

John Holbrook's Brattleborough, Vermont press included in his Bibles many of the supplements found in early Bibles printed by Matthew Carey and Isaiah Thomas. A supplement Holbrook introduced, and especially advertised as being new to his editions, was "An Account of the Lives, Sufferings, and Martyrdom, of the Apostles and Evangelists." This compilation by William Cave (1637-1713) is based on several early church writings. The following is taken from Holbrook's quarto Bible published in 1817.

An Account of the Lives, Sufferings, and Martyrdom, of the Apostles and Evangelists.

I. St. STEPHEN, the proto, or first martyr, was elected with six others, as a deacon, out of the Lord's seventy disciples. Stephen was an able and successful preacher. The principal persons belonging to the five Jewish synagogues entered into many altercations with him; but he, by the soundness of his doctrine, and strength of his arguments, overcame them all, which so irritated them, that they suborned false witnesses to accuse him of blaspheming God and Moses. Being carried before the council, he made a noble defence, but that so much exasperated his judges that they resolved to condemn him. At this instant Stephen saw a vision from heaven of Jesus, in his glorified state, sitting at the right hand of God. This vision so greatly rejoiced him, that he exclaimed in raptures, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God." They then condemned him, and having dragged him out of the city, stoned him to death. On the spot where he was martyred, Eudocia, the empress of the emperor Theodosius, erected a superb church.

The death of Stephen was succeeded by a severe persecution in Jerusalem, in which 2000 Christians, with Nicanor the deacon, were martyred; and many others obliged to leave the place.

II. St. JAMES, the GREAT, a Galilean, was the son of Zebedee, a fisherman, the elder brother of St. John, and a relation to Christ himself; for his mother Salome was cousin-german to the virgin Mary. Being one day with his father fishing in the sea of Galilee, he, and his brother John, were called by our Saviour to become his disciples. They cheerfully obeyed the mandate, and leaving their father, followed Jesus. It is to be observed, that Christ placed a greater confidence in them, than in any other of the apostles, Peter excepted.

CHRIST called these brothers Boanerges, or the sons of thunder, on account of their fiery spirits, and impetuous tempers.

HEROD Agrippa, being made governor of Judea by the emperor Caligula, raised a persecution against the Christians, and particularly singled out James as an object of revenge.

JAMES, being condemned to death, shewed such an intrepidity of spirit, and constancy of mind, that his very accuser was struck with admiration, and became a convert to Christianity. This transition so enraged the people in power, that they likewise condemned him to death; when James the apostle, and his penitent accuser were both beheaded on the same day, and with the same sword. These events took place in the year of Christ 44.

MUCH about this same period, Timon and Parmenas, two of the seven deacons, suffered martyrdom; the former at Corinth, and the latter at Philippi, and Macedonia.

III. St. PHILIP. This apostle and martyr was born at Bethsaida, in Galilee, and was the first called by the name of Disciple. He was honored with several important commissions by Christ, and being deputed to preach in Upper Asia, laboured very diligently in his apostleship. He then traveled into Phrygia, and arriving at Heliopolis, was greatly grieved to find the inhabitants so sunk in idolatry, as to worship a large serpent. St. Philip, however, converted many of them to Christianity, and even procured the death of the serpent. This so enraged the

magistrates, that they committed him to prison, had him severely scourged, and afterwards crucified. His friend, St. Bartholomew, found an opportunity of taking down the body and burying it; for which, however, he was very near suffering the same fate. His martyrdom happened eight years after that of St. James the Great, A.D. 52.

IV. St. MATTHEW. This evangelist, apostle, and martyr, was born at Nazareth in Galilee, but resided chiefly at Capernaum, on account of his business, which was that of a toll-gatherer, to collect tribute of such as had occasion to pass the sea of Galilee. On being called as a disciple, he immediately complied, and left every thing to follow Christ. After the ascension of his master, he continued preaching the gospel in Judea about nine years. Designing to leave Judea, in order to go and preach among the Gentiles, he wrote his gospel in Hebrew, for the use of the Jewish converts; but it was afterwards translated into Greek by St. James the less. Going to Ethiopia he ordained preachers, settled churches, and made many converts. He then proceeded to Parthia, where he had the same success; but returning to Ethiopia, he was slain by a halbert in the city of Nadabar, about the year of Christ 60. He was remarkably inoffensive in his conduct and temperate in his mode of living.

V. St. MARK. This evangelist and martyr was born of Jewish parents, of the tribe of Levi. It is imagined, that he was converted to Christianity by St. Peter, whom he served as an amanuensis, and whom he attended in all his travels. Being entreated by the converts at Rome to commit to writing the admirable discourses they had heard from St. Peter and himself: this request he complied with, and composed his gospel accordingly, in the Greek language. He then went to Egypt, and constituted a bishopric at Alexandria: afterwards he proceeded to Lybia, where he made many converts. Returning to Alexandria, some of the Egyptians, exasperated at his success. Determined on his death. To accomplish this they tied his feet, dragged him thro' the streets, left him to remain, bruised as he was, in a dungeon all night, and the next day burned his body. This happened on the 25th of April. His bones were carefully gathered up by the Christians, decently interred, and afterwards removed to Venice, where he is considered as the titular saint, and patron of the state.

VI. St. JAMES the less. This apostle and martyr was called so, to distinguish him from St. James the great. He was the son, by a first wife, of Joseph, the reputed father of Christ: he was, after the Lord's ascension, elected bishop of Jerusalem: he wrote his general epistle to all Christians, and converts whatever, to suppress a dangerous error the propagating viz. "That a faith in Christ was alone sufficient for salvation, without good works." The Jews being, at this time, greatly enraged that St. Paul had escaped their fury, by appealing to Rome, determined to wreak their vengeance on James, who was now 94 years of age: they accordingly threw him down, beat, bruised, and stoned him; and then dashed out his brains with a club, such as was used by fullers in dressing cloths.

VII. St. MATTHIAS. This apostle and martyr was called to the apostleship after the death of Christ, to supply the vacant place of Judas, who had betrayed his master, and was likewise one of the seventy disciples. He was martyred at Jerusalem, being first stoned, and then beheaded.

VIII. St. ANDREW. This apostle and martyr was brother to St. Peter, and preached the gospel to many Asiatic nations. Arriving at Edessa, the governor of the country, named Egeas, threatened him very hard for preaching against the idols there worshipped. St. Andrew persisting in the propagation of his doctrines, he was ordered to be crucified on a cross, two ends of which were transversely fixed in the ground. He boldly told his accusers, that he would not have preached the glory of the cross, had he feared to die on it. And again, when they came to crucify

him, he said, that he coveted the cross, and longed to embrace it. He was fastened to the cross, not with nails, but cords, that his death might be more lingering. In this situation he continued two days, preaching the greatest part of the time to the people; and expired on the 30th of November.

IX. St. PETER. This great apostle and martyr was born at Betsaida in Galilee, being the son of Jonah, a fisherman, which employment St. Peter himself followed. He was persuaded by his brother to turn christian, when Christ gave him the name of Cephas, implying in the Syriac language, a rock. He was called, at the same time as his brother, to be an apostle; gave uncommon proofs of his zeal for the service of Christ, and always appeared as the principal speaker among the apostles. He had, however, the weakness to deny his mater, after his apprehension, though he defended him at the time; but the sincerity of his repentance made an atonement for the atrociousness of his crime.

The Jews, after the death of Christ, still continued to persecute the christians, and even went so far as to order several of the apostles. Among whom was Peter, to be scourged. This punishment they bore with great fortitude, and rejoiced that they were thought worthy to suffer for the sake of Christ.

HEROD Agrippa having caused St. James the great to be put to death, and finding that it pleased the Jews, resolved, in order to ingratiate himself farther with the people, that Peter should fall a sacrifice of their malice. He was accordingly apprehended, and thorn into prison; but an angel of the Lord released him, which so enraged Herod, that he ordered the centinels, who guarded the dungeon in which he had been confined, to be put to death. St. Peter, after various other miracles, retired to Rome, where he defeated all the artifices, and confounded the magic of Simon, the magician, a great favorite of the emperor Nero: he likewise converted to Christianity one of the concubines of the monarch, which so exasperated the tyrant, that he ordained both St. peter and St. Paul to be apprehended. During the time of their confinement, they converted two of the captains of the guard, and 47 other persons to Christianity. Having been nine months in prison, Peter was brought out from thence for execution, when, after being severely scourged, he was crucified with his head downwards; which position, however, was at his request. He, as well as Paul, suffered on the 29th of June. His body being taken down, embalmed, and buried in the Vatican, a church was afterwards erected on the spot; but this being destroyed by the emperor Heliogabalus, the body was removed, till the 20th bishop of Rome, called Cornelius, conveyed it again to the Vatican: afterwards Constantine the great erected one of the most stately churches in the universe over the place. Before we quit this article it is requisite to observe, that previous to the death of St. peter, his wife suffered martyrdom for the faith of Christ, and was exhorted, when going to be put to death, to remember the Lord Jesus.

X. St. PAUL, the apostle and martyr, was a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, born at Tarsus in Cilicia. He was at first a great enemy to, and persecutor of the Christians; but after his miraculous conversion he became a strenuous preacher of Christ's gospel. At Iconium, St. Paul and St. Barnabas were near being stoned to death by the enraged Jews; wherefore they fled to Lyconia. At Lystra, St. Paul was stoned, dragged out of the city, and left for dead. He, however, happily revived, and escaped to Derbe. At Philippi, Paul and Silas were imprisoned and whipped; and both were again persecuted at Thesalonica. Being afterwards taken at Jerusalem, he was sent to Cesarea, but appealed to Cæsar at Rome. Here he continued a prisoner at large for two years. Being released, he visited the churches of Rome, and preached in France and Spain. Returning to Rome, he was again apprehended, and, by the order of Nero, martyred, by being beheaded.

XI. St. JUDE, the apostle and martyr, the brother of James, as commonly called Thaddæus. Being sent to Edesa, he wrought many miracles, and made many converts, which stirring up the resentment of people in power, he was crucified, A.D. 72.

XII. St. BARTHOLOMEW preached in several countries, performed many miracles, and healed various diseases. He translated St. Matthew's gospel into the Indian language, and propagated it in that country: but at length, the idolators growing impatient with his doctrines, severely beat, crucified, and flayed him, and then cut off his head.

XIII. St. THOMAS, as he is called in Syriac, but Didymus in Greek, was an apostle and martyr. He preached in Parthia and India, where displeasing Pagan priests, he was martyred by being thrust through with a spear.

XIV. St. LUKE, the evangelist and martyr, was the author of a most excellent gospel. He traveled with St. Paul to Rome, and preached to divers barbarous nations, till the priests in Greece hanged him on an olive tree.

XV. St. SIMON, the apostle and martyr, was distinguished by the name of Zelotes, from his zeal. He preached with great success in Mauritania, and other parts of Africa, and even in Britain, where, though he made many converts, he was crucified by the then barbarous inhabitants of that island, A.D. 74.

XVI. St. JOHN. This saint was, at once, a prophet, apostle, divine, evangelist, and martyr. He is called the beloved disciple, and was brother to James the great. He was previously a disciple of John the Baptist, and afterwards not only one of the twelve apostles, but one of the three to whom Christ communicated the most secret passages of his life. The churches in Asia founded by St. John were, Smyrna, Pergamus, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea, and Thyatira, to whom he directs his book of Revelations. Being at Ephesus, he was ordered by the emperor Domitian to be sent bound to Rome, where he was condemned to be cast into a cauldron of boiling oil. But here a miracle appeared in his favor; the oil did him no injury, and Domitian therefore not being able to put him to death, banished him to Patmos to work at the mines. He was, however, recalled by Nerva, who succeeded Domitian after his decease, but was deemed a martyr on account of his having undergone the mode of execution, though it did not take effect. He wrote his epistles, gospel, and revelations, all in a different style; but they are all equally admired. He was the only apostle who escaped a violent death: lived the longest of any of them, being near 100 years of age at the time of his death.

XVII. St. BARNABAS was a native of Cyprus, but of Jewish parents: the time of his death is uncertain, but supposed to be about the year of Christ 73.