

FOUR: BIOGRAPHICAL

A concise introduction of some 100-plus individuals (both named and unnamed) who are mentioned in the gospel accounts.

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GREAT TRUTHS FROM GOD'S WORD

Named Who Are Mentioned In The Gospel Accounts

Andrew. He was a former fisherman and one of the twelve apostles who brought his brother Peter to Christ (Mk. 1:16; Mt. 10:2; Jn. 1:40-42)

Anna. She was a prophetess and a widow from the tribe of Asher who, like Simeon, recognized the infant Jesus being dedicated in the temple as Israel's Messiah and praised God for this (Lk. 2:36-38)

Annas. He was the former and totally corrupt Jewish High Priest who, along with his son-in-law Caiaphas (current High Priest) treated Jesus in shameful fashion during the Savior's unfair trials (Jn. 18:12-13, 19-24)

Barabbas. He was the anarchist (Mk. 15:7; Lk. 23:19), murderer (Mk. 15:7; Lk. 23:19) and robber (Jn. 18:40), released by Pilate over Jesus who did so at the insistence of the Jewish leaders who preferred a convicted murderer over their own Messiah (Mt. 27:17, 20-21, 26)

Bartimaeus. This blind man, sitting and begging by the highway leading into Jericho, upon hearing that Jesus was passing by, cried out for healing and immediately received his sight (Mk. 10:46-52)

Caiaphas. He was the wicked High Priest who plotted the death of Jesus and who later persecuted the leaders of the early church (Mt. 26:3-5, 62-65; Acts 4:6-7)

Cleopas. The resurrected Savior (at first unrecognized) appears to Cleopas and a fellow disciple en route to Emmaeus. After realizing it was Jesus, he quickly returned to the Upper Room in Jerusalem to report the wonderful news to the frightened apostles. Even as he spoke, the Savior appeared in their presence (Lk. 24:13-35)

Elisabeth. She was the wife of Zacharias the Jewish High Priest who supernaturally gave birth to John the Baptist in her old age (Lk. 1:5-7, 57-60)

Herod Antipas. He was the ruling son of Herod the Great who beheaded John the Baptist and later ridiculed Jesus during one of the Savior's unfair trials (Mt. 14:10-11; Lk. 23:10-11)

Herodias. This wicked and vindictive queen arranged for the beheading of John the Baptist who had fearlessly denounced her unlawful marriage to King Herod Antipas (Mk. 6:18-19; Mt. 14:3, 6-11)

Herod the Great. He was a great builder who (for the most part) constructed the second Jewish Temple and later attempted to kill the infant Jesus in Bethlehem (Mt. 2)

Jairus. At the tearful request from this heartbroken and desperate father, Jesus accompanies him to heal his dying 12-year old daughter, only however to find the little girl dead upon their arrival. Jesus thereupon raises her from the dead (Mk. 5:22-24, 35-43; Lk. 8:41-42, 49-56)

James the Apostle. He was a former fisherman, the brother of John, and the first of the twelve apostles to be martyred for Christ (Mt. 4:21; 10:2; Acts 12:1-2)

James the half brother of Jesus. He was an unbeliever prior to Jesus' resurrection but following his conversion became pastor of the church in Jerusalem and would author the New Testament Book of James (Jn. 7:3-5; 1 Cor. 15:7; Acts 15:13-14, 19; 21:17-18; Jam. 1:1)

Joanna. This godly wife, whose husband was King Herod Antipas' steward often helped Jesus financially. She was also present at the empty tomb on the first Easter Sunday (Lk. 8:3; 24:1-7, 10)

John the Apostle. He was a former fisherman, the brother of James, the beloved disciple of Jesus and the author of five New Testament books (the Gospel of John, First, Second and Third John, the Book of Revelation)

John the Baptist. He was the miracle baby of the barren Elisabeth, the Nazarite evangelist who both introduced the Messiah and baptized him, who would later be martyred for his fearless preaching (Lk. 1:5-17; Jn. 1:29; Mt. 3:16-17; 14:1-11)

Joseph of Arimathaea. This wealthy disciple of Jesus, along with Nicodemus, requested and received from Pilate the lifeless body of Jesus and placed it in his own tomb (Mt. 27:57-60; Mk. 15:42-46; Lk. 23:50-54; Jn. 19:38-42)

Joseph, husband of Mary. He was the husband of Mary and the godly, legal (but not physical) father of Jesus (Mt. 1:18-25)

Judas Iscariot. He was the dishonest and demon-possessed apostle of Jesus who betrayed his master for 30 pieces of silver and then committed suicide (Jn. 12:4-5; 6:70-71; Mt. 26:14-15; 27:5)

Lazarus, the beggar. He was the saved beggar carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom (Lk. 16:19-23)

Lazarus, the brother. He was the brother of Mary and Martha whom Christ raised from the dead at Bethany (Jn. 11)

Malchus. He was the servant of the Jewish High Priest whose ear was cut off by Simon Peter in Gethsemane and healed by Jesus (Jn. 18:10; Lk. 22:51)

Martha. She was the sister of Mary who reaffirmed her faith in Jesus during the funeral of her brother Lazarus and then witnessed him being raised from the dead by the Savior (Jn. 11)

Mary Magdalene. She was a demon possessed woman who was delivered by Jesus and later became the first person to see the resurrected Christ (Lk. 8:2; Jn. 20:16)

Mary, mother of James and Joses. This godly mother helped Jesus financially and was present at His crucifixion and resurrection (Mt. 27:56; 28:5-10; Mk. 15:40-41, 47; 16:1-4; Lk. 24:6-11)

Mary, mother of Jesus. She was the virgin wife of Joseph who was chosen to give birth to the Savior of the world (Lk. 1:26-38; 2:7)

Mary, sister of Martha. She worshipped at the feet of Jesus, witnessed Him raising her dead brother Lazarus, and later would anoint the body of the Savior (Lk. 10:39; Jn. 11:43; 12:1-3)

Matthew. He was a former tax collector, called by Jesus to become an apostle, who would later author the book of Matthew (Mt. 9:9; 10:3)

Nathanael. He was also known as Bartholomew, introduced to Christ and later called to become one of the twelve apostles (Jn. 1:45-51; Mt. 10:3)

Nicodemus. He was a well-known Pharisee and teacher, led to Christ during a midnight visit with the Savior and who would later help prepare His crucified body for burial (Jn. 3:1-15; 19:39)

Peter. He was a former fisherman, brought to Christ by his brother Andrew, called to serve as one of the twelve, later denying his Savior on three occasions but after the resurrection becoming His chief spokesman at Pentecost, finally authoring two New Testament epistles (1 and 2 Peter) and dying a martyr's death (Mt. 4:18-19; 10:2; Jn. 1:40-42; Lk. 22:54-62 Acts 2:14-40; 2 Peter 1:13-14)

Philip the Apostle. He led his friend Nathanael to Christ shortly after his own conversion and later was called to serve as one of the twelve apostles (Jn. 1:43-46; Mt. 10:3)

Pilate. He was the Roman governor who was pressured by the wicked Jewish leaders to release the guilty Barabbas and to both scourge and crucify the innocent Jesus (Mt. 27:2; 15-26)

Salome. She contributed financially to the needs of Jesus and was present during His crucifixion and resurrection (Lk. 8:2-3; Mk. 15:40-41; 16:1, 6)

Simeon. The Holy Spirit had promised this godly old man he would live to see the first coming of the Messiah, which promise was realized when Mary brought her infant son Jesus in the Jerusalem temple to be dedicated to the Lord (Lk. 2:25-35)

Simon the Cyrenian. This visiting pilgrim to Jerusalem was ordered by the Roman soldiers to carry the cross of the bruised and beaten Jesus to the hill of Golgotha (Mk. 15:21; Lk. 23:26)

Simon the Leper. This former leper whom Jesus had once healed hosted a supper in Bethany to celebrate the raising of Lazarus, during which meal Mary (sister of Lazarus) anointed the feet of the Savior with a costly ointment (Mt. 26:6-13; Mk. 14:3-9; Jn. 12:1-8)

Simon the Pharisee. During a meal in Simon's home, an immoral but heartbroken woman approached Jesus, who began washing His feet with her tears and drying them with her hair. Knowing her sinful background, Simon secretly condemned Jesus in his thoughts for allowing this but is suddenly rebuked publicly by the Savior for his hypocrisy (Lk. 7:36-50)

Theophilus. Luke addressed both of his New Testament books (Gospel of Luke; Acts of the Apostles) to this man (Lk. 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-5)

Thomas. He had an unnamed twin brother and was known as the doubting apostle as he initially could not believe the glorious reports of Christ's resurrection until the Savior appeared to him personally a week later (Jn. 20:19-29)

Zachaeus. This dishonest tax collector met Jesus while in a sycamore tree and immediately accepted Him as Savior (Lk. 19:1-10)

Zacharias. He was a priest, visited by the angel Gabriel who predicted his barren wife would present him with a son, John the Baptist (Lk. 1:5-25, 57-80)

The Following Unnamed Individuals Have Been Arranged In Nine Basic Categories.

ONE

In regards to Jesus' birth

- The shepherds (Lk. 2:8-18)
- The wise men (Mt. 2:1-12)

TWO

In regards to Jesus' miracles

- A Capernaum demoniac (Mk. 1:23)
- Peter's mother-in-law (Mt. 8:14)
- A Galilean leper (Mk. 1:40)
- A Capernaum paralytic (Mk. 2:3-5, 11-12)
- Man with a withered right hand (Mk. 3:1)
- A Centurion whose servant was sick (Lk. 7:2-3)
- The widow in Nain (Lk. 7:12-13)
- The maniac of Gadara (Mk. 5:1-5)
- A woman with an issue of blood (Mk. 5:25-27)
- Two Galilean blind men (Mt. 9:27)
- Man who had been a cripple for 38 years (Jn. 5:2-5)
- The boy who gave his lunch to Jesus (Jn. 6:8-9)
- Mother of a demon possessed daughter (Mk. 7:32)
- Father of a demon possessed son (Mk. 9:17-29)
- Deaf man with a speech impediment (Mk. 7:32)
- The blind man of Bethsaida (Mk. 8:32)
- The man born blind (Jn. 9:1-2)
- The ten lepers (Lk. 17:12-19)
- Jairus' 12-year old daughter (Mk. 5:35-42)
- The parents of the man born blind (Jn. 9:20)

THREE

In regards to Jesus' parables

- The sinful woman who washed Jesus' feet (Lk. 7:37-38)
- The forgiven servant who wouldn't forgive (Mt. 18:23-34)
- The good Samaritan (Lk. 10:33-35)
- The uncaring priest and Levi who refused to help an injured man (Lk. 10:30-32)
- The rich fool (Lk. 12:16-20)
- The rich man who prepared a great supper (Lk. 14:16-17)
- The king who prepared a marriage feast for his son (Mt. 22:2)
- The guest who attended a wedding feast who refused to wear a wedding garment (Mt. 22:2, 11-13)
- Shepherd who sought and found a lost sheep (Lk. 15:1-7)
- A woman who sought and found a lost coin (Lk. 15:8-10)
- The prodigal son, his father, and his elder brother (Lk. 15:11-30)
- The unjust steward (Lk. 16:1-7)
- The rich man in hell (Lk. 16:19-31)
- The man who hired workers for his vineyard (Mt. 20:1)

- The Nobleman who entrusted his servants with ten pounds (Lk. 19:12-13)
- The businessman who entrusted his servants with seven talents (Mt. 25:14-30)

FOUR

In regards to Jesus soul-wining activities

- The Samaritan woman (Jn. 4:7-39)
- The woman taken in the act of adultery (Jn. 8:3-11)
- A sincere scribe (Mk. 12:28-34)

FIVE

In regards to true discipleship

- The rich young ruler (Mk. 10:17-22)
- Three would-be disciples (Lk. 9:57-62)

SIX

In regards to those whom Jesus commended

- A man who was casting out demons (Mk. 9:38)
- A little child (Mt. 18:2)
- A widow and her offering (Mk. 12:41)
- A woman who blessed Jesus (Lk. 11:27)

SEVEN

In regards to those whom Jesus rebuked

- The mother of James and John (Mt. 20:20-21)
- An insincere lawyer (Lk. 10:25-29)

EIGHT

In regards to Jesus' sufferings and crucifixion

- A young man who abandoned Jesus in Gethsemane (Mk. 14:51)
- Pilate's wife (Mt. 27:19)
- The maid that accused Peter
- The dying saved thief (Lk. 23:39-43)
- The dying lost thief (Mt. 27:44; Mk. 15:32)
- The four soldiers who gambled for Jesus' clothes (Jn. 19:23)
- The centurion in charge at Golgotha (Mt. 27:44; Mk. 15:39; Lk. 23:47)
- The soldier who pierced Jesus' side with his spear (Jn. 19:34)

NINE

In regards to Jesus' resurrection

- The soldiers who were present at Jesus' resurrection but later accepted a bribe to deny it (Mt. 28:11-15)
- The associate of Cleopas en route to Emmaeus (Lk. 24:13)