

Philip

After Jesus called Andrew, Peter, James and John (the two sets of brothers), He finds Philip. Philip is always listed as the fifth.

John 1:43 The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. 44 Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

Like Andrew, Philip's first reaction after meeting Jesus was to go and tell someone about Him. He founds Nathanael.

John 1:45 Philip 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.

Philip is a Greek name - g5376 philippos = "lover of horses"

Some scholars speculate that Philip may have also been a disciple of John the Baptist, since two of John's disciples followed Jesus (John 1:35). We know one of them was Andrew (John 1:40). Three verses later (in John 1:43), John talks about Philip. Thus, the accounts appear side-by-side. The encounters seem to happen in the same location. Also, similarly to Andrew, Philip identifies Christ as the one of whom Moses and the prophets wrote about.

When some Greeks came to Jerusalem for the feast, they came to Philip wanting to see Jesus. Philip then goes and tells Andrew, and they both go to Jesus.

In John 6:6 Jesus tests Philip when He asks him how to feed the 5,000.

John 6:5 When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? 6 And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. 7 Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

He is one of four people named Philip in the Bible, and he is often confused with Philip the Evangelist who is listed in Acts 6, which makes it hard to distinguish which details describe which Philip in the historical writings. The other two Philips are both sons of king Herod the Great.

Bartholomew

His name comes from Aramaic Bar-Talmai, meaning "son of Talmai."
In three of the four lists of apostles, he appears right after Philip.

By Luke he is coupled with Philip precisely in the same way as Peter with his brother Andrew, and James with his brother John.

Aka Nathanael?

John doesn't mention anyone named Bartholomew and Matthew, Mark and Luke don't mention anyone named Nathanael.

But in John 1:45, John mentions a man named Nathanael who appears to be an apostle. Is it the same person? He could have been Nathanael Bartholomew. Nathanael being the proper name, and Bartholomew (the son of Talmai) the surname.

Jesus doesn't specifically call him to "come, follow me," but when Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, he said, "Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!"

John 1:48 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.

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

⁵¹ 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.

John also includes him among the apostles to whom Jesus appeared at the Sea of Galilee.

John 21:1 After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself. ² There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and **Nathanael of Cana** in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples.

It should also be observed that all the other disciples mentioned in the first chapter of John became apostles of Christ.

In the fourth century, Eusebius wrote that Bartholomew preached in India where he left behind a copy of the Gospel of Matthew. And then he brought Christianity to Armenia in the 1st century. As a result, in 301 the Armenian kingdom became the first state in history to embrace Christianity officially.

The 13th century Saint Bartholomew Monastery was a prominent Armenian monastery constructed at the presumed site of Bartholomew's martyrdom in Vaspurakan, Greater Armenia (now in southeastern Turkey).

Matthew

He is regarded as the author of the Gospel of Matthew.

In his own gospel, Matthew is not ranked immediately after the preceding apostle, but numbers himself eighth on the list. However, all the other lists agree in giving Matthew a place immediately after Nathanael.

When Jesus called him to follow him, he was a tax collector.

Matthew Ματθαῖος Matthaîos = “gift of Jehovah”

Matthew is also known as Levi in Mark and Luke.

Mark 2:14 And as he passed by, he saw **Levi the son of Alphaeus** sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him.

Luke 5:27 And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named **Levi**, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me.

²⁸ And he left all, rose up, and followed him. ²⁹ And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them.

After the description of how he was chosen by Jesus, he makes not the slightest allusion in his own gospel to anything either said or done by himself, nor does his name occur anywhere except in the apostolic list.

Early Church Fathers such as Irenaeus and Clement of Alexandria say that Matthew preached the gospel to the Jewish community in Judea, before going to other countries. Ancient writers are not in agreement as to which other countries these are, but almost all sources mention Ethiopia.