

Come And See John 1 Verses 43-51

Joh 1:43 ¶ 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. 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! 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.

In this chapter Jesus has called five disciples, including Nathanael. Phillip tells Nathanael we have found the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. Nathanael answers: "***can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?***" to which Phillip replies; "***Come and see.***"

Following the narrative, we come to where Jesus tells Nathanael; "***Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.***" These two phrases have caught my interest, and I would like for us to go exploring.

"***Hereafter ye shall see heaven open,***" Hereafter is comprised of two words: here and after. 'Here' has the meaning of *right now or this present time*, and 'after' means *after this present time*. Jesus is telling Nathanael; you believe that I am the Christ because I said, "***I saw thee under the fig tree.***" From this moment in time, you shall see things that are much more miraculous than that. We believe that Jesus is saying to Nathanael; as I continue to establish the New Testament church, figuratively, it will be as though heaven has been opened unto you. Nathanael shall be witness to many miraculous works by Jesus incarnate. Miracles of healing diseases and afflictions; miracles of seeing evil spirits being driven forth from people at the command of Jesus; and even the dead restored to life.

From the prophetic perspective, Nathanael has received the promise that he shall see greater things than the ability to recognize Jesus incarnate. He is receiving the promise that he will see the risen and glorified Christ return in his full orb'd glory, with the angels ascending and descending at Christ' command. He shall see Jesus Christ upon the throne of God in eternity. All Christians can apply these revelations to their own lives in Christ and be encouraged. We too shall see the risen and glorified Christ and spend eternity with him.

Let's now address the second phrase: "***and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.***" We know that angels are messengers used by God to convey and reveal the will of God to people on earth. We know that angels take our prayers and ascend to Jesus in heaven, upon the throne of God, and they return to us with God's answer. We also know that everything that happened around, and because of, Jesus on earth is not recorded in scripture. With this knowledge in mind, scripture does not record this happening literally to Nathanael; so, I believe we can take it as a figurative expression.

In verse 49 Nathanael acknowledges; "**Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.**" These are both titles, by which the Old Testament saints, with only the Old Testament knowledge, believed that Christ would come and set up an eternal earthly kingdom, and rule and reign over the earth from Jerusalem.

In verse fifty-one, Jesus refers to himself as the "**Son of man.**" Jesus is telling Nathanael, and all of God's people, you expect earthly things, but you shall receive heavenly things instead. You will come to understand; I had to come incarnate and die upon the cross, that the sins of all of God's people might be remitted. You see me now in the flesh; you recognize that I am the Son of God; and you recognize that I am King over Israel, but you shall recognize that I am the Son of man.

What you do not understand, which shall be revealed to you in the future, is this truth; I am the Son of man, born of a woman as prophesied by scripture. You already know that I am the Son of God, and when you understand I am the Son of man; you will have come to the full knowledge of salvation by grace. You will understand that my kingdom is not earthly, but it is spiritual, and it is established in the eternal heaven. You will understand; my kingdom will continue to exist when this world has been destroyed.

Wherefore, in application to our own Christian lives, we say to our fellow Christians, "**come and see**" what wonderful things Jesus is doing in our lives, and in the church, through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. To those who are not yet born-again, we say: "**come and see**" for Jesus may do a miraculous work in your life (through the preaching of the gospel and revealing to you the Son of God and the King of Israel, and the Son of man) and give you; eyes that see, ears that hear, and hearts that understand that Jesus is the Christ, and the source of our salvation and eternal life. Come to the place, the church where Jesus is put on highest display through the preaching of the gospel, and it may be that "**ye shall see heaven open,**" and witness "**greater things than these.**" After all, just as Jesus knew where Nathanael was; Jesus has already seen you wherever you are. May God bless and keep us all, in Christ! Amen!