

John 1:37-51

37-40. The **two disciples** heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. 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?" 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). **One of the two** who heard John speak, and followed Him, was **Andrew, Simon ' Peter's brother**.

- **Matthew 4:18** "Now Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, _____ called Peter, and _____ his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen."

Definition: "Two DISCIPLES" - Disciple means a "learner" or follower. Here, we are told that Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist's before he met Jesus.

41-42. He **first found his own brother Simon**, and said to him, "**We have found the Messiah**" (which is translated Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "**You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas**" (which is translated a stone).

- **Luke 9:20** "He (Jesus) said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered and said, 'The _____ of God.'"

Definition: "He FIRST found his own brother SIMON" - Andrew INTRODUCED his brother Simon to Jesus on this occasion, but Peter did not **make the DECISION to FOLLOW Jesus** and "forsake ALL" until later (see Luke 5:1-11). This is like a lot of us - we may KNOW JESUS as our Savior, but it may take a long time before **we really SURRENDER our lives** to Him completely.

Definition: "You shall be called CEPHAS" - "Cephas" is the Hebrew, the Greek is "Petros," meaning a **rock or stone**, and which we translate as PETER in English. Jesus is NOT naming Simon for any **rocklike quality** in his personality or character, because we see Peter as being VOLATILE, IMPETUOUS, WILD and UNSTABLE in the natural. Rather, Jesus is prophesying what Simon will be like IN THE FUTURE, when **he will be BORN AGAIN and FILLED with the HOLY SPIRIT**.

- **Matthew 16:17-18** "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, _____ Bar-Jonah (son of Jonah), for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are _____, and on this _____ I will _____ My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail (be victorious) against it.'"

Definition: "On this ROCK I will build My CHURCH" - It is not Peter himself that the church is built upon, but the **CONFESSION of his FAITH that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God**. In the Greek, this distinction is obvious, because Peter is "petros" a "little rock," and "on THIS ROCK," the word "petra" is used, meaning a large, solid rock.

43-45. The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him or whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote - **Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph**."

- **Matthew 13:55-56** "Is this not the _____ son? Is not His _____ called _____? And His _____ James, Joses, Simon and Judas? And His _____, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?"

Definition: "Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph" - People in Bible times were known by the town they were from, and by their father's name. Of course, Jesus had grown up with people thinking Joseph was His father, and perhaps even the stigma of being thought to be illegitimate, since He was conceived BEFORE Joseph married Mary. Nathanael, at this point, does not know anything about **Jesus' virgin birth**. Also, please note that Mary and Joseph DID have other children after Jesus. Children born the NORMAL WAY (see Matthew 1:24-25), which contradicts the teaching of the Roman Catholic religion, which says that Mary remained a virgin all her life.

46-47. And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "**Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no guile!**"

- **Matthew 2:23** "And he came and dwelt in a city called _____, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, 'He shall be called a _____.'" "

Definition: "ISRAELITE indeed, in whom there is NO GUILE" - Without guile means without deceitfulness or tricks, or in other words open and honest. God changed Jacob's name to Israel because the name **Jacob meant "one who schemes and cheats."** In the Old Testament, whenever God wanted to stress the **SINFULNESS of the nation of Israel**, He would call them by the old name, Jacob. Here, Jesus uses the term "Israelite" for Nathanael, because Nathanael was **open and honest about his doubts about Jesus**.

48-49. Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said, "**Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!**"

- **Luke 1:31-35** "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name _____. He will be great, and will be called the _____ of the _____; and the Lord God will give Him the _____ of His father (ancestor) David. And He will reign (rule) over the house of Jacob (Israel) forever, and of His _____ there will be no end." (Verse 35) "And the angel answered and said to her (Mary), 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the _____ of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the _____ of _____.'" "

Definition: "You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel" - Nathanael knew his Bible. He knew that the Messiah (the Anointed One) who was to come was referred to as the Son of God and the King of Israel in many of the Old Testament prophecies.

- **Read Psalm 2:1-12** (Verse 2) "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, _____ the Lord and _____ His Anointed (the Christ, Messiah), saying, 'Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us.'" (Verse 6-7) "Yet I have set My _____ on My holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the Lord has said to Me, 'You are My _____, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance.'" (Verse 12) "Kiss the _____, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when

His wrath is kindled but a little. _____ are all those who put their _____ in _____."

Definition: "Nathanael" - Nathanael is his Hebrew name, and it means "given by God" or "gift of God." Later, when he is listed with the original twelve disciples of Jesus, he is listed by his **Greek name of Bartholomew**.

- **Luke 6:13-16** "And when it was day, He called His _____ to Him; and from them He _____ twelve whom He also named _____: Simon, whom He also named _____, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and _____; Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor."

50. Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' **do you BELIEVE?** You will see **greater things than these.**"

- **John 20:30-31** "And truly Jesus did _____ other signs (miracles) in the presence of His _____, which are not _____ in this book; but these are _____ that you may _____ that Jesus is the _____, the _____ of God, and that _____ you may have life in His name."

Definition: "I SAW YOU under the fig tree" - Nathanael's reaction to this statement shows that Jesus did more than just pass by and notice him sitting under a tree. The context indicates that Jesus saw more than just the outward man, but was able to read his inner character as well.

- **Luke 5:22** "But when Jesus perceived their _____, He answered and said to them, 'Why are you _____ in your _____?'"
- **Hebrews 4:13** "And there is no creature _____ from His _____, but all things are naked (exposed) and _____ to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."
- **Luke 8:17** "For nothing is _____ that will not be _____, nor anything _____ that will not be _____ and come to light."

51. And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see **HEAVEN open**, and the **ANGELS of God ascending and descending** upon the Son of Man."

- **Genesis 28:12** "Then he dreamed, and behold, a _____ was set up on the earth, and its top reached to _____; and there the _____ of God were _____ and _____ on it."

Definition: "ANGELS of God ASCENDING and DESCENDING" - This is a reference to Jacob's Ladder in the Old Testament (see Genesis 28:10-17). By making this reference to Himself, **Jesus is saying that He is the "way" or "ladder" to reach God.**

- **John 14:1-6** "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, _____ also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the _____ you know.' Thomas said to Him, 'Lord, we do not know _____ You are going, and how can we know the _____?'"

Jesus said to him, 'I AM the _____, the truth, and the life. **NO ONE** comes to the _____ except _____ Me.'

- **John 10:9** "I am the _____. If anyone _____ by Me, he will be _____, and will go in and out and find pasture."