

# The Twelve Apostles

Nathanael (Bartholomew) – the Apostle Conspicuous for His Transparency

## His Full Name

Nathanael Bartholomew

- Son of Tholomew or in Hebrew, Talmai or Thomai
- Nathanael – the gift of God

## Philip Introduces Nathanael to Christ

<sup>44</sup> Now Philip was at Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

<sup>46</sup> And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip said unto him, Come and see.

<sup>47</sup> Jesus saw Nathanael coming unto him, and said of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

<sup>48</sup> Nathanael said unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answering said unto him, Before Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.

<sup>49</sup> Nathanael answered and said unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

<sup>50</sup> Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? Thou shalt see greater things than these. <sup>51</sup> And he said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

John 1:44 – 51

## A Student of the Law and the Prophets – Verse 45

Luke 16:17

## A Man of Strong Prejudice – Verse 46

## A Man of Deep Religious Sentiments – Verse 47

- Was a true Israelite, a genuine son of the Covenant      Romans 9:6 – 8
- He was transparent      Genesis 27:35, 36      Psalm 15 – the guileless man
- His ‘private place, the fig tree      Matthew 24:41
- His testimony: ‘Thou the Song of God . . . the King of Israel’      Matthew 21: 7      Matthew 26:64

## A Man Graciously Rewarded – verse 50

- Verirly, verily - ‘I tell you the truth’
- You shall see
- Heaven open
- Angels of God ascending and descending      Genesis 28:12, 13
- The Son of Man – the ladder set upon earth, but reaching up into heaven

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## **Nathanael Goes Fishing**

John 21:2, 3

**After Jesus' Ascension into Heaven** (last mention of Nathanael Bartholomew in the Scriptures)

Acts 1:13 (read verses 1 – 14)

**Missions** (by tradition)

Armenia      India

## **The Death of Nathanael Bartholomew**

Crucified (upside down) or beheaded in at Albanopolis in Armenia for having converted the Polymius, the king of Armenia