

John 1:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

Analysis

Philip's origin from Bethsaida links him to Andrew and Peter, establishing a network of Galilean disciples. That Christ finds Philip (rather than Philip finding Christ) illustrates the Reformed doctrine of sovereign election and effectual calling. God initiates salvation; we respond to His seeking love.

Historical Context

Bethsaida ('house of fishing') was a fishing village on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. It was later condemned by Jesus for unbelief despite witnessing many miracles (Matthew 11:21).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the truth that Christ 'found' Philip encourage those who feel they sought God on their own initiative?
2. What role do geographical and social connections play in God's sovereign plan for spreading the gospel?

Interlinear Text

ἦν δὲ ὁ Φίλιππος ἀπὸ Βηθσαϊδά ἐκ τῆς πόλεως
was Now G3588 Philip of Bethsaida of G3588 the city
G2258 G1161 G5376 G575 G966 G1537 G4172

Ἄνδρεον καὶ Πέτρον

Andrew and Peter
G406 G2532 G4074

Additional Cross-References

John 12:21 (Parallel theme): The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.

Matthew 11:21 (Parallel theme): Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

Mark 3:18 (Parallel theme): And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite,

Matthew 10:3 (Parallel theme): Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;