***The Deaths of the Apostles According to Eusebius***

*Peter Reid*

*The records of the early church in which the apostles lived come to us through the church fathers who wrote of this time.* ***One of the most extensive records was written by a man names Eusebius who compiled a history of the early church written in 325 AD. All 11 of the apostles died as martyrs.*** *If, as some liberal theologians say (as well as those who spurn the gospel of Jesus), the disciples have given us embellished stories about Jesus in their gospels which cannot be trusted, why were they prepared to die for their faith, refusing to denounce Jesus. The only explanation for their stand is the power of the Holy Spirit of Jesus they received at Pentecost. Only through this power would they stand, not just to defend the veracity of Jesus in their own strength. It was only after Pentecost that Peter lived out is wish to go to death with Christ. He, and the other apostles fulfilled Christ’s words in* ***Mat. 10:16-32,38-39.*** *(Recorded in “The Signature of God”, by Grant Jeffery.)*

***Matthew:*** *He died in Ethiopia, being put to death with the sword*

***Mark:*** *He died in Alexandria, Egypt after being dragged through the streets by horses until he died*

***Luke:*** *He was hanged in Greece because of the powerful effect his preaching was having on the lost*

***John:*** *He is said to have been placed in a basin of boiling oil in Rome during a time of intense persecution, but miraculously lived through it. He was later sent into exile in prison on the island of Patmos where he worked in the mines. It was here that he received the visions upon which the book of Revelation is based. He was later released and became Bishop of Edessa (the church in Ephesus) where he lived a long life and died a natural death. He was most likely over 80 years old. The disciples of that time were reported as saying that the ground heaved up and down where he was buried; this is speculation but shows the great respect that the church had for John.*

***James (Brother of John):*** *He was a strong leader in the church in Jerusalem and was beheaded there. It is said that the Roman officer who guarded James watch amazed as James defended in his faith at his trial. Later, the officer walked beside James to the place of execution. Overcome by conviction, the Roman guard declared his new faith in Christ to the judge in charge of the execution and knelt beside James and accepted the same death.*

***James the Just:*** *He was also a strong leader in the church at Jerusalem. He was thrown over 100 feet down from the southeast pinnacle of the temple (the same place where Jesus was tempted by Satan) when he refused to deny Christ. When they discovered that he survived his fall, his enemies beat James to death with a club.*

***Bartholomew (Nathanael):*** *He was a missionary to Asia Minor or modern day Turkey. He was killed because of his preaching in the area of Armenia where he was flayed to death with a whip.*

***Andrew:*** *He was crucified in Patras, Greece. After being severely whipped by seven soldiers, he was tied to a cross with cords in order to prolong his agony till death.*

***Thomas:*** *He went as a missionary to India and was stabbed to death with a spear during one of his ministry trips.*

***Jude (Brother of Jesus):*** *He was killed with arrows when he refused to deny Christ.*

***Matthias:*** *This is the disciple chosen in Acts 1 to replace Judas. He was stoned and then beheaded.*

***Barnabas:*** *This was the first, and at that time only, disciple to extend kindness to Paul after Paul’s conversion. It is said that he was one of the 70 disciples that Christ sent out to preach in Lk. 10. He preached throughout Italy and Cyprus, being stoned to death in Saloncia.*

***Paul:*** *Paul was repeatedly tortured for his faith as he recounts in 2Cor. 11. He carried scars on his body for the rest of his life. (Gal. 6:17) He endured one imprisonment in Rome and then was released (Phil. 1:19-20; 2Tim. 4:16). He was later recaptured, tortured and beheaded under Nero (the Roman emperor who used Christians as torches to light up his garden when he entertained guests) in 67 AD. Nero himself died in the spring of 68 AD.*

***Peter:*** *Church history teaches us that Peter did go to the cross, being crucified in Rome in ca. 58 AD. It was said that he requested that he be crucified upside down; this cannot be verified.*

*There are extra-biblical sources which refer to the fact that Peter spent the later part of his life in Rome. Scholars in the 2nd and 3rd century confirm that he died in Rome. Eusebius gives 58 A.D. as the date of Peter’s death. Early Church fathers Tertullian and Origen state that Peter was crucified upside down in Rome during the reign of Nero. (Although these reports seem to be embellished and should not be taken too seriously.) In the year 325 A.D. Emperor Constantine built St. Peter’s basilica over the supposed grave of Peter. Archeologists in the 1960’s discovered a grave under the basilica that the Vatican then confirmed as the grave sight of the Apostle Peter.*