

# John 1:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

## Analysis

---

Jesus sees Nathanael approaching and declares: 'Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!' This supernatural knowledge of character demonstrates Christ's deity. The word 'dolos' (guile, deceit) indicates Nathanael's sincerity—unlike Jacob who was known for deceit, Nathanael is a true Israelite of honest heart. Jesus distinguishes ethnic Israel from spiritual Israel; Nathanael belongs to the true Israel by character, not merely birth.

## Historical Context

---

The reference to Jacob's deceit (Genesis 27) contrasts with Nathanael's sincerity. 'Israel' means 'prince with God' or 'one who strives with God.' True Israelites are those of genuine faith, not merely ethnic descent. Paul develops this theme in Romans 9:6: 'they are not all Israel, which are of Israel.'

## Related Passages

---

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

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

## Study Questions

---

1. What does it mean to be 'an Israelite indeed' in new covenant terms?

2. How does Nathanael's transparency contrast with religious hypocrisy Jesus condemned?

## Interlinear Text

---

Ἰδε	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	τὸν	Ναθαναήλ	ἐρχόμενον	πρὸς	αὐτοῦ
<b>saw</b>		<b>Jesus</b>		<b>Nathanael</b>	<b>coming</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>him</b>
G1492	G3588	G2424	G3588	G3482	G2064	G4314	G846
καὶ	λέγει	περὶ	αὐτοῦ	Ἰδε	ἀληθῶς	Ἰσραηλίτης	ἐν ᾧ
<b>and</b>	<b>saith</b>	<b>of</b>	<b>him</b>	<b>saw</b>	<b>indeed</b>	<b>an Israelite</b>	<b>in whom</b>
G2532	G3004	G4012	G846	G1492	G230	G2475	G1722 G3739
δόλος	οὐκ	ἔστιν					
<b>guile</b>	<b>no</b>	<b>is</b>					
G1388	G3756	G2076					

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Revelation 14:5** (Parallel theme): And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

**Psalms 73:1** (References Israel): Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.

**Psalms 32:2** (Parallel theme): Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

**Romans 9:4** (References Israel): Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;

**Romans 9:6** (References Israel): Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: