

## **111 people in the Old Testament**

### **Aaron**

Moses' brother who was made his spokesman by God. Went with Moses to Pharaoh demanding children of Israel's release from slavery. Aaron was made the Old Testament's first [High Priest](#). He and Moses were not allowed to enter the Promised Land [due to their sin in the wilderness of Zin](#).

### **Abel**

Adam and Eve's second son. The Bible is silent regarding whether or not he married. Murdered by jealous older brother Cain. Had faith in God (Hebrews 11) and called righteous by Jesus (Matthew 23:35).

### **Abraham**

Originally named Abram. Left home in Ur to go to [the Promised Land](#). Faith tested when asked to sacrifice son Isaac. Promised by God he would be father of many nations and kings. The New Testament calls him the father of the faithful (Romans 4:16).

### **Absalom**

King David's son who attempted to take over the throne. While fleeing after losing a battle with David's army he is caught in a tree and killed by Joab.

### **Adam**

Adam's name means 'red' or 'red earth.' He is the first created human being. A woman, first called Ish in Hebrew, and later named Eve, is [created from one of his ribs](#). Sinned when he ate fruit of tree of good and evil (Genesis 3). Was cast out of Eden along with Eve. Lived 930 years.

### **Ahab**

[Worst king of Israel](#). Married the evil pagan woman [Jezebel](#). Expanded Israel's worship of pagan gods. Elijah the prophet confronted him for his evil.

### **Amos**

Amos is considered one of the Bible's [Minor Prophets](#). His contemporaries were Isaiah and Hosea. Prophesied against Israel's oppression of poor, sexual immorality, luxury and corruption.

## **Balaam**

Prophet asked by Balak, the king of the Moabites, to curse Israel as they camped in the wilderness. God warned Balaam not to curse Israel by miraculously having a horse talk and the Angel of the Lord appear ready to kill him (Numbers 22 - 23). Taught Balak how to corrupt the Israelites and bring judgment down upon themselves (Numbers 31).

## **Baruch**

Baruch was from the tribe of Judah. Secretary for [the prophet Jeremiah](#) who wrote all his prophecies then read them to the people.

## **Bathsheba**

Bathsheba was the wife of Uriah the Hittite who served in David's military. King David committed adultery with her then set up Uriah to be killed in battle. Child born out of adultery dies. Marries David and become mother of [Solomon](#) and Nathan.

## **Belshazzar**

Last king of the Babylonian empire. Saw miraculous "handwriting on the wall" which Daniel revealed was God's judgment on him and Babylon. He was killed the same night he saw the handwriting. Darius the Mede, with consent of Persia's Cyrus the Great, takes Babylon.

## **Benjamin**

Born to Jacob and Rachel. Was Jacob's youngest of twelve sons.

## **Bilhah**

Was Rachel's handmaid given to her by her father Laban. Rachel, who was barren, gave Bilhah to Jacob so that she could have children through her (Genesis 30). Gave birth to two sons of Jacob named Dan and Naphtali.

## **Boaz**

Boaz married Ruth (who authored the Bible book of Ruth) and was the great-grandfather of King David.

## **Cain**

Adam and Eve's first child who was a tiller of the ground. Became jealous of younger brother Abel and murdered him. His punishment from God was to be

"[marked](#)" and to live as a fugitive his entire life. He eventually [married one of his sisters](#).

### **Cyrus the Great**

Considered first true king of the Persian empire. Conquered the Median Empire in 549 B.C. and the Babylonian empire in 539 B.C. Issued decree to allow Jews to return to Jerusalem.

### **Daniel**

Daniel was a descendent of a noble Jewish family who was taken captive by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon when he conquered Judah. He was highly likely [a eunuch](#) or was made one after being captured. He became a chief advisor to the king and eventually was made third ruler of the kingdom (Daniel 5).

God gave Daniel the ability [to interpret dreams](#). He survived being thrown in lion's den (Daniel 6). He was blessed with prophecies that foretold of [future world empires](#) leading up to the return of Christ. Learn more details about [the fascinating life of Daniel!](#)

### **Darius I the Great**

Darius was a Persian king who authorized the completion of rebuilding Jerusalem's Temple. The work God moved him to initiate on the temple was completed in 516 B.C.

### **David**

Youngest son of Jesse. Greatest king of Israel who ruled 40 years. As a young man killed [Goliath the giant](#). Won military battles ([see our map of his victories](#)) that expanded Israel's kingdom. Wrote most of [the book of Psalms](#). Conquered Jerusalem, made it his capital and brought to it the Ark of the Covenant. Committed adultery with Bathsheba. Son Solomon followed him as king.

### **Deborah**

A prophetess who, with the help of Barak, freed Israel from the oppression brought by the King of Canaan. She is the only female to serve as [a Judge of Israel](#). Deborah and Barak served together as Israel's Judges for 40 years (Judges 4 - 5).

### **Delilah**

Philistine harlot who was bribed to entice Samson to reveal secret of his strength. Had Samson's hair cut while he slept, rendering him weak.

**Eli**  
High Priest who judged Israel 40 years after [death of Samson](#). Taught a very young Samuel who eventually became a great prophet.

**Elijah**  
[Elijah](#) is considered the quintessential Old Testament prophet (Luke 9:30). He warned and punished King Ahab, considered [the worst of Israel's kings](#), for his sins. One of his hallmark miracles was raising a widow's son from the dead. Had confrontation with Israel's false prophets which ended in their death. After fleeing death threats from Jezebel is told to anoint two kings and [make Elisha his successor](#). A heavenly provided chariot of fire miraculously took him to a safe location in the sight of him to a location away from Elisha.

**Elisha**  
[Elisha](#) was Elijah's prophetic successor. He received 'a double portion' of Elijah's spirit after seeing him leave by chariot of fire. Brought back to life a child who died in farming accident. A dead man is [miraculously brought back to life](#) after it accidentally touches Elisha's bones!

**Enoch**  
There are at least two "Enochs" in Scripture. The first is the eldest son of Cain (Genesis 4:17). The second Enoch is the son of Jared (Genesis 5:18) and father of Methuselah (verse 21), the oldest person who ever lived (969 years). This Enoch was 365 years old when God "translated" him, meaning He moved him miraculously to another place on earth to (likely) avoid being killed.

**Esau**  
Esau is also called Edom. Son of Isaac and older twin brother of Jacob. Sold his birthright for bowl of lentil soup. Founder of the Edomites.

**Esther**  
Queen Esther was the Jewish wife of a Persian king. Told by Mordecai of plot to destroy all the Jews in the kingdom. Foils plot by Haman to kill Mordecai and all the Jews. The [Jewish festival of Purim](#) celebrates the events listed her book. Access our in-depth study of the [Old Testament book Esther wrote](#), one of only two Scriptural writings penned by women!

**Eve**  
First woman created. Made from one of Adam's ribs (Genesis 2:21 - 22). Her name

of Eve was given her by Adam after both of them sinned by eating from tree of good and evil (Genesis 3) and was thrown out of Eden with Adam. Gave birth to Cain, Abel, Seth and many other children.

### **Ezekiel**

One of the Bible's major prophets. Taken into Babylonian captivity by King Nebuchadnezzar. Known for having visions of 'wheel in the middle of a wheel' (Ezekiel 1, 10) and valley of dry bones (Ezekiel 37). Learn more about this prophet in our [detailed study of Ezekiel's life!](#)

### **Ezra**

An Aaronic priest who led the effort, along with the Great Synagogue, to collect and canonize the writings that would become our Old Testament. His efforts produced a set of Scriptures divided up as the Law, the Prophets and the Writings.

### **Gideon**

Gideon was called by God to deliver Israel from Midianite and Amalekite oppression. Took 300 men and surrounded the camp of Israel's enemies (Judges 7). After all the men blew trumpets and broke pitchers with torches in them the enemy became confused and fought amongst themselves. Gideon served 40 years as Israel's judge.

### **Goliath**

[Goliath](#) was one of five giant Philistine brothers. The Bible states he was at least 9 feet 3 inches tall (2.82 meters). In battle he wore a protective coat that weighed at least 78 U.S. pounds (35.4 kilograms) and threw [a spear](#) that was 26 feet (7.9 meters) long. Considered the Philistine's greatest fighter when a young David fought and killed him. He is one of three people in Scripture who have [the mark of 666](#) as one of God's adversaries!

### **Habakkuk**

One of [the minor prophets of the Old Testament](#). Gave prophecies concerning destruction of Chaldeans and against greed, graft, idolatry and aggression.

### **Hagar**

Hagar was Sarah's Egyptian handmaid she gave to her husband Abraham in order to

produce a child and heir. Hagar gave birth to Ishmael who was not considered Abraham's firstborn heir when God healed Sarah's womb and allowed her to produce Isaac. Hagar lived with the couple until Ishmael was about 14 years old.

### **Haggai**

One of the minor prophets. Gave prophecies concerning the restoration of Jerusalem's temple and the neglect of those rebuilding it.

### **Ham**

The youngest of Noah's three children. Survived the great flood in [Noah's ark](#). His sons were Cush, Mizraim, Phut and [Canaan](#) (from which the land of Canaan gets its name). Contrary to what some believe, Ham did not represent [one of three races](#) God wanted to save after the flood.

### **Hannah**

[Barren woman](#) who prayed to God for a child and promised to dedicate him to His service. She miraculously gave birth to Samuel, one of the most important prophets in the Old Testament.

### **Heber**

Heber is also referred to as Eber. He was the great-grandson of Shem and lived from 2276 to 1812 B.C. It is believed that from his name the term 'Hebrews,' used to denote those claiming descent from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, is derived.

### **Hiram**

King of Tyre who assisted King David in building his house. He greatly aided King Solomon in building [Jerusalem's temple](#) by sending him craftsmen as well as materials such as wood, [precious gold](#) and [silver](#).

### **Hosea**

One of the minor prophets who warned Israel about their adultery, idolatry and drunkenness.

### **Hoshea**

[The last king](#) of the northern ten tribes of Israel (the Kingdom of Israel). He ruled from 732 to 723 B.C. When Samaria fell to Assyrian King Shalmaneser V the kingdom he ruled was taken captive to Assyria.

## **Isaac**

Isaac was the only child produced by Abraham and Sarah. He was miraculously born after Sarah was healed of being barren. God tested Abraham's faith by commanding he sacrifice Isaac (Genesis 22). Isaac's wife Rebekah born him two sons, Esau and Jacob. He lived longer, at 180 years, than his father Abraham (175) or son Jacob (147).

## **Isaiah**

One of the Bible's major prophets. Isaiah served during reigns of kings Azariah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah. He foretold the coming and suffering of Jesus (Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12). Christ began his ministry by quoting Isaiah 61's words related to the [Biblical year of Jubilee](#) (Luke 4:16 - 21). Learn more about this prophet in our [detailed study of Isaiah's life!](#)

## **Ishmael**

Abraham's eldest son by Hagar, Sarah's maidservant. Ishmael grew up to be a "wild man" (Genesis 16:12). He was cast into the wilderness with his mother when he mocked Isaac. God made him into [a great nation](#) and gave him twelve sons who were princes of their tribes (Genesis 17:20).

## **Jacob**

Jacob was the son of Isaac and twin-brother to Esau. He bought Esau's birthright blessing for bowl of stew (Genesis 25:29 - 34) but later felt it necessary to steal it by pretending to be Esau in front of their Father Jacob. Jacob flees Esau by traveling to a relative named Laban, where he will work fourteen years in order to marry Rachel. Jacob also [wrestles with a man](#) who is actually a pre-incarnate Jesus and has name changed to Israel (Genesis 32:22 - 32).

Jacob's sons, which represent the tribes of Israel, are Asher, Benjamin, Dan, Gad, Isaachar, Judah, Naphtali, Reuben, Simeon, Zebulun. Levi, though a son, is usually not listed as a tribe due to their being made priests of the Eternal. Although Joseph was also a son of Jacob his two sons Ephraim and Manasseh, whom Jacob gave the birthright blessing (Genesis 48), are listed as tribes instead of him.

## **Japheth**

One of Noah's three children who survived the great flood in the ark. His sons were Gomer, Magog, Javan, Tubal and others. He may have been Noah's oldest son (Genesis 10:21).

## **Jehoiachin**

Jehoiachin was King of Judah who ruled for only 3 months from 598 to 597 B.C. After Jerusalem fell at the hands of King Nebuchadnezzar he is captured and taken as prisoner to Babylon.

## **Jeremiah**

Jeremiah is considered one of the Old Testament's three major prophets. He was destined to be a prophet before he was born (Jeremiah 1:4 - 5). He foretold, and lamented at, the desolation of Jerusalem and Judah. He was imprisoned by Judah's King Zedekiah but released by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. His prophecies foretold the offering of Jesus. Learn more about this prophet in our [detailed study of Jeremiah's life!](#)

## **Jeroboam**

Jeroboam was the first king of the newly created northern ten tribes of Israel (Kingdom of Israel). He reigned over a divided Israel, whose capital was originally Shechem, from 930 to 909 B.C. He set up a pagan golden calf god in Dan and Bethel to keep people from worshipping in Jerusalem (1Kings 12). He set a precedence of idolatry and leading Israel to sin that the Lord would reference many times (1Kings 16:2, 19, 31, etc.)

## **Jesse**

Jesse was the grandson of Boaz and Ruth. He was the father of King David, who was his youngest of eight children.

## **Jezebel**

Jezebel was the wife of evil King Ahab. She is considered one of, if not the greatest, [most evil females](#) found in the Old Testament! She encouraged her husband to pursue pagan gods and to lead Israel to do the same. Her evil was so renowned that her name was used in the New Testament as a symbol of someone who leads others into sin (Revelation 2:20). She was bold enough to threaten Elijah, one of Scripture's greatest prophets, with death. She ultimately [suffered a horribly death](#) that was prophesied to occur as a penalty for her disobedience.

## **Joab**

Joab was the son of David's sister and commander of David's army. He had several significant military successes. Joab played a key role in David's plot to have Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, killed in battle to cover up his adultery with her (2Samuel



11). Joab murdered Abner in revenge for the death of his brothers (2Samuel 3). David, because Joab did not support Solomon becoming the next king, commanded his son to kill him (1Kings 2).

## **Job**

Job, and not Moses, wrote [the earliest book found in the Bible](#). He was wealthy and considered righteous when Satan challenged God regarding the sincerity of his obedience (Job 1). The great adversary was allowed to take away Job's possessions and kill his children. After a period of trial and testing (made worse by his 'friends'), the Eternal personally confronts Job and causes him to repent. He is ultimately considered one of the three most righteous Old Testament people (Ezekiel 14:14, 20).

## **Joel**

One of the minor prophets whose prophecies parallel what is in book of Revelation. Joel gave prophecies regarding future judgment and punishment of mankind.

## **Jonah**

Jonah was a prophet sent to warn Nineveh of their impending judgment for their sins. Jonah initially refuses to warn the city but God has him swallowed by a great fish and changes his mind. While he is in the "great fish" Jonah cries out for help and after [three days and nights](#) (a type of Jesus' death) the fish vomits him out on a beach near Nineveh. He then warns the city as God commanded.

## **Jonathan**

Jonathan was the son of King Saul who was also [a very close personal friend](#) of King David. He died in battle with his father.

## **Joseph**

Joseph was the favorite son of Jacob. His mother was Rachel. He received the Biblically famous coat of many colors from Jacob (Genesis 37). After being sold as a slave by his brothers he became a prisoner in Egypt. His [interpretation of the dreams](#) of Pharaoh, revealed to him by God, ultimately leads to him being made overseer of Egypt (Genesis 41). In Egypt he produces two sons named Manasseh and Ephraim. He saves his entire family by having them move to Egypt to avoid a great famine that came upon the land.

Joseph is also the name of Jesus' stepfather and the husband of Mary. See our fascinating in-depth [article about Joseph](#), the man God choose to be the stepfather of mankind's Savior!

### **Joshua**

Joshua led the children of Israel into the Promised Land after the death of Moses. He led and won many battles in order to thrust out the people who occupied Israel's inheritance. He was instrumental in dividing up Canaan among the tribes of Israel and was Israel's first Judge.

### **Josiah**

Josiah, who reigned for thirty-one years, was one of the best kings of Judah. He helped restore the true worship of the Lord to Judah. He was fatally wounded in battle by a random arrow.

### **Judah**

Judah was Jacob's fourth son by Leah. He interceded to stop his other brothers from killing Joseph (Genesis 37) and instead selling him as a slave. He had incest with his daughter-in-law (Genesis 38). The tribe of Judah took the lead in conquering [the Promised Land](#) (Judges 1).

### **Keturah**

Keturah is reference in the Bible as one of Abraham's concubine. She likely married him after the death of Sarah. Keturah bore Abraham six children whose names were Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Shuah.

### **Laban**

Laban was the brother of Abraham whose sister was the wife of Isaac. He did not keep his agreement with Jacob who promised to work for him seven years in order to marry Rachel (Genesis 29).

### **Leah**

Leah was the eldest daughter of Laban. Although Jacob wanted to marry Rachel, Laban deceived him into taking Leah as his first wife (Genesis 29). Leah bore Jacob six boys and a girl whose names were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Isaachar, Zebulun and Dinah.

### **Levi**

Levi was Jacob's third son by Leah. The tribe became dedicated to serving God and

his tabernacle during the time of Moses. Although God command they were not to receive an inheritance in the land of Canaan, [they did get cities throughout Israel](#). Their livelihood, because of their service to the Eternal, came through the tithes and offerings made by the other Israelite tribes.

## **Lot**

Lot's uncle was Abraham. Lot was saved out of [Sodom and Gomorrah](#) by two angels before it was destroyed by God. He sadly witnessed his wife turn into [a pillar of salt](#) for her disobedience (Genesis 19). [Lot's two daughters](#), after the two sinful cities were destroyed, got him drunk and had sex with him. [Their incest](#) produced the founders of the Moabite and Ammonite peoples.

## **Malachi**

Malachi was the last of the Bible's minor prophets to write a book (c. 400 B.C.). He gave prophecies regarding being prepared for God's Messenger, Jesus Christ. He spoke against divorce, adultery, priestly neglect of duties and robbing the Eternal by not tithing.

## **Manasseh**

Manasseh was the name of one of Joseph's son born in Egypt.

Manasseh is also the name of one of Judah's kings who ruled longer (55 years) than any other monarch of either Israel or Judah. He is consider one of Israel's worst kings as he encouraged the worship of many false gods. He also indulged in witchcraft, worked with evil spirits, and even sacrificed his own son by fire to Moloch (2Kings 21).

## **Melchizedek (Melchizedec)**

Abraham tithed to [Melchizedek](#), who name means "king of righteousness" and "king of peace" (Hebrews 7). Paul states Melchizedek did not have a father or mother, was never born, never died, and is a priest forever. The Bible records that Jesus is a priest forever according to [the order of Melchizedek](#) (Hebrews 5).

## **Methusaleh**

Methusaleh lived from 3297 to 2328 B.C., a total of 969 years, which makes him [the oldest human](#) in history! Methusaleh died the same year as Noah's flood.

## **Micah**

Micah is one of [the Minor Prophets](#). Gave prophecies concerning lack of justice and oppression in the world.

## **Michal**

Michal was one of [King Saul's](#) daughters who became the first wife of King David. She was the king's "prize" to David for killing the feared [Philistine giant Goliath](#). Scripture indicates she died without bearing any children.

## **Miriam**

Miriam was a prophetess as well as the sister of Moses and Aaron. She led a song of triumph after the Red Sea closed on the Egyptian army and killed them (Exodus 15). Her [jealousy](#) of Moses led to her being stricken with leprosy, which her brother had to pray to God to heal (Numbers 12).

## **Moab**

Moab was the son of Lot, born from an [incestuous liason](#) with his older daughter. God commanded the children of Israel not to bother [the Moabites](#) as they traveled to the Promised Land.

## **Mordecai**

Mordecai is the uncle of [Queen Esther](#). Both him and Esther helped save the Jewish people from total destruction at the hands of the hated Haman.

## **Moses**

Moses is one of the central figures in the entirety of the Old Testament. He was a Levite who, when born in 1525 B.C., was hid in a small basket to avoid being killed. He was found and adopted by Pharaoh's daughter (Exodus 2). Moses is educated and learns how to govern in the court of Pharaoh. At the age of forty he sees an Egyptian beating up on a Hebrew and kills him. His act of revenge is discovered and he flees to Midian.

At the age of about eighty he sees [a miraculous vision of a burning bush](#) and receives his calling to free the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. With his brother Aaron, he travels back to Egypt and demands that God's people be set free. After [a series of plagues](#) the Israelites leave Egypt in 1445 B.C.

Moses receives the Ten Commandments directly from God (Exodus 19 - 20). Because of the Israelites' lack of faith, Moses and the entire nation wander the wilderness for forty years. During his wandering Moses writes the first five books of the Bible. God does not allow him to [enter the Promised Land](#) and he dies at the age of 120. Learn more interesting details in [our article covering Moses' life!](#)

### **Nahum**

Nahum is one of the Minor Prophets. He gave prophecies concerning the judgment of Nineveh and offered comforting words to Israel.

### **Naomi**

Naomi was the mother-in-law of Ruth. Ruth decides, after Naomi loses both her husband and sons, to accompany her to Bethlehem. Naomi, after Ruth marries Boaz and produces a son named Obed, stays with the family and nurses the newborn.

### **Nathan**

Nathan was an Old Testament prophet during the reigns of Kings David and Solomon. He reproved David for his adultery with Bathsheba (2Samuel 12) and educated Solomon in his youth. Nathan is also the name of one of David's sons through Bathsheba who is in the genealogy of Jesus' mother Mary (Luke 3:31).

### **Nebuchadnezzar**

Nebuchadnezzar is the greatest of all [the Babylonian kings](#). He extends the power of Babylon over the known world. He also conquered Jerusalem in 597 B.C. and took Judah's king, Ezekiel, Daniel and many others captive. In 586 B.C. he destroys Jerusalem and completely burns its temple. God, after the king revels in his own glory and honor, causes him to have the mind of a beast for seven years in order to humble his proud heart (Daniel 4:30 - 34).

### **Nehemiah**

Nehemiah was a prophet who, as captive of the Persian empire, was given permission to return to Jerusalem and rebuild it (Nehemiah 1 - 2). He became the Governor of Judah and helped Ezra canonize the Old Testament.

### **Nimrod**

Nimrod was the grandson of Ham, one of Noah's three sons who survived the flood. His name means 'rebellion.' The Bible states he was "a mighty hunter before (meaning against or in opposition to) the Lord." (Genesis 10:9). He began the city

of Babel (leading to the kingdom of Babylon) and built the city of Nineveh in the land of Assyria.

## **Noah**

Noah was commanded [to build a giant ark](#) to save endangered animals and his immediately family from a flood to come upon the entire world. He was 600 years old when [the great flood](#) occurred (Genesis 7:6). God, after the deluge, gave him [the sign of a rainbow](#) as a promise to never again kill all mankind through water (Genesis 9). Learn more about [Noah's fascinating life](#) with our article dedicated to discussing how God used him to save humanity!

## **Obadiah**

Obadiah is considered one of the Old Testament's Minor Prophets. He gave prophecies concerning the Day of the Lord, Edom's destruction and Israel's restoration.

## **Rachel**

Rachel was the youngest daughter of Laban and Jacob's (Israel's) favorite wife. Jacob agreed to work seven years for Laban in order to marry her but was deceived into first marrying Rachel's older sister Leah instead. He then willingly chose to work a total of fourteen years in order to wed her. Rachel, after being healed of being barren, gave birth to Joseph. She later died giving birth to Benjamin, the first woman recorded in the Bible as dying in childbirth.

## **Rahab**

Rahab was a harlot who received and assisted the spies sent by Joshua to check out Jericho (Joshua 2). She is listed in the lineage of Jesus (Matthew 1:5).

## **Rebekah**

Rebekah was the wife of Isaac. She was healed of being barren after her and her husband prayed to God. She gave birth to twins boys named Esau and Jacob.

## **Rehoboam**

Rehoboam was the son and heir to the throne of his father King Solomon. After Solomon's death his unwillingness to lighten the heavy tax burden imposed by his father (1Kings 12) caused Israel to split into two distinct kingdoms. He ruled over the newly-separated [Kingdom of Judah](#) (composed of the tribes of Judah, Benjamin and priestly tribe of Levi) from 930 to 917 B.C.

## **Reuben**

Reuben is the firstborn of Jacob through Leah. Jacob cursed him after he committed adultery with his wife Bilhah. After Reuben was deprived of his birthright it was given to Joseph's two sons [who lived in Egypt](#).

## **Ruth**

Ruth was a non-Israelite woman who, after becoming a widow, went to Bethlehem with mother-in-law Naomi. In Bethlehem she meets Boaz, her future husband, while gleaning from his field (Ruth 2). She eventually marries him and becomes the great-grandmother of King David (Ruth 4). She is one of only [two woman](#) whose writings appear in the Bible.

## **Samuel**

Samuel is unique in that not only was he an Old Testament prophet he was also the last Judge of Israel before the crowning of King Saul. He was miraculously born when his mother was healed of barrenness. He anointed both Saul and David as kings over God's people.

## **Samson**

Samson, [the strongest man](#) recorded in the Bible, spent his entire life battling [the Philistines](#), Israel's greatest and most enduring enemy. A [Nazarite from birth](#), He possessed miraculous strength symbolized by his hair, a secret he foolishly revealed to a harlot named Delilah. After suffering and being humbled for his sins, he sacrificed his life for God's people. Learn more about this amazingly strong man and his deeds in our [in-depth article on Samson!](#)

## **Sarah**

Sarah, whose [named was changed](#) from Sarai by God (Genesis 17), was the wife of Abraham. After she was healed of being barren her entire life she gave birth to Isaac when she was 91 years old! Sarah is noteworthy in the Old Testament (and the entire Bible) as the only woman where her age at death, 127 years old, is recorded (Genesis 23:1).

## **Satan the devil**

Satan was originally a righteous angel [named Lucifer](#) whose name meant "light bringer." He and other angels willfully disobeyed and rebelled against God and in the process became demons (Revelation 12). Lucifer's name was then changed to Satan which means "the adversary."

Lucifer corrupted himself through [lust \(pride\) and vanity](#). He sought nothing less than [knocking God off his throne](#) and taking control of the entire universe (Ezekiel 28, Isaiah 14)! He and his demons, however, were perfectly defeated and cast down to the earth as quick as lightning (Luke 10:18). Satan, in the near future, will be [put to death](#) for his rebellion.

## **Saul**

Saul was of the tribe of Benjamin and was anointed by Samuel as Israel's first human king. He [reigned over God's people](#) for forty years, from 1050 to 1010 B.C. He took a young King David into his service but out of jealousy grew to hate him and then tried to kill him. He lost his chance to have his descendants rule over Israel due to disobeying the Eternal (1Samuel 11).

One of Saul's great sins was consulting [the witch of Endor](#) in order to try and [contact a dead Samuel](#) (1Samuel 28). He ultimately died in battle with son Jonathan. Saul is also name of [the apostle Paul](#) before he was converted (Acts 13:9).

## **Sennacherib**

Sennacherib was the most famous of the kings of Assyria. He foolishly taunted God when he was planning to destroy Jerusalem and its inhabitants in [701 B.C.](#) His entire army of 185,000 troops was killed so quickly, by a SINGLE angel, such that none of them fired a single arrow or even was able to alert anyone regarding what was happening (Isaiah 37:33 - 38)!

## **Seth**

Seth is Adam and Eve's third son. He was born after [Cain killed his brother Abel](#).

## **Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego**

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were the Babylonian names of three Hebrew youths named Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. They, along with the prophet Daniel, were taken from Jerusalem into [Babylonian captivity](#) by Nebuchadnezzar in [605 B.C.](#) and made to serve the king. All four of the Hebrew young men, according to Josephus, were of royal blood and were (or were made by Nebuchadnezzar) [eunuchs](#).

When the three refused to worship [an enormous golden idol](#) erected by the king they were thrown into a fiery furnace (Daniel 3). They were miraculously kept from burning alive, however, by the appearance of a fourth person in the furnace who looked like "a son of the gods" (Daniel 3:25, HBFV). Shocked and stunned at what



he saw, Nebuchadnezzar declared Israel's God the only Being worthy of worship and promoted the three men in his government.

### **Shalmaneser V**

He was the Assyrian king who conquered Samaria, Israel's (Northern 10 Tribes of Israel) capital, in 723 B.C. He took the Israelites captive and [transported them to Assyria](#).

### **Shem**

Shem is one of the sons of Noah who survived the flood in the ark. He lived a total of 600 years and is in [the lineage of Jesus](#).

### **Sisera**

Sisera was the army commander of Canaanite king Jabin (Judges 4:1 - 2). God allowed the king, because of Israel's sins, to oppress his people for twenty years. He then raised up [Deborah and Barak](#) to save his chosen from Jabin's yoke.

Deborah and Barak routed Sisera and his forces near Megiddo, causing him to flee the battlefield. Sisera ended up hiding in a tent, where a woman named Jael killed him by driving a tent peg through his head when he was sound asleep (Judges 4:17 - 18, 21 - 22)!

### **Solomon**

Solomon was one of King David's sons through Bathsheba. After becoming king he asked the Eternal to give him "an understanding heart" with which to rule. He was given not only wisdom but [riches and honor](#) (1Kings 3:10 - 13) unlike any king before or since!

Solomon built Jerusalem's first temple. His 700 wives and 300 concubines turned his heart, when he was old, away from serving the Creator (1Kings 11). He wrote Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, and most of the book of Proverbs.

### **Terah**

Terah (Genesis 11:26) is the father of the Old Testament patriarch Abraham (initially named Abram). He is the 19th person in the physical lineage of Jesus Christ.

After Abraham's marriage to Sarah, Terah moved his family (which included Abraham's brothers Nahor and Haran, as well as Lot (the son of Haran)) from the

city of Ur to a place that would be named after Haran. Abraham, Sarah and Lot, after Terah's death at the age of 205, left Haran and journeyed to the land of Canaan (Genesis 12).

### **Tiglath-Pileser III**

Tiglath-pileser III (also referred to as Pul in the Old Testament) was king of [the mighty Assyrian Empire](#) from 745 to 727 B.C. He was so powerful during his life that Menahem, king of Israel, paid him [1,000 talents of silver](#) (\$16.4 million dollars in today's money, assuming silver is \$15 U.S. per troy ounce) not to attack him (2Kings 15:19 - 20)! Tiglath-pileser's reign was marked by a rapid expansion of Assyria's empire.

### **Zadok**

Apart from Aaron, Israel's first High Priest, Zadok is the most well known and influential Old Testament person to serve in such a position before God. During the latter part of David's reign he was one of the two primary priests used by the king (2Samuel 8:17).

Abiathar shared the duties of High Priest with Zadok when David was nearing the end of his life. Abiathar's support of David's son Adonijah to be the next king, however, instead of Solomon, cost him his leadership role when Solomon finally assumed the throne (1Kings 2:26 - 27). Zadok then became the sole High Priest in Israel, an ascension that was prophecied to occur (1Samuel 2:30 - 36).

After Zadok's death his descendants continued to be High Priests before God. In fact, because the Levites apostasized when Israel as a whole pursued idolatry, God demoted their responsibilities to being merely caretakers of the temple. Only the sons of Zadok were allowed to be High Priest and fulfill the position's special role before the Eternal (Ezekiel 44:10 - 16).

### **Zechariah**

Zechariah is one of the [Old Testament's Minor Prophets](#). He foretold the coming of God's kingdom preceded by the rebuilding of his temple in Jerusalem.

### **Zephaniah**

Zephaniah is one of the Minor Prophets. He gave prophecies concerning God's indignation, Israel's repentance and salvation.

## **Zerubbabel**

Zerubbabel led emancipated Jews, living in Babylon, to Jerusalem. He was named Prince and Governor of Judah. He also directed the rebuilding of Jerusalem's altar and temple (Ezra 1, 3).

## **Zilpah**

Zilpah was the handmaid of Leah who was one of Jacob's wives. When Leah thought she could have no more children she gave Zilpah to Jacob (Genesis 30). Zilpah gave birth to two sons of Jacob (Israel) named Gad and Asher.

## **Zipporah**

Zipporah was the daughter of a Midianite priest who was [Moses' wife](#). She got angry at Moses for risking his life by not circumcising their son (Exodus 4:24 - 26). After she got angry Moses sent her and their two sons back to her Midianite father. They later reunite (Exodus 18:2 - 6) but nothing else is stated about her. Read our interesting article discussing [what was her race](#).