

# John 1:43-51

## The Text of John 1:43-51

**John 1:43-45** - *“(43) The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. (44) Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. (45) 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.”*

### A. Following Jesus (**Luke 9:23-27**).

1. Those who follow Jesus are those who hear and obey (**John 10:27**; cf. **I Samuel 12:13-15**).
2. You are a follower of Christ if you do His will, even though He is not present in the flesh (**I Corinthians 11:1**, **I Peter 2:21**, and **I John 2:3-6**).

### B. The Philip we are reading about here is the Apostle (**Matthew 10:1-4**).

1. In the Book of Acts we read of Philip the evangelist (**Acts 6:5**, **Acts 8**, and **Acts 21:8**).
2. This distinction is important when discussing the ability to give the Holy Spirit, which the Apostle Philip could, but the evangelist could not (**Acts 18:13-20**).

### C. They found Him of whom Moses and the prophets did write (**John 5:39**; **45-46**, **Isaiah 7:14**, **Isaiah 9:6-7**, **Isaiah 53**, **Micah 5:2**, and **Zechariah 9:9**).

1. This point continued to be preached after Jesus died (**Acts 3:22-26**; cf. **Deuteronomy 18:18-19**).
2. The point about Jesus of Nazareth was important too (**Matthew 2:23**; cf. **Isaiah 9:1-2**). \*Nazareth was in Galilee (**Matthew 21:11**, **Mark 1:9**, etc.).

**John 1:46-47** - *“(46) And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see. (47) Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!”*

### A. Consider Nathanael’s remark in light of this: *“They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet”* (**John 7:52**).

1. The Father did not intend for Jesus to be looked upon favorably in the eyes of carnal men (**Isaiah 53:2-3**).
2. Jesus was not even respected in Nazareth (**Luke 4:16-30**).

### B. Jesus said Nathanael was an Israelite in whom there was no guile [craftiness; subtly] (**Psalms 32:2**).

1. Being crafty with words is a trademark of evildoers (**Acts 13:6-10** and **II Corinthians 11:3**).
2. Guile needs to be set aside for the word of God to be effective (**I Peter 2:1-2**).
3. We should all be like Nathanael in this regard (**Psalms 34:13**, **II Corinthians 3:12**, **I Thessalonians 2:3-5**, **I Peter 2:21-22**, and **I Peter 3:8-10**).

**John 1:48-51** - *“(48) Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee. (49) Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel. (50) 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. (51) And he saith 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.”*

A. The Son of God (**1 John 5:20**) being the King of Israel (**John 19:19**).

1. The problem is, Christ is more than just the king of Israel (**John 18:37-38**).

2. Even with the knowledge of who Christ was, the disciples needed confirmation time and time again (**Matthew 14:22-33**, **Matthew 28:16-17**, and **John 20:24-29**).

3. While Christ was on earth, His disciples did not understand that He was more than their earthly king (**John 6:14-15** and **Acts 1:4-9**).

B. Jesus said they'd have much more evidence than Him seeing Nathanael under the fig tree (**Acts 2:22-24**).

1. Angels ascending and descending upon the Son of man (**Matthew 4:11** and **Luke 22:43**).

2. They would even talk to angels (**Luke 24:1-9** and **Acts 1:10-11**).