

Christian Apologetics (02)

[I Am The Son of Man]

The word apologetics is derived from the Greek word, apologia. Apologia refers to a speech made in defense or a verbal response.

“Christian apologetics is a field of Christian theology that presents a rational basis for the Christian faith and defends the faith against objections, and exposes the perceived flaws of other world views.” (Wikipedia)

All of the lessons in the series entitled, Christian apologetics, will be taken from the Gospel of John.

Today will study the first outrageous **I AM** claim made by Jesus in the Gospel of John:

The Son of Man

In today's lesson, Philip and Jesus use apologetic techniques to meet Nathanael's objections for not following Jesus as the Jewish Messiah.

We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following three homiletical points. **Then we will follow it with a five point lesson on the Son of Man.**

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|------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| • Message by Philip | (Jn.1:43-46) | Scriptures and Messiah |
| • Message by Nathanael | (Jn.1:47-49) | Son of God and Millennium King |
| • Message by Jesus | (Jn.1:50-51) | Son of Man and Mediator |

The Greek verb horao is used 6 times in our text:

- (Jn.1:46) [see]
- (Jn.1:47) [behold]
- (Jn.48) [saw]
- (Jn.50) [saw]
- (Jn.50) [see]
- (Jn.51) [see] Horao means to see something with the mind's eye or to get an important point.

Message by Philip (Jn.1:43-46) Philip was influenced by disciples of John Baptist (Jn.1:35, 44) [Andrew and Peter at baptism of Jesus] (Jn.1:29-37).

Jesus finds (heurisko / p.a.ind.3ps) Philip (Jn.1:43) [follow Me!].

Philip finds (heurisko / p.a.ind.3ps) Nathanael (Jn.1:45).

Saying: “**We** (John, James, Andrew, Peter, Philip) have found (heurisko / perf.a.ind.1pl) the person who is the Messiah – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

Nathanael's objection

“Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” (Jn.1:46; 7:41-42; Micah 5:2)

“Lord, give me doubt enough to keep me searching and faith enough to recognize the truth when I see it.” (Ren. of NT, pg.342)

Philip's apologetics: "Come (erchomai / p.m.impv.2ps) and see (horao / a.a.impv.2ps)!"

Philip knows that his friend has Positive Volition and is familiar with the Scriptures and the ministry of John the Baptist.

Message by Nathanael (Jn.1:47-49) [also known as Bartholomew] (Acts 1:13)

Jesus, speaking to Nathanael picked up where Philip left off:

"Behold (horao / a.a.impv.2ps), **an Israelite** indeed (alethes), in whom there is (eimi/ p.a.ind) **no** (ouk) **deceit (dolos)** [bait, snare, guile, deceit] (**2 Tim.2:26; 2 Cor.11:3**)." (Jn.1:47)

Dolos was characteristic of Jacob and the Israelite (Gen.25:25; 27:35-36). "How do you know me?" (Jn.1:48)

Jesus' apologetics.

Jesus said to him: "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw (horao / a.a.ind) you." (Jn.1:48)

Nathanael must have been struggling with the message of John the Baptist and his friends. It had special meaning to him.

Nathanael responded - "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel." (Jn.1:49)

Message by Jesus (Jn.1:50-51)

"Because I said to you that I saw (horao / a.a.ind) you under the fig tree, do you believe (pisteuo / p.a.ind)? (Jn.1:50a) Nathanael saw **omniscience** at work in Jesus as Christ.

Jesus told him "You will see (horao / f.a.ind) greater things than these." (Jn.1:50b) Nathanael would see more divine attributes of the Son of God.

Then Jesus put a **divine promise** upon him:

"Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see (horao / f.m.ind) the heavens open (anoigo / **perf.a.ptc. asm**) and the angels of God ascending (anabaino / p.a.ptc.aplm) and descending (katabaino / p.a.ptc.aplm) on (eis+acc) the Son (ton huios) of Man (tou anthropos)." (Jn.1:51)

NOTE: The **perfect tense** of heavens open takes Nathanael back to Jacob's Ladder:

"He (Jacob) had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold the angels of God were ascending and descending on it." (Gen.28:12)

Jesus explained that Jacob's ladder was the Christ seed of the Abraham Covenant (Gal.3:16-20). Jesus Christ is the mediator between man and God and the New Covenant (1 Tim.2:5; Heb.12:23-24).

In this discourse, **Philip** declared that Jesus was the Jewish Messiah and **Nathanael** declared that Jesus was the Son of God; **and Jesus** declared that He was **the Son of Man**.

We will study five aspects of why Jesus declared Himself to be the SON OF MAN.

John recorded Jesus making this claim 12 times in the Gospel of John (Jn.1:51; 3:13, 14; 5:27; 6:27, 53, 62; 8:28; 9:35; 12:23, 34; 13:31).

1. Son of Man was a Messianic prophetic mediator title that Jesus fulfilled during the First Advent.

(Jn.1:51; Heb.2:5-10; Ps.8:4-6; Luke 18:31-34; 1 Tim.2:5; Matt.26:24; Isa.53).

2. Jesus declared that His death, burial and resurrection would be the source of eternal life and prove that He was the Son of Man.

(Jn.3:13-16; 6:27, 62-63; 12:34-36; 1 John 5:11-13).

3. Jesus declared that His resurrection would be the sign of Jonah to Israel that He was the Son of Man

(Matt.12:38-40; 17:9, 22-23; Luke 9:22; John 12:23-24; Rom.1:2-4; 1 Cor.15:3-4).

4. Jesus declared that His glorification (ascension and session) would prove that He was the Son of Man

(Matt.26:64; John 6:62; 12:23; Luke 22:69; Acts 7:55-56; Rev.1:13).

5. Jesus declared that His return as King would prove that He was the Messianic Son of Man.

(John 1:49; Luke 12:40; 21:36; Matt.24:29-31; 26:64; Rev.1; 14:14).