

- Nathanael means "God Gives." (A good baby name – boy or girl ☺)
- N took a big leap of faith based on JC's display of supernatural knowledge.
- So is Nathanael one of the 12? It would make sense b/c other 3 are; some believe he is Matthew, and others think he is an unknown disciple. Hwvr, "Nathanael" is the personal name for "Bartholomew" (after his father in Aramaic). Also in three of the four lists of the Apostles, "Bartholomew" is connected with Phillip.

#### METHOD 4: GOD'S CHARACTER REVEALED TO OVERCOME DOUBTS

- Some of you are like Nathanael, full of doubt. You need a clear sign. God can choose to give this to you, but he doesn't have to. He demands your faith either way.
- Doubt is not bad, unless you stay there. Doubt is the skeleton the flesh of faith grows on. Allow your doubts to propel you to see Christ and for yourself like Nath.
- Roman 1:20 (read it) says that the unrighteous are w/o excuse. B/c God reveals.

Vv. 50-51: JESUS ANSWERED 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, "TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, YOU WILL SEE HEAVEN OPENED, AND THE ANGELS OF GOD ASCENDING AND DESCENDING ON THE SON OF MAN."

- He will see greater things recorded in the gsls (and about to unfold 2:1-11) <sup>Next</sup> ~~we~~.
- "Truly, Truly" is the beginning of one of JC's first recorded promises. "Surely, surely," or "Certainly, Certainly" – He will do what he said he will do.
- "Heaven open up" is a divine matter; the heaven will open to endorse the savior
- "Angels ascending and descending" is the divine scene that there is a highway from heaven to earth crowded with angelic activity. Angels exist to fulfill the will of God, and at that specific time in History God's entire will was climaxing at Christ.
- "Son of Man" is used in Daniel 7:13-14 in a prophecy saying 'one like the son of man' will come and have authority over all the universe. This is used almost exclusively by Jesus. 13 times in John. This is most likely Jesus self-designated title to take focus off of phrases with political expectation like "King of Israel" – ultimate servant to all mankind.

So what?

#### MY DESTINY IS DEPENDANT UPON CHRIST'S DIVINITY.

So all of these men had a destiny – it was to know and serve God. We all have a destiny as well. If we know God, then our chief end is to serve him and fulfill his purposes in our life.

But what about my purpose? God's are greater. Yours may be His, but not all his may be yours. Anything you strive for that doesn't have God in the midst of it is bound to be less than God intended for it.

The destiny of these four men was dependent upon the realization that Christ is God. The same is true for us: our destiny – both eternal and temporary – depend on Christ's divinity.

If you deny his divinity, it impacts your destiny. If you embrace his divinity, it changes you completely.

And notice that I did not say, his divinity is dependant upon your destiny. He is divine whether you believe and live it or not. The question is not whether he is God, the questions is whether you will live with him as your God.

#### CUTTING ROOM FLOOR:

YOU MAY THINK I AM BEING REPETITIVE as I preach John b/c I keep saying, "Jesus is God" but I am not doing this on my own prerogative. John (author) continues to make that point directly and indirectly through out the book. If we grasp Jesus as God, we can't stay the same. This will be much more than, church, Christianity or religion to us. We will see Christ as the Creator, Lord, Sustainer and author of our very existence (Heb 12:3).

- I'm falling more in love with Christ through this book already – I can't believe his gness