

DAVID TATE

WHO WAS PHILIP?



PHILIP

IN THE

THE CHOSEN

**PHILIP
ACCORDING TO**

THE BIBLE

BIOGRAPHICAL INFO

NAME: PHILIP (Φίλιππος) – “horse-loving, fond of horses”

NICKNAME(S): ???

FATHER: ???

MOTHER: ???

SIBLING(S): ???

SPOUSE: ???

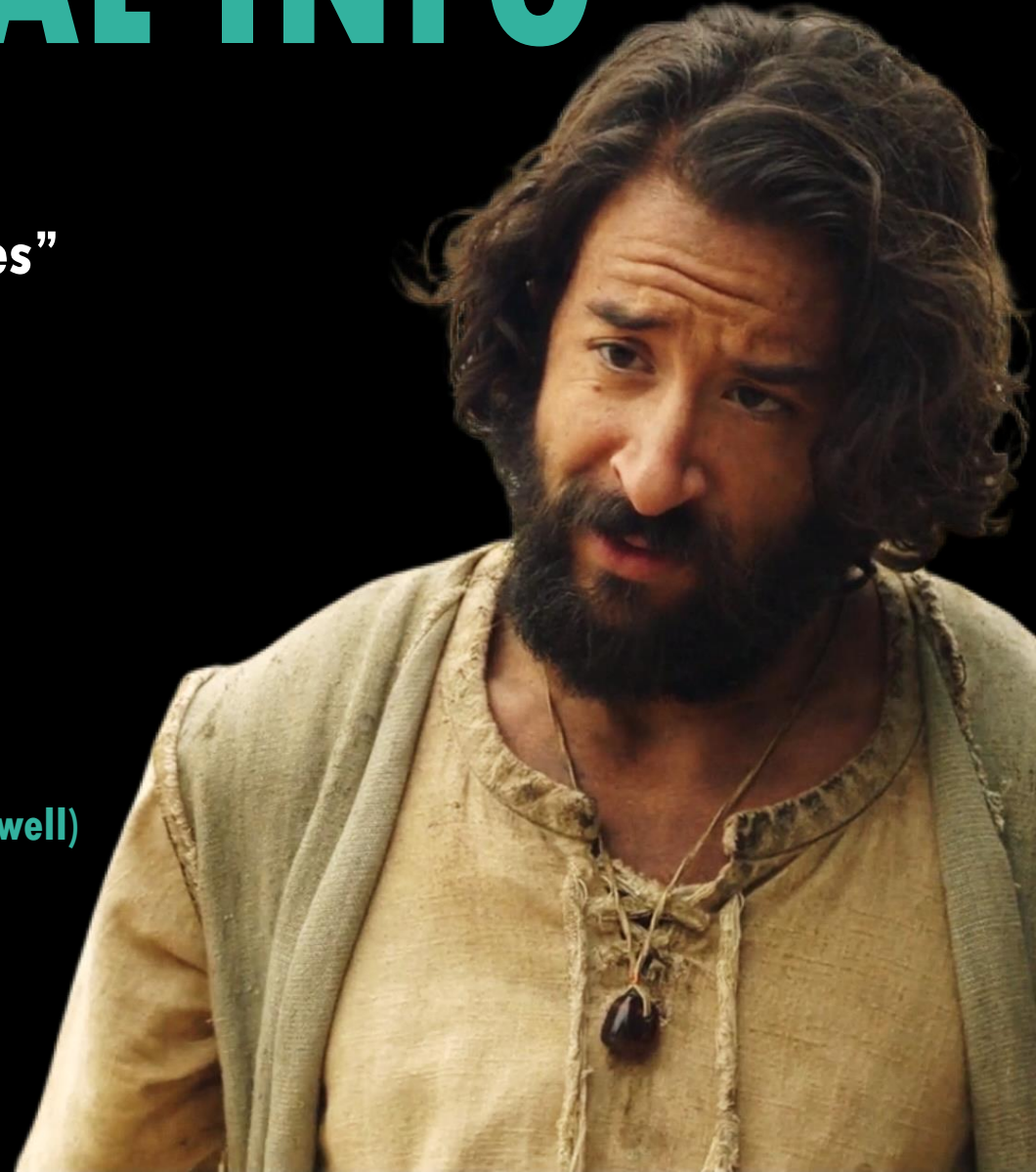
HOMETOWN: BETHSAIDA (Jn 1:44; 12:21)

PLACE OF RESIDENCE: BETHSAIDA(?)

EDUCATION: LIMITED(?)

LANGUAGE: ARAMAIC (very likely understood Greek and Hebrew as well)

OCCUPATION: FISHERMAN(?) (Jn 21:1-3)



HOW OLD WAS PHILIP?

HOW OLD WERE THE DISCIPLES?

- Jesus was around 30 when he began his ministry (Lk 3:23), the typical age for a rabbi.
- Students were usually younger than their rabbis. Jesus refers to them as “little children” (Mt 10:42; 11:25).
- Education ended between ages 12-15. Some disciples were already practicing trades (i.e. Lk 5:1-11; Mt 9:9).
- As far as we know, Simon was the only married one at the time (Mt 8:14-15; Mk 1:29-31; Lk 4:38-39) at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry; the average age for marriage was 18.
- As far as we know, by the third year of Jesus’ ministry, Simon was the only one who had to pay the temple tax (Mt 17:24-27), which began at age 20 (Ex 30:14).

Most of the disciples were likely young teenagers at the time they began following Christ.

Philip was likely in young teenager (~14-16) at the time he began following Christ.

PHILIP IN THE GOSPELS

Other than listing him as a member of the Twelve, the Synoptic Gospels say nothing of Philip.
Most of what we know about him comes from the Gospel of John.

FIRST ENCOUNTER: Either Andrew or Jesus found Philip, and Jesus called Him to follow (Jn 1:43).

3rd person singular, aorist active indicative of θέλω (“to will/desire”) = “he willed/desired/decided”

Gk	Τῇ ἐπαύριον ἠθέλησεν ἐξελθεῖν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν καὶ εὕρισκει Φίλιππον. καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· ἀκολούθει μοι.
NIV	The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.”
ESV	The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.”
NASB	The next day He decided to go to Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, “Follow Me.”
(Mine)	The next day he decided to go into Galilee, and he found Philip. And Jesus said to him, “Follow me.”

the person who decided to go to Galilee = the person who found Philip.

So...who decided to go into Galilee?

In the end, either interpretation seems plausible.

PHILIP IN THE GOSPELS (CONT.)

LIFE AS A DISCIPLE:

Philip is listed 5th in every list of the Twelve found in Scripture (Mt 10:2-4; Mk 3:16-19; Lk 6:14-16; Ac 1:13), which might suggest that he was the leaders of the second group of four.

Like the rest of the Twelve, Philip...

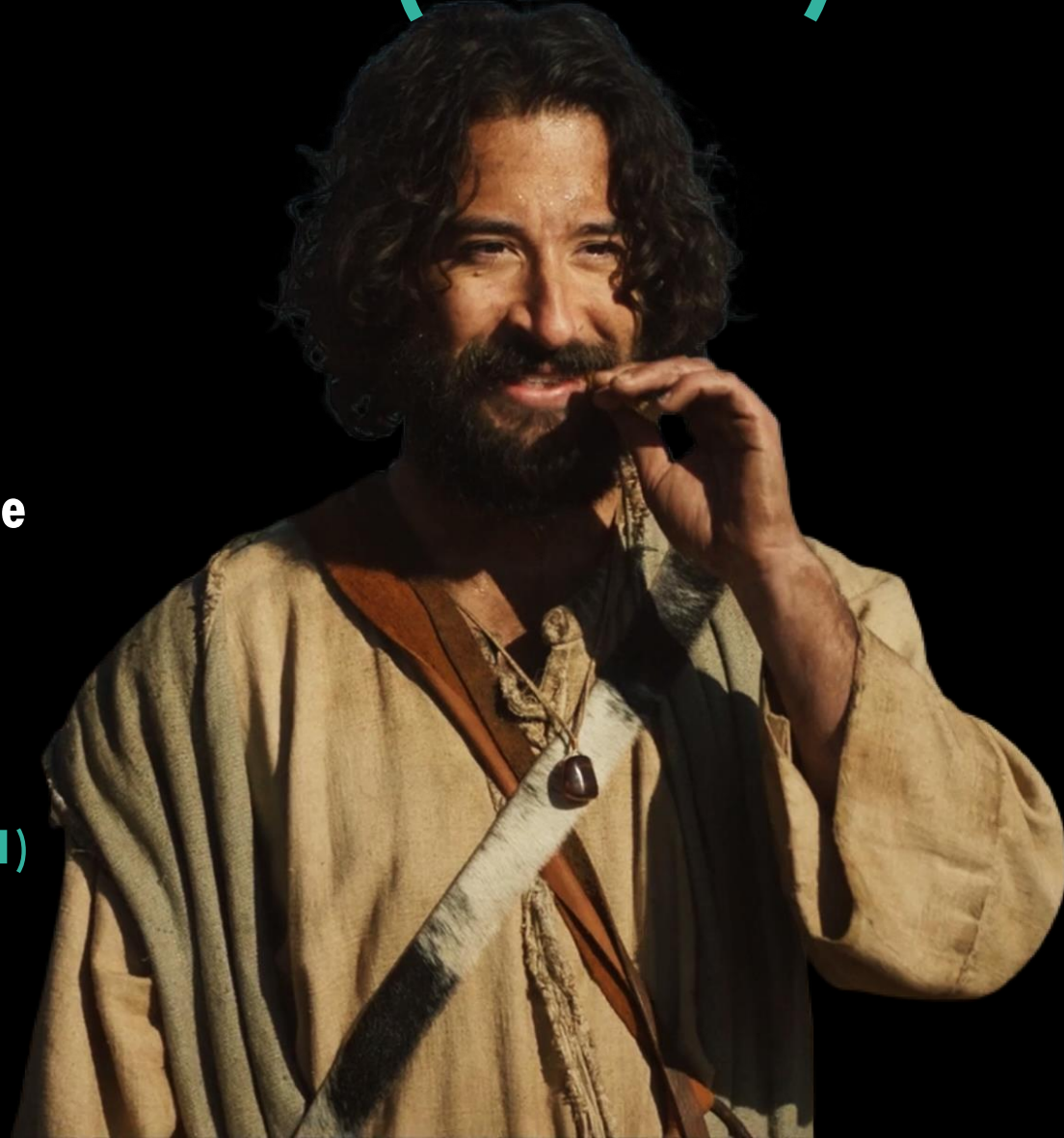
- ...was appointed by Jesus (Mt 10:1-2; Mk 3:13-16; Lk 6:12-13)
- ...travelled with Jesus (Mt 26:20; Mk 14:17)
- ...received insight to Jesus' teachings (Mk 4:10)
- ...was sent out to preach (Mt 10:5-42; Mk 6:7-13; Lk 9:1-6)
- ...baptized people (Jn 4:2)
- ...performed miracles (Mk 6:13; Lk 9:1-2)
- ...was challenged by Jesus' teachings (Mk 9:36; Jn 6:67-71)
- ...heard the predictions of Christ's death (Mt 20:17; Mk 10:32)
- ...fled at Christ's arrest (Mt 26:56; Mk 14:50)
- ...witnessed the resurrected Christ (Lk 24:33-49; Jn 20:19-28)
- ...witnessed the ascension (Lk 24:50-53; Ac 1:6-11)

MATTHEW 10	MARK 3	LUKE 6	ACTS 1
Simon Peter	Simon Peter	Simon Peter	Peter
Andrew	James of Zebedee	Andrew	John
James of Zebedee	John	James of Zebedee	James
John	Andrew	John	Andrew
Philip	Philip	Philip	Philip
Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Thomas
Thomas	Matthew	Matthew	Bartholomew
Matthew	Thomas	Thomas	Matthew
James of Alphaeus	James of Alphaeus	James of Alphaeus	James of Alphaeus
Thaddaeus	Thaddaeus	Simon the Zealot	Simon the Zealot
Simon the Zealot	Simon the Zealot	Judas of James	Judas of James
Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	

PHILIP IN THE GOSPELS (CONT.)

KEY MOMENTS:

1. Finding his friend Nathanael and requesting that he “Come and See” Jesus (Jn 1:43-46)
2. Being tested by Jesus shortly before the feeding of the 5,000+ (Jn 6:4-9)
3. Telling Andrew about the Greeks who wanted to see Jesus (Jn 12:20-26)
4. Requesting that Jesus show them the Father (Jn 14:8-11)



PHILIP'S CHARACTER

- **Inviting, genuine (Jn 1:43-46)**
- **Practical, logical (Jn 6:5-7)**
- **Humble, hesitant (Jn 12:20-22)**
- **Curious, confused, seeking (Jn 14:8-11)**



PHILIP IN ACTS & THE EPISTLES

Philip is only mentioned once in the book of Acts (1:13), and is never mentioned in the Epistles.

THE CONFUSION OF THE TWO PHILIPS

There are two Philips mentioned in the Book of Acts:

1. **Philip the Apostle (ch.1)**, a member of the Twelve
2. **Philip the Evangelist (ch.6-8,21)**, a deacon appointed over the church in Jerusalem who likewise had a successful ministry in Samaria.

Confusion between these two Philips began as early as Papias in the 2nd century.



**PHILIP
ACCORDING TO**

TRADITION

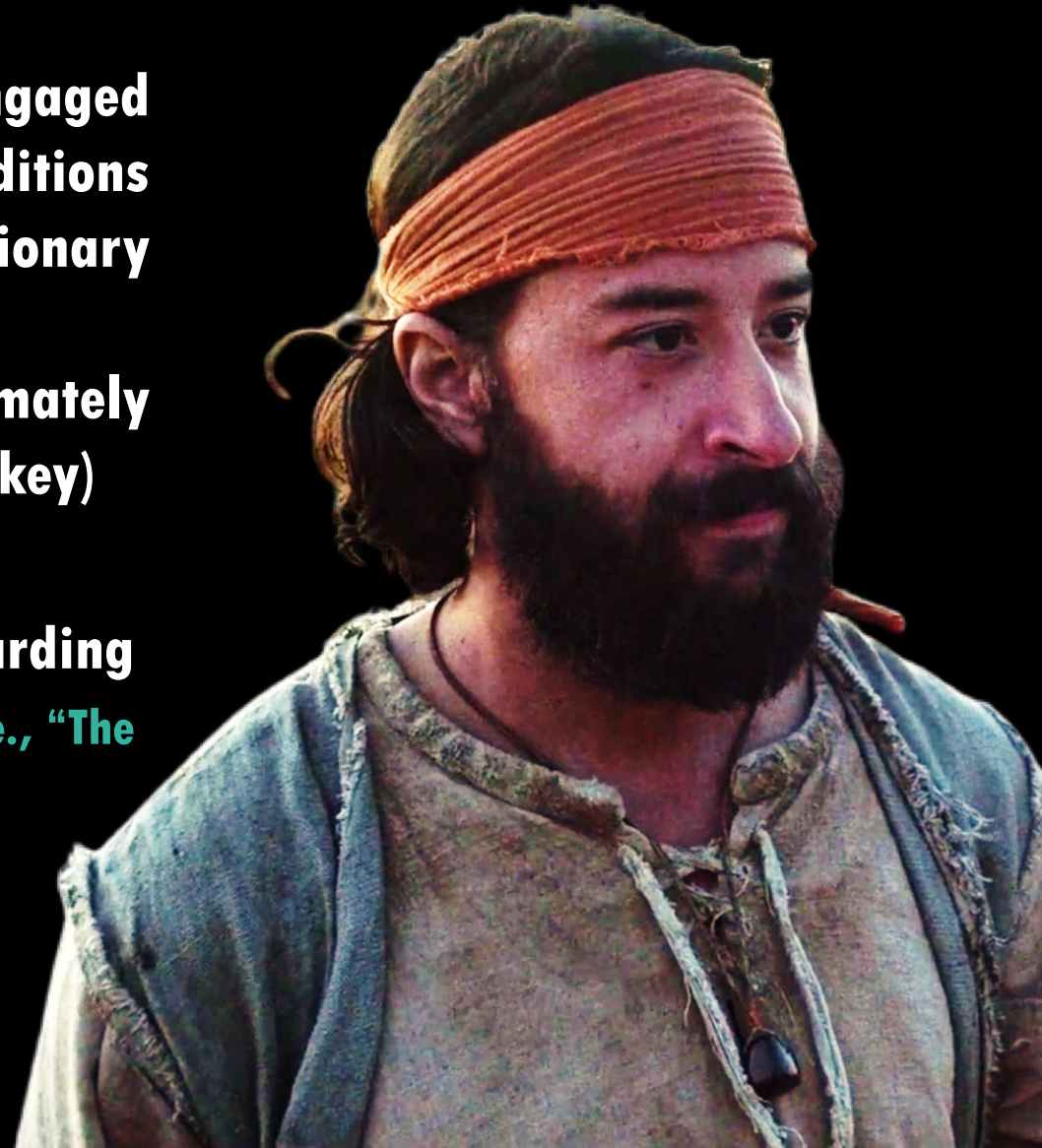
TRAVELS & TRADITIONS

TRAVELS: While we have reason to believe that Philip engaged in missionary activity and while there are many traditions listing out locations and stories regarding his missionary efforts, **we don't know where** exactly he travelled to.

- Early church tradition seems to agree that Philip ultimately ended up in the city of **Hierapolis** (in modern-day Turkey)

TRADITIONS:

- There aren't many mainstream traditions regarding Philip; of those that exist, most are either Gnostic (i.e., "**The Letter of Peter to Philip**") or have a relatively late date.
- Various traditions are detailed in *The Acts of Philip* (4th cent.), but the legends are bizarre and seem highly embellished.



THE FATE OF PHILIP

- The earliest traditions say Philip died in Hierapolis, but none mention how he died (i.e., Papias, Polycrates).
- Of the apostles, we probably know the least about Philip's fate. Later traditions provide various possibilities regarding his death:
 - Crucified upside down (*Acts of Philip*, 4th cent.; *Hippolytus on the Twelve*)
 - Stoned & crucified (Isidore of Seville, 7th cent.; *Irish Biblical Apocrypha*)
 - Crucified (*Breviarum Apostolorum*, 7th cent.)
 - Natural causes at age 87 (*The Apostolic Acts of Abdias*)

This all being said, we don't have a definitive date or cause of death for Philip.

SEAN McDOWELL'S CONCLUSIONS:

1. PHILIP ENGAGED IN MISSIONARY WORK OUTSIDE JERUSALEM – very probably true
2. PHILIP EXPERIENCED MARTYRDOM – as plausible as not

