

The Son of God and King of Israel (John 1:35-51)^a

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Passage (John 1:35-51)

1. Taken in two parts: verses 35-42, then verses 43-51

John 1:35-42

³⁵ Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. ³⁶ And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John [speak], and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).¹ (John 1:35-42)

1. **The two disciples heard him [John the Baptist] speak, and they followed Jesus (John 1:37)**
 - A. Based on John's proclamation of Jesus as the Lamb of God, they left John and went over to Jesus
 - B. Connected this "Lamb of God" with the "coming one" that John had already mentioned that was preferred/greater
 - C. We discussed the significance of Jesus as "the Lamb of God" in the previous session
 - D. John the Baptist hasn't yet stated, "*He must increase, but I must decrease.*" (John 3:30), but is already seeing the transition focus away from his ministry as these two disciples depart to follow Jesus
2. **Andrew, Simon Peter's brother (John 1:40)**
 - A. Already a disciple of John the Baptist, prior to the ministry of Jesus
 - B. *We have found the Messiah* (John 1:41)

- I. Andrew declares Jesus to be “the Christ” before the subsequent declaration by his brother Peter, *“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”* (Matthew 16:16)
 - II. *Which is translated, the Christ* (John 1:41) - a title, “the anointed one,” designated by God to serve a special role
3. ***“You shall be called Cephas. . .A Stone”* (John 1:42)**
- A. Although Andrew follows Jesus first, Jesus knows that Peter will serve a role of greater significance
 - B. *Cephas* from the Aramaic word, *Kepha* meaning “rock”³
 - I. Used of Peter in several passages (John 1:42; 1Cor. 1:12; 3:22; 9:5; 15:5; Gal. 2:9)
 - C. “A Stone” is from the Greek term, Πέτρος [*Petros*] — from which we derive “Peter”
 - I. *“You are Peter (Πέτρος [*Petros*]) and upon this rock (πέτρα [*petra*]) I will build my church . . .”* (Matthew 16:18)

John 1:43-51

⁴³ *The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, “Follow Me.”* ⁴⁴ *Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.* ⁴⁵ *Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”* ⁴⁶ *And Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”* ⁴⁷ *Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!”* ⁴⁸ *Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”* ⁴⁹ *Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”* ⁵⁰ *Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.”* ⁵¹ *And He said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”* (John 1:43-51)

1. ***He [Jesus] found Philip . . . Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter* (John 1:43-44)**
 - A. Was Philip in the proximity because of contact with the two brothers, Andrew and Peter?
 - B. *Philip found Nathanael . . .* (John 1:45) - God often works through *seemingly* insignificant personal associations
 - I. Nathanael not mentioned in synoptic gospels - some suggest he is Bartholomew

2. ***“ . . . of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote ”*** (John 1:45)
 - A. Moses - “the prophet” (Deu. 18:15)
 - B. Prophets - many, many passages

3. **Nathanael’s response: *“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”*** (John 1:46)
 - A. Many unfamiliar with His actual origin: Bethlehem.

4. ***Jesus saw Nathanael . . . and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!”*** (John 1:47)

5. **Nathanael’s astonishment, *“How do you know me?”*** (John 1:48)
 - A. *“Before Philip called you . . . under the fig tree . . . I saw you.”* (John 1:48)
 - I. Something only Philip would have known
 - II. Jesus’ evidences knowledge of both past (Philip) and future (naming of Peter)
 - B. Response: *“Rabbi, You are the son of God! You are the King of Israel!”* (John 1:49)
 - I. “Rabbi” = “my great one” or “my teacher”
 - II. Notice the combination of titles found in Psalm 2 — son of God and King
 - III. We now have both portions of Peter’s famous declaration stated in advance, probably in Peter’s hearing
 - a. Andrew: *the Messiah . . . the Christ* (John 1:41)
 - b. Nathanael: *son of God* (John 1:49)
 - c. Peter: *“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”* (Matthew 16:18)
 - IV. It is one thing to hear and another to believe and profess!

6. ***“ . . . hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”*** (John 1:51)
 - A. Jesus identifying with Jacob’s ladder (Gen. 28:12-14)

¹² Then he [Jacob] dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And behold, the Lord stood above it and said: “I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. ¹⁴ Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the

north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. (Genesis 28:12-14)

- I. Set up on earth, reaching into heaven
- II. The LORD stood above it and said . . . to Jacob
 - a. A restatement of land promise, and blessing to all families of the earth
- III. Serves as a conduit for messengers (angels = מַלְאָכִים [mal'āk] = ἀγγέλους [angelous]) between God and man
- IV. The emphasis is on communication between God and man, especially *from* God *to* man
- V. Jesus, as angel (messenger) of YHWH has served in this role⁴
- VI. Jacob considered it the gate (שַׁעַר [ša'ar], entrance area) of heaven (Gen. 28:17), similar to Babel (“door/gate of god”, Gen. 11:5,9)

B. Descending/ascending between heaven and earth (Pr. 30:4)

Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is His Son's name, if you know? (Proverbs 30:4)

C. At His ascension, He went up, angels came down (Acts 1:9-11)

D. The bread that came down from heaven vs. “whose father and mother we know” (John 6:41-42)

- I. In distinction to “. . . *Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph*” (John 1:45)

E. Jesus as mediator between heaven and earth (1Ti. 2:5)

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, (1 Timothy 2:5)

F. Told of earthly and heavenly things (John 3:12)

“If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?” (John 3:12)

G. “Son of Man” - as well as Son of God

- I. Incarnation of deity
- II. Spanning the gap between heaven (deity) and earth (humanity)

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Endnotes:

1. Unless indicated otherwise, all Scripture references are from the *New King James Version*, copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
2. Ref-1517, 58
3. 2
4. Regarding Jesus as the angel of YHWH, see Gen. 16:7-13 ; Gen. 18:1-2; 22:11-18; 32:24-30; 48:16; Ex. 3:1-6; 4:24; 13:21; 14:19; 23:20-23; 24:9-11; 32:34; 33:14,2,14,20; Num. 20:16; 22:22; Deu. 4:37; Jos. 5:13-15; Jdg. 2:1-5; 5:23; 6:11-23; 13:3-23; 2S. 24:15-17; 1K. 19:7; 2K. 1:3,15; 19:35; 1Chr. 21:12-30; Ps. 34:7; 35:5-6; Isa. 37:36; 63:9; Eze. 1:26; Dan. 3:25; Hos. 12:4-5; Zec. 1:11-12; 3; John 1:18; 5:37; 8:48; 14:9; Acts 7:30-33,38; 1Ti. 3:16; 6:16

Sources:

Ref-1517 F. F. Bruce, *The Gospel of John* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1983). ISBN:0-8028-3407-8^d.

Links Mentioned Above

- a - See http://www.spiritandtruth.org/teaching/John_by_Tony_Garland/009_John_1_35-51/index.htm.
b - See <http://www.spiritandtruth.org/id/tg.htm>.
c - See <http://www.spiritandtruth.org>.
d - See <http://www.spiritandtruth.org/id/isbn.htm?0-8028-3407-8>.