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Documents, (papyrus) have been found that indicate the Book of John was written after the destruction of Jerusalem, many Bible Scholars believe between 85 and 90 AD. Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD. Copies of the Book of John had been copied in the early years and distributed throughout the Christian community, but this was believed to be after the destruction of Jerusalem.

John did not follow the manner of the other three gospels that gave a chronological story of the life of Jesus. John was directed by God to declare Jesus's Deity, to clarify and refute false teaching that was taking place at that time.

In the early apostolic age, some false teachers were teaching that the Spirit of Christ entered Jesus at His Baptism and departed from Him at His Crucifixion. John makes it clear that Jesus was God and that God through His Son Jesus laid aside His Power and took on the form of man, lived a sinless life, was crucified (Passover), and died on the Cross. Was buried (Unleavened Bread) and three days later rose (First Fruits) to eternal life, conquering death. Jesus then returned to the Father in Heaven and sent us the "Holy Spirit". (Pentecost) Jesus fulfilling the first four feast God Ordained in Exodus.

It is interesting that the Word of God has been under attack since its inception. Now who would want to attack the Creators Words and the Creator Himself?

Ann gave me a book called "Rescuing Inerrancy". It is written by a scientist that is a Believer. He is concerned at the evangelical clergy mainly has come to doubting the inerrancy of God's Word. That would include preterists, New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) and many mainline denominations. Many believe we need to re-examine that claim of God's Word being infallible. I also just watched an interview with several pastors. The host asked the pastors what was the greatest threat to the church today. One pastor picked up his mic and said, "the pastors".

The Devil "the father of lies" is working within many churches (small c) with great success. It is why it is so important that you, each of you study God's Word so people like me do not lead you astray. You are responsible for your walk with Christ just as I am for myself. God has allowed me to share some of what I learn with you. But YOU need to verify what I am saying, it is your responsibility.

With that said, let's examine what the Apostle John has to say as He is guided by God to declare Jesus is God.

#### John 1

#### The Beginning

(Genesis 1:1-2)

## **<u>1</u>**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

This is a critical verse in understanding who God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are. God is declaring that He as the Father was not alone, ever. He had a Son and His Son was His Word, His Divine Expression. This is likely in the Spiritual sense of the God Head.

By that I mean, we are NOT told that Jesus had a physical body until He was born on earth. The God Head operated in the Spiritual Realm where physical bodies were not required and perhaps an encumbrance.

God continues to operate in that Spiritual Realm as does the Holy Spirit. We know that Jesus stopped operating SOLELY in that non-physical realm when His Resurrected Body contained the injuries, He sustain on the Crucifixion Cross and His beating at the hands of the Romans.

The term "WORD" in the Greek is "logos". It means a Divine Expression. Jesus expressed the thoughts of the Father through the Spirit. The Son in Heaven at the beginning was God's Devine Expression of Himself.

God through John was declaring that in the Beginning which is referring to the first instant of creation in our universe; In the beginning was the Word. The Word was separate from God but intimately connected to God in such a way that the Word was God. How does God do that? I have no idea; I just know that is what He said and that is fine with me. He said it, I believe it and that settles it!

We will find out shortly that there is no confusion as to who John is speaking of here. It is clearly the Son of God, Jesus Christ who has as one of His synonyms as a name: "The Word".

As I said in the foreword John was set by God to counter false teaching as to the Deity of Jesus and this is how he started.

#### **2**The same was in the beginning with God.

It is clear that there was at least two at the beginning. We know that number is actually three due to the Spirit of God being there as well.

As to this verse, John says; "the same was in the beginning with God", clearly pointing back to the term "logos" the "Word", Jesus the Son.

## $\underline{\mathbf{3}}$ All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

God gives full credential to Jesus and declares Him to be the Creator, in that He created "all things". The two are separate but inseparable. The idiotic idea of a Big Bang to start creation is absurd and takes far more faith to believe in than the Truth. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are the Creators of all that exists. They are the only thing in all the universe both seen and unseen that were not created. They are eternal.

## 4In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

The Greek term for life is "zoe".

From Strong's Concordance its use is,

*"life, both of physical (present) and of spiritual (particularly future) existence."* 

This life, both physical and spiritual is said to be "the light of men". Note men is plural likely meaning all life IE: all men. This "life comes in two forms, the physical/temporal and spiritual/eternal. At some point those two forms combine at our resurrected bodies and physical in some form becomes eternal.

"In Him" is again referring to Jesus and this life in both forms was in Jesus. This life that was in Jesus was the "light of men". In other words, without Jesus there may be physical life but not spiritual or eternal life. Only with Jesus is physical and spiritual life possible. It come upon man as a light. Light is the opposite or enemy of darkness. When a men or women Believe in Jesus there is a light that removes the darkness that they had previously lived in. This light means that they can see. See what? Truth, God's Truth.

We are told that the darkness comprehended it not. Meaning that those who reject the Light, the Word, the Son of God remain in darkness. They do not have, The Light, The Word, The Son.

Darkness or absence of light is Satan's domain.

Colosians 1: 13Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

John the Baptist is sent to Israel, foretold by the Prophet Malachi

**1**Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. **2**But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: **3**And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. **4**Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years.

<u>5</u>And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.

### **<u>6</u>**There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John.

God has sent many messengers to convey His Word to man. To convict man of his sin and to help man seek forgiveness and find salvation. One such man was John. This John referred here is John the Baptist.

**7**The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all *men* through him might believe.

The "Light", capitalized as a Proper Name another synonym of Jesus.

**Q.** Which men might be saved? "that all MEN through Him might believe"

## 8 He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light.

The Hebrew nation for years had looked for the coming of the Messiah. As you already know they wanted a waring King type Messiah. John the Baptist mission was to speak of the Coming Messiah. Part of that ground laying involved strong accusations not only against the common man who had always struggled with sin but strong accusations against the clergy, the Priests of Israel.

John the Baptist was sent by God to make men aware of their sin and the need to repent, to seek the forgiveness of God through repentance. They were to demonstrate their need of forgiveness through being baptized by John. Baptism of water did not save them anymore than baptism today saves anyone. If baptism saved anyone it would be a "work".

Ephesians 2:8For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9Not of works, lest any man should boast. (emphasis mine)

**9** *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Remember from vs John 1:4 and 5:

## <u>4</u>In him was life; and the life was the light of men. <u>5</u>And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

This "true light" is Jesus and in Him was life. Without Jesus there may be physical life but there is no spiritual life. Without spiritual life the human body is simply a walking corpse waiting to die and go into eternity without God.

When men come out of darkness because the "light", Jesus enters them, they can then see because the darkness is gone. It is available to ALL who are born of the Flesh into the world, but it is purely a free will choice. Come out of the darkness into the light and live. Stay in darkness and die.

### **<u>10</u>**He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

Isaiah 53: He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. <u>3</u>He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.<u>4</u>Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

<u>5</u>But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

<u>6</u>All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**<u>7</u>**He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

<u>8</u>He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

The Creator died for His Creation as no other sacrifice would do.

Ephesian 6: <u>12</u>For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

#### **<u>11</u>**He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

Again, Isaiah 53 an amazing prophecy about Lord Jesus Christ.

The next verse again makes it clear that the choice belongs to

each human being. As many as want to be saved will be saved.

Those who chose not to be saved will not be saved.

**12**But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: **13**Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

The Deity of Jesus is unmistakable. He was with the Father for eternity, laying down His Power He took on the form of man to become the perfect sacrifice for ALL mankind.

## The Word Made His Dwelling among Us (<u>Psalm 84:1-12</u>)

#### 14And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

To be the perfect sacrifice to fulfill God's Law, the only one that could do that was God's ONE and ONLY Son, Jesus Christ. God's Divine Expression of Mercy and Grace was to send His Son to die for each of us. God sent the ONE who was filled with Grace and Truth to bring Light to a dark world.

## **15**John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

Jesus and John, the Baptist were cousins in human life. John was born before Jesus making him the older of the two. But take note of what John the Baptist says here. "He that cometh after me (meaning birthdates) "is preferred before me; for He as before me". Meaning existence; Jesus existed before His older cousin John the Baptist. John the Baptist's mother was Elizabeth the cousin of Jesus's mother Mary. John the Baptist father was a Priest in Judah.

Luke 1: 39And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda; 40And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth. 41And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: 42And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. 43And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. 45And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

### **<u>16</u>**And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

The author John is now stating himself what he experienced along with all believers in that Grace was administered by Jesus to Believers. Grace was the essence of God leaning toward all those who would believe. When you combine God's Grace with His Mercy, we as Believers receive something we don't deserve and are saved from something we do deserve. God showed us His favor in Grace and withheld our due punishment with His Mercy.

### **<u>17</u>**For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Moses was the direct recipient of the Law, the conditions God set down for sin and punishment. The Law was intended to show us, mankind how far short of God's Righteousness we are.

However, Grace, God's inclination to lean toward mankind and send us the Truth, was manifested through His Son, Jesus the Christ.

#### **<u>18</u>**No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*.

When asked about seeing the Father Jesus responded;

John 14: Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

#### October 27,2024

The Mission of John the Baptist (Isaiah 40:1-5; Matthew 3:1-12; Mark 1:1-8; Luke 3:1-20)

## **19**And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?

John the author of this book is now going to reference what John the Baptist had to say about many encounters with the ordinary Hebrews (Jews) and the religious leaders dispatched to inquire of John on Prophetic issues such as "Are you the Messiah?"

### **<u>20</u>**And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.

John the Baptist direct answer to a direct question was that he was not the Messiah they sought. Not satisfied with that simple denial they pressed John the Baptist more.

# 21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. 22 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?

The reason these Scribes/Priests from the Temple Tribe of Levi was there was great excitement caused by this man as he railed against sin and convinced people they needed to repent and be baptized. Baptism was not a new process, even though not called baptism it was first directed as a manner of cleansing for the Priests in Leviticus.

> Leviticus 4:4He shall put on the holy linen coat, and he shall have the linen breeches upon his flesh, and shall be girded with a linen girdle, and with the linen mitre shall he be attired: these are holy garments; therefore shall he wash his flesh in water, and so put them on. (emphasis mine)

The point was that many Jews had come to John the Baptist to hear him preach and to be baptized. When the Pharisees heard about it they sent some of their members to find out who this was. They were not well received due to their involvement in their own sins against God being the supposed Spiritual leaders of Israel.

Matthew 3: But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

After John denied being anyone, they had asked about he invoked an old Testament Prophecy.

#### Isaiah 40:3

A voice of one calling: "Prepare the way for the LORD in the wilderness; make a straight highway for our God in the desert.

## **<u>23</u>**He said, I *am* the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.

The blind have no idea what is right in front of them when seeking the things of God. There are possible two reasons for that. The first is as most of us were at one time blind to the things of Jesus until our eyes were opened and we could see. The second is God intentionally causing the blindness of those whom He choose, the Jews to be His people and bring God to the world. Their repeated rejection of God, their chasing after false gods and their pious nature that infuriated God were all causes God kept them in darkness. Are we seeing a blindness now even in America. I listened yesterday to Michele Backman and Jan Markel. There are people who call themselves Christian's siding with what we in this room would consider "abominable", abortion for any reason at any time, including allowing an abortion survivor to die on a table with no medical help. That is the law in Wisconsin signed into law by Kamala Harrises VP pick former Wisconsin Governor Tim Waltz.

I think Satan has destroyed certain words in our language to bring confusion. Some of those words are Church, Christian, Evangelical, and a myriad of denominational names that invoke the idea of Christianity. Groups will take those first three words and combine them with worldly words to make it seem like their organization is made up of believing Christians. Groups such as Evangelical Environmentalists, or Christians for Kamala. I wondered if God had anything to say about such things.

Matthew 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. 9But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

<u>John 5:23</u> so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

I was also wondering are those who call themselves Evangelicals as opposed to Believers of Christians (capital C) what is the point? Are they saved? Is supporting someone who is clearly in favor of killing unborn and born children, legalizing drugs, intentionally destroying a nations sovereignty, forcing Believers to take vaccines against their will or belief, are they really born again? Only God knows, but we can examine someone's fruit, just like John the Baptist and Jesus did when dealing with those who professed love of God but all their outward signs revealed their true heart.

#### 24And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. 25And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?

They could not see the prophecies being fulfilled right in front of themselves. They could not or would not listen to the message John the Baptist was speaking to them. They floundered in unbelief.

We can read on a pages, words that seem to tell us a story of what happened and gain a pretty clear understanding mainly due to hindsight.

Prophets would write what God told them of what was going to happen sometimes thousands of years before the event. Some prophecies have multiple fulfilments, others a single fulfilment. The people around John the Baptist were living and seeing a prophecy fulfilled that was prophesied even at the beginning of creation at the fall of man. This Jesus would be the seed that would crush the head of "Satan".

Genesis 3: <u>15</u>And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

From Got Questions: "What does Genesis 3:15 mean that "he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel"?

"<u>Genesis 3:15</u> is a remarkable verse, often called the <u>protoevangelium</u> (literally, "first gospel"), because it is the Bible's first prediction of a Savior. The second half of the verse gives two messianic prophecies concerning that Savior:"

It would take a good deal of conversation and visible miracles for the disciples to see who Jesus really was, and that the prophecies about Him from the Old Testament were going to be fulfilled by Him.

There are many different ways of counting the prophesies fulfilled by Christ. The more conservative way seems to be around 300 prophesies fulfilled by Jesus. This is what Jesus said to the two men on the way to Emmaus after His Crucifixion.

> Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

The Bible does not tell us who these two men were but likely part of the 70 Disciples of Christ. We know this from Mark who they were not.

#### Mark 24:33 And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,

It is a mystery as to why Jesus selected these two men, but we see from Mark that it was not any of the 11 surviving Apostles.

26John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; 27He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. 28These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.

As we have learned, John the Baptist and Jesus were cousins, through Jesus's mother Mary and her cousin Elizabeth the mother of John the Baptist. The Bible does not declare it, but one can hardly imagine that Elizabeth and her Priest husband Zacharias did not on many occasions recount the history of their son John the Baptist and first meeting his cousin Jesus while they were still both in the womb. John's mission in life was to prepare the road for Jesus the Messiah.

Behold, the Lamb of God (*Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22*)

## **29**The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Is there a more specific statement to the world that says who and what Jesus is and what He will do?

## <u>30</u>This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.

John the Baptist has been given wisdom by God to recognize Jesus as the Eternal God of Creation. Having existed before John the Baptist and is of a higher calling than John the Baptist.

## **<u>31</u>**And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

John the Baptist declaration that "I knew him not" I believe to a euphemism. John and Jesus were cousins so he undoubtedly knew Him. At the time of their upbringing John the Baptist was just Cousin John and Jesus was Cousin Jesus. Not until the Spirit quickened John's heart to who Jesus really was, John was saying he did not really know his cousin Jesus to be the Messiah, the Christ.

John states what he is doing, *"therefore am I come baptizing with water".* The reason John gives for baptizing with water is: *"that he should be made manifest to Israel"* 

The Holy idea is that when men realize they are sinners and in need of a savior, that is when their hearts are prepared for the message from the Holy Spirit. Israel was floundering under the unrelenting pressure of the Romans. Their own religious hierarchy that should have been there to tell them the truth, to look to God, to worship Him, had failed them. The main failure appears to be the desire for power, human power by both the Romans and the Religious leadership.

John the Baptist was to make Israel repent and prepare their hearts for the coming Messiah.

32And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. 33And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. 34And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

John started his mission in the desert, preparing himself for what God had told him to do. He was so far outside the mainstream that people noticed him at once when he came to the river and started calling on them to repent. God gave John the Baptist a sign and told him beforehand what that sign would be. A dove, landing on His Beloved Son Jesus the Messiah. A symbol of Baptism by the Holy Spirit as Jesus begins His Mission and Ministry to Israel and the world.

#### **Jesus Calls His First Disciples**

(Matthew 4:18-22; Matthew 13:47-52; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11)

## **<u>35</u>**Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; **<u>36</u>**And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

This would be the last time according to scripture that John the Baptist and his cousin Jesus would be together. John the Baptist had been given a special watching and hearing directly from God the Father. John had been told that a dove would descend from the sky and land on Jesus just as John was baptizing Him. That image forever burned into John's mind and heart affirmed who Jesus really was. John does not call Jesus his cousin but the "Lamb of God".

John's entire life was in preparation for this moment, to recognize Jesus as the "Lamb of God". The sacrifice so special that it would save the world from its sin. Only through his charted life and the whisperings of the Holy Spirit could John the Baptist come to this revelation of Jesus.

## **<u>37</u>**And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

We will find that one of these two disciples of John the Baptist is Andrew the brother of Simon Peter. But who is the other disciple of John the Baptist. Even though the Bible does not tell us the implication due to his humble demeanor is that it is writer of this Gospel, John the Apostle. One reason is the first-hand knowledge of the events, the people involved and the precise quoting of John the Baptist. The other is that John hardly ever refers to himself in anything he writes. Occasionally he will refer to himself as, the "beloved disciple". John and Christ had a special relationship that would lead John as the others to great lengths to share the Good News even at the cost of their own lives.

## **38**Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

Perhaps there are a lot of questions that would come to mind when first meeting the Messiah Jesus the Christ. But "where dwellest thou?" may not be top of the list. It is not that they did not know in part of who this was. John the Baptist had made know to the two of them who this was He is "the Lamb of God". Not a Lamb of God but THE LAMB OF GOD. Andrew and likely the Apostle John understood at a minimum that this Man they were following was someone really special and they called him "Rabbi", which means Master. The extent of the term Master was not yet understood by them, but in time they would understand Him to be the Master of all Creation.

Jesus answer as to where he abode?

<u>39</u>He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

The tenth hour would be 4 PM.

## **<u>40</u>**One of the two which heard John *speak*, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

This is where we know one of those two who followed Jesus as Andrew.

John the Apostle as writer does not identify himself but ventures after Andrew and what he did after meeting Jesus. Note how quickly Andrew declares Jesus as Messias.

**<u>41</u>**He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. <u>42</u>And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

Simon Peter would be one of the closest along with John to Jesus in their walk over the next three years. Jesus would eventually again call Peter a "rock" a "stone" to which He would build His church upon.

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

43The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. 44Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45Philip 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.

Jesus disciples were getting more bold in their identification of who Jesus was all based on what John the Baptist had said and done. The claims of the disciples would not go unchallenged by some of those who had not been privileged to see and hear what had happened.

**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!

Nathanael the skeptic based on geography. Nazareth was considered by most Jews that did not live there as a lesser place

to be from. Nathanael was blunt and Jesus comments on his willingness to not hide his feelings and speak bluntly.

<u>48</u>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.

To disarm a man with no guile, Jesus simply tells him something about where he was that he would not have known. Nathanael was quick witted and recognized something very quickly, responding to Jesus.

<u>49</u>Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel. <u>50</u>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. <u>51</u>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.

The declaration of God to man.

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