

The Chosen

Episode #2 (Season #2)

"I Saw You"

This second episode introduces us to two apostles, Nathanael and Philip in their pre-disciple days. The first is Nathanael, represented as an ambitious and conscientious architect who suffers a catastrophic professional setback. Philip is represented as a disciple of John the Baptizer sent by John to follow Jesus.

Philip Emerges from the Bashan

Bashan is an area of land East of the Jordan River, and it's the location of the Kingdom of Og in the Old Testament and is situated now in modern-day Syria. It's described as a fertile area, producing strong bulls and oaks, among other things. At the time of Israel's entrance into the Promised Land, Og came out against them, but was utterly routed.



Prophecy Against Gog and Magog

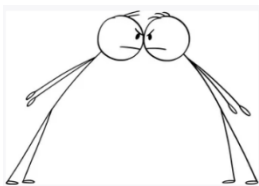
When Matthew collects wood from the ravine, which turns out to be wet, the disciples quote Ezekiel 39:9-10. In this prophecy, the inhabitants of Israel would not need to cut wood because they would make their fires out of the weapons of their enemy – Magog, and Gog, Magog's leader.

Spoiler alert – in this war between Magog and Israel, Magog loses because it's God who's doing the fighting for Israel. This war is still in the future, in the End Times. The Bible describes a time when the people of Israel have returned to the land of Israel and the surrounding countries unite against them.

Philip the Tetrarch

As they're approaching Caesarea Philippi, Philip jokes about the city being named after him. Then he explains its true origin – that it was instead named in honor of "Philip the Tetrarch, brother of Herod Antipas" and says this was a family that *"does not take kindly"* to his former rabbi, John the Baptist.

He's referring to the very tense relationship with Herodias, Herod, and Herodias's daughter on one side and John the Baptist on the other. Herod had gone against the Torah in marrying his sister-in-law (who was also his niece) while his brother, Philip, was still living and John publicly called him out on it. Because of this, Herod, Herodias, and her daughter all held a grudge against John, resulting in him being beheaded.



Scripture to read this week (*check the box when you've read the passage*):

- ☐ John 1:19-51
- ☐ Ezekiel 39:6-10
- ☐ Psalm 34:15-22
- ☐ Matthew 10:1-42
- ☐ Psalm 27:7-14

- ❶ What did you think about the scenario that *The Chosen* created to explain what Jesus meant when he said, "When you were under the fig tree, I saw you"? What is Jesus telling Nathanael when he says this? What's he trying to communicate?
- ❷ How do you think Matthew must feel, having given up his old life only to be rejected by some followers of Jesus because of his old life?
- ❸ Compare how Simon, Mary, and Phillip treat Matthew. Why do you think they have such different attitudes toward him?
- ❹ Whose friendship with you has helped you the most to follow Jesus? What are one or two stories of how?
- ❺ What can you conclude by Jesus' being aware of Nathanael's lowest moment? Nathanael was in a dark place in this episode. Are you in a "good place" right now as far as how you feel your life is unfolding? Are you drawing toward God or pulling back right now? What could you do to help your situation?



Thank your Heavenly Father for never turning away from you – even in your dark times. Ask Him to stir passion in you for His ways and to talk about Him with others. Thank Him for the gift of salvation.