

Biographical Sketch of the Apostles of Jesus Christ

Bartholomew

Personal Information		Scripture References: Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-18; Luke 6:12-16; Acts 1:13
Name: Bartholomew	Nickname: Nathanael	
Hometown: Cana (John 21:2)	Region: Galilee (John 21:2)	
Father: Tolmai	Age when called:	
Mother:	Occupation before meeting Jesus:	What he accomplished during Jesus ministry years Present at Jesus first miracle (John 2:1-11) Deserted Jesus during His trials and crucifixion Was present at the miraculous draft of fishes (John 21:2-7)
Spouse:	Possibly a fisherman	
Address:	Manner of death: Martyred – history suggests he was skinned alive in Armenia or decapitated	
Family:	Their writings:	Major accomplishments after Jesus ministry: Present at the choosing of Mathias History says he preached the gospel in Ethiopia, Egypt and Armenia
Special Events in his life:		
Passage	Event	Remarks
John 1:43-51	Calling	Introduced to Jesus by Philip
John 1:47-48	Nathanael declares Jesus as the Son of God	As well as Jesus is the King of Israel
Matthew 10:1-3; Mark 6:7-11; Luke 9:1-6	Sent Forth	Jesus sent out the 12
John 21:2	Went fishing	Nathaniel was included with Peter, Thomas, sons of Zebedee and two others who went fishing while waiting for Jesus at the Sea of Tiberias

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Notes:

His full name was Nathanael Bar-Tolmai. His Greek name means “son of Tolmai.” The Hebrew name Nathanael means “God has given.”

In each listing of the Apostles, the listing includes Bartholomew and not Nathanael. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke identify him as Bartholomew. The Gospel of John identifies him as Nathanael. In the listings of the Apostles in Matthew, Mark and Luke, Bartholomew is listed right after Philip.

Seems to have been a friend of Philip.

Jesus referred to Nathanael as “an Israelite indeed” Paul in his letter to the Romans identified “an Israelite indeed” as; “Romans 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither *is that* circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

29 But he *is* a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the spirit, *and* not in the letter; whose praise *is* not of men, but of God.

Bartholomew knew the Scriptures when he proclaimed, “Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?” His question concerned whether the Messiah could come out of a land that was proverbially bad (John 1:46)

A number of scholars believe that he was the only one of the 12 disciples who came from royal blood, or noble birth. His name means Son of Tolmai or Talmai (2 Samuel 3:3). Talmai was king of Geshur whose daughter, Maacah, was the wife of David, mother of Absalom.

Historical documents declare that Bartholomew was the founder of the church in Armenia. They also declare that he was martyred in Armenia.

