

# John 1:46

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

## Analysis

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Nathanael's skepticism—'Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?'—reflects regional prejudice. Nazareth was an obscure Galilean village without prophetic significance. Yet Philip's response—'Come and see'—invites investigation rather than argument. Skepticism is best answered by encounter with Christ Himself. Philip doesn't debate geography but offers experience. This approach models effective apologetics: address objections by directing to Christ.

## Historical Context

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Nazareth was unmentioned in the Old Testament, Josephus, or the Talmud. No prophecy predicted Messiah would come from there (though 'Nazarene' may relate to 'netzer,' the Branch of Isaiah 11:1). Nathanael's question reflects common sentiment—could anything significant emerge from such insignificance? God's pattern of using the despised and weak shines through.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. What prejudices or assumptions might blind us to recognizing Christ's work?
2. How can 'Come and see' serve as an effective response to skepticism?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	εἶπεν	αὐτῷ	Ναθαναήλ	Ἐκ	Ναζαρὲτ	δύναται	
And	said	unto him	Nathanael	out of	Nazareth	Can	
G2532	G2036	G846	G3482	G1537	G3478	G1410	
τι	ἀγαθὸν	εἶναι	λέγει	αὐτῷ	Φίλιππος	Ἐρχου	καὶ
there any	good thing	come	saith	unto him	Philip	Come	And
G5100	G18	G1511	G3004	G846	G5376	G2064	G2532
ἴδε							
see							
G1492							

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 7:52** (Parallel theme): They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet.

**John 4:29** (Parallel theme): Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

**1 Thessalonians 5:21** (Good): Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.