

What were they like? Strengths? Weaknesses?

How do we compare? What should we do?

WHAT KIND OF MAN ARE YOU?

Temperaments:

Sanguine (actors, salesmen, speakers) outgoing, talkative gifted, sensitive optimistic, personable perfectionist, analytical friendly faithful friend compassionate self sacrificing

Melancholy (artists, musicians, teachers) restless self centered, unsociable weep willed pessimistic, impractical emotionally unstable moody, critical egotistical revengeful

Choleric (producers, builders, leaders) strong will / power witty, calm, easy going practical, productive dependable, practical efficient leader, decisive, determined

Phlegmatic (diplomats, accountants, technicians) slow and lazy, stingy optimistic, confident tease, selfish, spectator hot temper, domineering stubborn, unmotivated cruel, inconsiderate indecisive, fearful self sufficient

Peter (Sanguine) impulsive, uninhibited, outspoken, egotistical, self seeking, braggart weep willed, inconsistent

Moses (Melancholy) Gifted, self sacrificing, anger, Self depreciating, depression, perfectionist, loyal

Paul (Choleric) cruel, strong willed, hostile, self sufficient, dynamic, practice crusading, controversial, independent

Abraham (Phlegmatic) Cautious, peaceable, Reliable, passive, fearful, supportive, diplomatic, Balanced, tolerant

11 key people - Interesting overview...(probably non Christian writer) mostly true.

Adam and Eve

Okay, Adam and Eve are two people. But Adam and Eve really are inseparable. Even the Bible refers to them as “one flesh” in recognition of their coming from the same flesh (Adam’s) and being joined together again in marital/sexual union.

Adam and Eve are important because, according to the Bible, they’re the first two people in the world, and from them comes everyone who has ever lived.

The human drama begins when God forms Adam from the ground and breathes life into him. God then performs the first surgery, creating Eve from Adam’s side (a more literal translation than “rib”). Adam and Eve live together in Paradise (or what the Bible calls the Garden of Eden) until they disobey God by eating fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. This act of defiance, called “The Fall” by many theologians, is a real bummer because from it comes painful childbirth, weeds in your garden, and, ultimately, death. Moreover, Adam and Eve’s disobedience introduce fear and alienation into humankind’s formerly perfect relationships with God and one another. As evidence of this alienation, Adam and Eve’s son, Cain, murders his brother, Abel.

Noah

Noah is most famous for building an ark — a giant three-decked wooden box in which he, his family, and a whole bunch of animals ride out a massive flood that God sends to destroy humankind for its disobedience. God chooses Noah and his family to survive the deluge because Noah is “the most righteous in his generation.” Noah is important not only because his ark decorates most nurseries in North America but also because, according to the Bible, if Noah hadn’t been righteous, none of us would be here right now.

Abraham

The Bible is filled with stories about people disobeying God. One notable exception is Abraham, a man who, though not perfect, obeys God’s command to leave his

homeland in Mesopotamia and venture to an unknown Promised Land (ancient Canaan; later Israel). God promises Abraham that his descendants will become a great nation, through which all the people of the earth will be blessed.

The tales of Abraham and his wife Sarah are a roller coaster of dramatic events that repeatedly jeopardize God's promise. Ironically, the biggest threat to God's promise is when God Himself commands Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. Abraham sets out to do just as God orders, but right before Abraham delivers the fatal blow to his own child, God stops the sacrifice. As a reward for Abraham's faith, God fulfills His promise to make Abraham's descendants a great nation, as Isaac's son Jacob eventually has 12 sons, whose descendants become the nation of Israel.

Today, three of the world's major religions — Judaism, Christianity, and Islam — trace their roots to Abraham.

Moses

The Hebrew Bible describes Moses as the greatest prophet who ever lived, and for good reason. Moses is born during hard times for ancient Israel. They're enslaved in Egypt, and their growing population so alarms the Egyptians that the Egyptian king orders all newborn Israelite males drowned in the Nile River. Moses' mother saves her son's life by placing him in the Nile in a reed basket, where he is soon discovered by Pharaoh's daughter, who ironically raises Moses in the royal palace. After he's grown, Moses must flee Egypt for killing an Egyptian who was beating an Israelite slave. Eventually, God appears to Moses in a burning bush and tells him that he must return to Egypt to deliver the Israelites from their slavery. With God's help, Moses succeeds in his mission, bringing the Israelites to Mount Sinai, where God first appeared to Moses. At Mount Sinai, God gives Moses the Law, including the Ten Commandments. Moses eventually leads the Israelites to the edge of their Promised Land (ancient Canaan; later Israel), where he dies at the ripe old age of 120.

David

David is Israel's second and greatest king. As a boy, David courageously defeats a mighty enemy warrior named Goliath with only a sling and a stone. As a man, David conquers all Israel's enemies and begins a dynasty that would rule Jerusalem for nearly 500 years. But not all the news surrounding David is good. David perpetrates one of the Bible's most heinous crimes: He commits adultery with a woman named Bathsheba, who's the wife of one of David's most loyal soldiers, Uriah. Then, to cover up the crime, David has Uriah killed. In David's favor, when the prophet Samuel confronts David with his sin, David repents. Moreover, in God's favor, God forgives David for his sin, but not without punishing David for his crime.

Beyond David's royal exploits (and indiscretions), he's credited with writing many of ancient Israel's worship songs, which you can read in the Book of Psalms.

Elijah

Elijah is one of Israel's greatest prophets, as well as God's heavyweight champ in an epic bout against a deity named Baal (the Canaanite storm god). In order to prove to the Israelites that God is the only true God, Elijah gathers the prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel, where for the main event each deity is given a pile of wood with a bull on it. The god who can produce fire and consume the sacrifice wins. Baal goes first, and for half the day his prophets dance, shout, sing, and even cut themselves in order to convince their god to answer Elijah's challenge. When their efforts fail, Elijah prays to God, who immediately sends fire down from the sky and consumes the sacrifice. The Israelites rededicate themselves to God, and they kill the prophets who deceived them into worshiping Baal.

Later, near the Jordan River, a fiery horse-drawn chariot descends from the sky and takes Elijah to heaven, but not before he appoints a successor named Elisha. Elijah's atypical departure influenced later biblical prophets, who predicted that Elijah would return as a precursor to the coming of the Messiah. Because of these prophecies, Jews invite Elijah every Passover to usher in the age of the Messiah, and the New Testament writers associate John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus' ministry, with Elijah.

Isaiah

Isaiah is one of the most influential prophets in the Hebrew Bible. During his career, Isaiah advises several kings of Judah, helping them to avoid being destroyed by the mighty Assyrian Empire (around 700 B.C.E.).

Beyond Isaiah's political influence, he is a masterful poet, with many of his prophecies inspiring hope for eventual peace and righteousness on earth. Several of these prophecies were later understood by Christians to be predictions of Jesus, including the birth of Immanuel; the coming of the Prince of Peace, as quoted in Handel's *Messiah*; and the suffering of God's "Servant" for the sins of His people.

Mary

Being Jesus' mom, as you might imagine, is bound to put you in the theological limelight, and Mary holds this office with dignity and grace.

Betrothed to Joseph at a young age, Mary becomes pregnant under mysterious circumstances. Two of the four gospels claim that God is the father of her baby, but because of the silence of the other two gospels, as well as the lack of this being mentioned by Peter and Paul, it seems the doctrine of Jesus' virgin birth wasn't emphasized in the early Church — though it certainly did dominate later. The picture of Mary in the gospels is one of a concerned and loving mother, who doesn't fully understand her son at times, but supports him to the end, even painfully witnessing his execution at the foot of the cross.

Much of what Christians believe about Mary arose after her lifetime and highlights theological differences between Catholics and Protestants. For Catholics, Mary maintained her virginity throughout her life. Thus, Jesus' "brothers" and "sisters" were either children fathered by Joseph from previous marriages, or cousins. But for most Protestant groups, these were just what the text says: full siblings. Also in death, Catholics believe that Mary's assumption to heaven involved not only her soul, but her body as well. For all Christians, Mary becomes venerated more than any other woman in the Bible.

Jesus

The New Testament's story of Jesus is as fascinating as it is inspiring. Born and raised in the "backwaters" of the Roman Empire, Jesus begins a religious

movement that eventually overtakes the Empire. According to the New Testament, Jesus is the Messiah (“anointed one,” Greek “Christos”), the promised deliverer of Israel, whose death on the cross brings deliverance from sin, and whose eventual return to earth will bring deliverance from oppression by ushering in God’s kingdom. Jesus’ message of caring for the downtrodden, extending kindness to strangers, and loving one’s enemies is still unrivaled for its profound insight and penetrating simplicity.

Peter

Jesus affectionately gives his closest friend, Simon, the nickname “Rocky,” though the Greek form of the name is “Peter.” Peter is a fisherman until Jesus calls him to be a disciple or “a fisher of men.” Peter soon becomes the “rock” on which Jesus would build his church, even giving him the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, according to Catholic doctrine, Peter is the first Pope, the *vicar* (or substitute) of Christ. But even Jesus’ closest confidant betrays him, as on the eve of the crucifixion, Peter denies knowing Jesus three times. Following Jesus’ death, Peter spreads Christianity abroad, and while in Rome, tradition holds that in 64 C.E., Nero has Peter crucified upside-down — a request Peter makes so as not to denigrate Jesus’ death. His tomb is now encased within *St. Peter’s Basilica*.

Paul

Paul (or Saul, as he is first called) is arguably the person most responsible for spreading Christianity throughout the Mediterranean region, on its way to becoming the religion of the Roman Empire. Paul’s efforts to convert people to Christianity are all the more remarkable since, when we first meet Paul, he is vigorously attempting to stamp out this movement because he believes that its message contradicts the teachings of the Hebrew Bible. Then, one day, while Paul is traveling to Damascus to arrest Christians, Jesus appears to him in a blinding flash of light and tells Paul his efforts against Christianity are what contradict the teachings of the Hebrew Bible, because Jesus is God’s promised Messiah.

Paul spends the rest of his life spreading the “good news” about Jesus’ life and teachings throughout the Roman world, suffering intensely for a movement he was once bent on destroying.

7 great men –

Great men in the Bible abound throughout its pages. The Bible has [stories](#) of military heroes, prophets, preachers and kings who have followed God and given us good examples to follow. While there are many minor characters mentioned in the Bible who are good role models, here is a list of seven men who were major influences in the history of the Bible.

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Moses

In Moses’ life we remember events showing a [godly man](#) and other stories that show a man who struggled with failure in certain areas. Even though he sometimes failed, Moses was a man consistently in tune with God’s plan. He loved the people of Israel who God called him to lead.

As a child Moses grew up in the Egyptian Pharaoh’s house even though he was born to a Jewish family. Moses learned from the best Egyptian teachers and

scholars. He probably did not learn much about the God of Israel through his tutors, yet he grew up sensitive to God's leading.

Moses claimed to not be a great speaker yet he was able to lead the Israelites for 40 years out of Egypt and to the edge of the Promised Land. Moses disappointed God with some of his actions but repented of his lack of [trust](#) and was used by God to accomplish His purposes.

Joshua

When Moses led Israel out of Egypt one of the young men who quickly rose to recognition was Joshua. Joshua was chosen as one of the 12 spies to enter the land that God had promised to Israel. Though the vast majority of the spies returned with a discouraging report of the land God said He would give them, Joshua and Caleb reported all the wonderful things God could provide in Canaan.

The people of Israel refused to enter the land God had given. Patiently Joshua trusted God. He recognized the authority Moses and his position of leadership that God gave him. Joshua never tried to usurp the authority of Moses. He waited until it was his time to lead Israel into the Promised Land.

Joshua was an obedient follower. He was also known as a strong leader of Israel as they conquered the land that God had given.

David

Multiple times in the Bible David is recognized as a man who followed God and was sensitive to the leadership of God in his life. We first learn about who David would become when God rejected Saul's reign and said that He would give the kingdom to a neighbor of Saul's who was a better man (I Samuel 15). At the time God said this to Saul through Samuel, David was only a boy of 8 to 12 years old. God knew that though David was young, he would grow up to be a man in tune with God's heart and plan for Israel.

David wrote many of the Psalms that we cherish. This was not because [David](#) never had problems. David wrote many of those precious poems in the midst of trouble. Yet, David knew that his strength came from God. We enjoy his writings

today because he was a man who knew how to lean on the Lord during times of adversity. What he wrote in Psalms about trusting the Lord is applicable to us today.

Job

Satan was talking with God one day when he said that no one completely obeyed God and worshiped Him. God said that He knew a man who was just and upright in his life. This man was Job.

God gave Satan rule over Job's circumstances causing him to lose all of his wealth. Job still would not speak evil against God. He even acknowledged that God was the one who was testing him and he would continue to [worship](#) the Lord.

Job's friends accused him of sin and said he was being punished by God for his secret sins. Job maintained his innocence. Even his wife told him he should curse God and die. But Job patiently waited on God to reveal Himself and publicly justify Job to the world.

Daniel

Though he grew up a slave in Babylon, Daniel was eventually promoted to a position of authority under the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar. It was through the influence of Daniel that the kingdom was able to see some godliness brought to that godless time.

Later, King Darius befriended Daniel. However, there were men who were jealous of Daniel's influence and position. They convinced the king to make a law that the people could only worship the king and no other person or god. Daniel continued to [pray](#) as he always had to the God of Israel. The punishment for disobedience of the law not to worship was to be thrown into a pit of lions. These wicked men had Daniel arrested.

Daniel accepted the punishment that was given to him without complaint. King Darius fought the law on Daniel's behalf, but was powerless to change the consequences. While Daniel slept peacefully in the den of lions, Darius was up all night worrying about God's man. The next morning the king was relieved to have

Daniel brought out of the pit and the men who plotted against Daniel were then fed to the lions. The Bible says that their bodies never even reached the ground before the lions had devoured them (Daniel 6).

Paul

Paul was a great man of the New Testament. We first see this man when his name was Saul of Tarsus. Before his salvation he was convinced that Jesus and Christianity were plots to destroy the Hebrew God of the Old Testament. However Jesus revealed himself to Saul and he accepted the Lord as his personal savior. Instead of persecuting the church, Saul changed his name to Paul and he began to preach and establish new churches throughout the known world.

Paul is most well-known for his three missionary journeys spanning from the middle east as far west as Italy. He established many churches, trained young pastors and wrote much of the New Testament.

The Apostle Paul is truly one of the great men of the Bible.

Barnabas

Though not as well-known as Paul, Barnabas played a large role in the establishment of new churches in the Greek and Hebrew world of his day. Barnabas was the man who took Paul under his wings when no one else wanted to trust Paul. This was because Paul was most known as the great persecutor of the Christian church when Barnabas met him.

Barnabas trained Paul in the ministry and accompanied him on his early missionary travels. Later the two men split up and formed two new teams of church planters. Paul took Silas with him and Barnabas took John Mark.

After Paul and Barnabas separated, the Bible does not say much more about Barnabas. However, Paul acknowledged later in his life that Barnabas had done a good job in training John Mark for the ministry.