



BARTHOLOMEW

DISCIPLE OF JESUS

BACKGROUND

- His name was Aramaic, meaning “son of Tolmai” or “son of Talmai” (in Aramaic, the prefix *bar* means “son”)
- Scholars believe that Bartholomew is the same character as Nathanael (mentioned in John 1:45)
- Came from Cana of Galilee (John 21:2)
- Was found by his friend Philip in Cana who invited him to meet Jesus (John 1:43-45)

DISCIPLESHIP

- Was an earnest student of the Scriptures
- When Philip told him about Jesus, he was a bit skeptical at first (John 1:46)
- When Bartholomew met Jesus, Jesus recognized the sincerity in him and paid him a high compliment (John 1:47)
- Jesus told him that He saw him under a fig tree (John 1:48)
- Proclaimed Jesus as the Son of God, thus beginning his faithful discipleship of Jesus (John 1:49)
- Was present with the other disciples at the various miracles performed by Jesus
- Jesus would also have appointed him together with the other disciples to go out and preach, heal, and cast out demons (Mark 3:14-19)
- Experienced the disappointment of the crucifixion with the other disciples

HIS LEGACY

- Remained sincere in his faith until the end
- His example is a promise to us that Jesus will notice the sincere, humble heart seeking truth

AFTER JESUS' ASCENSION

- Was present with the other disciples after Jesus' resurrection
- He would have heard Jesus' promise and the Great Commission being given (Acts 1:8)
- He went to Jerusalem and joined the disciples in the upper room, awaiting the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:12-13)
- Like the other disciples, he likely went from there and began to preach the gospel (Acts 2:1)
- Church tradition states that he went to India, taking with him a Gospel account of Matthew in Hebrew*
- Other traditions say he went to Armenia, Ethiopia, Mesopotamia, Parthia (modern-day Iran), and Lycaonia (modern-day Turkey)**
- Likely died a martyr***

**Saint Bartholomew," Encyclopedia Britannica

***Ibid

***Foxe, John, Foxe's Book of Martyrs, Chapter 1



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