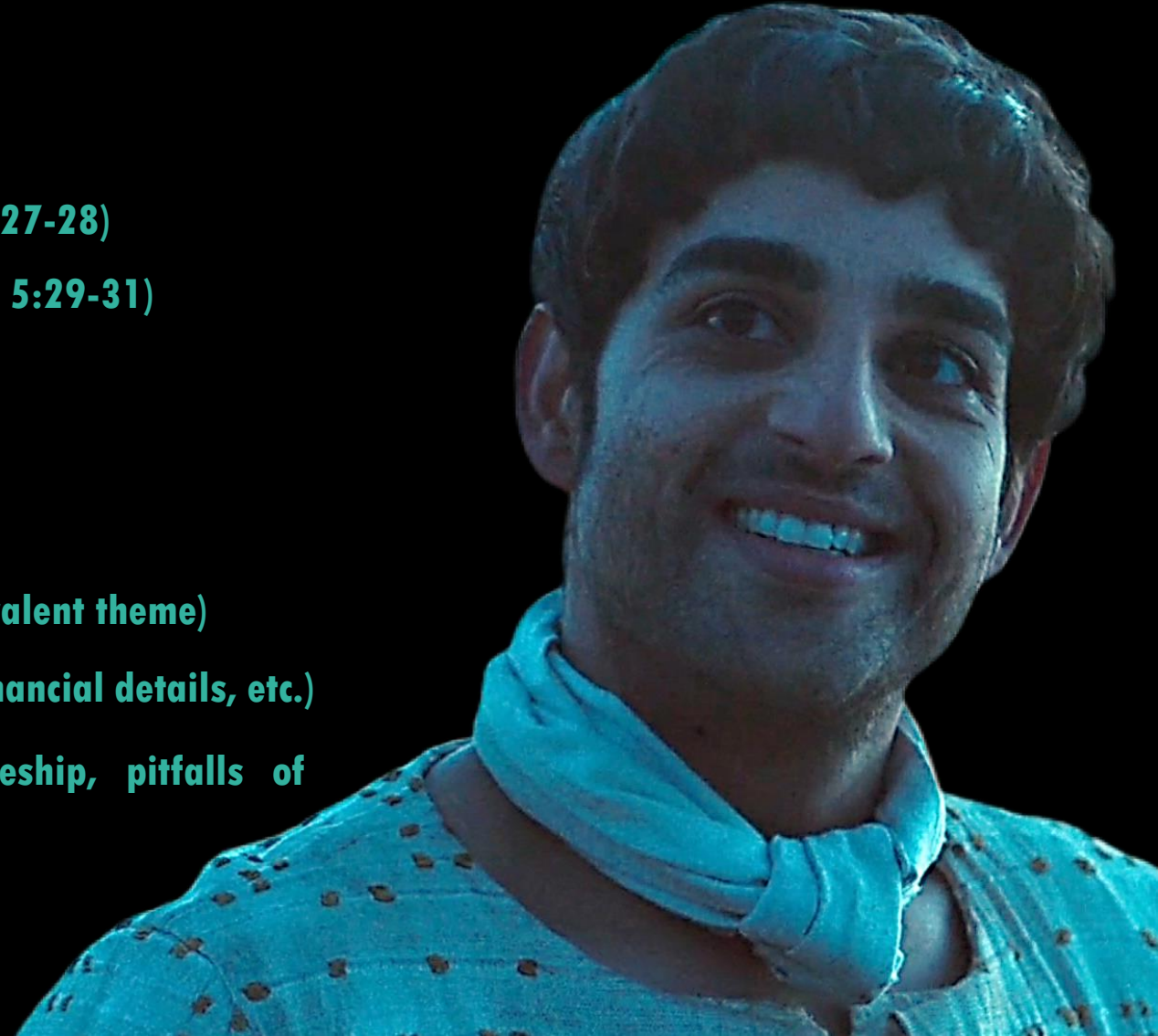
MATTHEW'S CHARACTER

FROM HIS CALLING:

- **Confident & committed** (Mt 9:9; Mk 2: 13-14; Lk 5:27-28)
- **Grateful & hospitable** (Mt 9:10-13; Mk 2:15-17; Lk 5:29-31)

FROM HIS GOSPEL:

- **Scripture-minded** (~100 OT quotes/allusions)
- **Kingdom-focused** ("kingdom of heaven/God" = prevalent theme)
- **Detail-oriented** (genealogies, extended discourses, financial details, etc.)
- **Discipleship-concentrated** (emphasis on discipleship, pitfalls of Pharisees & Sadducees)

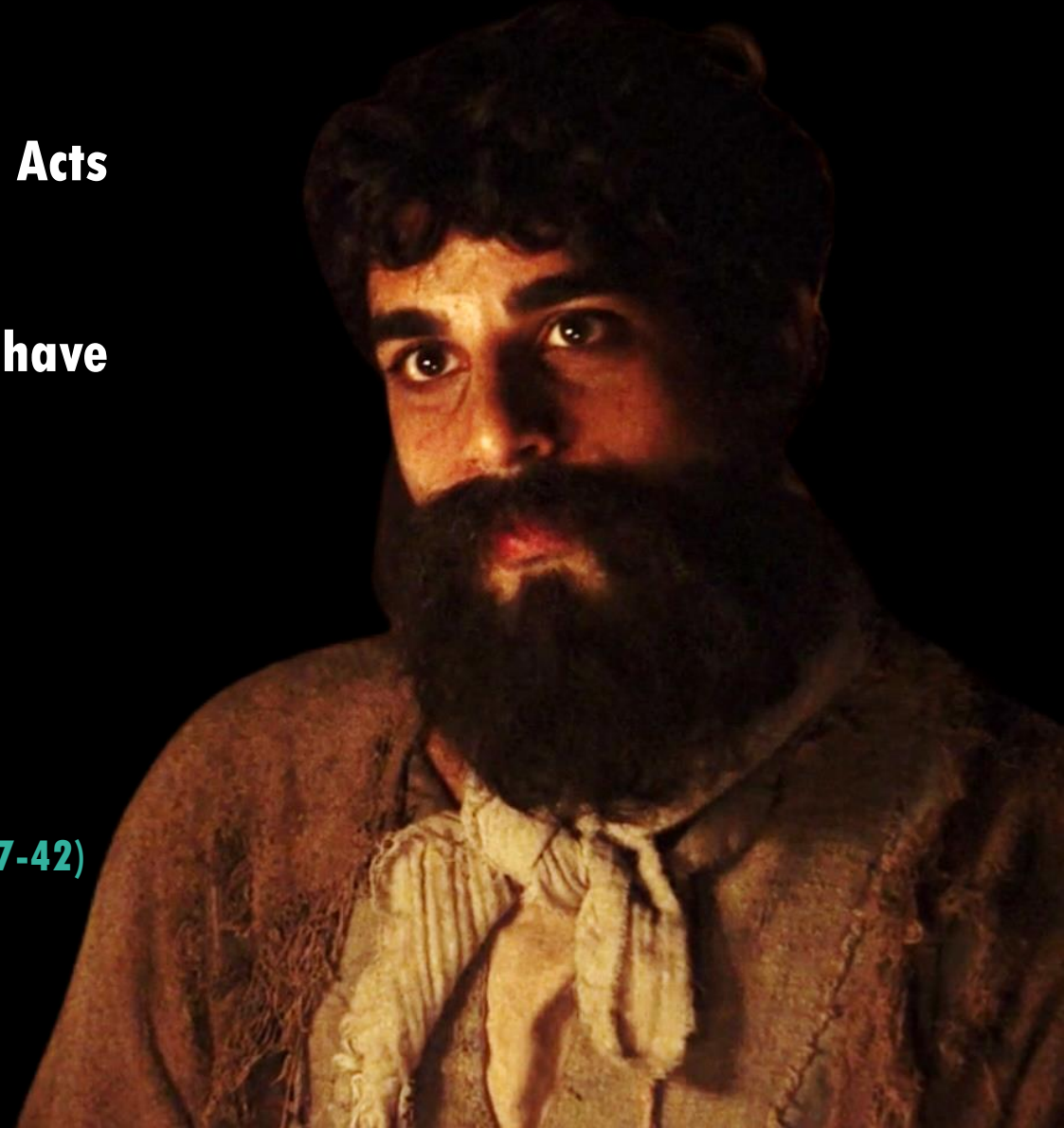


MATTHEW IN ACTS & THE EPISTLES

Matthew is only mentioned once in the book of Acts (1:13), and is never mentioned in the Epistles.

Along with the rest of the apostles, Matthew would have been present...

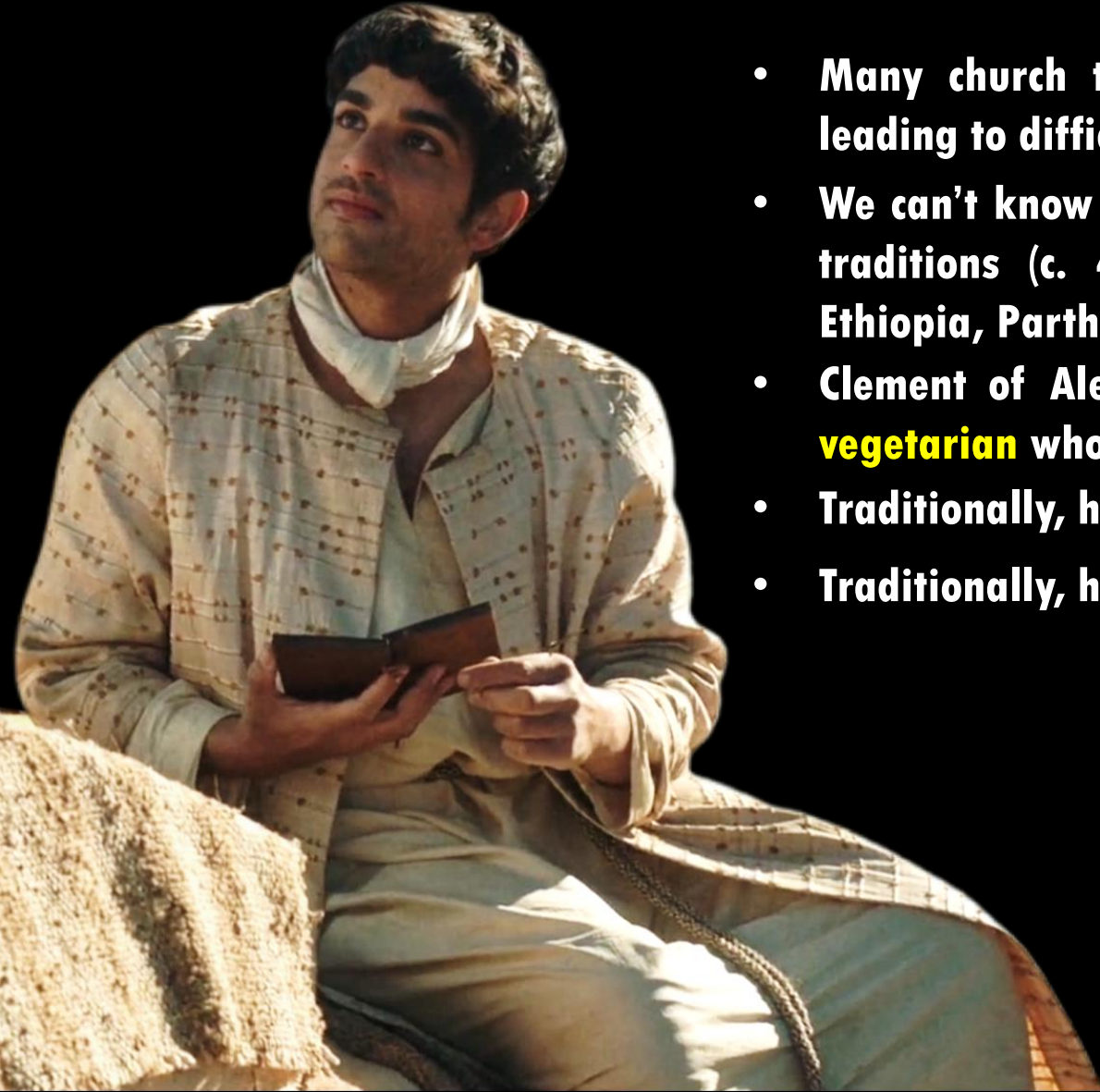
- ... at the Ascension (Ac 1:6-11)
- ... when they replaced Judas Iscariot (Ac 1:12-26)
- ... when the Spirit fell at Pentecost (Ac 2:1-13)
- ... when Peter delivered the first sermon (Ac 2:14-41)
- ... in the establishing of the Jerusalem church (Ac 2:42-47)
- ... as the Jerusalem church continued to grow (Ac 4:32-37)
- ... when the high priest began to arrest the apostles (Ac 5:17-42)
- ... when they appointed the seven deacons (Ac 6:1-7)



**MATTHEW
ACCORDING TO**

TRADITION

TRAVELS & TRADITIONS



- Many church traditions often confuse or conflate **Matthew** and **Matthias**, leading to difficulty in attaining certainty in regard to many traditions.
- We can't know for certain **where Matthew travelled**, but some of the earliest traditions (c. 4th cent. and onward) place him in places such as Egypt, Ethiopia, Parthia, Mermidona, Persia, or Macedonia.
- Clement of Alexandria (*Paedagogus 2.1, 2nd cent.*) says that Matthew was a **vegetarian** who ate seeds, nuts, and vegetables.
- Traditionally, his Gospel was first **written in Hebrew or Aramaic**.
- Traditionally, his Gospel was the **first Gospel** written.

THE FATE OF MATTHEW

The Martyrdom of St. Matthew, Caravaggio, 1599-1600

There are various traditions regarding the death of Matthew:

- Natural death (?) in Hieres, Parthia (*Hippolytus on the Twelve*)
- Martyred in Tarrum, Persia (*Hieronymian Martyrology, 5th cent.*)
- Burned to death by cannibals in Myrna (*Martyrdom of Matthew*)
- Beheaded in Apayanno, Parthia (*Parthian tradition*)
- Pierced in the back in Naddaver, Ethiopia (*Pseudo Abdias*)

That all being said, we don't have any early or consistent traditions regarding the death of Matthew, so we can't say for certain how he died.

SEAN McDOWELL'S CONCLUSIONS:

1. MATTHEW ENGAGED IN MISSIONARY WORK OUTSIDE JERUSALEM – very probably true
2. MATTHEW EXPERIENCED MARTYRDOM – as plausible as not

