

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

John 1: 43-51

43. The day following the day before and before the day after, which was the appointed time, Jesus would go forth into Galilee even though the weather was bad and the roads a quagmire of mud, and findeth He there Philip sheltering under a tent, and saith unto him, Follow me. And Philip did look at the rain and hesitateth and saith, Hang on. Let me first find my waterproofs and gumboots. But Jesus saith unto him, Let those who are dry of faith seek the dryness, but those who are wet come and follow me.
44. Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter, and was used to the rain, for it hisseth mightily in those parts in the due season, and so he followed without protection, albeit with almighty squelches and oozing.
45. And Philip findeth Nathanael sheltering under an awning and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. At least I think I read that somewhere. Ezra, wasn't it?
46. And Nathanael said unto him, Thou art wet and dripping on the floor. Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth especially in this weather? Philip saith unto him, Grab thy cloak and floppy hat and come and see.
47. In the shelter of an inn where there was room Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him through the rain, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom, though he be drenched – water-logged, even - there is no guile!
48. Nathanael shook his mantle and saith unto Him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee. Oh yes.
49. Nathanael, still dripping oddly shaped pools on the ground, answered and saith unto Him, Rabbi, I have not been under the fig tree for many days and especially not in this weather. Fig trees drip a lot, you see. And Jesus did say, I speaketh metaphorically and refereth to Scripture. Understandest thou this? And Philip did remember the prophets and declared with an high Christology, Thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.
50. Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? Thou shalt see greater things than these, and thou shalt be dry again, but not all of you. He said this to indicate that some were too soggy for words.
51. And He saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man. Although quite why they should do this is known only to my Father in heaven. And Nathanael and Philip did both understand this reference to Jacob's dream, and did dry themselves off and order some sweetmeats and wine and ask for the fire to be lit, for it was getting damper.