

The Apostle John

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August 2, 2020

1. Early years/family/village

a. John is the son of Zebedee and the brother of James

**Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them,
*Matthew 4:21 (NKJV)***

b. His mother was Salome

**55 And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar,
56 among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.**

Matthew 27:55-56 (NKJV)

40 There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome, 41 who also followed Him and ministered to Him when He was in Galilee, and many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.

Mark 15:40-41 (NKJV)

c. His mother, Salome, was one of the women who travelled with Jesus and ministered to His needs. Did John grow up in a believing home ? At least by this time they all shared faith in Christ.

And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar, *Matthew 27:55 (NKJV)*

There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome, *Mark 15:40 (NKJV)*

Salome also cared for His needs in death:

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary *the mother* of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. *Mark 16:1 (NKJV)*

d. His mother, Salome, seems to have been the sister of Jesus' mother Mary:

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. *John 19:25 (NKJV)*

among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons. *Matthew 27:56 (NKJV)*

e. He came from a family wealthy enough to have servants

And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went after Him.

Mark 1:20 (NKJV)

f. He and James were partners in business with Peter.

and so also *were* James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men."

Luke 5:10 (NKJV)

g. He lived in Capernaum

Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught.

Mark 1:21 (NKJV)

Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

Mark 1:29 (NKJV)

(Note, so did Peter and Andrew, but they were originally from Bethsaida)

Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

John 1:44 (NKJV)

2. Meeting the Lord

35 Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. 36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. 38 Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" 39 He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). 40 One of the two who heard John *speak*, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. *John 1:35-40(NKJV)*

They were convinced Jesus was the Messiah.

He [Andrew] first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ).

John 1:41 (NKJV)

3. Called to be a disciple

18 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." 20 They immediately left *their* nets and followed Him. 21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them,
Matthew 4:18-21 (NKJV)

4. A Son of Thunder (Boanerges)

James the *son* of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, "Sons of Thunder";
Mark 3:17 (NKJV)

a. Forbidding others to use the name of Jesus

49 Now John answered and said, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow with us." 50 But Jesus said to him, "Do not forbid *him*, for he who is not against us is on our side."
Luke 9:49-50 (NKJV)

b. Ready to call fire down on Samaritans

51 Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, **52** and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. **53** But they did not receive Him, because His face was *set* for the journey to Jerusalem. **54** And when His disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" **55** But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. **56** For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save *them*." And they went to another village.

Luke 9:51-56 (NKJV)

5. Desire for position

20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. **21** And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom."

Matthew 20:20-21 (NKJV)

35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." **36** And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" **37** They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and

**the other on Your left, in Your glory."
*Mark 10:35-37 (NKJV)***

6. One of the three

a. At the raising of Jairus' daughter

**And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James.
*Mark 5:37 (NKJV)***

b. At the Transfiguration

**Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them.
*Mark 9:2 (NKJV)***

c. In the Garden of Gethsemane

**32 Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here while I pray." 33 And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed.
*Mark 14:32-33 (NKJV)***

d. For the Olivet Discourse (with Andrew as well)

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately,

Mark 13:3 (NKJV)

7. Only disciple at the cross

25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" 27 Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own *home*.

John 19:25-27 (NKJV)

8. First disciple to the tomb

So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first.

John 20:4 (NKJV)

9. Cared for Mary

Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own *home*.

John 19:27 (NKJV)

10. Serving the early church

a. With Peter healing the lame man at the Temple, but Peter does all the talking

1 Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth *hour*. 2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; 3 who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. 4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us."

Acts 3:1-4 (NKJV)

b. Investigating Samaritan believers, but Peter does all the talking

Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them,

Acts 8:14 (NKJV)

c. Losing his brother James to martyrdom

1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched out *his* hand to harass some from the church. 2 Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

Acts 12:1-2 (NKJV)

d. Meeting Paul in Jerusalem

**Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with *me*.
*Galatians 2:1 (NKJV)***

and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we *should go* to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

Galatians 2:9 (NKJV)

11. Life and Ministry after the Gospels and Acts

a. The Book of Revelation was written by John on the island of Patmos—a place of exile because of his faith.

I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and 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 (NKJV)

b. Strong tradition from second century sources tells us that John lived and ministered in Ephesus after Jerusalem and returned there after his exile. He lived into the reign of Trajan (AD 98, ISBE)

c. It is thought that John went to Ephesus after the death of Paul to help the church as it faced heresies.