

Bartholomew (Nathanael)

The Twelve · The Twelve Apostles

Generally identified with Nathanael, Bartholomew received Christ's commendation as 'an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile.' His initial skepticism ('Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?') gave way to profound confession: 'Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.'

Note: The Synoptics list 'Bartholomew' while John's Gospel names 'Nathanael.' Since Bartholomew means 'son of Tolmai' (a patronymic, not a given name), and since Philip brought Nathanael to Christ just as he appears with Bartholomew in the lists, most scholars identify them as the same person.

Key Verses

John 1:47

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

John 1:49

Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

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