

BIBLE CHARACTERS

AT-A-GLANCE

One-Page Reference Sheets for 28
of the Most Notable Bible Characters

JOSEPH

AT-A-GLANCE

CHILDHOOD:
Joseph was kidnapped by his 10 jealous older brothers and was sold into slavery.

MARRIED:
God was with him and became a vizier (similar to a prime minister) of Egypt.

Birth of Jesus

JESUS

AT-A-GLANCE

CHILDHOOD:
Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem.
Jesus lived in Egypt for a while as a child.
While he was a baby or toddler, Jesus was visited by several astronomers, able to track him by the appearance of a star or star cluster. They brought him gifts and worshipped him.
Jesus got separated from his parents around the age of 12 during a festival of the Passover in Jerusalem. It took his parents three days to find him in the temple, learning and perhaps teaching.

BIRTH: Approx. 7 BC

MARRIED:
Not married

Birth of Jesus

2000's AD

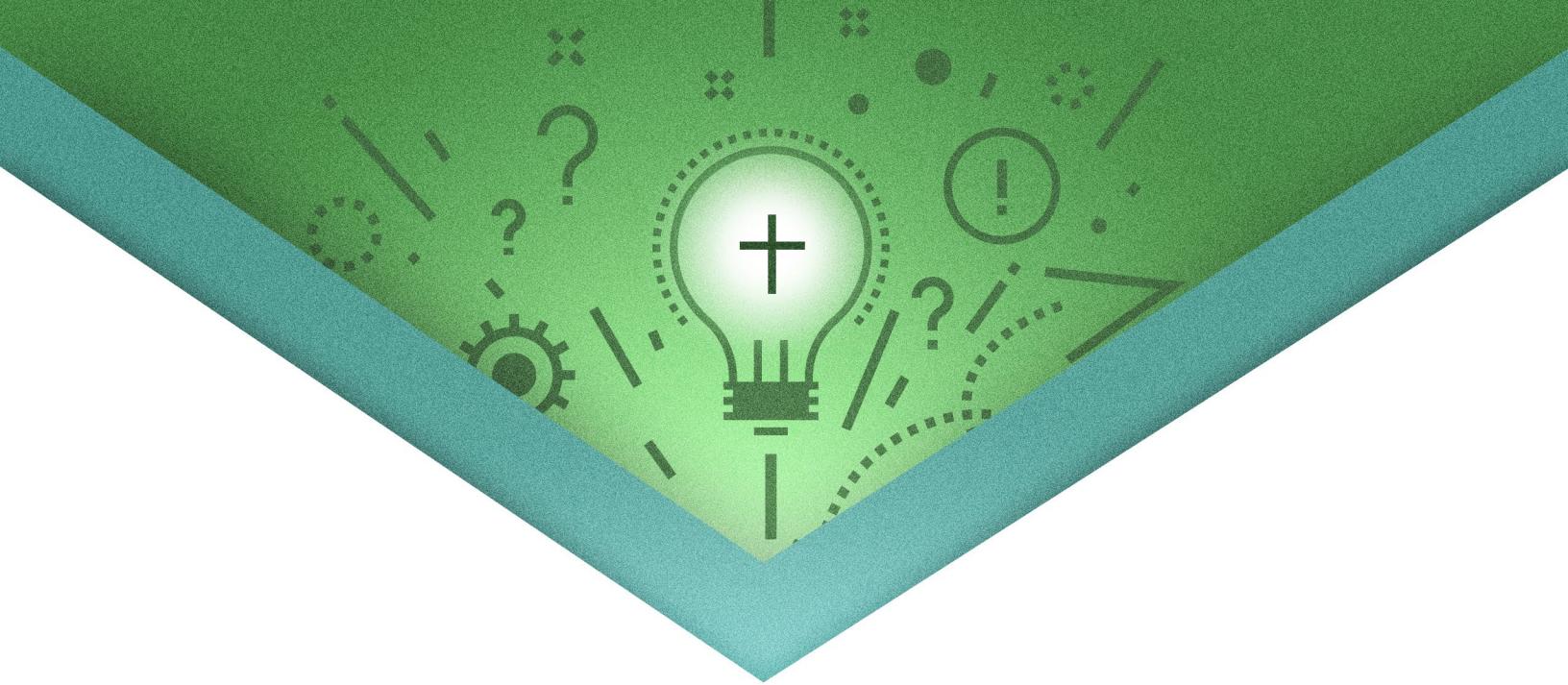
JEZEBEL

AT-A-GLANCE

CHILDHOOD:
The princess of Baal, king of Tyre.

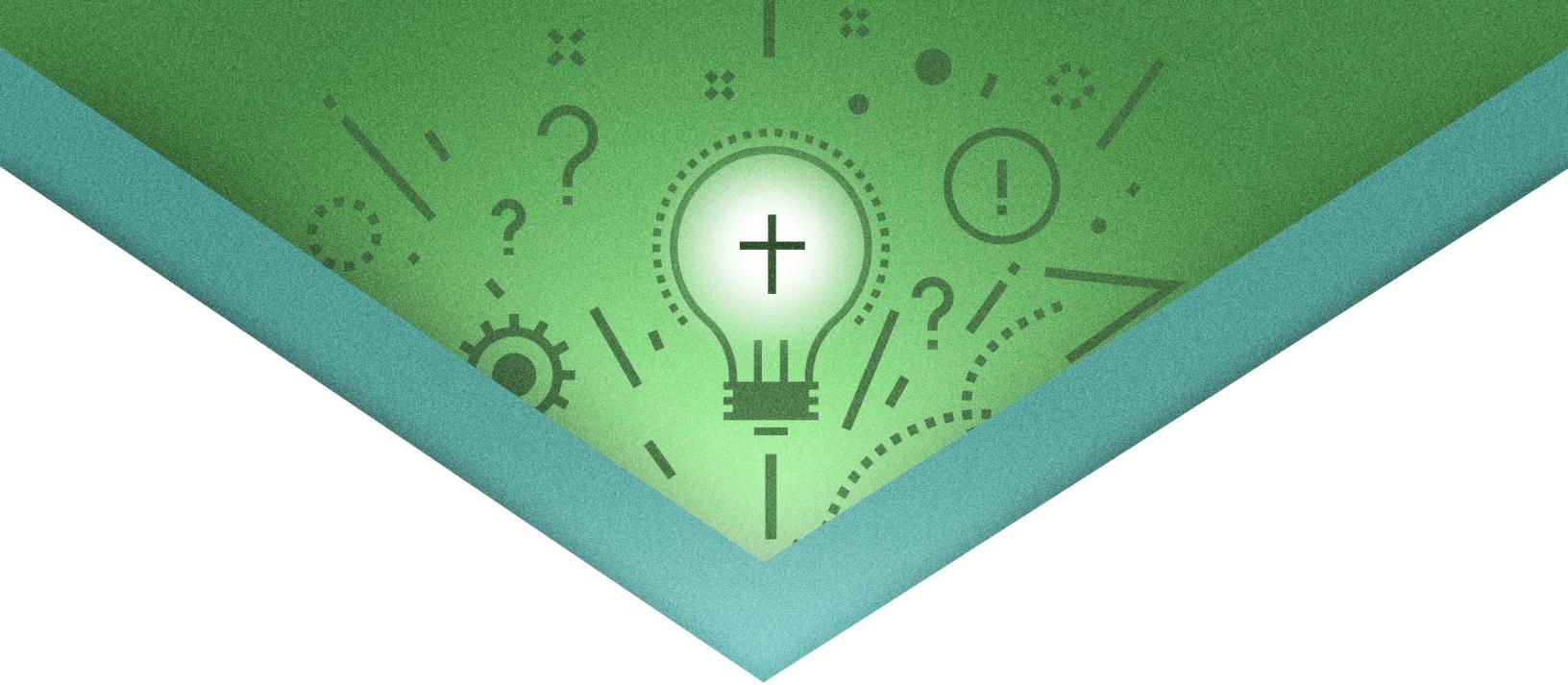
MARRIED:
King Ahab, seventh king of Israel. She became even more powerful than her influences.

Birth: ~600 BC



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this edition of 28 Bible Personalities: Easy Fact Sheets. Our well-organized and easy-to-read sheets will help your students learn like never before about favorite Bible Personalities and their roles in our Christian lives.

Who's Included?

All 28 of the most popular Bible Personalities are covered for you in these sheets. They include

Old Testament:

Adam
Eve
Noah
Abraham
Isaac
Jacob
Joseph
Moses
Joshua
Prophet Samuel

King Saul
King David
King Solomon
Prophet Elijah
King Ahab
Queen Jezebel
Prophet Jonah
Daniel
Ezekiel

New Testament:

Jesus
Mary
Joseph
John the Baptist
Apostle John
Apostle Peter
Apostle Paul
Apostle James
Mary Magdalene

What's on each Sheet?

These one-page easy fact sheets contain the following information about most of the Personalities:

- Birth
- Death
- Childhood
- Marital Info
- Claims to Fame
- Famous Quotes
- Bible Lookups
- Illustration for coloring

Uses for Easy Fact Sheets

Our fact sheets have so many uses that they ought to be considered a staple in every Sunday school closet! Here are just some ways to use them:

- * before you teach a lesson on one of them in the Bible;
- * during lessons if students look confused about who a character is;
- * as a lesson pack in and of themselves, using three or four fact sheets a week until complete;
- * as great fill-in material for substitute teachers
- * as introductory and/or closing activities for class
- * as fill-in time material if you finish a lesson too soon!

Further Ideas for Use & Game Ideas

The fact sheets are just that-fact sheets. However, there are Bible lookups on each page, and games you can play with them as follows:

Guess Which Hero: Put the list of personalities, from either the Table of Contents or above, in plain sight. Start reading from a page, avoiding the character's name. The student who can guess the person correctly first gets a point. The student with the highest score at the game's end wins!

Who Came First Race: It's hard to understand history if you don't know when things happened. To help students get a great timeline going in their heads, make a copy of the sheets and cut out just the top information: name and dates. Cut off the number or you will give it away. Have students race to get all the Bible personalities in order chronologically based on the BC and AD dates.

Who Said That: Just read from the Bible character's quotes and have students guess who said it for points or prizes.

True or False: This is great if students are studying one worksheet at a time. It will reinforce all the material. Just take a sheet they are becoming familiar with, and either read a question or pretend to be reading and say the opposite. Students must guess whether the material you just presented was true or false.

A Great Essential Tool!

Fun 'N' Easy Fact Sheets is an essential tool, which will be sure to have students remembering our favorite Bible personalities much more accurately! Just keep several copies ready in the supply cabinet, and within a semester or year, your students will know them all!

ADAM

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

Adam was born a man. He had no childhood! For this reason, some say Adam and Eve had no navels (belly buttons). That is hard to picture but may be true.



MARRIED: EVE

There is no ceremony of marriage mentioned in the Bible between Adam and Eve. The union was joined by God at Eve's creation.

Birth of Jesus

2000's AD

Birth: Approx. 4004 BC

Death: Approx. 3074 BC (lived 930 years)

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 First man
- 2 First man to sin against God
- 3 Only man to have lived in the Garden of Eden

FAMOUS QUOTES:

- "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." *Genesis 3:10*
- "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." *Genesis 3:12*
- "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." *Genesis 2:23-25*



Bible Lookups: Genesis 2:8, Genesis 3:22-24, 1 Corinthians 15:45



AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:
Eve was born a grown woman and did not have a childhood.



MARRIED: ADAM

Birth: Approx. 4004 BC

Death: Unknown

Birth of Jesus

2000's AD

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Eve was not only the first woman, but the first woman to disobey God. She was deceived into doing so.
- 2 Her eldest son, Cain, killed his younger brother Abel. Hence, she was the first woman to be the mother of a murdered son and also of a murderer.
- 3 She gave birth to Seth, her third child, who carried the line of descendants that leads to Jesus Christ.

FAMOUS QUOTES:

“We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” *Genesis 3:2*

“The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”
Genesis 3:13

“With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man.” *Genesis 4:1*



Bible Lookups: Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 4:25, 2 Corinthians 11:3

NOAH

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

- Noah was the 10th generation down from Adam.
- He was one of the descendants of Seth.
- His was the grandson of Methuselah, the man who lived longest on planet earth (969 years).



MARRIED: NAME UNKNOWN

Noah was married; his wife's name is not recorded in the Bible, though she was present on the ark.

Birth: Approx. 2904 BC

Birth of Jesus

2000's AD

Death: Approx. 1954 BC (lived 950 years)

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Noah built the ark
- 2 He led his wife, three sons, and their wives through the flood, approximately 2304 BC.
- 3 He is the father of all of us, being the father of the surviving sons of the flood.
- 4 Noah had three sons: Shem, Japheth, and Ham

FAMOUS QUOTES:

"They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all."
Jesus, Luke 17:27

"By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith." *Hebrews 11:7*



Bible Lookups: Genesis 6:9, Genesis 7:1, Luke 17:26

ABRAHAM

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

- Abraham's family was from Ur, a very influential city in Mesopotamia.
- His father, Terah, took the family north to Harran, which is where God spoke to him about moving to Canaan to become a great nation.



MARRIED: SARAH

- Abraham married Sarah, who gave birth to his famous son Isaac.
- He also had another child, Ishmael, with Sarah's servant Hagar. It is believed that Ishmael's descendants became the people of Islam, while Isaac's descendants became the people of Israel.
- Abraham also married Keturah, and had several children with her. But he left his entire estate to Isaac.

Birth of Jesus

Birth: Approx. 2166 BC

2000's AD

Death: Approx. 1991 BC

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Abraham became father of Isaac, even though his wife was 90 and he was 100.
- 2 Abraham obeyed God when asked to sacrifice his son Isaac, only to have God intervene and provide a ram as a substitute.

FAIRYTALE FACTS:

"Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness." *Romans 4:3*

"Now then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, 'In you shall all the nations be blessed.' So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith." *Galatians 3:7-9*



Bible Lookups: James 2:23, Genesis 12, Hebrews 11:8

ISAAC

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

- His birth was a miracle because his mother was far past her childbearing years
- He was almost offered up as a sacrifice by his father Abraham, but God stopped it.



MARRIED: REBEKAH

Birth: Approx. 2066 BC

2000's AD

Death: Approx. 1886 BC

Birth of Jesus

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 His descendants became the nation of Israel.
- 2 Throughout history God is referred to as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

FAIRY TALE:

"And Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'My father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' He said, 'Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?' Abraham said, 'God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.'" *Genesis 22:7-8*

"And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The Lord blessed him, and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy." *Genesis 26:12-13*

"By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau." *Hebrews 11:20*



Bible Lookups: Genesis 22:1-14, Genesis 24 (whole chapter), Genesis 17:17

JACOB

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

- Jacob was the son of Isaac and Rebekah and the grandson of Abraham.
- He born a twin to Esau and was famously born grasping his brother's heel.



MARRIED: LEAH AND RACHEL

Birth: Approx. 2005 BC

Birth of Jesus

2000's AD

Death: Approx. 1859 BC

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Father of the Nation of Israel, having fathered the 12 sons who became the Tribes of Israel.
- 2 Jacob's name was changed to Israel.
- 3 Jacob stole his brother Esau's birthright.
- 4 He had the famous vision about the future of Israel known as "Jacob's Ladder."

FAIRY TALE QUOTES:

"Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." *Genesis 28:16-17 (after his famous dream of Jacob's Ladder, foretelling his future as a father of Israel)*

"What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?" *Genesis 29:25, (after he worked seven years to be the husband of Rachel, and the father deceived him, giving him Leah)*

"You can't go until you bless me," Jacob replied. Then the man asked, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. The man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob. You have wrestled with God and with men, and you have won. That's why your name will be Israel." Jacob said, "Now tell me your name." "Don't you know who I am?" he asked. And he blessed Jacob. Jacob said, "I have seen God face to face, and I am still alive." *Genesis 32:26-30 (After Jacob wrestled with God all night)*



Bible Lookups: Genesis 25:26, Genesis 29:23-25, Acts 7:8

JOSEPH

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

- Joseph was kidnapped by his 10 jealous older brothers and was sold into slavery.
- God was with him and became a vizier (similar to a prime minister) of Egypt.



MARRIED: ANESATH

Birth: Approx. 1914 BC

Birth of Jesus

2000's AD

Death: Approx. 1805 BC

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Wore a beautifully woven robe, given to him by his father as an expression of favor and love
- 2 Denied Potiphar's wife.
- 3 Interpreted Pharaoh's dream

FAMOUS QUOTES:

"You intended to harm me but God intended it for good." *Genesis 50:20*

"And the Lord was with Joseph and he was a prosperous man." *Genesis 39:2*



Bible Lookups: Hebrews 11:22, Genesis 39:7-12, Genesis 45:1-28

MOSES

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

- Moses was saved from death, having been sent down the Nile in a basket by his mother.
- Moses was, found, adopted, and raised by Pharaoh's daughter Bithiah.



MARRIED: ZIPPORAH

Birth of Jesus

Birth: 1526 BC

2000's AD

Death: 1406 BC

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Moses delivered the Israelites from captivity and spent 40 years in the desert leading them.
- 2 God used Moses to part the Red Sea at the start of the Exodus.
- 3 Moses delivered the tablets with the Ten Commandments to the Israelites.
- 4 God physically passed behind Moses causing him to glow bright white.
- 5 Moses is thought to have written the Pentateuch, or the first five books of the Bible.

FAIRYTALE FACTS:

"Who am I that I should go unto Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of bondage?"
Moses at the Burning Bush, *Exodus 3:11*

"And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations!"
Revelation 15:3

"Since that time no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face..." *Deuteronomy 34:10*



Bible Lookups: Exodus 3 (whole chapter), Exodus 33:12-23, Hebrews 11:23-28

JOSHUA

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

- Joshua's childhood is not mentioned in the Bible



MARRIED: UNKNOWN

The Bible has no record of whether Joshua married.

Birth of Jesus

Birth: around 1486 BC

2000's AD

Death: around 1376 BC

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Joshua led Israel after the death of Moses.
- 2 Joshua led the first raids after the Exodus, including Jericho, where the walls of the great city tumbled down at the sound of trumpet blasts.

FAIRYTALE QUOTES:

"But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve..." *Joshua 24:15*

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." *Joshua 1:9*



Bible Lookups: Joshua 2 (whole chapter), Joshua 1:5, Joshua 6:1-20

SAMUEL

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

Samuel was born after his mother, fearing she was barren, begged God for a child. Out of gratitude she sent Samuel to live in the temple at around age three.



MARRIED: NAME UNKNOWN

Samuel wife's name is not mentioned in the Bible.

Birth: approx. 1100 BC

Birth of Jesus

2000's AD

Death: approx. 1010 BC

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Samuel anointed Saul, the first king of Israel, and later anointed King David.
- 2 When Saul was in trouble he brought Samuel back from the dead and Samuel cursed him.
- 3 He was known throughout Israel for his prophetic gifts.
- 4 He was considered by many to be Israel's greatest judge

FAMOUS QUOTES:

"But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. 7 And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king." *Samuel 8:6-7*

"Because you did not obey the Lord or carry out his fierce wrath against the Amalekites, the Lord has done this to you today. 19 The Lord will deliver both Israel and you into the hands of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me." *1 Samuel 28:18*



Bible Lookups: 1 Samuel 22:25, 1 Samuel 10:1, Acts 13:20

KING SAUL

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

Saul's father was named Kish, and his family was from the tribe of Benjamin.

Saul probably was raised in Gibeah, where his story begins, shortly before he was anointed King by the great prophet Samuel.



MARRIED: AHINOAM

Daughter of Ahimaaz. They had three sons. Saul's oldest son Jonathan became David's best friend (David who killed Goliath)

Birth: Approx. 1082 BC

2000's AD

Death: Approx. 1011 BC

Birth of Jesus

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Saul was the first King of Israel.
- 2 Saul began his reign as God's willing servant. But he became corrupt as time wore on. He became jealous of David after he slayed Goliath and sought to kill him.
- 3 He died in the battle of Gilboa, where Israel's army was fighting against the Philistines. He fell on his sword to prevent the enemy from capturing him alive, and his three sons were killed earlier that day.

FAIRYTALE FACTS:

- “But am I not a Benjamite, from the smallest tribe of Israel, and is not my clan the least of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why do you say such a thing to me?” 1 Samuel 9:21 (to Samuel, who was trying to anoint him king)
- “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.” 1 Samuel 17:33 (to David when he wanted to fight Goliath)



Bible Lookups: 1 Samuel 31:4, 1 Samuel 28:3-25, 1 Samuel 9:17-20

DAVID

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

- Fought and killed the giant Goliath as a teenager
- Was anointed as a future king of Israel by the great prophet Samuel



MARRIED:

- Michal, daughter of King Saul
- Abigail, widow of a foolish man who died after refusing to give David and his men food
- Bathsheba, with whom he had an illicit relationship and had to repent. (Their son was Solomon, who became the next king.)
- He had other wives and concubines, as polygamy was acceptable in that culture.

Birth: 1041 BC

Birth of Jesus

2000's AD

Death: 971 BC

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Reigned as the second King of Israel from 1011 BC – 971 BC (40 years)
- 2 Was considered the greatest king of Israel
- 3 Conquered and founded Jerusalem
- 4 Wrote more than 70 of the Psalms

FAMOUS QUOTES:

“Yeah, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me.” *Psalm 23:4*

“You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand.” *1 Samuel 17:45-47*

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *Psalm 22:1* (a prophecy repeated by Jesus on the cross)



Bible Lookups: 1 Samuel 17 (whole chapter), 1 Chronicles 14:17, Acts 13:22

SOLOMON

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

Solomon was the son of David and Bathsheba, the 10th son born to David (who had other wives)



MARRIED:

- Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines.
- One of Solomon's wives was the daughter of an Egyptian Pharaoh.

Birth: Approx. 996 BC

Birth of Jesus

2000's AD

Death: 931 BC

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Solomon served as third King of Israel, 971-931 BC.
- 2 He was considered by many to be the wisest man in the world.
- 3 He built the first Temple to the Lord in Jerusalem, completed in 960 BC.
- 4 Solomon solved the dispute between the two women, each claiming a newborn was her own. He used his wisdom to discover who the true mother was.

FAMOUS QUOTES:

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” *Proverbs 1:7*

“Iron sharpens iron; so a friend sharpens a friend” *Proverbs 27:17*

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:”
Ecclesiastes 3:1



Bible Lookups: Proverbs 22:6, 1 Kings 2:2-4, 1 Kings 4:30

ELIJAH

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

Unknown



MARRIED:

Unknown

Birth: Approx. 900 BC

Birth of Jesus

2000's AD

Death: Approx. 830 BC

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Elijah was considered one of the most famous prophets in the Old Testament, in spite of not writing down his prophecies like the Major and Minor Prophets.
- 2 Elijah called a three-year drought down from God on the evil King Ahab to try to get him and his people to repent of idolatry.
- 3 He called on God to light an altar on fire that had been thoroughly drenched in water.
- 4 He was taken up to heaven before his death, and became only the second person in human history to receive that honor. (The first was Enoch, the great-great grandfather of Noah.)
- 5 The famous prophet of old appeared at the Transfiguration with Moses, some 800 years after his disappearance, in front of Jesus and three disciples.

FAIRY TALE:

"How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." -- 1 Kings 18:21, just before proposing that the prophets of Baal call on their gods to light an altar
 "Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened."

1 Kings 18:27, when the prophets of Baal couldn't get the fire to light

"Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again."

1 Kings 18:37 - before he lit his altar



Bible Lookups: 1 Kings 18:36-39, 2 Kings 2:9-11, Matthew 17:1-13

AHAB

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

Ahab was the son of evil King Omri, the sixth King of Israel, making Ahab the seventh king



MARRIED: JEZEBEL

Married a pagan and one of the most evil women in history, Jezebel.

Reigned: 874-853 BC

Birth of Jesus

2000's AD

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Ahab tried to come against the Prophet Elijah numerous times but died without managing to kill him.
- 2 Ahab is known as being one of the most evil kings in the history of Israel.
- 3 Ahab married Jezebel, daughter of a Siborean King, who worshipped the false god Baal and was killing God's prophets.

FAMOUS QUOTES:

"There was never anyone like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord, urged on by Jezebel his wife. He behaved in the vilest manner by going after idols, like the Amorites the Lord drove out before Israel." 1 Kings 21:25-26

Ahab said to Elijah, "So you have found me, my enemy!" "I have found you," he [Elijah] answered, "because you have sold yourself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord. He says, 'I am going to bring disaster on you. I will wipe out your descendants and cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel—slave or free. I will make your house like that of Jeroboam son of Nebat and that of Baasha son of Ahijah, because you have aroused my anger and have caused Israel to sin.' 1 Kings 21:20-21, one of the brutal exchanges between Elijah and Ahab (and his wife Jezebel)

"And also concerning Jezebel the Lord says: 'Dogs will devour Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.'" a Prophecy of God through Elijah, 2 Kings 9:30-37



Bible Lookups: 1 Kings 16:30 1 Kings 21:25, 2 Kings 9:7-9

JEZEBEL

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

- Jezebel was the princess daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians.
- Jezebel was raised to worship the gods known as the Baals.



MARRIED: KING AHAB

King Ahab, seventh king of Israel, who became even more evil by her influences.

Birth of Jesus

Reigned: 874-853 BC

2000's AD

Jezebel was evil King Ahab's wife during part of his reign of 22 years.

Death: Approx. 850 BC

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Jezebel was known as the most evil queen of Israel.
- 2 After her marriage to Ahab, Jezebel's first recorded action was cutting off the prophets of the Lord. She put many of the Lord's prophets to death and built idols in Israel to lure people away from God.
- 3 Jezebel died as the prophet Elijah predicted. She was thrown off a tower and devoured by dogs so that most of her body could not be found or buried.

FAMOUS QUOTES:

"May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them." -- 1 Kings 19:2, Jezebel's death threat to the great prophet Elijah after he had her false prophets assassinated

"And also concerning Jezebel the Lord says: 'Dogs will devour Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.'" Elijah, 2 Kings 9:10



Bible Lookups: 1 Kings 18:4, 1 Kings 21, 2 Kings 9:30-37

JONAH

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

Jonah is listed in the Bible as the son of Amittai.

Jonah lived in a region of northern Israel, called Gath Hepher, near the Sea of Galilee when he began to prophesy, but it is unknown whether he was born and raised there.



MARRIED:

Unknown

Birth: Approx. 815 BC

Birth of Jesus

2000's AD

Death: Unknown

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Jonah was the fifth of the minor prophets listed in the Old Testament.
- 2 Jonah was swallowed by a large fish and remained in its belly for three days.
- 3 Jonah helped Nineveh to repent from idolatry when he finally obeyed God's command to prophesy there.

FAMOUS QUOTES:

"Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you." *Jonah 1:12*

"Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God's love for them. But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, 'Salvation comes from the Lord.'" *Jonah 2:8-9, from the Prayer of Jonah, which he made inside the belly of the fish*



Bible Lookups: Jonah 1:3, Jonah 1:17, Matthew 12:39-40

DANIEL

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

- Daniel is thought to have been born in Jerusalem.
- Daniel was one of the noble young captives first carried into exile by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, probably during his teen years.



MARRIED:

Unknown

Birth: Approx. 620 BC

2000's AD

Death: 533 BC

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 While in captivity in Babylon, Daniel rose to great favor with Nebuchadnezzar. He held one of the highest government positions under the Chaldean, Median, and Persian dynasties.
- 2 Daniel was thrown into a lion's den for refusing to worship idols, but the lions did not touch him.
- 3 Daniel wrote the prophecies that match those in Revelation, giving specific time periods for events like the Great Tribulation. He was the first to use terminology that Christians have come to believe mean "seven years" and "three-and-a-half years."

FAMOUS QUOTES:

"You may keep your gifts for yourself and give your rewards to someone else. Nevertheless, I will read the writing for the king and tell him what it means."
Daniel 5:17, just before he predicted King Belshazzar's death

"May the king live forever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty."
Daniel 6:21-22, after Daniel spent the night in the lion's den and came out unharmed

"Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt." One of Daniel's most famous prophecies, from Daniel 12:2



Bible Lookups: Daniel 1:17, Daniel 6:3-4, Daniel 7:16-24

EZEKIEL

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

- Ezekiel was the son of Buzi, born into a priestly lineage.
- Ezekiel was exiled to Babylon as a child.
- He received his first vision of prophecy at the age of 13.



MARRIED:

Ezekiel had a wife but she is not named, nor are any children named in the Bible.

Birth: Approx. 622 BC

Birth of Jesus

2000's AD

Death: 570 BC

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Ezekiel is author of the Book of Ezekiel with a distinction of being one of four Major Prophets.
- 2 He had the famous vision known as Ezekiel's wheel in Ezekiel 1.
- 3 Ezekiel prophesied about Israel's wrongdoings, God's plan to rescue Israel back from Babylon, and modern times.
- 4 Ezekiel had the famous vision known as his Vision of the Valley of Dry Bones, which showed skeletons reforming and getting up and walking. It was about the reformation of Israel as a nation, which happened in 1948.

FAMOUS QUOTES:

"This was the appearance and structure of the wheels: They sparkled like topaz, and all four looked alike. Each appeared to be made like a wheel intersecting a wheel..." *Part of the Ezekiel's Wheel vision in Ezekiel 1:16*

Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'" *Part of the Dry Bones Vision, Ezekiel 37:4-6*



Bible Lookups: Ezekiel 1:15-21, Ezekiel 2:1-10, Ezekiel 3:1-15

JESUS

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

- Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem.
- Jesus lived in Egypt for a while as a child.
- While he was a baby or toddler, Jesus was visited by several astronomers, able to track him by the appearance of a star or star cluster. They brought him gifts and worshipped him.
- Jesus got separated from his parents around the age of 12 during a festival of the Passover in Jerusalem. It took his parents three days to find him in the temple, learning and perhaps teaching.



MARRIED:

Not married

Birth of Jesus

Birth: Approx. 7 BC

2000's AD

Death: Approx. 25 AD

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Jesus is our Savior and Messiah.
- 2 Jesus died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sinfulness.

FAMOUS QUOTES:

"God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever should believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16

"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me will live, even though he dies." John 11:25

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:40



Bible Lookups: John 14:6, Hebrews 4:14-16, Romans 8:38-39

MARY

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

It is believed by many that Mary was still in her teens when she was visited by the Angel Gabriel to tell her she would conceive Christ through the Holy Spirit.



MARRIED: JOSEPH

- Mary was betrothed to Joseph (which is similar to our being engaged), when she conceived by the Holy Spirit, as the angel Gabriel predicted to her.
- Joseph married her, though he was skeptical of her pregnancy, until God showed him in a dream Mary was telling the truth about having not cheated.

Birth of Jesus

Birth: Approx. 25 BC

2000's AD

Death: Unknown; there is no Biblical record of Mary after she approached Jesus on the Cross with John the Apostle.

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Mary is mother of the Messiah, who conceived by the Holy Spirit.

FAMOUS QUOTES:

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her. Luke 1:38

"From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me holy is his name." Luke 1:48

When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." Luke 2:48, after finding Jesus in the temple after she and Joseph had searched for him three days



Bible Lookups: Luke 1:26-38, Luke 1:46-56, John 19:25-27

JOSEPH, FATHER OF JESUS

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

- Joseph was born in Bethlehem, which is why Jesus was born there. He and Mary had returned there for a census.
- Joseph was trained in carpentry.



MARRIED: MARY

- As there is no record of Joseph during Jesus' active ministry, it is believed that he passed away sometime before.
- Mary was definitely a widow at the time of the Crucifixion.

Birth of Jesus

Birth: Approx. 30 BC

2000's AD

Death: Sometime before 25 AD

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Joseph was married to Mary, mother of Jesus.
- 2 Joseph saved the family from destruction by following an angel's advice and fleeing with them to Egypt. They stayed there until the death of Herod.

FAMOUS QUOTES:

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit..." *Matthew 1:20, from an angel*

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." *Matthew 2:13, from an angel*



Bible Lookups: Matthew 1:18-25, Matthew 2:13-16, Matthew 2:19-23

JOHN THE BAPTIST

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

- John's mother Elizabeth conceived him in old age.
- John leapt in her womb when his mother was visited by Mary, who was pregnant with Jesus and a relative of Elizabeth.
- His father, a priest, went mute until the time of John's birth, because he showed doubt to the angel Gabriel when given the news.



MARRIED: NOT MARRIED

Birth: Approx. 8 BC

Birth of Jesus

2000's AD

Death: 24 AD

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 John the Baptist was the forerunner of the Messiah, baptizing many in the Jordan River.
- 2 John baptized Jesus himself.
- 3 John died by decapitation due to a request by King Herod's unlawful wife and stepdaughter.

FAMOUS QUOTES:

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." *Matthew 3:2*

"You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?" *Luke 3:7*

"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." *Matthew 3:11*



Bible Lookups: Isaiah 40:3, Matthew 3:13-17, Matthew 17:10-13

JOHN THE APOSTLE

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

- John was raised by a father who owned a prosperous fishing business in Galilee.
- John is thought by many scholars to have been still a teenager when he became a disciple of Jesus.
- John was a disciple of John the Baptist before Jesus.



MARRIED: UNKNOWN

Birth of Jesus

Birth: Approx. 7 BC

2000's AD

Death: 100 AD

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 John was one of Jesus' three favorite disciples, present at the raising of a young dead girl and at the Transfiguration.
- 2 John wrote the Gospel of John, the Revelation, and the three Books of John in the New Testament.
- 3 John was the only recorded disciple at the Crucifixion, where Jesus asked him to care for his mother.

FAMOUS QUOTES:

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God." 1 John 4:7

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1

"Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John 20:30-31



Bible Lookups: John 1:35-42 (To avoid confusion in this interesting passage where Jesus meets his first disciples, note that the John mentioned in verse 35 is John the Baptist. John the Apostle is thought to be one of the two disciples of John the Baptist who went with Jesus)

APOSTLE PETER

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

Unknown



MARRIED:

Peter was married though his wife is unnamed in the Bible. Jesus laid hands on his mother-in-law to heal her of a fever.

Birth of Jesus
Birth: Approx. 7 BC

2000's AD

Death: 44 AD

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Peter was the first disciple to confess Jesus as the Messiah.
- 2 Peter denied Jesus three times during his trial but was forgiven after the Resurrection.
- 3 Peter gave the first sermon to several thousand visitors in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.
- 4 Peter wrote two books in the New Testament, 1 and 2 Peter.

FAMOUS QUOTES:

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." *Matthew 16:16*

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." *Acts 2:38*

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name given under heaven by which we must be saved." *Acts 4:12*



Bible Lookups: Matthew 16:13-17, Luke 22:44-62, 1 Peter 5:8

APOSTLE PAUL

AT-A-GLANCE



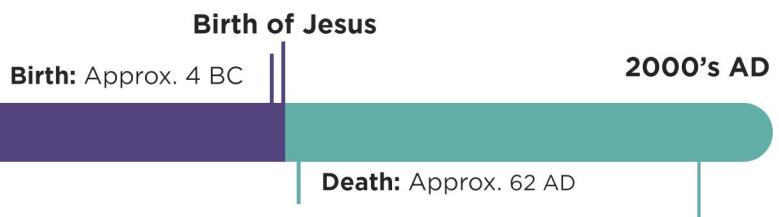
CHILDHOOD:

Paul was born with the Jewish name Saul. He was born in Tarsus, a city in northern Israel.

Paul was trained in tent making and also in Jewish scholarship.



MARRIED: UNKNOWN



CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Paul wrote 13 epistles in the New Testament
- 2 Paul was converted and called by Jesus on the road to Damascus, where he was blinded for three days.
- 3 Prior to his conversion, Paul was actively involved in the persecution of Christians and was involved in the stoning of the first martyr for Jesus, Stephen.

FAMOUS QUOTES:

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
Romans 5:8

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”
Philippians 4:8

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God...”
Ephesians 2:8



Bible Lookups: Acts 9:1-22, Acts 14:8-20, 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

MARY MAGDELENE

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:
Unknown



MARRIED: UNKNOWN
Mary was not married at the time of the crucifixion.

Birth of Jesus

Birth: Approx. 2 AD

2000's AD

Death: Unknown

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Mary may be the closest woman friend Jesus had.
- 2 Jesus cast seven demons out of her shortly after they met.
- 3 Mary was the first person to see the resurrected Jesus and speak to him.

FAMOUS QUOTES:

“They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!” John 20:2

“Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” John 20:15



Bible Lookups: John 20:1-18, Luke 8:2, John 19:25

JAMES THE APOSTLE

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

James was raised by a father who owned a prosperous fishing business in Galilee.



MARRIED: UNKNOWN

Birth of Jesus

Birth: Approx. 1 BC

2000's AD

Death: Approx. 44 AD

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 James was the older brother of Apostle John.
- 2 James is considered one of the three disciples closest to Jesus (along with Peter and John).
- 3 James was the first the 12 disciples to be martyred.

FAMOUS QUOTES:

From Mark 10:35-40

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask."

"What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."

"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?"

"We can," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared."



Bible Lookups: Matthew 4:21-22, Matthew 17:1-8, Acts 12:1-3