



# BIBLE AUTHORS

## AT-A-GLANCE

### DANIEL

AT-A-GLANCE

BOOK(S) WRITTEN: Book of Daniel

TYPE OF BOOK(S): Major Prophet

PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING: 536-530 BC

AUTHOR BACKGROUND: Daniel was exiled to Babylon with a group of outstanding credentials in Israel, the Babylonians in their new homeland. Once Daniel was in Babylon, he became a successful businessman in their new home.

### MOSES

AT-A-GLANCE

BOOK(S) WRITTEN: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

TYPE OF BOOK(S): Pentateuch, which is another name for the first five books of the Bible

PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING: 1445 BC-1406 BC

AUTHOR BACKGROUND: Moses was born to slave parents in Egypt around 1526 BC. He almost died as an infant. He was born in a time when Egypt was trying to "thin the herd" of Hebrew slaves by killing the baby boys. Moses' mother hid him, then sent him down the Nile in a basket, according to the famous story in Exodus 2. He was raised in Egypt by one of Pharaoh's unnamed daughters. This is just one of many famous stories about Moses that he chronicled in the Book of Exodus. Other stories include him seeing the Burning Bush, calling down the 10 plagues of Egypt, forcing Pharaoh to let the Hebrew slaves go free, and leading them on a 40-year journey before they could return to their homeland. Moses also acquired the Ten Commandments on the top of Mount Sinai.

Moses died in the desert just before the Hebrews entered the Promised Land around 1406 BC.

### JUDE

AT-A-GLANCE

BOOK(S) WRITTEN: The Book of Jude

TYPE OF BOOK(S): General Epistles (Jude is last of the General Epistles, which are letters written to leaders other than Paul.)

PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING: 75 AD

AUTHOR BACKGROUND: Jude wrote the Book of James, Jude is thought to be the author of the Book of Jude. Jude and Joseph after Jesus was born. His book is only a page long, and yet it contains words which are not in our Bibles. Stories which are not in our Bibles are not part of the New Testament.

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# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Bible Author Cheat Sheets, a fast and assured way to introduce students to most of the authors of the Bible. Each sheet contains the very basics which you can use while teaching as a series or as lessons in and of themselves!

## What's in this Package

Every author the Bible is introduced on a separate sheet. Subtitles on each page help students understand important points about each author. Most look like this:

### NAME OF AUTHOR

**BOOK(S) WRITTEN:** All books written by this particular author are here.

**TYPE OF BOOK(S):** The Bible is broken down into categories. They include the Pentateuch, History, Poetry, Major Prophets, Minor Prophets, Gospels, Pauline Epistles, and General Epistles. Learning the authors will help familiarize them with the categories.

**PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:** Dates are not often specific, especially in the early Bible, where BC and AD were unheard of. The dates provided herein are oftentimes estimated, and sometimes a range of possibility given instead of specific years.

**AUTHOR BACKGROUND:** Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant history have been searched to provide the most interesting facts for your students. Nonetheless, there are some Bible authors for whom very little is known.

**UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:** Historically, a lot of great writing has come from exiles, journeys, wars, and other shocks to the writers. Hence, we are including this category to show that the authors of the Bible were likewise shaken up as inspiration. This category also offers some of the places the authors wrote about as inspiration, even if they were not there bodily while writing.

**UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:** The authors of the Bible had circumstances and situations to overcome that served as inspiration. Here is where we cover those circumstances that made each writer unique in what he contributed.

## Ways to Use this Package

You may not find another study guide for Bible students that is up-to-date and so clearly written. However, there are some underlying facts that would probably be helpful to you.

The history behind Bible books and their authors are, in many cases, still under lots of debate. We have tried to work with the facts that most Protestant researchers agree upon. Sometimes so few facts are available about an author that a Cheat Sheet is very short. Other times, there are so many facts available that only the most interesting are selected

Why we are covering 29 Authors when some records list as many as 35:

Some possible writers do not have sufficient research behind them to prove their authorship beyond a doubt. A great example is Samuel. There has been great debate over whether he wrote 1 Samuel. As well, the eight or nine minor authors of Psalms and Proverbs are not covered, only David and his son Solomon.

Books for whom the author is not known or sufficiently proven in the Bible include

1. Joshua
2. Judges
3. Ruth
4. 1 & 2 Samuel
5. 1 & 2 Kings
6. Esther
7. Job
8. Hebrews

The authors included in these study tools are

#### **(Old Testament)**

1. Moses
2. Ezra
3. Nehemiah
4. David
5. Solomon
6. Isaiah
7. Jeremiah
8. Ezekiel
9. Daniel
10. Hosea
11. Joel
12. Amos
13. Obadiah
14. Jonah
15. Micah
16. Nahum
17. Habakkuk
18. Zephaniah
19. Haggai
20. Zechariah
21. Malachi

#### **(New Testament)**

22. Matthew
23. Mark
24. Luke
25. John
26. Paul
27. James (half-brother of Jesus)
28. Jude (half-brother of Jesus)
29. Peter

### **Some suggested Uses for the Cheat Sheets:**

- Pass out Cheat Sheets before you study particular books. It will give kids placement and a great overview of any book(s) or Bible stories you are studying.
- Make a lesson series using the Cheat Sheets. If you want kids to have a great overview and understanding of the Bible from a bird's-eye perspective, use the cheat sheets for a semester, focusing on books you feel are most important.
- Make worksheets from Cheat Sheets Create a timeline to post dates on. Names and authors make great word searches, and Most Important Points make great crosswords. Any way you can get students to repeat the information on a cheat sheet is great! Use your teacher's heart and imagination.

### **The Importance of this Package**

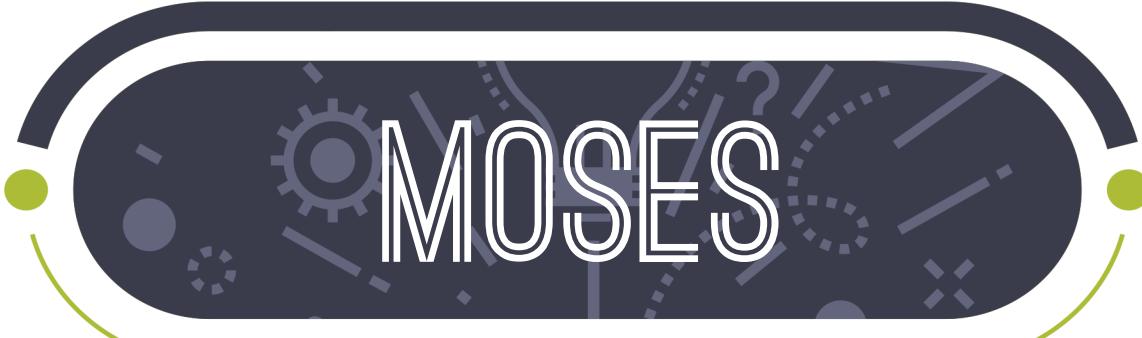
Christians will often read the Bible without understanding the authors or why passages were inspired to be written. They do this even though it is very hard to understand what God is really saying, when there is no context, no situation presented, and no understanding of the author's circumstances. It is important to start students out on the right foot! Let them know the writers and their inspirations... and then they will have a much better chance of understanding what God meant under the given circumstances.

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# OLD TESTAMENT



# MOSES

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Pentateuch, which is another name for the first five books of the Bible

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

1445 BC-1406 BC

### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Moses was born to slave parents in Egypt around 1526 BC. He almost died as an infant. He was born in a time when Egypt was trying to “thin the herd” of Hebrew slaves by killing the baby boys. Moses’ mother hid him, then sent him down the Nile in a basket, according to the famous story in Exodus 2. He was raised in Egypt by one of Pharaoh’s unnamed daughters.

This is just one of many famous stories about Moses that he chronicled in the Book of Exodus. Other stories include him seeing the Burning Bush, calling down the 10 plagues of Egypt, forcing Pharaoh to let the Hebrew slaves go free, and leading them on a 40-year journey before they could return to their homeland. Moses also acquired the Ten Commandments on the top of Mount Sinai.

Moses died in the desert just before the Hebrews entered the Promised Land around 1406 BC. It was during the Hebrews’ 40 years in the desert that he pieced together records found in the Book of Genesis and wrote most of the text of Genesis through Deuteronomy.

### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Moses wrote all five books of the Pentateuch while roaming the desert with the Hebrew people. He probably had a private tent that he could have erected for weeks or months at a time, where he would keep his records and could write.

### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Several books in the Pentateuch contain laws for the people that were given by God to Moses. Hence, a lot of his writing was more like transcription as God spoke to him.





# EZRA

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

**Book of Ezra, 1 & 2 Chronicles**

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

**Historical, the eighth, ninth, and tenth of 12 historical books**

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

**538-450 BC**

### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:



Ezra was living in exile in Babylon after the Babylonians invaded the southern kingdom of Judah in 586 BC and destroyed the Jewish temple. As the 70-year exile ended, Ezra visited Jerusalem and reported on the condition of the city after returning to Babylon.

He reported that people were not following the Law, did not seem to remember or understand the Law, and were setting selfish priorities already. So Ezra went back to Jerusalem and started a religious reform focused on educating all the people about the Law of God.

Ezra 7:10 states that “Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach the statutes and ordinances in Israel.” He was extremely zealous about God’s ways, which was a great asset in reforming the people.

Ezra was a direct descendant of Aaron the chief priest (Ezra 7:1-5), thus he himself was a priest. He is often known as Ezra the Priest or Ezra the Scribe. A scribe is someone who keeps important records.

The Chronicles were written initially as one book—a record of all leadership of the nation since Adam. The writing dates are earlier than the Book of Ezra. Both Chronicles were written during the Babylonian exile, likely between 538 and 533 BC. As the Jews were excellent scribes, Ezra probably used records that had been kept for centuries.

### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:



Ezra wrote his Book of Ezra after returning to Jerusalem and seeing a place that was unrecognizable. The Temple was gone; the streets were in disarray. The signs of desertion were mixed with the rebuilding of the treasured city, giving the place a feeling of hope.



### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Ezra was probably under pressure for fear that existing records from Jerusalem could be lost or destroyed. The reason is that 200 years earlier, the Assyrians had invaded the northern kingdom of Israel and created an earlier exile of 10 tribes. The Assyrians had managed to have the majority of those Jews absorbed into the surrounding cultures, such that none of them remembered their ancestral history with zeal. Ezra would have been afraid of something like that happening to the remaining tribes of Judah and Benjamin, and his eagerness to create new records and preserve the old may have been a driving force.

# NEHEMIAH

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

Nehemiah

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Historical, the 11th of 12 Historical books

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

425-400 BC



### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Not much is known about Nehemiah's youth, except that he was a Jew living during the Babylonian exile. In the book named after him, Nehemiah is an adult serving in the Persian royal court as the personal cupbearer to King Artaxerxes.

Though he remained in Persia after the exiles ended, he had been allowed to go home. He heard that the walls of Jerusalem were in desperate need of repair and followed his brother Hanani to that city to lead the rebuilding effort.

His writing in Nehemiah coincides with the goings-on in the Book of Ezra. Some people thought Nehemiah was a sequel of Ezra. The books go together well, covering the rebuilding of Jerusalem after the Great Exile but with very different writing styles.



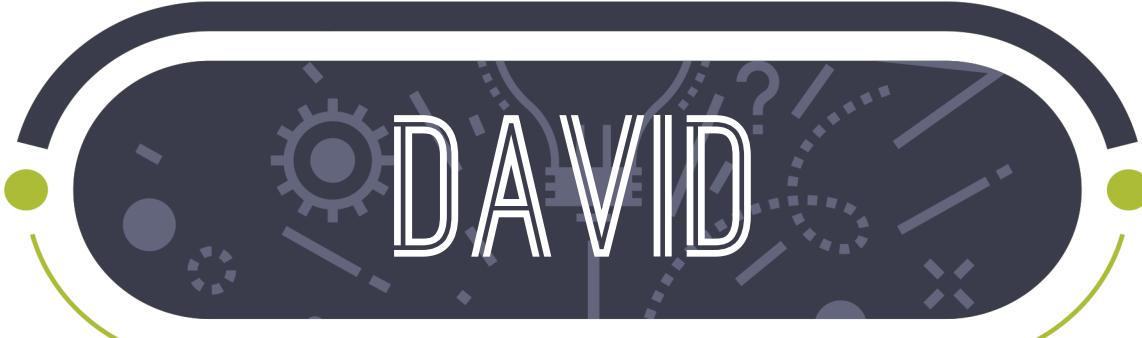
### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Nehemiah and Ezra were the Biblical authors to write from Jerusalem after the exile ended.



### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Nehemiah wrote in first person. He is the only author in the Old Testament who was inspired to do that.



# DAVID

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

73 of the 150 Psalms. The following Psalms are attributed to David: 2-32, 34-41, 51-65, 68-70, 86, 95, 103, 105-106, 108-110, 122, 124, 131, 138-145. (Other authors in Psalms included Asaph, the sons of Korah, Moses, Solomon, Ethan, Herman, and 50 are by unknown authors.)

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Poetry; Psalms is the second of five poetry books.

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

The Psalms of David date approximately 994 through 950 BC

### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:



This David is King David, the second king of Israel and the most famous king for being faithful to God.

He was raised as the youngest of eight boys. His father, Jesse, was prophesied to be an ancestor of Christ (Isaiah 11:1-10). His great-grandparents were Ruth and Boaz from the book of Ruth.

David defeated the giant Goliath at a battle in the valley of Elah at about age 17. He had already been recently anointed by the prophet Samuel to be the next king of Israel. But for approximately 15 years after slaying the giant, David had to run from King Saul who was jealous and trying to kill him. After King Saul's death, David was anointed king.

The Psalms are the only works this most-famed king wrote that are in our Bible. While he continued to conquer land as a great warrior, he was also becoming known as a great musical poet. The psalms span most of his adult life.



### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

David is thought to have written some of the Psalms while hiding in caves, in fear of his life, while hiding from King Saul.



### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

God called David "a man after my own heart." One reason is that David was forced to treat with respect and dignity a king who was trying to kill him. That David, especially in his writing, could refrain from evil toward someone who treated him with vile, unending hatred, is remarkable in human history.

# SOLOMON

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

Proverbs, Song of Songs (Song of Solomon), Ecclesiastes

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Poetry; his three books are third, fourth, and fifth in the Bible books of Poetry. (Job is first, and Psalms is second.)

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

King Solomon reigned from 971 to 931 BC, and all three books are thought to have been written during his reign.

### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

King Solomon was the 10th son of King David and the third king of Israel. He was the second son of Bathsheba, who was married to King David after a scandal involving the king that left her first husband Uriah dead. King Solomon built the first temple, which was destroyed some 500 years later during the Babylonian invasion.

He was considered the wisest man in the world and one of the most prosperous.

### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

All Solomon's works were likely to have been written from his palace. After Moses wrote the entire Pentateuch while in the dusty desert, this would serve as a sign of God's ability to deliver people according to his word.

### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Solomon was the third and final king of what is called ancient Israel. Under the reign of Solomon's heir, his son Rehoboam, the kingdom unhappily split into two kingdoms over tax issues. The Kingdom of Israel, or the northern kingdom, split off, taking most people from 10 tribes. The southern part, containing Jerusalem, became the Kingdom of Judah or the southern kingdom, housing most people from the tribes of Judah and Benjamin.

Hence, Solomon wrote in the quiet before the storm. His wisdom, which make Proverbs and Ecclesiastes famous, is untested by great trial and tribulation. However, both books are among the most popular in the Bible, even today, after many tumultuous periods in western civilization.



# ISAIAH

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

Book of Isaiah

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Major Prophecy; Isaiah is the first of four major prophets (including Daniel, Ezekiel, and Jeremiah)

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

Around 685 BC

### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

It is likely that Isaiah lived in Jerusalem. He was married to a prophetess, and they had two sons.

Isaiah prophesied during the reign of four kings of Judah—Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. He likely was killed by a fifth, Manasseh, considered one of the most evil kings in all of Judah and Israel. Christian scholars as early as the second century identified Isaiah as one of the prophets whose death is described in Hebrews 11:37. He is thought to be the prophet who was “sawn in two.”

### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

None; this prophet most likely wrote from Jerusalem

### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Isaiah was the first of the Major or Minor Prophets to prophesy about the coming Babylonian invasion, preceded only by the prophet Amos. (Jonah is a second prophet to write before Isaiah, but his prophesies were not about Israel, but rather, the city of Nineveh.)

The people of Judah had turned their backs on God, which created the need for Isaiah's judgmental prophesies and his words of hope that God's chosen people would come back to him. He was all but ignored. The reason is that the southern kingdom of Israel was resplendent with prosperity when Isaiah wrote, and they would not believe the condition was temporary.

Isaiah wrote 100 years before the Babylonian invasion, but foretold the fall of the kingdom in great detail. His writing is also known as the Old Testament prophetic book to contain the most prophecy related to the life of Christ.



# JEREMIAH

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

**Jeremiah & The Lamentations of Jeremiah**

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

**Major Prophecy; Jeremiah is the second of four major prophets (including Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel).**

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

**Jeremiah was written sometime between 586 and 570 BC. Lamentations was written in 586-85 BC.**

### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Jeremiah was the son of a priest from the small town of Anathoth in Judah. He was nearing 20 when he began to prophesy, and he continued for the rest of his adult life, perhaps more than 40 years. Like Isaiah, his message and loud cries from God were not heeded by the people. In fact, extra-biblical material tells that he was stoned to death by them after the great exile to Babylon.

Jeremiah was not part of the Babylonian exile. Early church leaders believe he was taken to Egypt to avoid being sent to Babylon. It was in Egypt that exasperated countrymen who also fled from Judah eventually stoned him.

Jeremiah was known as the lamenting prophet, because God was very angry during the time he prophesied, and true prophetic news from God was rarely good.

However, the prophet also offers some of the most beautiful words of hope in the Bible.

### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

To write Lamentations, Jeremiah had walked through the streets and alleys of the holy city of Jerusalem and saw nothing but destruction. It was during the throes of the Babylonian invasion of 586 BC. While still considered a book of prophecy, Lamentations is rife with the heartache which had just occurred; the great city of God fell and was destroyed, and its people had fled.

The Book of Jeremiah may have been completed in Egypt.

### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Jeremiah had the unusual situation of prophesying for many years about the same impending disasters and then living long enough to see them come to pass. One might think some people would come up to him and say, "Oops! You were right!" That appears not to be the case.

# EZEKIEL

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

Ezekiel

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Major Prophecy; Ezekiel is the third of four major prophets (including Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Daniel).

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

590-570 BC

### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Ezekiel then lived among the Jewish exiles in a riverside community south of Babylon called Tel Aviv (also spelled Tel-Abib). More than 10,000 exiled Jews had been taken there. He prophesied there for around 22 years.

He was a contemporary of the prophet Daniel, and like Daniel, made prophesies about not only the restoration of Israel, but also the end of times.

### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Ezekiel wrote while in exile, and it is not clear whether he ever got to see Jerusalem as an adult. He spoke to people whom God had exiled due to their constant, stubborn rebellion against him. Therefore, a majority of Ezekiel's message communicates judgment for sins committed.

### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Ezekiel's prophesies were accompanied by strange, sometimes terrifying, visions. One is recorded in Ezekiel 1, a description of a flying object some have described as a UFO covered in eyes. The other, recorded in Ezekiel 37, covers the prophecy of the dead bones. In the vision, a valley filled with bones comes to life as the bones come together and begin to move around. It is a symbol of the restoration of Israel which happened in 1948.



# DANIEL

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

**Book of Daniel**

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

**Major Prophecies; Daniel is the last of four major prophets (including Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel)**

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

**536-530 BC**

### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Daniel was exiled to Babylon with a group of young Israelite nobles. Due to their outstanding credentials in Israel, the Babylonians felt the young men could be of use in service in their new homeland. Once Daniel arrived, the leadership in Babylon renamed him Belteshazzar in an effort to help him absorb his new culture and forget his Jewish roots. His faith was strong, however.

Daniel is probably best known for the story in Daniel 6, when he was thrown into the lions' den for refusing to give up his Jewish God and traditions. The lions did not eat him. Daniel lived in exile throughout the Jews' 70-year captivity (1:21; 9:2), eventually rising to become one of only three administrators over the provincial governors. However, he never forgot that he was Jewish and never stopped practicing Judaism.

His faithfulness, wisdom, and education enabled Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar to say that the God of Israel is God.

### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Daniel became a great leader in Babylon, so it was amazing that he kept Judaism so close to his heart and wrote the book of Daniel from there.

### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Daniel's written prophecies contained many visions, just like his compatriot Ezekiel's. He is well known to this day among Bible scholars for his very colorful visions of the end times. His visions were also full of numbers, which make them very intriguing to Bible scholars.

# HOSEA

## AT-A-GLANCE

BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

Hosea

TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Minor Prophecy; Hosea was the first of 12 Minor Prophets)

PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

536-530 BC

### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Nothing is known about Hosea's childhood. He comes into play when God told him to marry a woman who was an unfaithful prostitute, so that people could see what it was like for God to be "married" to the nation of Israel.

Hosea began to prophesy during the reign of King Jeroboam II, the 13th king of Israel, around 750 BC. Israel was full of idolatry. God planned to allow Assyria to invade if people didn't repent. They refused to listen to Hosea.

He prophesied at the same time as the major prophet Isaiah. He obeyed God and married a woman who would not be faithful to him.

The book contains warnings about both pending invasions—the Assyrian invasion of the northern kingdom of Israel, and the Babylonian invasion of the southern kingdom of Judah. They happened almost 200 years apart, but nobody from either era listened to Hosea or heeded his writings.

Hosea wrote the famous prophecy about Jesus living for a while in Egypt as a child. Some 500 years later, Jesus' parents took him there when he was a baby, as his father Joseph had been warned in a dream that Herod would try to him.

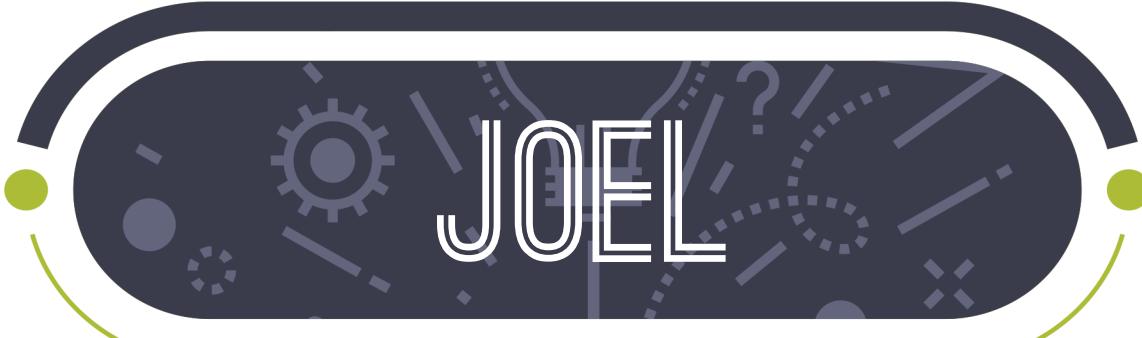
### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Hosea was the first prophet to write from the northern kingdom of Israel rather than the southern kingdom of Judah.

### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

He is one of the few prophets God asked to do something symbolic. Hosea's marriage to the prostitute Gomer was a great deal of heartache for him and a personal disaster, but he was thus able to communicate God's heartache over Israel with great personal zeal.





# JOEL

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

Book of Joel

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Minor Prophecy (Joel is the second of 12 Minor Prophets)

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

Uncertain, but since the book's message is universal, it has been applied to all eras, especially those experiencing trouble.

### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

There is a problem dating the Book of Joel. At least four dates have been attributed to it, some hundreds of years apart. The problem arises from the fact that the prophet has very little to say about himself. Many of the prophets name the kings under which they were serving, but Joel does not.

Joel prophesied about destruction that could apply to the Babylonian invasion in 586 BC, or the destruction of the temple in 70 AD, or other traumatic times for Israel. He also prophesied about the Day of the Lord, which is another name for the Second Coming of Christ. Therefore, some of his prophecies seem futuristic.

### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

We don't know where the book was written

### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Joel is most famous for being quoted by Apostle Peter on the day of Pentecost. Peter joyfully took from Joel's second chapter:

*And afterward,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your old men will dream dreams,  
your young men will see visions.  
(Joel 2:28)*

This verse is also popular among today's Pentecostal and Charismatic fellowships that enjoy the spiritual gifts such as dreaming, prophesying, and seeing visions.



# AMOS

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

Book of Amos

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Minor Prophecy (Amos is the third of 12 Minor Prophets)

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

760 BC

#### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Amos was a shepherd and not from a family of trained priests or prophets. He lived with a group of shepherds in Tekoa, a small town 10 miles south of Jerusalem.

Amos prophesied while Uzziah was king of Judah, and Jeroboam II was king of Israel. He predicted the overthrow of the Kingdom of Israel by the Assyrians, which happened in 722 BC, 40 years after his prophecy.

He also predicted the doom of Judah and the doom of many surrounding nations. He had a short ministry, though his book contains nine chapters.

#### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Amos was born in the southern kingdom of Judah but prophesied in the northern kingdom of Israel.

#### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Because most prophets were from a lineage of royalty and prestige, it is likely Amos had even greater troubles than his fellow prophets in getting people to listen to him. He had been a shepherd in the southern kingdom when his gift surfaced.



# OBADIAH

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

Obadiah

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Minor Prophecy (Obadiah is the fourth of 12 Minor Prophets)

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

Uncertain, but one date most commonly thought applicable is 590 BC

### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Obadiah was a popular name during the centuries prior to Christ. In fact, 12 different men named Obadiah are mentioned in the Old Testament! Hence it is very hard to say if any are this prophet. Other than his name, there is no certain information about him.



### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

It is unknown where the book was written, but Edom, the entire prophecy's target, shares a border with the southern kingdom of Judah and is to the east of Egypt.



### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

The author wrote the shortest book in the Old Testament. It is an exclusive prophecy warning the nation of Edom. This gives the prophet common ground with Jonah, Nahum, and Habakkuk, the minor prophets who proclaimed judgments on a foreign nation instead of Israel and Judah themselves.



# JONAH

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

Book of Jonah

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Minor Prophecy (Jonah is the fifth of 12 Minor Prophets)

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

780 BC

#### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Jonah was a prophet before writing the book of Jonah, but his other prophecies did not make our Bible and remain unknown. The first two chapters detail the story of Jonah being told by God to prophesy to the people of the city of Nineveh.

Jonah rejected God's command. Like many people of Israel, he thought Nineveh was filthy and beneath him. When he tried to escape to Tarshish on ship, it met up with a great storm. Reluctantly, the men on the ship threw Jonah overboard after he confessed that God's wrath was upon him.

A big fish swallowed Jonah and threw him up on the shores of the Great Sea, probably somewhere west of Jerusalem.

Jonah then traveled to Nineveh and delivered God's warning and judgment. He was surprised when the king repented and the nation followed along. God reasoned with his snobbish attitude, saying that he cared about the people of Nineveh and even their livestock.

The book contains not only one of the most famous Bible miracles, but it also a great study on what can happen when we behave like snobs. Jesus mentioned the story of Jonah and the giant fish as a foreshadowing of his own pending death—including three days in the belly of the earth.

#### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

The second chapter of Jonah tells what the prophet said while inside the belly of the giant fish! Though he surely wrote it down later, it can be said that Jonah Chapter 2 was created inside of live fish guts!

#### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Jonah was the first of the minor or major prophets to speak. He is sometimes dismissed by Bible scholars as less interesting, because his prophecies don't involve Jewish calamities like the Babylonian invasion, the coming of Christ, the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 AD or the end times. However, because of his recounting of the story of the giant fish swallowing him, Jonah has lived on in the hearts of Jews and Christians of all ages. Jesus mentioned him in comparison to his own time following his death in "the belly of the earth."



# MICAH

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

Book of Micah

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Minor Prophecy (Micah is the sixth of 12 Minor Prophets)

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

735-710 BC

#### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Nothing is known about the prophet Micah's background. He prophesied at the same time as Isaiah and Hosea, during the tragic years surrounding the Assyrian invasion of the northern kingdom of Israel. Micah predicted the invasion in Micah 1:6. It came to pass 10 or 15 years later, in 722 BC.

Micah's earlier prophecies concern judgment on the kingdoms of Israel and Judah for idolatry. His later prophecies concern the future kingdom that Jesus also spoke of—the Kingdom of Heaven.

#### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

This author wrote from the northern kingdom of Israel during the Assyrian invasion that would take away many people from the 10 Tribes and absorb them into foreign cultures. He predicted and then saw the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel.

#### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Micah's prophecies were not exclusively about the Kingdom of Israel. He also made the famous prediction of Christ's birth being in Bethlehem:

*"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."* Micah 5:2



# NAHUM

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

The Book of Nahum

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Minor Prophecy (Nahum is the seventh of 12 Minor Prophets)

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

650 BC

#### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Nothing is known of Nahum's background before he wrote his prophecy. His prophecies almost exclusively focus on God's pending judgment against the city of Nineveh. Nineveh was the capital of Assyria, the nation that had invaded and destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel nearly 100 years earlier.

#### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

This prophet likely wrote from Jerusalem. However, the city of Nineveh may be familiar. It is the city in which God told the prophet Jonah to admonish the people, around 780 BC, just before he was swallowed by the great fish. Nineveh did repent at that time. But this is more than 150 years later. God showed Nahum how the Assyrians—and especially Nineveh—were up to their bad tricks of idolatry, violence, invading the northern kingdom of Israel and tormenting the southern kingdom of Judah.

God was good to his word brought through Nahum. The Medean army took Nineveh in 612 BC and destroyed it forever. It was finally excavated, or dug out of the sand, in the 1800s AD.

#### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

His work is only three chapters long, one of the shortest in the Bible.

# HABAKKUK

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

Book of Habakkuk

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Minor Prophecy (Habakkuk is the eighth of 12 Minor Prophets)

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

615-605 BC

### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

This minor prophet wrote from in or near Jerusalem. Habakkuk likely prophesied in the first five years of King Jehoiakim's reign, which was a dark time for the nations of Israel and Judah. This king had led the people of the southern kingdom of Judah into idolatry and other forms of evil. The Assyrians had control of the northern kingdom of Israel after a brutal invasion more than 100 years earlier. Habakkuk preached from the southern kingdom of Judah, which was still intact but only about 20 years away from its own invasion by Babylon, that destroyed the Temple. The pressure was on.

### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Habakkuk was not given the names of specific places that would fall. Generally, prophets speak of a specific place. But when Jerusalem fell, the evil Judean King Jehoiakim was taken captive by Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar, who put him in chains and had him carted off to Babylon. He later returned, but as a puppet man to Nebuchadnezzar.

### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Habakkuk uttered heartfelt prayers to God over the condition of Judah and the betraying behavior of its people. The prophecy was in response to his prayers.

# ZEPHANIAH

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

Book of Zephaniah

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Minor Prophecy (Zephaniah is the ninth of 12 Minor Prophets)

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

635-625 BC

### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Zephaniah prophesied during the reign of Josiah, the king of Judah from 640 to 609 BC. Josiah was one of the few good kings.

Zephaniah's prophecies are only three chapters long. The gist is about things that will happen on "the day of the Lord." Often, the term is used by the prophets to mean the coming of the end of time. However, it is also used to mean any time in history where God personally intervenes to protect his people and forward his will. So the prophet's words have applied to many eras.

### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Zephaniah wrote one of several famous Old Testament passages showing God's willingness to hide good and humble people from impending danger. Zephaniah 2:3 reads, "Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger." The word "perhaps" is often included in these prophecies, inspiring people to seek humility and righteousness. Today, Christians await what they call the "rapture," which is when God will hide people or take them up in the clouds so they will avoid harsh world judgments. This passage from Zephaniah is often associated with it.

### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

During King Josiah's reign, no judgment had yet fallen upon the southern kingdom of Judah. Therefore, God's judgment is in very general terms and applies to many eras. Zephaniah mentions the "Day of the Lord" more than any other Old Testament prophet.





# HAGGAI

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

The Book of Haggai

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Minor Prophecy (Haggai is the 10th of 12 Minor Prophets)

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

526 BC

#### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Haggai is considered one of the only prophets to whom the people actually listened. Haggai wrote to the remnant of the tribe of Judah, which returned to rebuild Jerusalem after the Babylonian invasion and Great Exile. Those who had returned in hope 15 years earlier were now facing dire struggles. They lacked basic essentials like clothing and food and had been mocked by other nations, who thought rebuilding their temple was foolhardy. The mocking had drained them of faith, so they had turned to each building individual homes and looking out for themselves rather than for each other. They were not becoming a godly community.

Haggai served as God's mouthpiece to tell the people to rebuild the Temple first. Such would keep them from falling back into errors that had caused the Great Exile. Haggai's prophecy is brief—only two chapters in our Bible. It fixates specifically on getting the returnees to build the Temple as top priority. Haggai's encouragement in priorities would bring unity, faith, and strength back to them. The people actually listened.

#### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Haggai wrote to Jews who had been living in Babylon and had returned to Jerusalem after 70 years of exile. So many of the people were the children of those exiled, had never been in Jerusalem before, and it was like a foreign land to them.

#### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

As well, the people had never lived under Jewish practices, and even the law was no longer familiar to them. Haggai's encouragement about making the Temple a priority turned their hardships into grace on many levels.

# ZECHARIAH

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

The Book of Zechariah

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Minor Prophecy (Zechariah is the 11th of 12 Minor Prophets)

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

520 BC

#### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Zechariah wrote during the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem after the Great Exile. When he completed his prophecies, the Temple was only four years from completion.

Zechariah could be called “the big picture” prophet. His prophecies are expansive, covering the coming of Christ as well as the end of time and things relative to the rebuilding. It’s like God used this prophet to show how everything bad that had happened had meaning in the pending future. Some scholars say the Bible, while having many writers over a 2,000-year period of writing, is really one story—God’s story of his relationship with mankind. Zechariah does more than most prophets to show the big picture of the story God is trying to tell.

#### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Like Haggai, Zechariah wrote to a people returning to their homeland, but for whom it was a strange land after they’d spent 70 years exiled in Babylon. Zechariah’s first eight chapters were written in Judah to the builders of the Second Temple and the returnees from the exile. But while Haggai’s messages were full of caution, Zechariah’s are full of hope and encouragement.

#### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Chapters 9-14 are thought to have been given much later in Zechariah’s life. They refer mostly to the coming of the Messiah, both his life and death and his future return.

# MALACHI

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

Book of Malachi

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Minor Prophecy (Malachi is the 12th and final of the 12 Minor Prophets)

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

433-424 BC

### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Malachi has the privilege of being the last of the Old Testament prophets. The Temple had been completed for nearly 100 years, and Malachi was assessing the people's behavior as well as looking at future events involving the arrival of the Messiah some 300 years later. Already there was corruption in the priesthood and the people had become spiritually disinterested.

Through Malachi, God showed the people where they were falling short and in danger of hurting themselves and others again.

### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

None

### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

They refer Malachi wrote about a future event that haunted many during the life of Christ. The book closes with the famous passage Malachi 4:5: "See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes."

Malachi's prophecy refers to John the Baptist and is a verse most religious leaders knew about when Christ was alive. Jesus confirms the spirit of Elijah was in John the Baptist. But the scholarly Jews were looking for the physical appearance of Elijah. Therefore, they missed the fact that John was God's messenger to announce the Messiah was here.



# NEW TESTAMENT

# MATTHEW THE APOSTLE

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

**Book of Matthew**

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

**Gospel (Matthew is the first of four gospels)**

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

**50-60 AD**

#### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Matthew's gospel was unique in how often he quoted Old Testament scripture to prove a point or show a prophecy fulfilled. Before his conversion, Mathew was a tax collector, which was considered an underhanded and dishonest occupation. Hence his following Jesus was remarkable, as was his gospel.

Matthew the apostle was born in Palestine. He became a tax collector in Capernaum, which is one of the dusty, working-class cities far north of Jerusalem bordering the Sea of Galilee. It was here he met Jesus in a story covered in Matthew 9. He followed Jesus through much of his ministry and into Jerusalem, where he stayed until after Pentecost.

#### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Matthew is thought to have returned to his homeland of Palestine to share the gospel with his family and former community. The Orthodox Church documents him writing the gospel from the land of his birth.

#### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

As the author of Matthew, being surrounded by the Jewish people and traditions he knew so well inspired him to document his story with more than 90 references from the Old Testament. His gospel uses Old Testament proofs more than the other three put together.



# JOHN MARK

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

Gospel of Mark

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Gospels (Mark is the second of four gospels)

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

50-60 AD

### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Mark, also known as John Mark, was not an apostle. However, he is thought to be among the 70 disciples who first gathered to follow Jesus. He also was a friend of the apostles Peter and Paul, traveling with Paul on at least one missionary journey.

Mark was born in the North African country of Libya. He was born of Jewish parents, and most histories date him as too young to have been a disciple during Jesus' ministry. Mark's parents, Aristopolos and Mary, migrated to Palestine shortly after Mark's birth because their town and property were under siege by the Berbers. They settled in Cana, which is in Galilee, not far from Jerusalem.

This is where Mark met the future disciple Simon Peter. Mark's father died suddenly, and Simon Peter considered him a son. He saw that Mark got a good education, training in literary classics and law. Thus, when it came time to write his gospel, Mark was well prepared.

Extra-biblical materials state that Mark's mother Mary was a great admirer of Jesus and followed him on his journeys. As well, it is thought that Mark chronicled the path of Simon Peter, and that the Gospel of Mark serves as a biography told by the apostle himself.

Along with accompanying Paul, Mark also went to preach the gospel in Egypt, established one of the oldest churches there that still stands, and wrote his gospel there. He was martyred by pagans in 68 AD.

### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Mark was living in Palestine while Jesus was alive, which gave him all the material to make up his gospel. However, he wrote the gospel after having returned to his homeland in Africa.

### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Mark's gospel is considered the no-frills gospel, as it is the shortest and most concise. Mark felt it was important to show Jesus as a humble servant (whereas Matthew had portrayed Christ as a royal king). His writing contains many famous lines like Mark 10:45: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

# LUKE THE PHYSICIAN

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

**Book of Luke; Book of Acts**

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

**Gospel (Luke is the third of four gospels.)  
The Book of Acts is the only historical book  
in the New Testament.**

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

**60-61 AD**

#### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Luke was born in Antioch, which is in Syria. He was a physician; and most ancient historians think that painting was his hobby.

After the Resurrection, Luke spent a great deal of his time with Apostle Paul, whom he accompanied on parts of his journeys around the known world. They became very close, such that Paul called him “the beloved physician.”

Luke also preached the gospel when not traveling with Paul. He traveled into Egypt and Greece. His preaching outraged the idolatrous priests. After he finished both the Book of Luke and the Book of Acts, they put him to death by hanging him on the branch of an olive tree. (The cross is often thought to have been made of olive-tree wood.)

#### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

The author is thought to have written the Gospel of Luke in part while traveling with Apostle Paul on his missionary journeys. In fact, he may have written the Book of Acts in Rome, when Apostle Paul was under house arrest and busy writing the epistles.

#### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Luke was endeared to the stories about Jesus. His gospel contains more stories than any other. It is also thought that he was heavily influenced by John Mark and his Gospel of Mark, which had been written a few years earlier.



# JOHN THE APOSTLE

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

Gospel of John, 1 John, 2 John and 3 John, The Revelation

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Gospels (John is the fourth of four gospels.) The three books of John are general epistles. Revelation is the only book of prophecy in the New Testament.

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

80-90 AD (gospel), 90-95 AD (the three epistles), 95 AD (The Revelation)

### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

John was considered to be the disciple closest to the heart of Jesus. He and his brother James were among the first disciples whom Jesus told to follow him. They were the sons of Zebedee, who owned a successful fishing business in Galilee.

During Christ's ministry John, along with his brother James and Simon Peter, were the only disciples privileged to watch certain miracles. They included the raising of the 12-year-old daughter of Jairus and the Transfiguration. Upon Jesus' death, John was told to look after Jesus' mother, Mary, as if she were his own mother. At the Resurrection, John and Peter ran to the tomb to see if the story Mary Magdalene told them was true. She said she had seen the risen Lord. John was the first to enter the empty tomb.

John was younger than the other disciples, possibly a teen. He lived to be older than any of the others and was the only apostle not to die a martyr's death.

### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

John is thought to have written the Book of Revelation while imprisoned on the Isle of Patmos. It is basically a giant rock with little vegetation, great winds, and little hope. He was either released or escaped, as he died a few years later as a free man.

### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

John was the only author in the New Testament to receive prophecy with visions. He states in the Revelation, the New Testament's only book of prophecy, that he was taken up into heaven to see the chapters in the book unfold.



# PAUL THE APOSTLE

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

13: Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Pauline Epistles (Paul wrote 13 of the New Testament epistles, and hence their name, Pauline)

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:



### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Entire books have been written on the life of Apostle Paul, and he was not even one of the original 12 disciples. He did not meet Jesus until after the Crucifixion. Paul was born Saul of Tarsus, a very well-educated Jew, who was persecuting believers after the Crucifixion. He met Christ on the road to Damascus when he saw a bright light in the sky that blinded him, and Christ asked him, "Why are you persecuting me?"

Paul received his sight after three days spent with believers. Then he began traveling to preach the gospel. He completed three missionary journeys that covered most of the known western world of the time. He was imprisoned several times, including spending two years under house arrest in Rome, when he wrote several epistles mentioned above.

In all, he wrote 13 Epistles before being martyred in Rome.



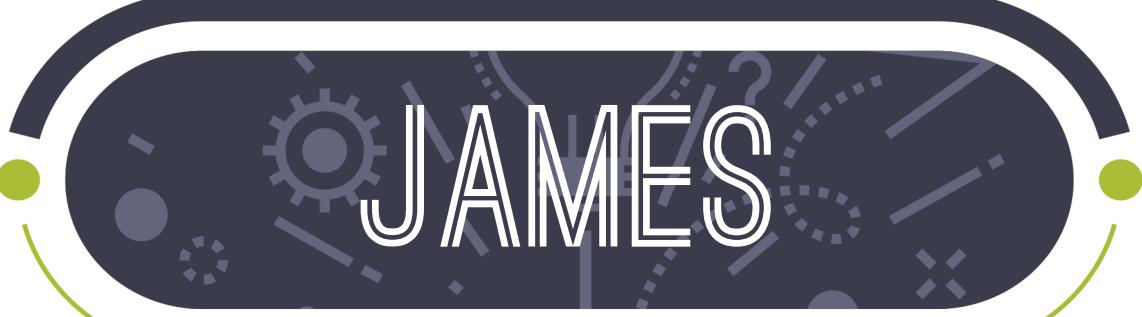
### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Paul wrote four of the New Testament epistles when he was under house arrest for two years in Rome. They include Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. This two-year house arrest is thought to have been 60-62 AD.



### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Paul was an enemy of believers after Christ's death and helped put them to death. This makes his testimony about seeing a vision of Jesus on the road to Damascus twice as meaningful. If Jesus could forgive a person who tried to kill his followers—and if Jesus could make that person one of his foremost witnesses—that shows the love of God for the rest of us!



# JAMES

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

The Book of James

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

General Epistles (James is the first of seven general epistles, which are letters written by early church leaders other than Paul.)

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

44-49 AD

### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

James is thought to be the half-brother of Jesus. In other words, he was one of the children that Mary and Joseph had after Jesus was born.

It is thought that James did not believe Jesus was the Messiah until after the Crucifixion! Mark 3:21 has the half-brothers of Jesus during his early ministry thinking Jesus was “out of his mind.”

We do not know what happened to make him change. However, his epistle is the first to have been written in the New Testament. His writing often makes him be compared to Solomon in his wisdom. His Book of James is sometimes called the Proverbs of the New Testament.

### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

It is not known where James wrote his book.

### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

James may have had to come to peace with himself for believing in his own half-brother only after he was gone. When Jesus died on the cross, as the oldest, he did not assign his own flesh and blood to take care of his mother. He assigned that job to the apostle John, who was no blood relation. We don't know the story behind James' conversion, but we know from all of scripture that Christ was happy to offer forgiveness from above. James went on to be one of the leaders of the Church of Jerusalem.



# JUDE

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

The Book of Jude

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

General Epistles (Jude is last of seven general epistles, which are letters written by early church leaders other than Paul.)

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

75 AD

### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Like James who wrote the Book of James, Jude is thought to be the half-brother of Jesus, a child of Mary and Joseph after Jesus was born.

Jude does not waste words. His book is only a page long, and yet it has intrigued Bible scholars for centuries.

Jude mentions two stories which are not in our Bible but were obviously believed by followers at the time of Christ. One is that Satan tried to argue with the Archangel Michael over top of Moses' dead body. The book of Deuteronomy only tells us that Moses died on Mount Nebo and God had him secretly buried.

Jude also mentions Enoch, from all the way back in Genesis 5, who pleased God so much that God took him to heaven without having to suffer death. Early believers knew a lot about this great Enoch, but most of the material has been lost.

Jude uses a tone that is meant to encourage; however, it is very frank in its talk of just consequences.

### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

We don't know where Jude was when he wrote his letter that became the Book of Jude, but 1 Corinthians 9:5 provides an intriguing piece of information: *The Lord's brothers and their wives took missionary journeys.* Hence Jude as a man who lived in doubt or disbelief for a time, but eventually came to a powerful faith in Jesus. And as he traveled and told Jesus' stories in city after city, he became a great example of Christ's forgiveness.

### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Jude wrote the epistle to address false teachings. Perhaps because of his early doubts, he wanted to make sure other believers did not listen to gossip, hearsay, or false teachings.



# PETER THE APOSTLE

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

1 & 2 Peter

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

General Epistles (Peter wrote the second and third general epistles, which are letters written by early church leaders other than Paul.)

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

1 Peter is thought to have been written in 64 AD, and 2 Peter, 68 AD.

### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Peter was a fisherman until shortly after his brother Andrew introduced him to Jesus in Bethsaida. Peter was allegedly the first disciple to whom Jesus said his famous words, "Follow me!"

Jesus often rebuked Peter for not understanding his messages. But they had a very close relationship. Peter was also the disciple to whom Jesus pointed and said, "Upon this rock I will build my church." He was one of three disciples allowed to witness the Transfiguration on the top of Mount Hermon, where Jesus met Moses and Elijah.

He is the disciple who denied Jesus three times after his arrest, which the Lord had predicted at the Last Supper earlier that night. And yet Peter gave the first Christian sermon on the Day of Pentecost.

He wrote 1 Peter to encourage Christians who were suffering under great persecution. He wrote 2 Peter to prevent false teaching as well as to encourage. Peter was crucified in death. He asked to be martyred in some other way, as he did not feel worthy to die in the same way as the Lord Jesus. Hence his persecutors crucified him upside-down.

### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Peter did not travel nearly much or as far as Apostle Paul. However, he did visit Rome, his farthest stop in the north, and did much in the area of Jerusalem. In Joppa, just to the west of Jerusalem near the Great Sea, Peter stayed in the home of Simon the Tanner –a reputed site which can still be visited today. St Peter's Church is still located in Joppa.

### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Peter wrote the letter during Nero's reign. Nero was the Roman emperor in the 60s AD, and he hated Christianity. He eventually did horrible things like throw Christians to lions to be eaten. Peter was addressing believers with encouragement to stay the course with Jesus, no matter what happened.