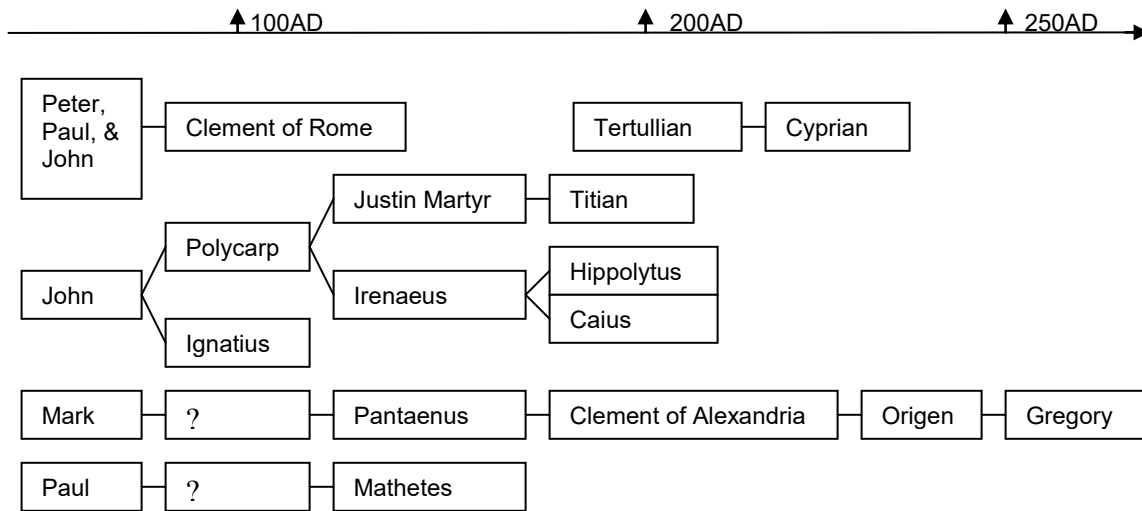


### The Apostles and Their Disciples



### Who were the Fathers?

The above chart identifies the major ancient church fathers and the apostle who taught them. The most important church fathers to know are the apostles and the eyewitnesses of the Apostle John. So we will start by looking at the apostles.

### The Apostles

#### The Apostle John

The Apostle John was banished from Asia Minor to the Isle of Patmos for being a Christian. While there, he wrote the book of Revelation, in AD 96. When Roman Emperor Domitian died in AD 96, his decrees were nullified and John was released. John went back to the Asian capital Ephesus and set it up as a headquarters for missionary activity. John and his disciple, Polycarp, sent out missionaries and planted churches for over twenty years. John died there of old age during the time of Emperor Trajan (AD 98-117). Both Church father Hipolytus and Greek tradition reveal that under the city of Ephesus are the remains of the church that was dedicated to St. John. Contained in it is the tomb of St. John, and close by, are the tombs of Timothy and Mary, the mother of our Lord.



Apostle John

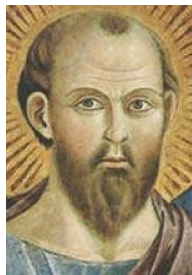
Victorinus, in chapter 11 of his commentary on Revelation, says:

“For when Valentinus, and Cerinthus, and Ebion, and others of the school of Satan, were scattered abroad throughout the world, there assembled together to the Apostle John from the neighboring provinces all the bishops, and compelled him to draw up his testimony.” *Commentary on the Apocalypse by Victorinus AD 270*

While the Muratorian Canon Fragment (see Chapter 3) shows the Gospel of John was written earlier; Victorinus taught First and Second John were written from Ephesus later, after the Gnostic cults were causing major problems. First John was written by the apostle specifically against his arch-enemy Cerinthus. Tertullian said the book of Jude was written to counter the Gnostic Carpocrates. See the chapter on Gnostics for more details on these subjects.

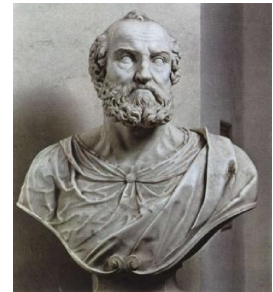
### The Apostles Peter and Paul

Paul became an apostle a year after the ascension of Christ; and beginning at Jerusalem, he preached as far away as Illyricum, Italy, and Spain. He preached the Gospel for a total of thirty-five years. Paul was in prison for two years. (This is recorded in the last chapter of the book of Acts.) He was released and then took his last missionary trip (not recorded in the book of Acts). He traveled to Spain, Britain, and came back through Gaul. Britain and Rome were still at war, and Christianity was taking hold very well in Britain. For this reason, while in Gaul, Paul was arrested once again and taken back to Rome on charges of



Apostle Paul

conspiracy and preaching a non-official religion. Peter was arrested about the same time. Peter preached the Gospel in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Betania, Italy, and Asia. Peter and Paul were both in prison in Rome for just a matter of weeks. On June 27th, AD 67, they were both put to death. The apostle Peter was crucified upside down at his request, feeling unworthy to be crucified like Christ. Paul, being a Roman citizen, was beheaded. Both were buried in the city of Rome. Ancient church history records Peter, Paul, Barnabas, and several others were in Rome at times. Nowhere is it mentioned that *any* of them, including Peter, was ever a bishop at the church at Rome.



Apostle Peter

### James

James was the first bishop of Jerusalem. He was the half-brother of our Lord Jesus Christ. He was considered so holy that the Jews allowed him to pray daily in the temple. He was nicknamed “camel knees” because of the calluses he had on his knees from long prayers kneeling on the stone floor of the temple. He was not open about his faith in Jesus. After being the pastor at Jerusalem for fourteen years, the non-believing Jews asked him to preach against Christ at a festival. At the festival, he declared Jesus to be the true Messiah. The unbelieving Jews immediately rushed at him and threw him off the pillar of the temple. They then took a stone and beat his brains out, and so he died a martyr.

## Ancient Church Fathers

### **Mark**

Mark wrote the Gospel of Mark. He was one of the Seventy and ministered in Egypt. He was martyred by being dragged to death behind a train of horses in Alexandria. There was an Essene-type of monastic group there at Alexandria that converted to Christianity. They were known as Therapeute, and they brought with them many odd monastic practices, like the idea of a sunrise service and Vestal Virgins. See *Ancient Paganism* for details on the Therapeute and how sorcery came into the church in the early years.

### **Hippolytus' account of the other apostles**

**Andrew** preached to the Scythians and Thracians. He was martyred – crucified, suspended on an olive tree, at Patrae, a town of Achaia; and was buried there.

**James**, Andrew's brother, was beheaded by Herod the Tetrarch when preaching in Judea, and was buried there.

**Philip** preached in Phrygia. In the time of Domitian he was crucified head downward in Hierapolis and was buried there.

**Bartholomew** preached to the Indians, to whom he also gave the Gospel according to Matthew, and was crucified head downward. He was buried in Allatum, a town of Armenia.

**Matthew** wrote his Gospel in the Hebrew tongue and published it at Jerusalem. He “fell asleep” at Hieres, a town of Parthia.

**Thomas** preached to the Parthians, Medes, Persians, Hyrcanians, Bactrians, and Margians, and was thrust through in the four members of his body with pine spears at Calamene, the city of India, and was buried there.

**James, the son of Alphaeus**, was stoned to death by the Jews when preaching in Jerusalem. He was buried there beside the temple.

**Jude**, who is also called Lebbaeus, preached to the people of Edessa, and to all Mesopotamia, and fell asleep at Berytus, where he was buried.

**Simon** the Zealot, the son of Cleopas, who is also called Jude, became bishop of Jerusalem after James the Just, and fell asleep and was buried there at the age of 120 years.

**Matthias**, who was one of the Seventy, was numbered along with the eleven apostles, and preached in Jerusalem, where he fell asleep. He was buried there in Jerusalem.

The following chart of the seventy disciples Jesus sent out two-by-two is provided for your information. It was compiled by Hippolytus about the year AD 220.