

**Introducing Philip:** John 1:43-44, Jesus found Philip, who was from Bethsaida, and said to him, "Follow Me," and Philip followed Christ. Peter and Andrew were also from Bethsaida. Bethsaida means: "Fishing House." Jesus performed many miracles in Bethsaida, but the people of the city would not repent, Matt. 11:20-24. Jesus did save Peter, Andrew, and Philip from the city who Jesus pronounced a curse upon.

**Philip's (Not the Philip of Acts 6) Role:** 1) When called, he goes and finds his brother Nathanael (Bartholomew). 2) John 12:20-22, the Greeks asked Philip to introduce them to Jesus. Philip was approachable and open to all about his faith in Jesus.

**Philip's Worrying:** 1) John 6:5-7, when Jesus fed the 5,000, Philip answered to Jesus that 200 denarii wouldn't be enough to feed the multitude. Jesus was testing Philip. Jesus had previously declared that He was God. He had healed a boy, a lame man, and turned water into wine. 2) John 14:1, Jesus instructs the disciples to not be afraid and believe in Him. John 14:8, Philip asks for Jesus to show him the Father, Jesus replies in V9, "He who has seen Me, has seen the Father."

**Introducing Bartholomew (Nathanael):** Son of Talmai, after John 1:45 he is called Bartholomew, likely a nickname given by Jesus. Nathanael (as he is first mentioned) was brought to Jesus by Philip his close friend. John 1:45, Philip introduced Jesus as the One that Moses spoke of in the Law and the Prophets wrote about. John 1:46, Nathanael responded of a prophecy of Jesus being called a Nazarene (Matt. 2:23), likely a word of derision and contempt like Isaiah 53:3. Nathanael knew of the numerous prophecies of Jesus in Scripture.

**Nathanael was Skeptical:** John 1:46, Nazareth was a very small town much like Cana. He asked if the King of Israel come from there?

**Nathanael's Faith:** John 1:47, "an Israelite in whom there is no deceit." Jesus confirmed that true Israel would be saved (Rom. 11:26-27). How did Jesus know Nathanael? Why the fig tree? Likely it was a place of prayer and meditation. Jesus knowing all things showed Himself to be the Son of God and King of Israel. John 1:48, this shows that Nathanael knew Jesus was "The Teacher," the Son of God and King of Israel as spoken of in the Law and Prophets (Gen. 3:15; Ps. 2:6-7, 89:27; Is. 42:1-4; Micah 5:2; Zech. 9:9, 14:9). Nathanael saw and knew of Christ in the Scriptures.

**Nathanael's Future:** John 1:50-51, Jesus tells Nathanael that even greater miracles than Him knowing Nathanael was under the fig tree will be shown to him. Jesus includes that Nathanael will see His glory as angels minister to Jesus as the Son of Man and Son of God. Jesus the Son of God, Nathanael, the Son Talmai. Jesus knew His disciple.

➤ It is believed that Nathanael traveled to Armenia then the Middle East and ended up in the area of modern-day Mumbai. He healed a governor's daughter asking only for the ability to circulate the Gospel of Matthew and preach Christ. The king over the province arrested Nathanael and the governor, both were killed, but the Gospel spread as a result of their testimony.

**Philip's Future:** Scholars find evidence that Philip went to Carthage in modern day Tunisia. He also ministered in Hierapolis defending the deity and equality of Christ. Philip held fast to Jesus' words to him in John 14:9-10. He would be stoned to death.

### **Further Discussion and Application**

As we examine the lives of Philip and Bartholomew, we see glimpses of their character and ministry. Much of the history of their ministry is found in the places they ministered and shared the Gospel. The world tried to silence them, but we have their examples and have received Christ because they shared the Gospel where they went. What will be our ministry unto the Lord? What will be known by in the church where we serve and fellowship? Is there time to add to our reputation? What would we like to be known by?

How can men and women use the simple tool of the Bible to be useful and be used by the Lord? How does a robust knowledge of the Scriptures prepare us and qualify us to love the body and care for it? What can be accomplished by someone humbled by the Lord and willing to share what they have learned?

As you remember the various stages of your life, when did you flourish in the knowledge and service to the Lord? Read Psalm 1. What are the blessings of the man and woman who seeks after the Lord and follows His commands?

Read Romans 12:3-8. Why does Paul want us to think of ourselves and our gifts as being for the benefit of other believers? Why would God want us to use our gifts to better the lives of others? Should there be a gift of God that we withhold from the body of Christ? When Paul commands us not to think more highly than we should about ourselves, why is humility the cause of great service to others and also an impediment to serving the Lord?

Romans 12:1-2 tells us that our minds must be transformed so that we can see what the Lord is doing in our lives to change us into the image of Christ. Romans 8:28-30 details what happens to us in the future. Do we believe these words? How can we excel even more in sharing our lives with others and increasing more and more in our love towards the body of Christ? Would this be what Christ has commanded us to do and be?