

## Philip The Apostle And Evangelist

'Jesus went out to the mountain to pray and He continued all night in prayer to God. When daylight came, He called His (seventy) disciples and from them He chose twelve whom He named apostles; Simon, whom He renamed Peter, Andrew his brother, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, Judas son of James and Judas Iscariot who became a traitor' (Luke 6:12 to 16).

By reading these verses we can determine Jesus prayed all night to seek God the Father about whom He should choose to be the twelve apostles. Jesus had already chosen seventy men but He needed twelve to be set apart. 'The Lord appointed seventy men and sent them two by two ahead of Him into every city and place where He was about to go' (Luke 10:1). Philip was one of the chosen twelve apostles. The name Philip means 'warrior' and he was one of the few people who did not have two or three different names. The word apostle does not mean an evangelist, it means an emissary, ambassador or representative; someone who is faithful and who is sent by an authority, and is given equal authority. 'Consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Jesus Who was faithful to God Who appointed Him' (Hebrews 3:1 & 2). Jesus said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18). "Behold, I give you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy" (Luke 10:19).

Some of the twelve apostles had two or more names, as their names were translated from Hebrew into other languages that were spoken during the time Jesus was on earth. 'Jesus (Yeshua) appointed twelve men so they might be with Him and so He might send them out to preach ... Simon Peter (Shimon, Petros, Cephas, Kefa); Andrew (Andrai); James (Yaakov) and John (Yochanan) sons of Zebedee whom Jesus surnamed Boanerges (Benei-Regesh) 'Sons of Thunder'; Philip (Pilipos); Bartholomew (Lebbaeus, Thaddaeus, Bar-Talmi, also known as Judas (Yehudah) son of James); Thomas (Didymus, Toma); Matthew (Levi) tax collector; James (Yaakov) son of Alphaeus; Simon (Shimon) the Zealot and Canaanite (haQana); Judas Iscariot (Yehudah Keriot) who betrayed Jesus' (Matthew 10:2 to 4; Mark 3:14 to 19).

Philip's first convert was Nathanael who may have been his brother. 'Jesus was determined to go out into Galilee where He found Philip. Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Philip was from Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the law and the prophets wrote: Jesus of Nazareth the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to Philip, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him and said about him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile or deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are King of Israel!" (John 1:43 to 49).

Like the other apostles, Philip had difficulty comprehending Jesus' supernatural power. 'Jesus, seeing a great multitude was coming to Him said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread so these people may eat?" Jesus said this to test him for He Himself knew what He was about to do. Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii (about \$50) worth of bread is not sufficient for them." Andrew said to Jesus, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these among so many people?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was much grass in that place so about five thousand men (women and children) sat down. Jesus took the loaves of barley bread and after giving thanks, He distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to those who were sitting down, likewise also of the fish as much as they desired. When they were filled, Jesus said to His disciples, "Gather up the left over broken pieces so nothing is lost." The disciples gathered the food up and filled twelve baskets with broken pieces from the five barley loaves and two fish left over by those who had eaten' (John 6:5 to 13).

When the Pharisees voiced their jealousy of Jesus, Philip was one of the first people Jesus told about His upcoming sacrificial death, and Philip was one of the people who heard God the Father speak from heaven. 'The Pharisees said among themselves, "See how you accomplish nothing. Behold, the world has gone after Him." There were Gentiles among those who went up to worship at the feast. These Gentiles came to Philip who was from Bethsaida of Galilee and asked him, "Sir, we want to see Jesus." Philip told Andrew and together they told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Most certainly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone, but if it dies it bears much fruit. Those who love their life will lose it. Those who hate their life in this world will keep it to eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let them follow Me. Where I am, there will My servant be. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honour them. My soul is troubled. What can I say? 'Father, save Me from this time?' For this cause I came to this time. Father, glorify Your name!" There came a voice out of the sky saying, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." The multitude who stood by and heard the Voice of God said it thundered.

Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him." Jesus answered, "This Voice has not come for My sake, but for your sakes. Now is the judgment of this world. Now the prince of this world will be cast out. If I am lifted up from the earth I will draw all people to myself." Jesus said this to signify what kind of death He would die' (John 12:19 to 33).

Even after three years of constant teaching about Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection and after all the miracles Jesus did, the disciples still could not comprehend His Deity. Jesus said, "You know where I am going and you know the way." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going so how can we know the way?" Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father. From now on, you will know Him and you have seen Him." Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered, "Have I been with you such a long time and do you not yet know Me, Philip? Those who have seen Me have seen the Father so how do you say, 'Show us the Father?' Do you not yet believe I am in the Father and the Father in Me? The words I tell you, I speak not from Myself but from the Father Who lives in Me doing His works. Believe Me, I am in the Father and the Father is in Me. At least believe Me for the sake of the works I do" (John 14:4 to 10).

The next time we read about Philip by name, he was in Jerusalem after they had witnessed the ascension of Jesus into the clouds. They were in the upper room to vote for a new apostle to replace Judas Iscariot. 'They went up into the upper room where they were staying, that is Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord continued steadfastly in prayer and supplication along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus and with His brothers (Joses, Simon, James and Jude) ... They put forward two men, Matthias and Joseph called Barsabbas, who was surnamed Justus. They prayed and said, "Lord, You know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas fell away." They drew lots for them and the lot fell on Matthias who was then numbered with the eleven apostles' (Acts 1:13 & 14, 23 to 26).

Philip was one of the seven men chosen to help care for the widows who were being neglected. 'In those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, a complaint arose from the Gentiles against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily service. The twelve apostles summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not appropriate for us to forsake preaching the Word of God and serve tables, therefore select from among you brothers, seven men of good report, full of the Holy Spirit and of wisdom whom we may appoint over this business. These words pleased the whole multitude. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch whom they set before the apostles. When they had prayed, they laid their hands on them' (Acts 6:1 to 6).

After being filled with the Holy Spirit, Philip preached the Gospel fearlessly, with power, baptising new converts, healing the sick and casting out evil spirits to the amazement of people. 'Those who were scattered abroad went around preaching the Word of God. Philip went to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Messiah. The multitudes listened with one accord to the things spoken by Philip, when they heard and saw the signs he did. Unclean spirits came out of many of those who had them ... Many who had been paralysed and lame were healed. There was great joy in that city ... They believed Philip's preaching the Gospel concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus the Messiah. Men and women were baptised. Simon (a sorcerer) also believed. After being baptised Simon continued with Philip. Seeing signs and great miracles occurring, he was amazed' (Acts 8:4 to 8; 12 & 13).

Apostle Philip was a faithful, dedicated evangelist who had a supernatural experience no other person had. He was taken up by the Holy Spirit from Gaza and was instantly transported to Azotus where he continued to preach the Gospel as he made his way home to Caesarea then he was visited by Apostle Paul, Luke and others. 'The apostles returned to Jerusalem after they had testified and spoken the Word of the Lord and preached the Gospel to many villages of the Samaritans. An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, "Arise and go toward the south to the way that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza. This is a desert." Philip arose and went, and behold, there was a man from Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace, Queen of the Ethiopians who was reigning over all her treasure, who had come to Jerusalem to worship. The Eunuch was returning to Ethiopia and was sitting in his chariot reading the prophet Isaiah (53:7 & 8). The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and join yourself to this chariot." Philip ran to the eunuch and heard him reading Isaiah the Prophet and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He said, "How can I understand unless someone explains it to me?" He asked Philip to come up and sit with him. The passage of the

Scripture he was reading was this, "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter. As a Lamb before His shearer is silent, so He does not open His mouth. In His humiliation, His judgment was taken away. Who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "Who is the prophet talking about? About himself or about someone else?" Philip opened his mouth and beginning from this Scripture, preached to him about Jesus. As they went on the way they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Behold, here is water. What is keeping me from being baptised?" Philip said, "If you believe Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God then you may be baptised." He replied, "I do believe Jesus the Messiah is the Son of God." The eunuch commanded the chariot to stand still and they both went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptised him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away and the eunuch did not see him any more and he went on his way rejoicing. Philip appeared at Azotus. As he was passing through, he preached the Gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea' (Acts 8:25 to 40).

From what we read in the scriptures, Philip moved away from Bethsaida in Galilee to Caesarea Philippi. Luke gives an account of the last time the Bible mentions Philip the Evangelist. Here we learn Philip was married with four daughters. 'We who were Paul's companions, departed Ptolemais and came to Caesarea, to the house of Philip the Evangelist who was one of the seven (chosen to help care for the widows) and stayed with him. Philip had four unmarried daughters who prophesied' (Acts 21:8 & 9). Some people assume there were two men named Philip, one the Apostle and another the Evangelist or deacon, but the Bible does not say that. The Bible makes it clear, Philip the Apostle and Evangelist was the same man who spread the Gospel of Jesus, proclaiming the miracles he had witnessed when he travelled around the area with Jesus as one of His disciples. We can conclude there was only one Apostle/Evangelist named Philip by tying in one scripture verse with another.

There was a man named Philip the Tetrarch, but he was not a Godly man. It seems by what is written in the Bible, Philip's wife Herodias was a bigamist. She married Herod while still married to Philip the Tetrarch. 'In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and (his son-in-law) Caiaphas, the Word of God came to John (the Baptist) son of Zacharias in the wilderness. John came to the region around the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for remission of sins ... With many exhortations he preached the Gospel to the people but Herod the tetrarch, being reprov'd by John for marrying Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evil things which Herod had done, added this to them all; he shut John up in prison' (Luke 3:1 to 3, 18 to 20). 'Herod had arrested John the Baptist, bound him and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her and John said to him, "It is not lawful for you to marry your brother's wife"' (Matthew 14:3 & 4; Mark 6:17 & 18). The area of Caesarea Philippi was named after the Caesar family and Philip the Tetrarch.

Philip the Apostle and Evangelist was persecuted and he was killed like most of the other apostles but we do not have reliable information regarding the death of Philip nor where he died. Two scenarios have been written; one story says Philip was crucified; another story says he was stoned to death. How Philip died is not as important as how he lived. Philip was not led to Jesus like most other people, Jesus deliberately went to Galilee and sought Philip out then invited Philip to follow Him, which Philip did without question. From that day onwards, Philip was a dedicated disciple who became a dedicated apostle and served Jesus every day of his life as an evangelist. Like the other apostles and prophets, we will one day join them in the Kingdom of God where we will be able to enjoy pure fellowship without interruption. "Rejoice ... O heaven, you saints, apostles and prophets" (Revelation 18:20).

Amen and God bless you.

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