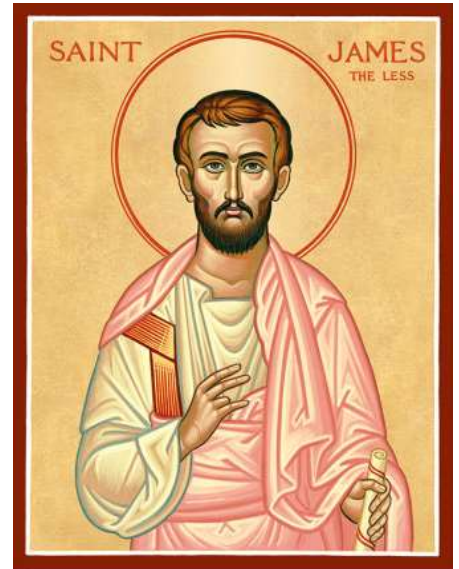


91. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. JAMES SON OF ALPHEAUS (62 AD)

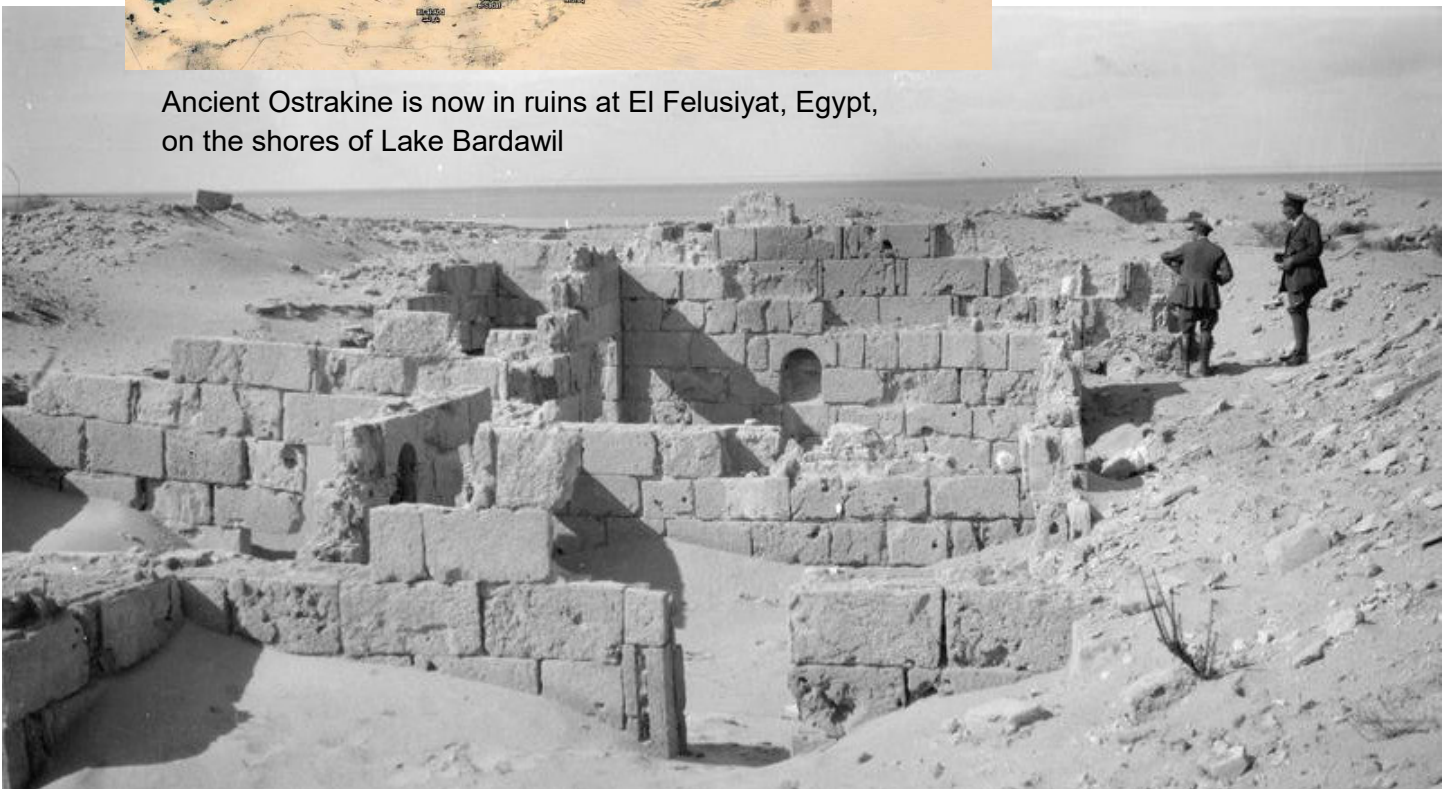
Place of Death: Ostrakine (El Flusiat), Egypt. Google Earth Coordinates: 31° 7'3.85"N, 33°25'54.01"E

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; **James the son of Alphaeus**, and Lebbeaus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. Matthew 10:1-4 (KJV 2016)

James the less is different from James the son of Zebedee, being the son of Alphaeus. There is not much known about the life of James the Less, but he is often confused with James the brother of Jesus. According to some traditions James the Less was the first Bishop of Syria. He had made missionary travels through Judea, Edessa, Gaza and Eleutheropolis preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. Tradition maintains that James the Less was captured under charges of having violated the laws of Moses. He was then crucified at Ostrakine in Lower Egypt where he was preaching the gospel in 62 AD. Afterwards his body was later sawn to pieces. His remains are located at the Santi Apostoli church in Rome, Italy.



Ancient Ostrakine is now in ruins at El Felusiyat, Egypt, on the shores of Lake Bardawil



Ruins of Ostrakine, 1917, now El Felusiyat, Egypt

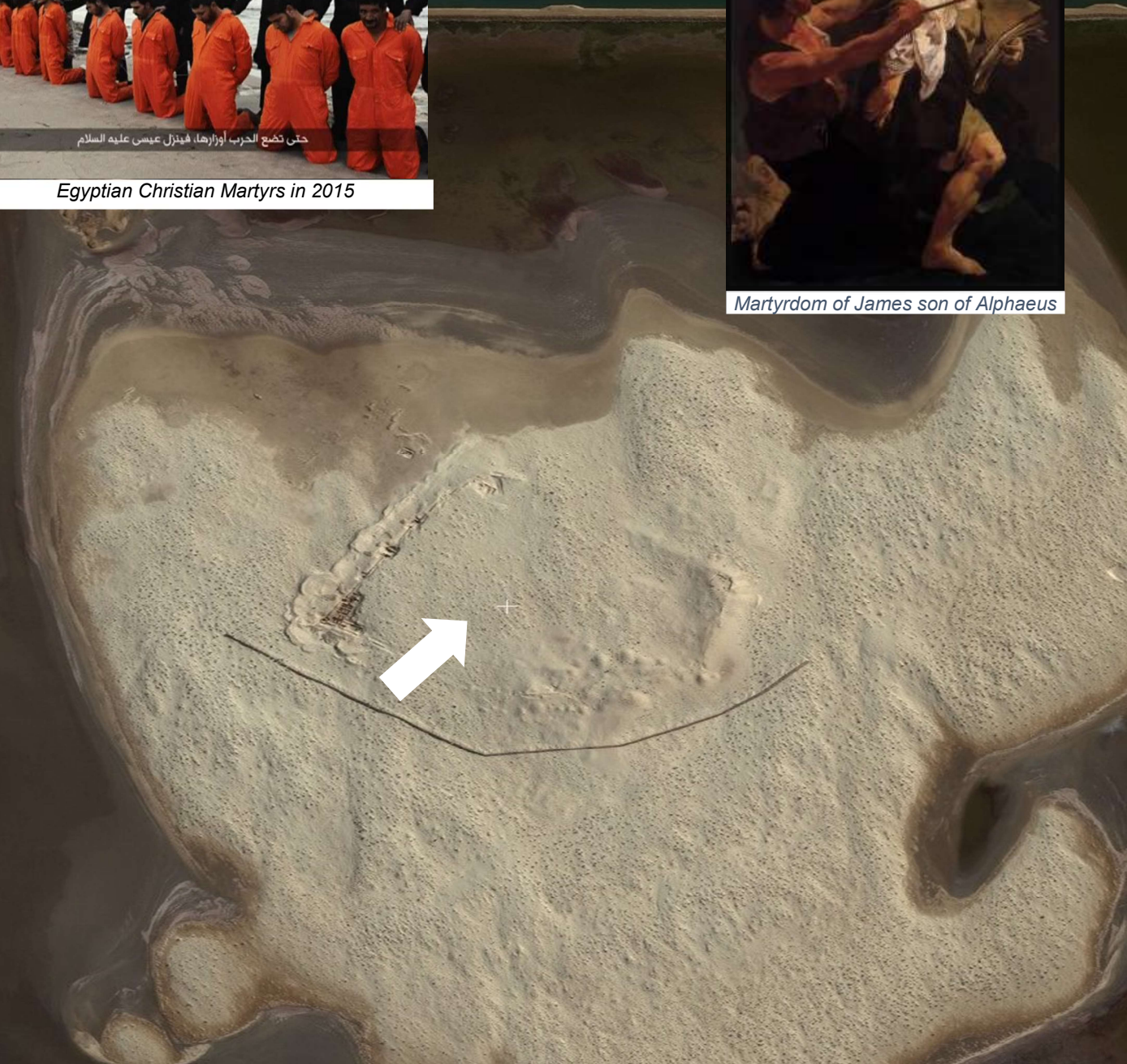


حتى تضع الحرب أوزارها، فينزل عيسى عليه السلام

Egyptian Christian Martyrs in 2015



Martyrdom of James son of Alphaeus



Place of Martyrdom of St. James
Ancient Ruins of Ostrakine
El Felusiyat, Egypt

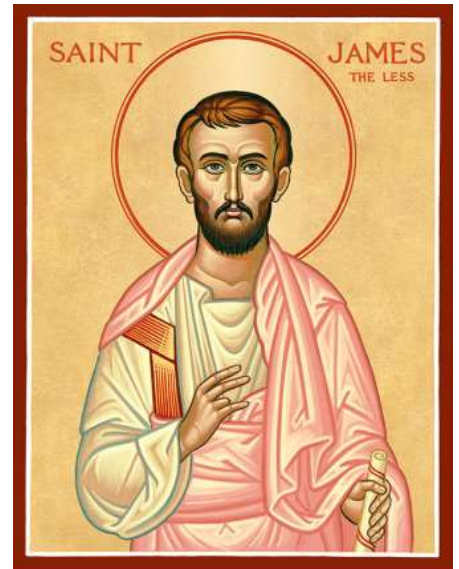


92. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. JAMES SON OF ALPHEAUS (62 AD)

Place of Burial: Church of Santi Apostoli, Rome, Italy. Google Earth Coordinates: 41° 53' 53.18" N, 12° 28' 59.54" E

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." John 12:24 (KJV 2016)

James the Less was crucified at Ostrakine in Lower Egypt where he was preaching the gospel in 62 AD. Afterwards his body was later sawn to pieces. The supposed remains of St. James included fragments of femur and tibia bone. When the bones were dated by Carbon 14 they were shown to have belonged to a person who lived between 214 to 340 AD. So these remains could not have belonged to St. James the son of Alphaeus; however, the mummified foot of St. Philip was not tested and therefore could be a legitimate relic of the disciple. Both the relics of supposed St. James and Phiip are located in a box in the basement of the Church of Santi Apostoli in Rome. What would be interesting to do is to excavate the ruins of Ostrakine to see if the tomb of St. James the less is there. Future excavation would certainly be of value not only to history in general but to the Christian faith in Egypt.



Within the Beautifully decorated Santi Apostoli Church, Rome, Italy



Santi Apostoli Church, Rome, Italy



Tomb containing the bones of Philip and James the Less

92

John 12:24



Egyptian Christians



The Relics of St. James & St. Philip
Church of Santi Apostoli
Rome, Italy

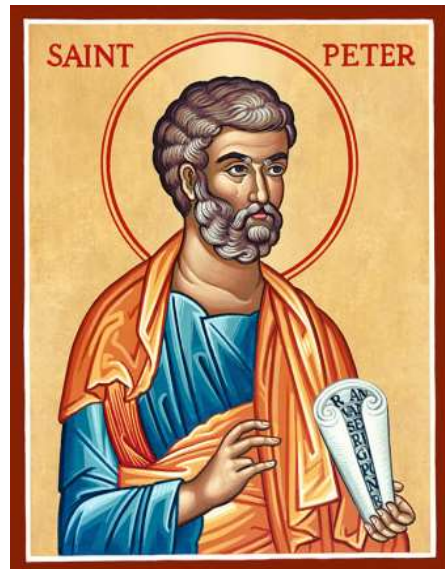


93. EVIDENCE FOR THE TRADITIONAL DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. PETER (62 AD)

Place of Death: Clementine Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica, Rome. Google Earth Coordinates: 41°54'7.92"N, 12°27'11.88"E

Place of Burial: St. Peter's Basilica, Rome. Google Earth Coordinates: 41°54'7.92"N, 12°27'11.88"E

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, **Simon, who is called Peter**, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. **Matthew 10:1-4 (KJV 2016)**



Simon was the son of Jonah and brother of Andrew. He was from the town of Bethsaida, a fishing village near the Sea of Galilee. He married and moved to Capernaum where he made his living from the fishing trade. He was a disciple who was there with Jesus with James and John at the Transfiguration and who called Jesus the Christ the Son of God. Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter. It was Peter who was the leader of the Apostles. Although he denied Jesus at first, he repented then preached the gospel to many Jews in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. It is also believed that Peter was the source of the Gospel of Mark. He travelled on a missionary journey to Lydda, Joppa and Caesarea then he was sent to Samaria by the disciples in Jerusalem.

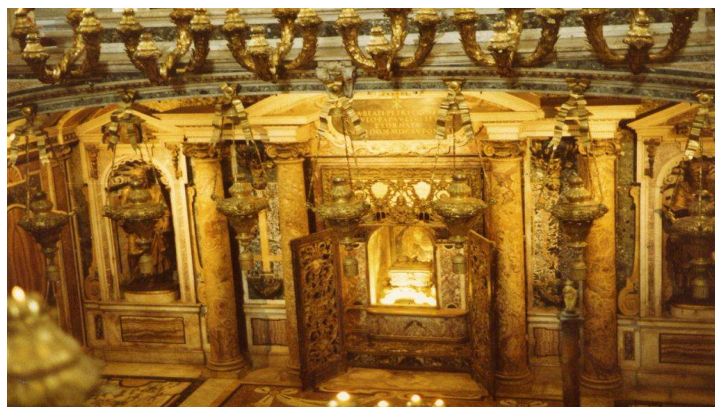
Then Peter was imprisoned in Jerusalem by Herod Agrippa I (42-44 AD) but escaped miraculously by an angel. Then he left Jerusalem in the mid-40s. Strangely the Apostle Paul when writing to the Romans in his epistle in 57 AD, although mentioning about 50 believers, he does not mention St. Peter, the presumed bishop of the church in Rome. According to tradition he became the Bishop of Rome then was martyred under the Emperor Nero in 62 AD. Tradition maintains that he was crucified upside down in what is now the Clementine Chapel and was buried in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City, Italy.



St. Peter's Basilica, Rome, Italy



Clementine Chapel where Peter was crucified



The Tomb of Saint Peter

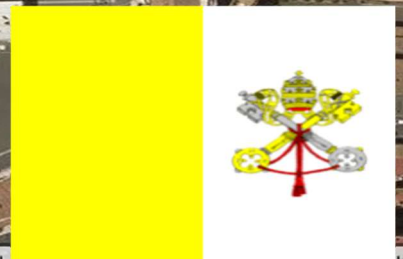
93

Matthew 10:1-4



Martyrdom of Saint Peter

The Place of the Crucifixion and burial
of Saint Peter in St. Peter's Basilica
Vatican City in Italy

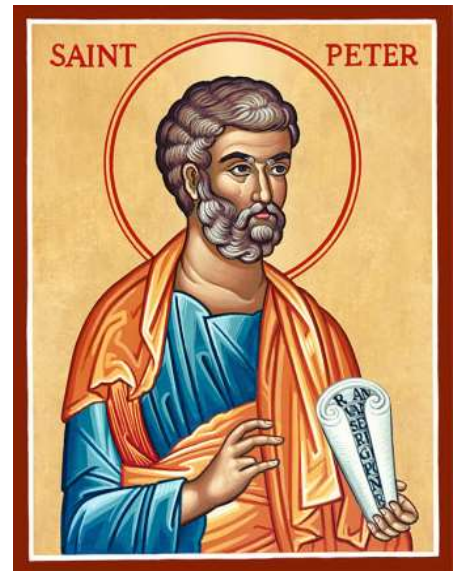


94. EVIDENCE FOR AN ALTERNATE BURIAL OF ST. PETER (62 AD)

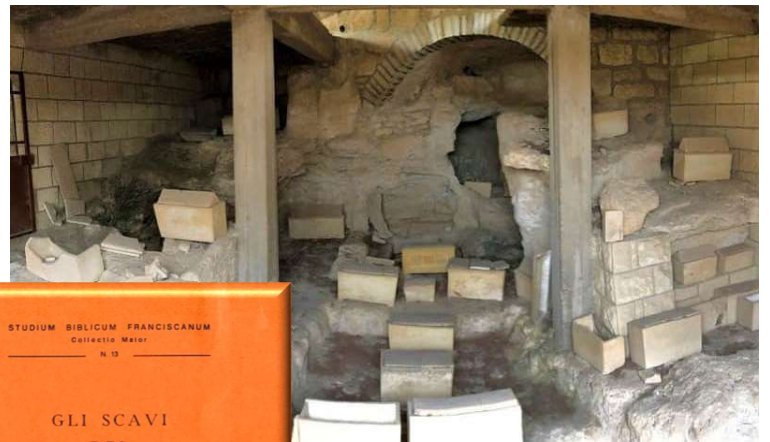
Alternate Place of Burial: Grounds of Dominus Flevit Church, Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'40.15"N, 35°14'30.24"E

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." John 12:24 (KJV 2016)

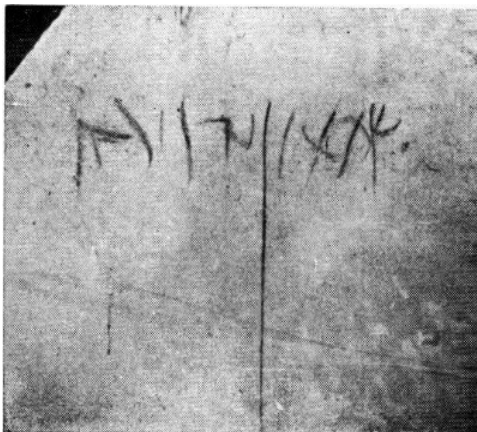
Another possibility for the burial of St. Peter is that his corpse was taken from Rome and brought to Jerusalem, to the Mount of Olives (Dominus Flevit), and his bones collected in an ossuary. This ossuary was found by Father Dr. Bellarmino Bagatti and bears the inscription "Simon son of Jonah" and is in burial cave 79 where a "Chi-Rho" symbol was found, the symbol of 1st century Christianity. However, Catholic tradition maintains that he was crucified upside down in what is now the Clementine Chapel and was buried in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy. An ossuary of Simon son of Jonah in Jerusalem would be very astonishing for Catholics who maintain that the body of Simon Peter has always been buried in Rome not in Jerusalem. However, the ossuary remains at the Terra Sancta Museum, Church of the Flagellation, Jerusalem. As well, in tomb number 70 they found an ossuary bearing the names Mary and Martha, who were both from Bethany, as mentioned in detail in the gospels. Their findings were published in 1958 in "Gli Scavi del "Dominus Flevit" parte uno", along with Father J. T. Milik, an expert in ancient languages and who was central to deciphering the Dead Sea Scrolls. This is direct physical evidence from the first century of the existence of Simon son of Jonah, Mary and Martha.



The Necropolis where Bagatti found Christian Ossuaries



Inside the Necropolis with many Ossuaries



Simon son of Jonah Inscription



The Simon son of Jonah Ossuary, Terra Sancta Museum, Jerusalem

94

John 12:24



Italian Christians

Where Ossuary of Simon bar Jonah found
In necropolis near Dominus Flevit Church
Jerusalem, Israel



95. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH OF ST. PAUL (67 AD)

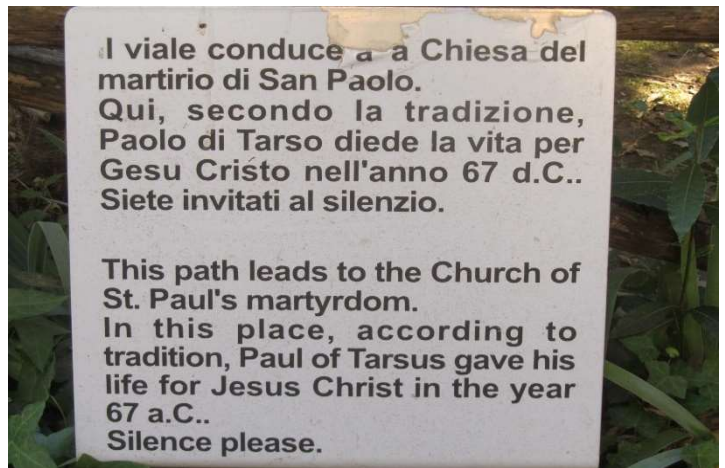
Place of Death: Church of 3 Fountains, Rome. Google Earth Coordinates: 41°50'5.07"N, 12°28'58.77"E

[The Apostle Paul] I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7 (KJV 2016)

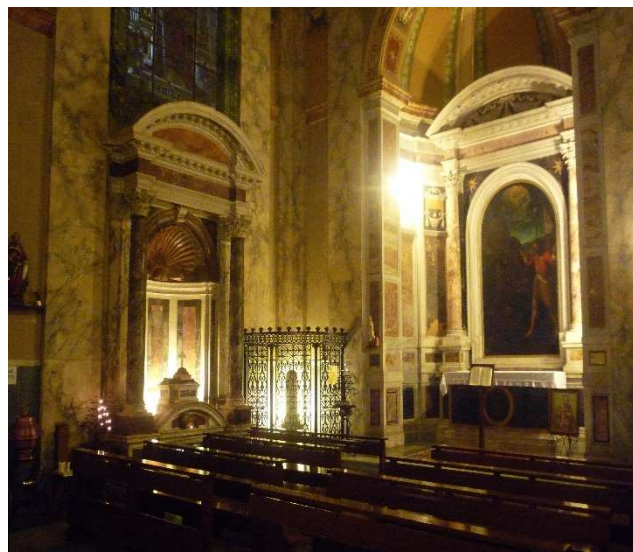
Saul of Tarsus was a man who was driven by zeal for the law of God. Trained as a Pharisee under Gamaliel, he saw the new Christian faith as something to eradicate and passionately sought to arrest all Christians. While on his way to arrest Christians in Damascus, he was met by Jesus Christ in a vision and was converted into a Christian, the very faith he once tried to destroy. The Lord Jesus called him to be an apostle, just like the twelve apostles, to found churches, to oversee and place leaders in the churches, and to go to places where the gospel was previously unknown. Of the 27 books of the New Testament, Saint Paul wrote 13 (and possibly 14) of them. After his conversion, he went to Cyprus, Asia Minor, then to Greece, Malta, then to Italy and Rome where he was under house arrest. He possibly then went to Spain to bring the gospel, then was arrested again and put in the Mamertine prison in Rome a second time and condemned to death by the Emperor Nero. It was from here that he wrote the 2nd letter to Timothy. From here Clement, Bishop of Rome, wrote in 95 AD that Paul was beheaded outside Rome at third milestone on the road to Ostia. Legend says that his severed head bounced 3 times and at each spot a spring flowed out. Even today 3 fountains flow within the church. The place is called the Abbazia delle Tre Fontane, or the Abbey or Church of the 3 Fountains.



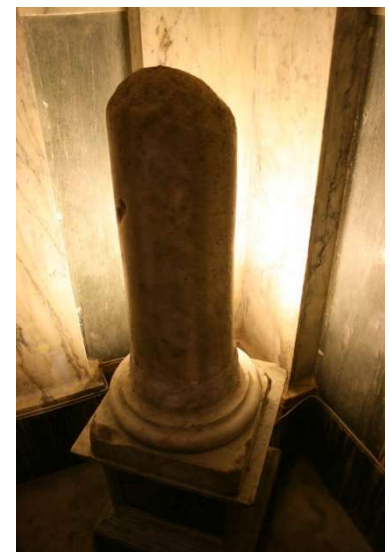
The Roman Road to Ostia down which Paul was led to his death



Church of the 3 Fountains



Inside the church with pillar in centre



The Actual Third Milestone

95

2 Timothy 4:6-8



Beheading of St. Paul



The Place of the martyrdom of St. Paul
Abbazia delle Tre Fontane

Rome, Italy



96. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. PAUL (67 AD)

Place of Burial: Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, Rome. Google Earth Coordinates: 41°51'31.24"N, 12°28'36.24"E

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." John 12:24 (KJV 2016)

At the time of the execution of St. Paul, Bishop of Rome, Clement wrote: "Weeping friends took his corpse and carried it for burial to the subterranean labyrinthes [the catacombs]." St. Paul's body was buried in the tomb of a woman named Lucina. The Basilica of St. Paul outside the walls in Rome was initially built around the tomb of the apostle by Emperor Constantine in 324 AD. In 2006, as the tomb was excavated, the 8 foot stone coffin of St. Paul was discovered that dated back to 390 AD. The inscription on the tombstone reads in Latin: "Paulo Apostolo Mart." Which means Apostle Paul, Martyr. In 2009, Carbon-14 tests on bone fragments contained within the coffin confirmed that they belonged to someone who lived from the 1st to 2nd centuries. This is indeed the bones of St. Paul the Apostle who brought the gospel to the Gentile world.



The Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, Rome



The Beautiful Interior of the Basilica



The Tomb of St. Paul



The Tombstone of St. Paul

96

John 12:24



Italian Christians

The Place of the burial of St. Paul
Basilica of St. Paul outside the walls

Rome, Italy

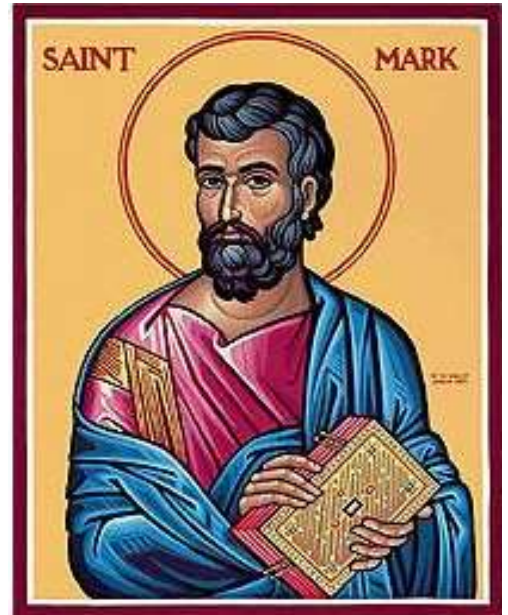


97. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. MARK (68 AD)

Place of Death & Burial: St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Cathedral, Alexandria, Egypt. Google Earth Coordinates: 31° 11'54.43"N, 29°53'57.50"E

And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their ministry, and they also took with them John whose surname was **Mark**. Acts 12:24-25 (KJV 2016)

St. Mark was not part of the 12 disciples but was the author of the second gospel that bears his name. It is said that the gospel account was really Peter's eyewitness account that Mark wrote down for him. Mark, also known as John-Mark travelled with Paul and his cousin Barnabas on their first missionary journey to Cyprus and Asia Minor. Paul didn't want him on their later missionary trips but Barnabas insisted that he stay with the team. So Barnabas and John-Mark said goodbye to Paul and went together and Paul went with Silas. Coptic Christians believe that St. Mark came to Alexandria in the year 49 AD and stayed among the Egyptian people, leading the churches, and was the first Bishop of Alexandria until his martyrdom in 68 AD. He is honored as the founder of Christianity in Africa. Pagans in Alexandria were angry that Mark was turning the people away from the gods. They put a noose around his neck and dragged him through the streets of Alexandria until he was dead. His body was buried right on the grounds of St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Cathedral.



Saint Mark's Coptic Orthodox Cathedral, Alexandria, Egypt



Chests containing the relics of St. Mark inside the Cathedral



Interior of the Beautiful Saint Mark's Coptic Orthodox Cathedra

97

Acts 12:24-25



The Martyrdom of St. Mark



The Place of the burial of St. Mark
St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Cathedral
Alexandria, Egypt

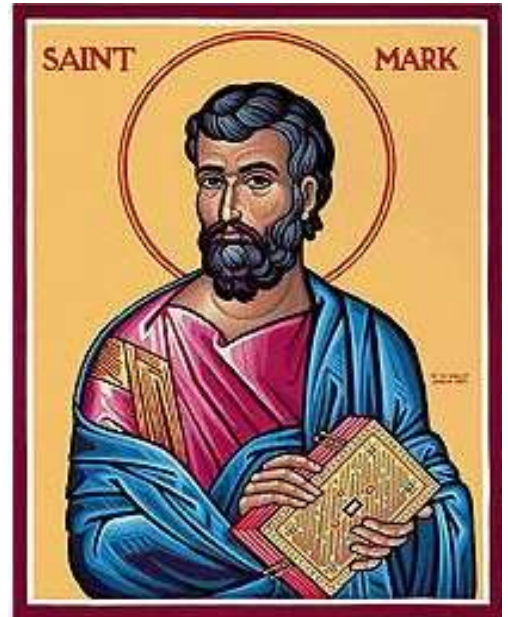


98. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. MARK (68 AD)

Later Burial: St. Mark's Basilica, Venice, Italy. Google Earth Coordinates: 45° 26' 4" N, 12° 20' 23" E

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." John 12:24 (KJV 2016)

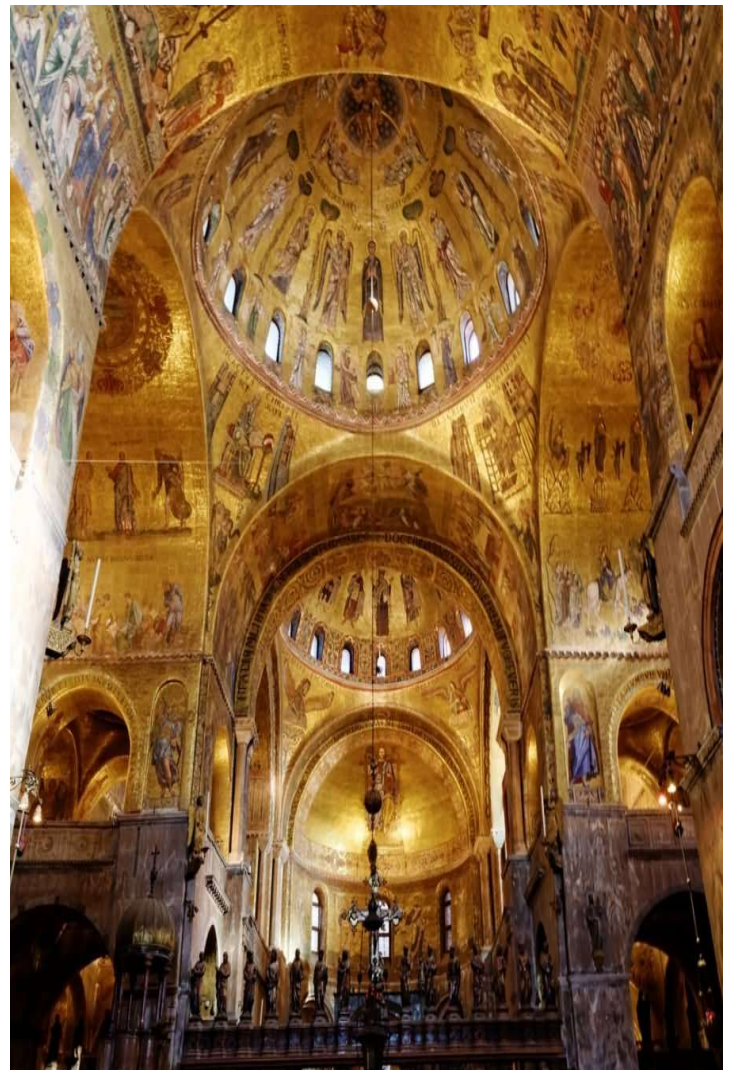
St. Mark was buried in Alexandria, Egypt, in the church of St. Mark. However, in the year 828 AD, 2 Venetian merchants helped by 2 Greek monks took the bones of St. Mark as the area was under the control of Islamic Abbasid Caliphate. They smuggled the bones of St. Mark out and hid them under a layer of pork meat and cabbage leaves. They brought the relics of St. Mark to Venice and then built the Basilica of St. Mark to house his relics. It is a fabulously richly decorated church as the merchants of Venice were renowned for their wealth and was nicknamed "The Church of Gold". Now both churches in Alexandria and Venice now have relics of St. Mark to remember the life of this amazing man of God who was the Bishop of Alexandria and wrote the Gospel of Mark.



St. Mark's Basilica, Venice, Italy and Piazza San Marco



Tomb of St. Mark inside the Basilica of St. Mark, Venice, Italy



The Beautiful Domed Interior of the Basilica of St. Mark



Egyptian Christians

The Place of the burial of St. Mark
St. Mark's Basilica
Venice, Italy

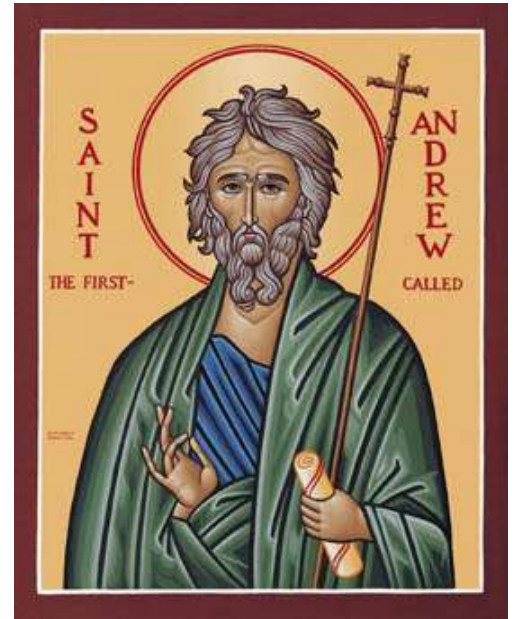


99. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. ANDREW (69 AD)

Place of Death: Patras, Greece. Google Earth Coordinates: 38°14'32.30"N, 21°43'38.48"E

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and **Andrew his brother**; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. Matthew 10:1-4 (KJV 2016)

Andrew was the brother of Peter and the son of Jonah and was from the town of Bethsaida. In the Gospel of John, Andrew is recorded as being the first disciple to be called and who brought his brother to Jesus. According to Eusebius, after the ascension of Jesus, Andrew preached the gospel in Scythia (what is today Southern Russia). As well, the Chronicle of Nestor (10th century) stated that he preached the gospel along the Black Sea and the Dnieper River as far as Kiev. He became patron Saint of Ukraine, Romania, Russia and Scotland. According to tradition, he founded the See of Byzantium (modern day Istanbul) in 38 AD. According to Hippolytus of Rome, Andrew preached in Thrace. As well, he went to Achaia and was finally crucified on an X-shaped cross in the city of Patras in Achaia in approximately 69 AD. Although In 1964 the Pope ordered that the relics of St. Andrew be transferred back to Greece.



Relics of St. Andrew's Cross, Patras



Cathedral of Saint Andrew, Patras, Greece



The beautiful Interior of the Cathedral

99

Matthew 10:1-4



The Martyrdom of St. Andrew



Where St. Andrew was crucified
Cathedral of St. Andrew
Patras, Greece

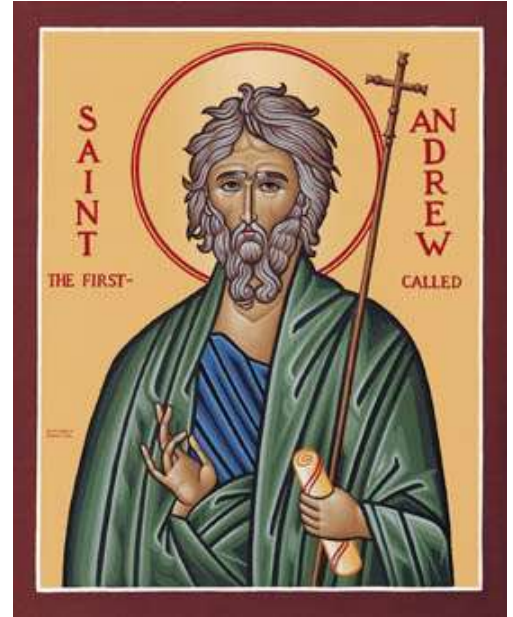


100. EVIDENCE FOR THE BURIAL OF ST. ANDREW (69 AD)

Place of Burial: Patras, Greece. Google Earth Coordinates: 38°14'32.62"N, 21°43'40.33"E

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." John 12:24 (KJV 2016)

According to tradition, the Apostle Andrew, brother of St. Peter, preached the gospel in the areas to the North of the Black Sea and in various parts of Greece. He went up the Dnieper River as far as Kiev, the capital of Ukraine. After years of fruitful ministry for the Lord Jesus, the Proconsul of Achaia, Aegeates, came to Andrew at Patras, Greece. Aegeates came to put an end to the Christian movement in his province. He confronted Andrew and told him to abandon the superstitions about Jesus which Rome had abolished and that he never teach those things again or else face crucifixion. To this Andrew replied: "I would not preach the honor and glory of the cross if I feared the death of the cross." With these words St. Andrew sealed his fate – he was condemned by the proconsul. Upon seeing the cross St. Andrew said: "O cross!" he declared, "O cross most welcome and long anticipated! I come to you with a willing mind, with joy and desire. Since I am a follower and a student of the One who died on you, I have always loved you and sought to embrace you." Then Roman soldiers beat Andrew, then tied him to a X-shaped cross where he survived for 4 whole days preaching with a smile to a crowd of almost 20,000. Then he died and his body was taken by Stratocles and Maximilla, a leading woman in Achaia, who prepared Andrew's body with spices and placed it in her own tomb. Today the relics of St. Andrew, including his skull, are in the Church of St. Andrew, Patras, Greece, along with the pieces of the cross on which he was crucified. This is a very important site for the Greek Orthodox believers whose faith is fruit of the life of St. Andrew.



The skull of St. Andrew



St. Andrew's relics (small finger, top of skull) in Patras



Relics of St. Andrew's Cross, Patras

100

John 12:24



Greek Christians

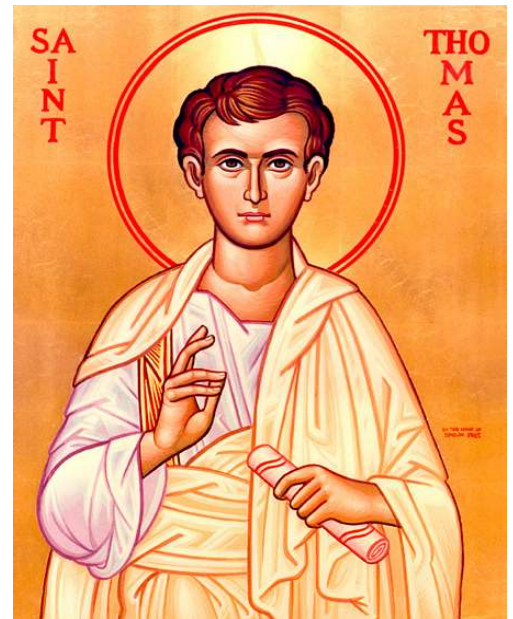
Where St. Andrew was buried
Cathedral of St. Andrew
Patras, Greece



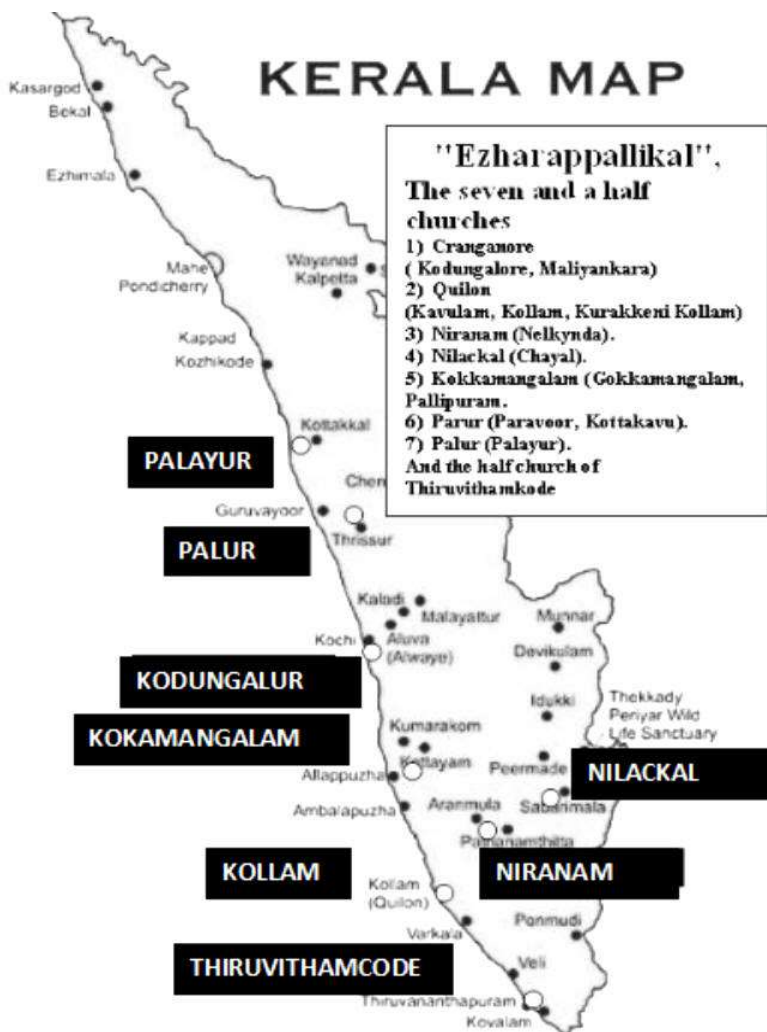
101. EVIDENCE FOR THE LIFE, DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. THOMAS (72 AD)

Place of Death: St. Thomas Mount National Shrine, Chennai, India. Google Earth Coordinates: 13° 0'18.20"N, 80° 11'35.90"E

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; **Thomas** and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. Matthew 10:1-4 (KJV 2016)



Thomas, also called Didymus, was famous among the apostles because he would not believe in the resurrection of Jesus without touching Jesus' side and hands. After seeing Jesus, he gave a declaration of the deity of Jesus by saying "My Lord and My God!". After travelling for years possibly bringing the gospel to the Parthians, according to Origen, he came to India in 52 AD and landed at the port of Muziris (modern-day North Paravur, Kerala, India) where there was a synagogue of the Jews. Thomas spent 10 years in Kerala state, establishing 7 churches, then went to Mylapore in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. According to the Acts of St. Thomas, the Kingdom of Mazdai, in the Southern India, was ruled by King Misdeus. The King was infuriated when St. Thomas converted his wife, Queen Tertia, son Juzanes, sister-in-law and her friend Markia. Misdeus led St. Thomas outside the city and ordered four soldiers to take him to the nearby hill, where the soldiers speared St. Thomas and killed him in 72 AD. Altogether his mission to India lasted 20 years and many people were brought to Christ.



Martyrdom site on St. Thomas Mount National Shrine



Interior of St. Thomas National Mount Shrine

101

Matthew 10:1-4



The Martyrdom of St. Thomas



Where St. Thomas was Martyred
St. Thomas Mount National Shrine
Chennai, India

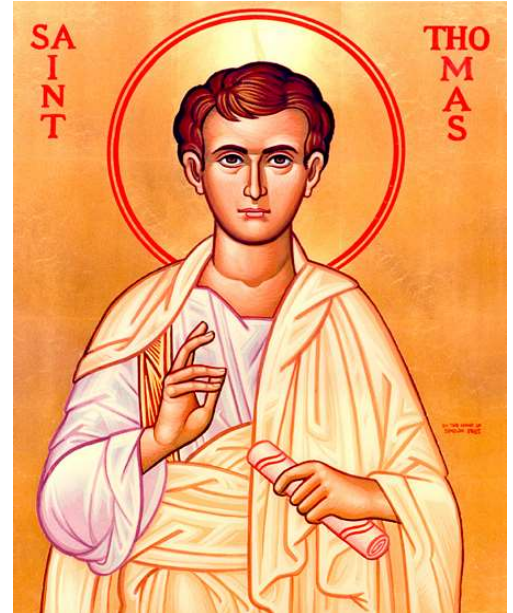


102. EVIDENCE FOR THE LIFE, DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. THOMAS (72 AD)

Place of Burial: San Thome Basilica, Chennai, India. Google Earth Coordinates: 13° 2'0.92"N, 80°16'40.03"E

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." John 12:24 (KJV 2016)

The Apostle Thomas, also called Didymus, the twin, founded 7 and a half churches in Kerala, a state on the West Coast of India. He was killed by order of King Misdemus and his body was buried in Chennai in the first century in the place where the Santhomes Cathedral Basilica stands today. In the 10th century AD, a group of Christians from Persia founded the village of San Thomes and built a church around the site of his grave. However, the structure fell into disrepair in the 14th-15th centuries. Then in 1522 Portuguese Christians moved the apostles' remains to a new tomb and church in the same general area. Now the San Thome church is called a Basilica and is a place of pilgrimage for many Indian Christians.



The Beautiful interior of San Thome Basilica



The San Thome Basilica in Mylapore, Chennai



The tomb of Saint Thomas in Mylapore, Chennai

102

John 12:24



Indian Christians



Where St. Thomas is Buried
San Thome Basilica
Mylapore, Chennai, India

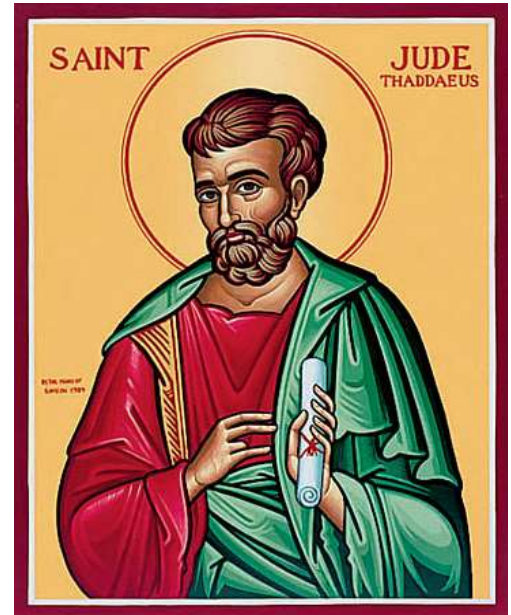


103. EVIDENCE FOR THE LIFE, DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. THADDAEUS (66 AD)

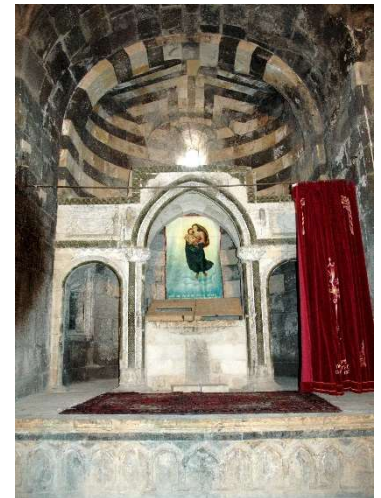
Place of Death and Burial: Qareh Kelisa, Iran. Google Earth Coordinates: 39° 5'32.00"N, 44° 32'40.00"E

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. Matthew 10:1-4 (KJV 2016)

Lebbaeus Thaddeus was a disciple who is also identified as Jude by many traditions. According to Armenian tradition, the Apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew came to Armenia in 45 AD to bring the gospel to its people in present-day Iran. The ancient Christian historian Moses of Khorene recounts that Thaddeus converted King Abgar the Fifth of Edessa. After his death, the Armenian kingdom was split into two parts. His son Ananun crowned himself in Edessa, while his nephew Sanatruk ruled in Armenia. About AD 66, Ananun gave the order to kill St. Thaddeus in Edessa by club. The king's daughter Sandokht, who had converted to Christianity, was also martyred with Thaddeus. The place of martyrdom and burial is at Qareh Kelisa, Iran. Later a church was built near his grave which many say is the oldest lasting church structure in the world. The present structure dates from the early 19th century, around a 13th century building and that was built upon an older structure going back to the first century. Thousands of Christians gather annually near the church to worship and remember the life of Saint Thaddeus or Jude, the Patron saint of Iran and the Armenians. He is also known as the Patron Saint of Lost Causes.



The Cathedral of Qareh Kelisa



Inside Qareh Kelisa



Tomb of Thaddeus, Qareh Kelisa, Iran

103

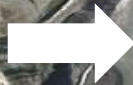
Matthew 10:1-4



The Martyrdom of Thaddeus



Iranian Christians in House Church



The Cathedral and Tomb of St. Thaddeus
Qareh Kelisa, Iran

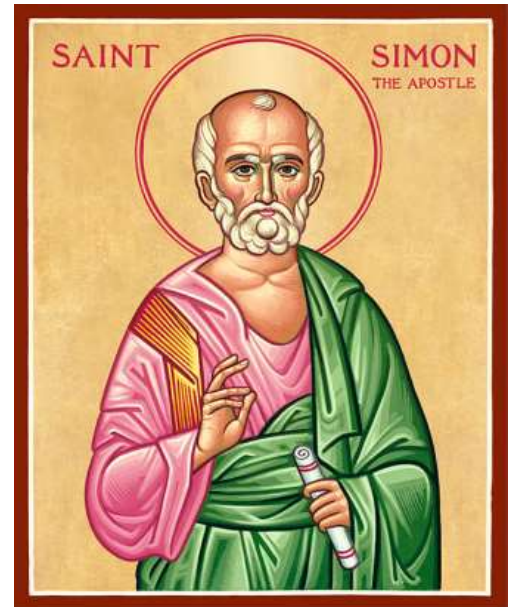


104. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH OF ST. SIMON THE CANANITE (ZEALOT) (74 AD)

Place of Death: New Athos, Georgia. Google Earth Coordinates: 43° 5'25.84"N, 40°48'58.68"E

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; **Simon the Cananite**, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. Matthew 10:1-4 (KJV 2016)

Simon the Zealot was a disciple of Jesus Christ who was either zealous for God with a strong fervor or could have been part of a group called the Kanaa'im who were zealous for the law of Moses. There is not much else written about Simon the Zealot in the New Testament, except in John 14:22 where he said: "The Foxes' Book of Martyrs from the 16th century maintains that Simon preached the gospel in Mauritania, Africa and Britain (possibly Glastonbury) and holds that Simon was martyred in Britain, possibly in Caistor, Lincolnshire, England. Ethiopian Christians believe that he was crucified in Samaria. Justus Lipsius in the 16th century AD claimed that he was sawn in half longitudinally in Suanir, Persia. However, the oldest account is from Moses of Chorene in the 5th century AD wrote that he was stoned to death at Weriosphora in Caucasian Iberia at the Church of New Athos in Georgia. The site of his martyrdom by Orthodox tradition was the Psirju River near St. Simon the Cananite Church. Next to the river are stones with red coloration where legend has it that Simon the Cananite's blood became infused in the rocks. Pilgrims come and often take stones at the site for blessing and are baptized in the river. Saint Simon is buried within the Monastery of St. Simon the Cananite in New Athos, Abkhazskaya, Georgia. Relics of St. Simon are also found in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome.



Saint Simon the Cananite Church, New Athos, Georgia



The Psirju River, site of St. Simon's Stoning



Stones along the Psirju River with Red Coloration

104

Matthew 10:1-4



Martyrdom of St. Simon the Canaanite



Site of St. Simon the Canaanite Stoning
Church of St. Simon the Canaanite
New Athos, Georgia

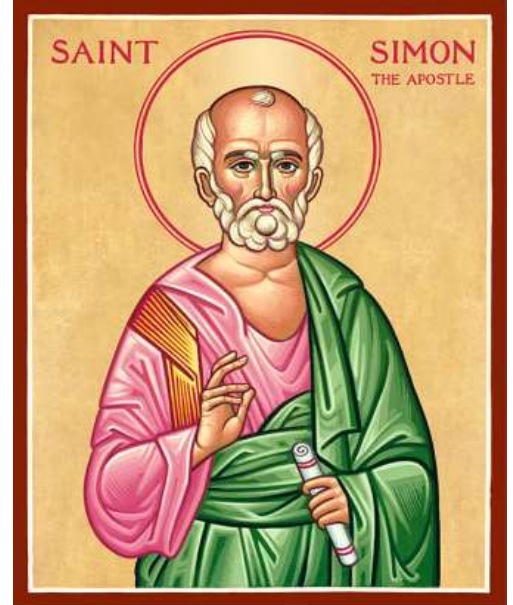


105. EVIDENCE FOR THE BURIAL OF ST. SIMON THE CANANITE (74 AD)

Place of Burial: New Athos, Georgia. Google Earth Coordinates: 43° 5'17.16"N, 40°49'16.31"E

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." John 12:24 (KJV 2016)

The site of the martyrdom of St. Simon the Cananite by Orthodox tradition was the Psirju River near St. Simon the Cananite Church. Next to the river are stones with red coloration where legend has it that Simon the Cananite's blood became infused in the rocks. Pilgrims come and often take stones at the site for blessing and are baptized in the river. Saint Simon is buried within the Monastery of St. Simon the Cananite in New Athos, Abkhazskaya, Georgia. Relics of St. Simon are also found in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome. Christians in Georgia are fruit of the life and death of the Apostle Simon the Cananite.



Monastery of St. Simon the Canaanite, New Athos, Georgia



Beautiful Artwork on the domed ceilings and walls

105

John 12:42



Georgian Christians

Place of Burial of St. Simon the Cananite
Monastery of St. Simon the Cananite

New Athos, Georgia

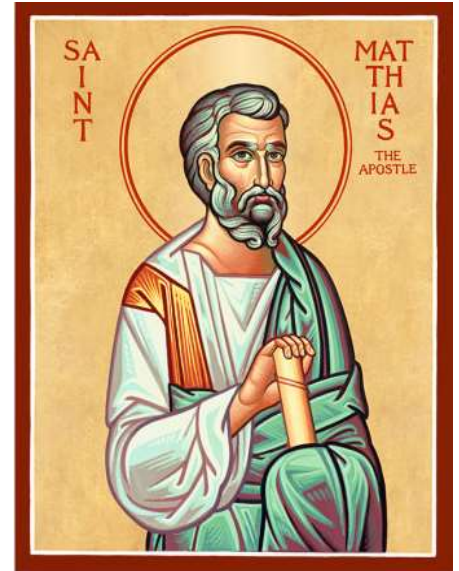


106. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH OF ST. MATTHIAS (80 AD)

Place of Initial Burial of St. Matthias: Gonio Fortress, Adjara, Lazica, Georgia. Google Earth Coordinates: 41°34'23.43"N, 41°34'24.72"E

And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and **Matthias**. And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles. Acts 1:23-26 (KJV 2016)

Matthias was chosen by the apostles to replace Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus and then committed suicide. Greek tradition states that Matthias planted the faith near Cappadocia (modern-day central Turkey), and on the coasts of the Caspian Sea. According to church historian Nicephorus, Matthew first preached the gospel in Judea, then in Aethiopia (modern-day Georgia) and was taken to the Gonio Fortress, tortured, then martyred somewhere on these grounds. The grave of St. Matthias is located in the Fortress of Gonio in modern-day Georgia. Excavations of the site are not permitted at present.



The Current Grave of St. Matthias



The Gravestone of St. Matthias



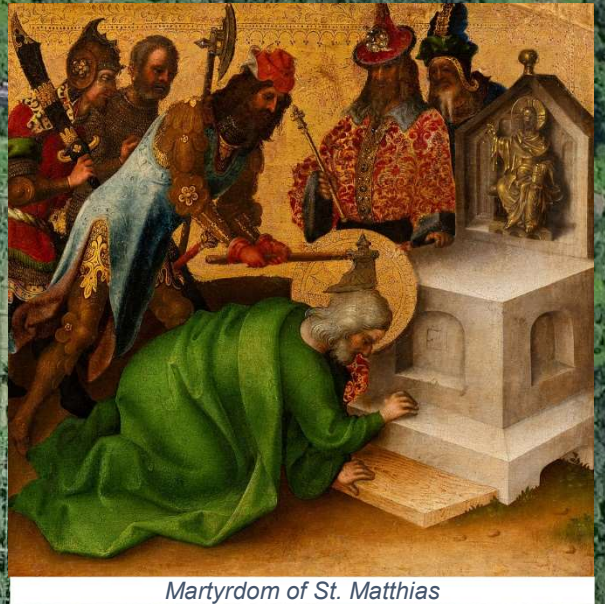
Gonio Fortress, Adjara, Lazica, Georgia



The Former Grave of St. Matthias in Gonio Fortress, Georgia

106

Acts 1:23-26



Martyrdom of St. Matthias

Place of Death & Burial of Saint Matthias
Gonio Fortress
Adjara, Lazica, Georgia

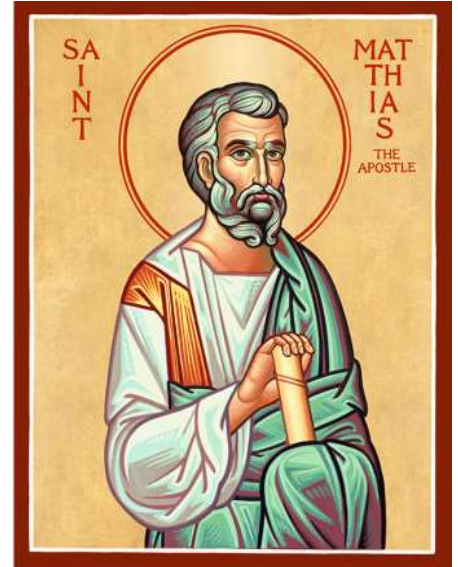


107. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. MATTHIAS (80 AD)

Place of Re-burial: Abbey of St. Matthias, Trier, Germany. Google Earth Coordinates: 49°44'17.67"N, 6°37'55.20"E

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." John 12:24 (KJV 2016)

The initial grave of St. Matthias is located in the Fortress of Gonio in modern-day Georgia. Excavations of the site are not permitted at present. In the 4th century, the Empress Helena, mother of Constantine the Great, is said to have brought the bones of St. Matthias out of the grave and brought them to Trier, Germany, where they were interred in the Abbey of St. Matthias. The church has been given the status of a Basilica minor and German pilgrims make the trip to be near the remains of the Apostle who replaced Judas as one of the twelve followers of Jesus Christ.



This effigy of St. Matthias is in the Abbey of St. Matthias, Trier, Germany



The Intricately Carved Face of St. Matthias



Abbey of St. Matthias, Trier, Germany



The Relics of St. Matthias inside Sarcophagus are kept in the basement of the Abbey

107

John 12:42



German Christians



Georgian Christians

Place of Burial of Saint Matthias
Abbey of St. Matthias
Trier, Germany



108. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. PHILIP (80 AD)

Place of Death and Initial Burial: Pammukale, Turkey. Google Earth Coordinates: 37° 55' 51.53" N, 29° 7' 51.09" E
Place of Burial: Church of Santi Apostoli, Rome, Italy. Google Earth Coordinates: 41° 53' 53.18" N, 12° 28' 59.54" E

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; **Philip** and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. Matthew 10:1-4 (KJV 2016)

Philip came from the town of Bethsaida as did Peter and Andrew. He was the one who introduced Nathanael to Jesus. He also asked Jesus how to feed 5,000 people and asks Jesus to show him the Father in the upper room. He is not to be confused with Philip the evangelist. After the ascension of Jesus, some histories record that Philip, his sister Mariamne and Bartholomew brought the gospel to Greece, Phrygia and Syria. In the Acts of Philip, we read that Philip was martyred at Hierapolis, in modern-day Turkey. In this account, we read that through a miraculous healing, the wife of the Proconsul of Hierapolis believed. This enraged the Proconsul who had Philip, Bartholomew and Mariamne all tortured. Philip and Bartholomew were then crucified upside-down and Philip preached from his cross. As a result of his preaching, the crowd released Bartholomew from his cross, but Philip insisted that they not release him, so he died as a result of crucifixion in 80 AD. During the 6th century the bones of Philip were transferred to Rome. Now St. Philip's bones are in the crypt within the Church of Santi Apostoli in Rome, Italy.



The Skull of Philip inside crypt at the Santi Apostoli Church in Rome, Italy



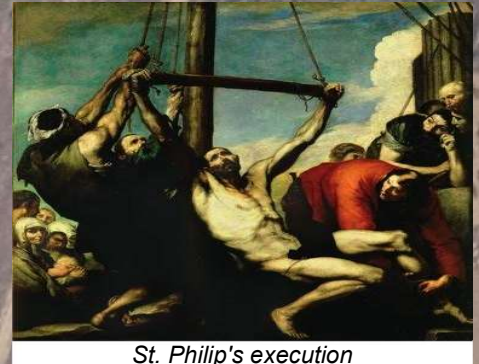
The Martyrium of Philip at Hierapolis



The Tomb of Philip in Pammukale

108

Matthew 10:1-4



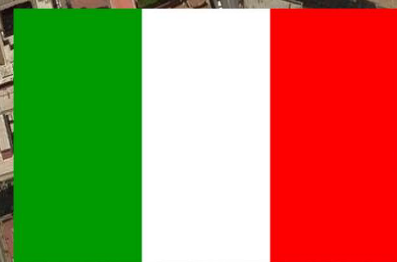
St. Philip's execution



Martyrium of Philip in Hierapolis, now Pammukale, Turkey



Turkish Christians



Church of Santi Apostoli, Rome, Italy

109. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. LUKE (84 AD)

Place of Initial Burial: Chapel of St. Luke, Thiva, Greece. Google Earth Coordinates: 38°18'54.30"N, 23°19'24.81"E

Place of Re-burial: Basilica of St. Justina, Padua, Italy. Google Earth Coordinates: 45°23'47"N, 11°52'47"E

Luke, the beloved physician and Demas greet you. Colossians 4:14 (KJV 2016)

Luke, the doctor, was the first church historian and probably a Gentile (Colossians 4:10-11) and was a companion of the Apostle Paul and travelled with him on his missionary journeys even to Rome itself by the end of the Acts of the Apostles around 61AD. He remained faithful and steadfast, serving alongside the Apostle Paul right until Paul's execution. He was an incredible historian and his descriptions in the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles have proven to be amazingly accurate in minute detail. Sir William Ramsay, an archaeologist who was knighted for his work, declared "Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy... [he] should be placed along with the very greatest of historians." He travelled extensively in Palestine, Syria, Asia Minor, Italy and Greece. Very early tradition holds that he died peacefully in Thebes, modern Thiva, in Greece in the year 84 AD. His remains were buried in a tomb that is now located in St. Luke the Evangelist Church in Thiva, Greece, in the Orthodox tradition.



The Tomb of St. Luke

St. Luke the Evangelist Church, Thiva, Greece



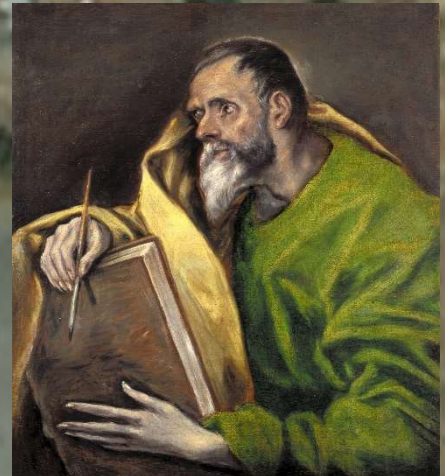
St. Luke the Evangelist Church, Thiva, Greece



The Tomb of St. Luke which now contains only a rib bone

109

Colossians 4:1



Luke Died Peacefully in Thebes



Koimitirio Thivai



Place of death and burial of St. Luke
St. Luke the Evangelist Church
Thiva, Greece



110. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. LUKE (84 AD)

Place of Initial Burial: Chapel of St. Luke, Thiva, Greece. Google Earth Coordinates: 38°18'54.30"N, 23°19'24.81"E

Luke, the beloved physician and Demas greet you. Colossians 4:14 (KJV 2016)

The remains of Dr. Luke, the saint, were buried in a tomb in Thiva, Greece. Then in the year 338 AD St. Luke's remains were transferred to Constantinople by Constantine. They were placed in the Church of the Holy Apostles in Constantinople. The church later burned down yet the coffin of St. Luke remained undamaged by the fire. Then in 527 AD the Emperor Justinian rebuilt the church and placed a shrine around the tomb of St. Luke. Next, before the year 1177 AD, a coffin made out of lead with the image of the 3 calf's heads – symbolic of the Gospel of Luke – was transferred from Constantinople to its current resting place – in a marble sarcophagus in Padua, Italy. In 1354, Roman Emperor Charles IV asked for the skull of St. Luke to be removed and taken to Prague. Then in 1998 the marble sarcophagus in Padua was opened and inside was a skeleton (minus the skull) of a man between 70-85 with 2 loose teeth. Radiocarbon dating showed that the man had lived between 72-416 AD. We know that St. Luke died in 84 AD so the gender and time period match. Then a mitochondrial DNA test was done which showed that the remains were of a man who was from Syrian descent, which is true of Luke as he was from Antioch. Finally, in 2000, the Catholic Bishop of Padua, Bishop Mattiazzo sent a rib from the skeletal remains to put in the empty tomb of St. Luke in Thebes. So we can confirm that the remains are most likely those of the Evangelist, Church historian and physician, St. Luke.



Abbey of St. Justina, Padua, Italy which houses relics of Luke



Interior of Abbey of St. Justina, Padua, Italy



The Reliquary of St. Luke inside the church at Padua

110

Colossians 4:1



Greek Christians

Place of final burial of St. Luke
Abbey of St. Justina
Padua, Italy

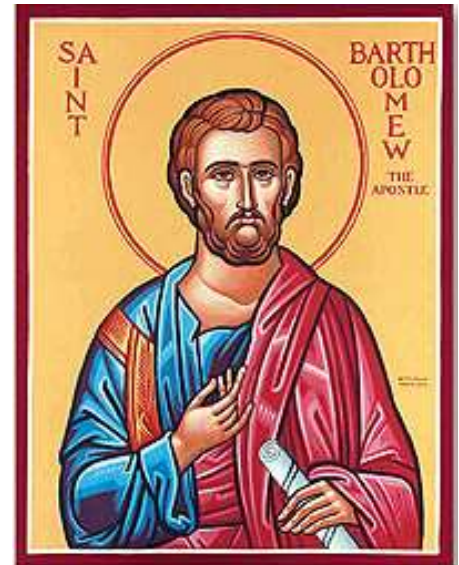


111. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW (80-100 AD)

Place of Death and Burial: Albayrak Bucagi, Turkey. Google Earth Coordinates: 38° 8'59.92"N, 44° 12'46.56"E

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and **Bartholomew**; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. Matthew 10:1-4 (KJV 2016)

Bartholomew, whom many believe was also called Nathanael, was born in Cana of Galilee and seems to always be mentioned along with the disciple Philip. After the ascension of Jesus, some histories record that Bartholomew, Philip and his sister Mariamne brought the gospel to Greece, Phrygia and Syria. Eusebius of Caesarea recounts how Bartholomew brought the gospel to India's Konkan coast to the ancient city of Kalyan. Here he left behind a copy of Matthew's gospel and translated it into their language. In the Acts of Philip, we read that Bartholomew, Philip and Mariamne were all tortured in Hierapolis because the Proconsul of Hierapolis' wife became a Christian through a miraculous healing. Bartholomew and Philip were then crucified upside-down. Philip preached the gospel from his cross and as a result of his preaching, the crowd released Bartholomew from his cross, but Philip insisted that they not release him, so he died as a result of crucifixion in 80 AD. Following this incident, he went to preach the gospel along with the Apostle Thaddeus in present-day Armenia. He brought the gospel to the King of Armenia, King Polymius, who became a Christian, and resulted in the King's brother Astyages condemning Bartholomew to death. According to tradition he was skinned alive then crucified upside down in the ancient city of Albanopolis in Armenia between 80-100 AD. The Arsacid King Sanatruk who was healed by God of leprosy through the ministry of Saint Bartholomew built a church around the site of Bartholomew's martyrdom in the 1st century. The monastery was completed in the 13th century and was a major place of pilgrimage for Armenian Christians as Bartholomew is the Patron saint of Armenia. Sadly during the Armenian genocide following World War One the monastery was partially destroyed and is now half-ruined. In the year 983, the bones of Bartholomew were transferred to the Isle of Tiber in Rome and a basilica set up to preserve his remains was built called the Church of St. Bartholomew-in-the-Island in Rome.



India's Konkan Coast

Areas where Bartholomew preached the gospel:

- Greece
- Phrygia
- Syria
- Central India
- Armenia
- Kush



St. Bartholomew's Mission to Armenia



Monastery of Saint Bartholomew (Early 1900s)



Ruins of the Monastery in 2009

111

Matthew 10:1-4



St. Bartholomew was martyred here



Armenian Christians



Martyrdom of St. Bartholomew



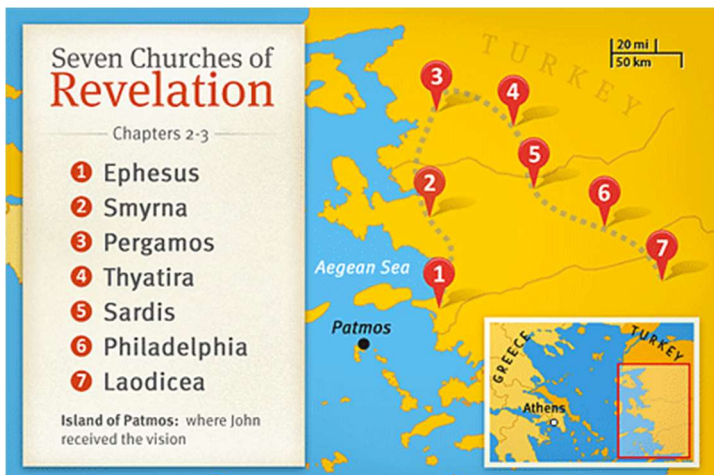
Church of St. Bartholomew-in-the-Island, Rome, Italy

112. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE PLACE OF THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST TO ST. JOHN

Skala, Patmos, Greece. Google Earth Coordinates: 37°18'51.51"N, 26°32'38.92"E

I John, who am also your brother and companion in tribulation and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. Revelation 1:9 (KJV 2016)

In the second century, following the death of the Apostle John, a number of Christian basilicas were erected. In 300-350 AD, a Grand Royal Basilica was erected on the same site as the Monastery of St. John. In Muslim raids from the 7th to the 9th centuries, the Basilica was destroyed. Then in the year 1088, Father John Christodoulos of Nicaea, came to the deserted Island of Patmos and had the Monastery of St. John the Theologian built on the same site as the Byzantine ruins. As well, a cave was identified as the place where St. John received the Revelation. The monastery was built in 1091 and St. John Christodoulos died two years later in 1093.



Beautiful Island of Patmos, Greece




Holy Cave of the Apocalypse of St. John, Patmos




Inside the Cave of the Apocalypse

The Re-Discovery of St. John's Cave in 1091



St. John Christodoulos




Orthodox Monk from Nicaea, Bithynia

Bible Evidence:
Revelation 1:9

Education:
Lived as a hermit on Mount Olympus then was Abbot of the Mount Lamos Monastery near Caria.

Organization/Place of Work
He came to Patmos with Father Arsenios, an Asthetic Hermit who was a man of substance and together they built the monastery which then Christodoulos ran.



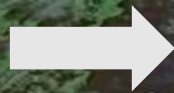
Google Earth Coordinates: 37°18'51.51"N, 26°32'38.92"E



Monastery of St. John the Theologian, Patmos

112

Revelation 1:9



Cave of the Apocalypse
Skala, Patmos, Greece



113. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS

Selçuk, İzmir Province, Turkey. Google Earth Coordinates: 37°56'19.15"N, 27°20'27.90"E

To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands: "I know your works, your labor, your endurance, and how you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have endurance, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; and repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you suddenly and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. But you have this, that you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the Tree of Life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.'" Revelation 2:1-7

As Christians came under extreme persecution following the birth of the church at Pentecost, believers moved out from Judea to other parts of the Roman Empire bringing the gospel. Ephesus was a very strategic place as it was a very large port city of about 250,000 and many came through to visit the enormous Temple of Artemis and to buy and sell. It was to the ancient world what New York City is today. The disciple John came to Ephesus and became founder of the church there as he cared for Mary the Mother of Jesus until her death. Then Paul the Apostle came through and preached the gospel in the Lecture Hall of Tyrannus and won many over to Jesus Christ. The church grew and new converts burned their books on magic arts. The belief in pagan gods was losing its power to faith in Jesus Christ. This so affected the sale of silver images of Diana that the silversmiths were in danger of losing their trade. After an uprising in the theatre of Ephesus over this incident, the people calmed down and the church continued to grow under Paul's leadership. He then appointed Timothy as Bishop of the church of Ephesus. For a few decades under the leadership of the apostles the church was doing well, but by the close of the first century, Jesus tells the church that although they had kept faithful in church doctrine they had left their first love and needed to repent and get back to loving God and loving others such as rescuing abandoned babies and such as Jesus had commanded.



Reconstruction of Ephesus in the First century



Lecture Hall of Tyrannus may have stood in front of where the Celsus library (above) is today



Basilica of St. John



Ruins of Ancient Ephesus

113

Revelation 2:1-7



City of Ephesus

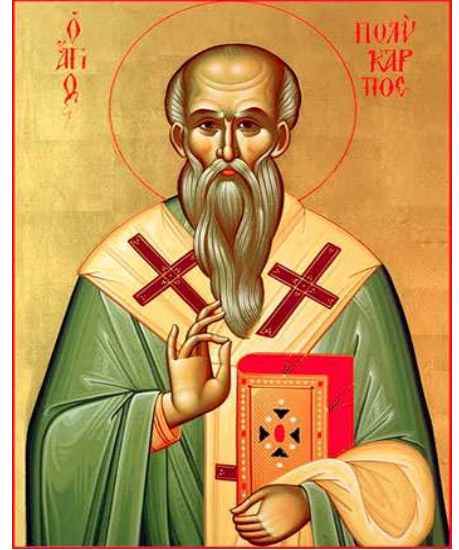
Selcuk, Izmir, Turkey



114. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE CHURCH AT SMYRNA

Selçuk, İzmir Province, Turkey. Google Earth Coordinates: 38° 25'7.00"N, 27° 8'21.00"E

“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and is alive: “I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will all have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.”’ Revelation 2:8-11



St. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna

Smyrna is located 56 km NNE of Ephesus and is on the Aegean Sea where the Hermus River flows into the Gulf of Izmir. Now it is the site of one of the largest cities in Turkey – Izmir. In the first century Smyrna became a center of the cult of Emperor worship as a temple to the deity of Rome was built in the city. Those who refused to worship the Emperor were seen as enemies of the state. The church was suffering intense persecution and was made up of poor people yet who were rich in the eyes of God. About 60 years later, one of these heroes of the faith was a man named Polycarp who had been a disciple of John. He was a man who was devoted to prayer for all the churches. Under the persecution that came to the early church, Polycarp was arrested by the Proconsul in Smyrna in 155 AD. When asked to denounce his faith in Jesus Christ and “swear by the fortune of Caesar”, Polycarp stated boldly: “Eighty and six years have I served Christ, nor has He ever done me any harm. How, then, could I blaspheme my King who saved me? I bless Thee for deigning me worthy of this day and this hour that I may be among Thy martyrs and drink the cup of my Lord Jesus Christ.” He was then martyred by stabbing because his body would not burn at the stake. Following his example, the church of Christ, although persecuted through the centuries still is alive and well in Turkey.



Reconstruction of Smyrna in the First century



The Agora (Marketplace) of Ancient Smyrna



The Marketplace

114

Revelation 2:8-11



Turkish Christians

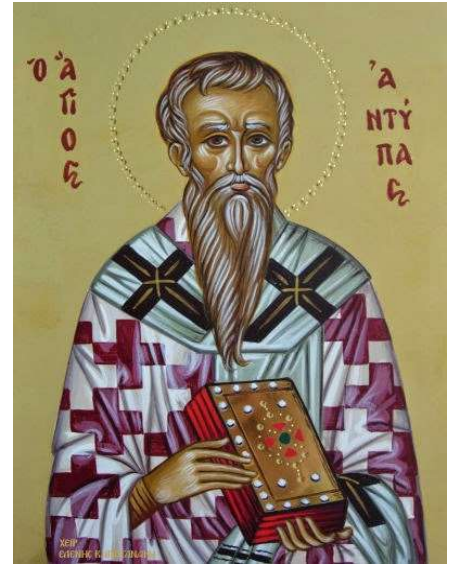
Ruins of Ancient Smyrna
Selçuk, İzmir Province, Turkey



115. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE CHURCH AT PERGAMUM

Bergama, Izmir Province, Turkey. Google Earth Coordinates: 39° 7'57.00"N, 27°11'3.00"E

“And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two edged sword: “I know your works, and where you dwell, even where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in those days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. But I have a few things against you, because you have some there who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. And also you have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent, or else I will come to you suddenly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the hidden manna. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.” Revelation 2:12-17



St. Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum

Pergamum is located 24 km from the Aegean sea. Pergamum was the political centre of Asia Minor. It was also the capital of emperor worship, where incense was offered to Caesar as the “divine”. The Christian martyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum who was ordained by the Apostle John, had exorcised many demons in the city, causing the priests to be afraid of losing business. Antipas was arrested and ordered to offer incense in sacrifice to the emperor, declaring that the Emperor was “Lord and God”. When he refused, Antipas was put to death by burning in a bull-shaped altar on the Altar of Zeus in 92 AD. This altar was moved and is now on display in the Museum in Berlin. As well, the people of Pergamum worshipped Asclepius, the god of healing, who was often represented as a man with serpents around him. The temple of Asclepius was called the Asclepion and often it was filled with non-venomous snakes who would writhe on top of the person coming in for healing as they slept. Priests of Asclepius believed that Asclepius spoke through the snakes and brought about healing. The symbol of Asclepius was two coiled snakes on a staff (which today is still the symbol of the medical arts). Christians in Pergamum were faced with many difficulties. They could compromise and offer incense to Caesar or they could not offer incense and be more persecuted but truly overcome with Christ Jesus and receive salvation and a white stone. For St. Antipas his allegiance was completely to the Lord Jesus Christ. He remained faithful unto death and was a shining light in the darkest of places.



Ancient Pergamum



The Pergamon Pagan Altar which was moved to Berlin, Germany



Patients in the Asklepion First century



The Martyrdom of Antipas



The Asklepion in Pergamum

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Revelation 2:12-17



**Ruins of Ancient Pergamum
Bergama, Izmir Province, Turkey**



116. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE CHURCH AT THYATIRA

Akhisar, Manisa Province, Turkey. Google Earth Coordinates: 38°55'12.19"N, 27°50'11.09"E

“And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, ‘These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like fine brass: “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your endurance; and your works, and the last to be more than the first. But I have a few things against you, because you permit that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. Behold, I will throw her into a bed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. I will kill her children with death, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works. “Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, and who have not known, as they say, the depths of Satan, I will put on you no other burden. But what you already have, hold firmly until I come. And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations: ‘He will rule them with a rod of iron; they will be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’ just as I have received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Revelation 2:18-29

Thyatira was about 32 km Southeast of Pergamum on a valley road between the Hermus and Caicus Rivers. As Thyatira was between the cities of Pergamum and Sardis, it was involved in trade and the selling of manufactured goods by tradespeople such as potters, tanners, metal workers, coppersmiths, weavers, robe makers and dyers. When Jesus mentions fine brass it is interesting as Thyatira was famous for their manufacture of fine brass. Lydia, the first convert in Europe was from Thyatira and sold purple cloth that was manufactured there using dye from the Madder root (*Rubia tinctorum*). All of these tradespeople were part of trade guilds and often these guilds would meet and go to pagan dinners and be involved in sexual immorality. Believers in Thyatira had become corrupted as well. There was a woman in the church who claimed to be a follower of Jesus but was a temptress who led people in the church to commit sexual immorality with her and eat foods sacrificed to idols. The Lord Jesus gave her time to repent but she did not and soon she and those who sinned with her would be judged by God. For those faithful Christians in the church who were not part of this, Jesus told them to hold firmly to their faith in Christ until His return. Excavations performed in 1974-1975 revealed a Byzantine era monastery that stood from the 2nd century to the 6th century in Thyatira.



The ruins of Thyatira



Ancient Thyatira



Ruins of a 2nd – 6th century Basilica in Thyatira

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Revelation 2:18-29



**Ruins of Ancient Thyatira
Akhisar, Manisa Province, Turkey**



117. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE CHURCH AT SARDIS

Sart, Manisa Province, Turkey. Google Earth Coordinates: 38°29'17.78"N, 28° 2'24.70"E

“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, ‘These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are about to die, because I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; and hold firmly and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, because they are worthy. He who overcomes, these will be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Revelation 3:1-6

Sardis, now modern Sart, Turkey, is located along the junction of highways linking Ephesus, Smyrna and Pergamos. It was the capital of the Lydian Empire and during the reign of King Croetus, metallurgists discovered how to separate silver from gold in the alloy electrum. Pure silver and gold coins could now be minted in the capital of the Lydian Empire and Sardis and King Croetus soon became famous for its wealth. However, Persian King Cyrus conquered Croetus in 546 BC because its watchmen had not kept proper guard on a seemingly impenetrable part of the city. Hundreds of years later, in 17 AD, Sardis suffered a major earthquake that destroyed the city. It was rebuilt with the financial assistance from the Roman Emperor Tiberias and was exempted from taxes for 5 years. Excavations of the city in 1958 by G.M.A. Hanffman of Harvard, and Henry Detweiler of Cornell Universities, revealed a very large synagogue and a very impressive gymnasium and bath complex that dates back to the 2nd century. They also uncovered late Roman houses and shops and an industrial area to separate gold from silver. Much of the gym and bath complex structure is still intact and was a precursor to the more modern famous Turkish baths. Sadly, excavation revealed only a few Christian inscriptions in Sardis. The gospel came to Sardis years before the Apostle John wrote the Book of Revelation. The church at Sardis was once known to be a vibrant and living, but it was in fact dead and the church almost completely gone in 95 AD. Wealth and materialism and the desire for physical comforts had lured many into complacency and compromise. However, there were a few in Sardis who truly followed Jesus Christ and they walked with Jesus in white.



Gymnasium Complex of Sardis



Third century Synagogue of Sardis



Late Roman Shops in Sardis



Synagogue, Gymnasium and Bath Complex of Sardis

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Revelation 3:1-6



Ruins of Ancient Sardis
Sart, Manisa Province, Turkey



118. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA

Alaşehir, Manisa Province, Turkey. *Google Earth Coordinates: 38° 20' 58.20" N, 28° 31' 4.74" E*

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”’: “I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; because, you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but do lie, behold, I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. Because you have kept My word to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial that will come upon the entire world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming suddenly! Hold firmly to what you have, that no one may take your crown. He who overcomes, I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, which is New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name. “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”” Revelation 3:7-13

Philadelphia, now modern Alaşehir, Turkey, is located in the valley of the Kuzuçay at the foot of the Bozdağ Mountain (it was called Mount Tmolus). King Eumenes II of Pergamon, who reigned from 197-160 BC, founded the city and named it for the love of his brother Attalus II, who reigned after him. Philadelphia comes from Phila (brotherly love), delphos (city) - the “City of Brotherly Love”. In 17 AD, an earthquake badly damaged Philadelphia. In response, the Roman Emperor Tiberias exempted the city from having to pay taxes. In return, the Philadelphians honoured the Emperor for his generosity by naming the city NeoCaesarea (New Caesarea). The city had indeed received a new name. In Philadelphia, Christians were suffering persecution at the hands of Jews who were called by Jesus “The synagogue of Satan”. The church received nothing but praise from Jesus Christ. Churches nowadays name their local church after Philadelphia since they were so faithful to Jesus Christ. In more recent times, during the Greco-Turkish war of 1919-1922, the Greek army occupied the city of Alaşehir (Philadelphia). Then when they left, they burned the city to the ground, destroying 70% of the city itself. An estimated 3,000 people died when the city was set on fire. What remains today of Philadelphia is the 11th century church of St. John the Theologian which has mostly been destroyed.



The Church of St. John, Ancient Philadelphia, Alasehir, Turkey



Walking path within grounds of church



Location of the Ancient City of Philadelphia



Philadelphia in the 18th C.

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Revelation 3:7-13



**Ruins of Ancient Philadelphia
Alaşehir, Manisa Province, Turkey**

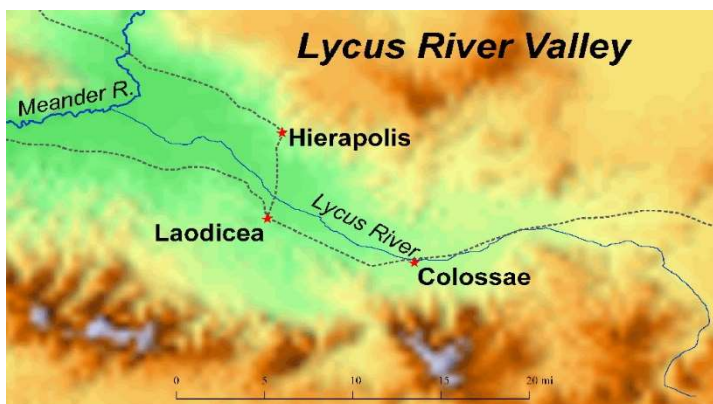


119. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE CHURCH AT LAODICEA

Eskihisar, Denizli Province, Turkey. Google Earth Coordinates: 37°50'10.57"N, 29° 6'32.49"E

“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the beginning of the creation of God: “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of my mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, am increased with possessions, and have need of nothing,’ but do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked; I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white clothing, that you may be clothed, so that the shame of your nakedness does not appear; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with Him, and he with Me. To him that overcomes will I allow to sit with Me on My throne, just as I also overcame and have sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Revelation 3:14-22 (KJV 2016)

The city of Laodicea was located 70 km southeast of Philadelphia and 160 km east of Ephesus on the southern bank of the Lycus River. The city grew to wealth during Roman times due to its sale of wool from black sheep which was woven in the city and coveted all across the Roman world. As well the city produced a paste which treated eye ailments. . The doctors were so famous that they had their names on coins. Laodicea was also known as a banking and money changing centre. The city was so wealthy that in 60 AD when the city was destroyed by an earthquake, no funds from Rome were necessary to rebuild. Excavations of ancient Laodicea showed marble everywhere, 2 theatres, a stadium and Christians in the city boasted that they were rich and had need of nothing in the first century. However, it had no pure water of its own. Its water had to be supplied by an aqueduct which was 10 km to the North in Denizli. By the time the hot water got to the city it was neither hot nor cold but was lukewarm. The church was wealthy and self-sufficient outwardly but inwardly and spiritually was impoverished, lukewarm in their faith was about to be expelled out of the care of Jesus and needed to repent.



Hot Springs which supplied Laodicea with water



Aqueduct with now calcified pipes that brought water to Laodicea

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Revelation 3:14-22

Ruins of Ancient Laodicea
Eskihisar, Denizli Province, Turkey



120. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. JOHN (100 AD)

Place of Burial: Selçuk, İzmir Province, Turkey. *Google Earth Coordinates:* 37°57'11.98"N, 27°22'1.39"E

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. Matthew 10:1-4 (KJV 2016)

The Apostle John was the son of Zebedee and Salome and his brother James was also one of the other apostles who died many years earlier. He was born around 6 AD in Bethsaida and was first a follower of John the Baptist then became a disciple of Jesus Christ. He was one of the 3 closest disciples to Jesus. Often we read how Jesus took Peter, James and John with him. He and his brother, John, were called Boanerges, which means “sons of Thunder”. It was John who sat next to Jesus at the last supper and the one who was referred to as “the one that Jesus loved”. Jesus had a special bond with the Apostle John and no better sign of this was when Jesus was dying he gave the care of Mary His mother into the hands of John by saying to John “here is your mother” and to Mary “here is your son”. The church historian Irenaeus records that the Apostle John came to Ephesus in Asia Minor and became the Bishop of Ephesus. He would have brought Mary with him to Ephesus and she died around 46 AD. He remained strong in his faith, maintaining the gospel truths. According to tradition, the Apostle John was arrested under the Emperor Domitian and plunged into a pot of boiling oil in Rome. When he suffered no ill effects, John was taken and banished to the Island of Patmos. When the Emperor died, the new Emperor freed the Apostle John from the Island of Patmos. He went back to Ephesus and continued to be bishop until his peaceful death in 100 AD. In 400 AD, 300 years after his death, a stone church was erected at the place of his death. The Emperor Justinian then built a huge cross-shaped Basilica with domes in 537 AD. Today ruins mark the location of St. John’s Basilica in ancient Ephesus. The church of Jesus Christ continues to grow and thrive to this day!



St. John in Boiling Oil in Rome



The Entrance of St. John's Basilica



The Tomb of the Apostle John, Ancient Ephesus



St. John's Basilica, Ancient Ephesus

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Matthew 10:1-4

Grave of St. John the Apostle
Selçuk, Izmir Province, Turkey

