

# John 1:43-51

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✦ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.” Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false.” “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

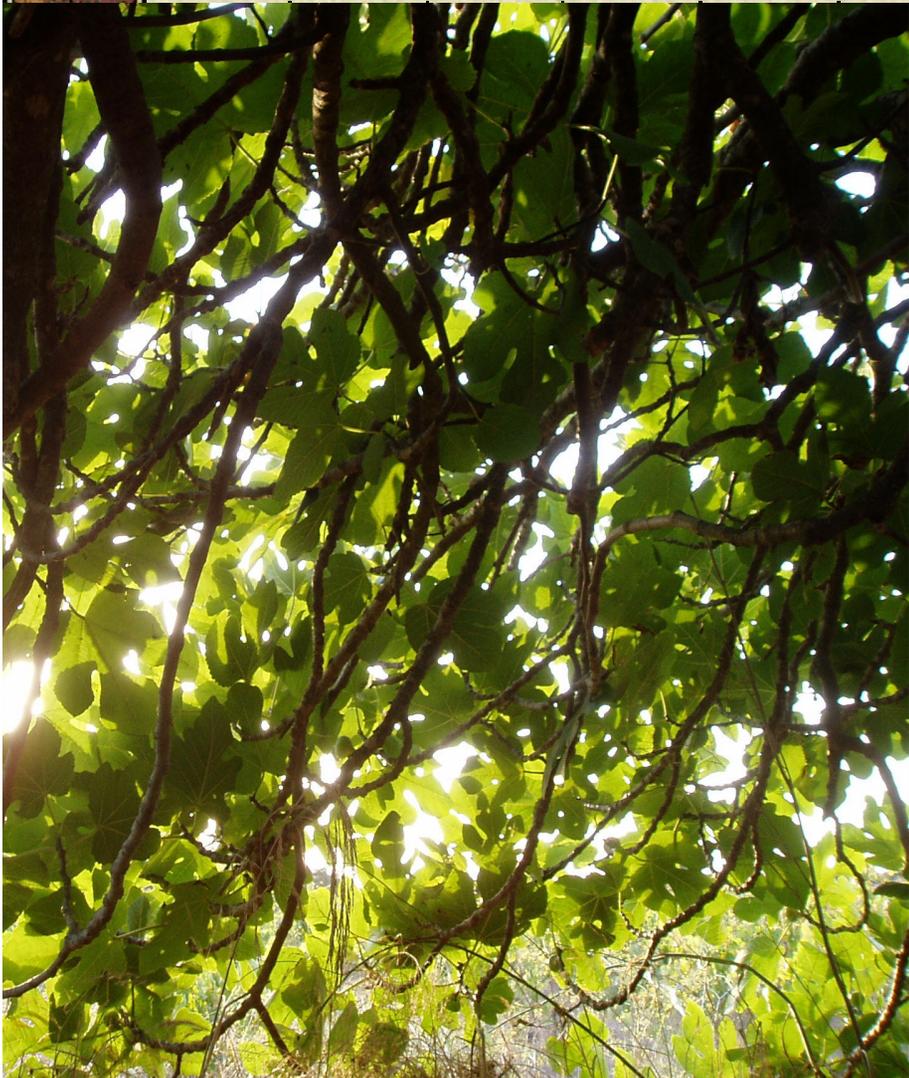


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✦ Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.” Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.” Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that.” He then added, “I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”



# Under the fig tree – or at the pub?



# Jacob's ladder

✦ “I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go”  
(Genesis 28:15)



# Jesus and Nathanael

✦ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “**Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false.**” “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “**I saw you while you were still under the fig tree** before Philip called you.” Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.” Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. **You shall see greater things than that.**” He then added, “I tell you the truth, **you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.**”

# The Son of Man

✠ A human being....

- ◆ Psalm 144:3-4 “O Lord, what is man that you care for him, the son of man that you think of him? Man is like a breath; his days are like a fleeting shadow.”
- ◆ Job 25:6 “how much less man, who is but a maggot-- a son of man, who is only a worm!”
- ◆ Luke 9:58 "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."



## A mighty divine figure....

- ◆ Daniel 7:13-14 “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him.”
- ◆ Mark 8:38 “If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.”
- ◆ John 5:26-27 “For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.”
- ◆ John 3:31 “No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man”.

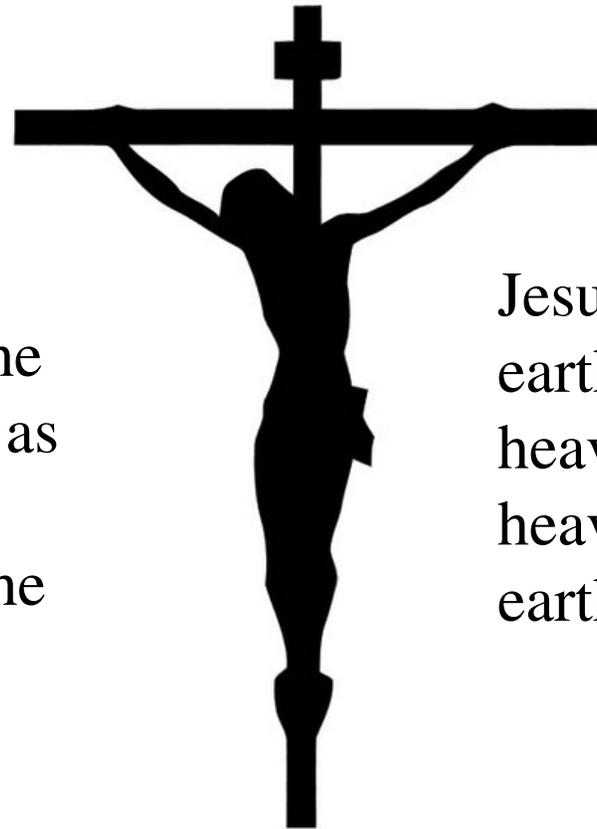


✦ And the suffering servant of God, on the cross

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- ◆ Isaiah 53:5 “he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.”
  - ◆ John 12:34 “The Son of Man must be lifted up”
  - ◆ Luke 22:37 “It is written: `And he was numbered with the transgressors’; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me.”
  - ◆ Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many”

# Jesus' "ladder"

Heaven: the Son of Man as  
a mighty divine being



The bridge  
between – the  
Son of Man as  
suffering  
servant on the  
cross

Jesus brings  
earth to  
heaven and  
heaven to  
earth

Earth: the Son of Man  
as a human being

# Why does it matter to us?

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## ✠ Jesus the Son of Man had to be human

- he can relate to us - Hebrews 4:15 “we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin”
- he is able as the second Adam to do what God intended of the first Adam; to obey where Adam disobeyed, and to fulfil God’s original purpose for mankind of ruling over creation
- he gives us an example to follow



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✠ Jesus the Son of Man had to be divine

- ◆ only God himself can save humanity
- ◆ only the divine Son of Man can give the Holy Spirit to his followers after he ascended into heaven
- ◆ as God, Jesus will be the judge of all mankind, at the end of time.



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✠ Jesus the Son of Man had to be both

- ✦ To die on the cross for all our sins – as the suffering servant
- ✦ To mediate for us with God - Hebrews 7:25 “he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them”.

# The Son of Man as he is now

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- ✦ Revelation 1:13-16: “someone “like a son of man,” dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire.”
  - ✦ Revelation 3:20: “I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.”

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Perspectives  
on  
skyscrapers





# And you?

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✦ “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” (Genesis 28:16)