

prejudice was both by making it His own ordinary place of abode, and also by choosing several of his apostles from among its people.

One of these was Philip, who was born at Bethsaida, a town near the sea of Tiberias, the city also of Andrew and Peter. Of his parents and way of life the Gospels tell us nothing; but he was, probably, a fisherman, as that was the ordinary trade of the place. He had the honour of being first called to the apostleship, which came to pass in this way:—Our Lord, soon after His return from the wilderness, met with Andrew and his brother Peter; after some short discourse with them He parted from them, and the very next day, as he was passing through Galilee, He met Philip, whom He commanded to follow Him, which was the form that He constantly used in making choice of His apostles, so that Philip had the honour of being the first called to the sacred office; for though Andrew and Peter were the first that came to Christ and conversed with Him, yet they immediately returned to their trade again, and were not called to be apostles till above a whole year after, when John Baptist was thrown into prison. Immediately after Philip had himself been called, he went to Nathanael, a person of note and eminence, and told him that he had found the Messiah, and brought him to Jesus (St. John i. 43—51).

There is not much narrated of Philip in the Gospels after his call to the apostleship. Once to try him Jesus asked him how they could procure bread for five thousand men, besides women and children, in the wilderness. To which Philip answered, "*Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little*" (St. John vi. 7). It was to Philip that the Greek proselytes, who came up to the Passover, said, "*Sir, we would see Jesus,*" a teacher of whom they had heard so much (St. John xii. 22). At the Last Supper it was Philip who said, "*Lord, show us the Father and it sufficeth us.*" To which Jesus answered, gently rebuking him for not understanding that He and the Father were one, "*Have I been so long time with you and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father, and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father*" (St. John xiv. 8, 9).

It is believed that St. Philip at first preached the Gospel in Upper Asia, and made many converts there. After having exercised his apostolic office there for many years, he came to Hierapolis, a rich and prosperous city of Phrygia, but a stronghold of idolatry. Among their false gods was a huge serpent. It is said that St. Philip besought God till the monster died, and this helped the apostle to turn many from their vain superstitions. The magistrates were enraged at his success, and caused him to be scourged and imprisoned, and shortly afterwards put him to death—either by hanging or, as others say, by crucifying him.

St. Philip left no sacred writings behind him; the greater part of the apostles, as Eusebius remarks, having little leisure to write books, being employed in active ministries for the happiness and salvation of mankind.

In ecclesiastical art St. Philip usually carries in his hand a long staff, surmounted with a cross. He sometimes bears a basket, with loaves and fishes, in allusion to St. John vi. 5—7.