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# Into Egypt—and Out

God cares for the Israelites, making Joseph prime minister and Moses their rescuer.



*Joseph with some of his brothers.*

## Joseph “increaser”

Joseph, Rachel and Jacob's first son, was given an ornamented coat (“coat of many colors”) by his dotting father. Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave to passing traders, who in turn sold him to Potiphar in Egypt. Wrongfully thrown into prison, he was set free after he had correctly interpreted Pharaoh's mysterious dreams. Pharaoh appointed him prime minister of Egypt, responsible for collecting and storing food in preparation for the seven years of famine that he had predicted. Famine forced Joseph's family to come to Egypt, where Joseph cared for them all.

Genesis 30:22–24; 37–50

## Pharaoh “great house”

Pharaoh is the title of the rulers of ancient Egypt. Eleven are mentioned in the Bible. The Pharaoh of Joseph's time was probably a foreign “Hyksos” ruler, a Semite like the Israelites. The “new” Pharaoh in the time of Moses is believed to have been Ramses II. He

treated the Israelites with great cruelty, forcing them to be slaves (see Exodus). Genesis 40–41

## Benjamin “son of the right hand”

Benjamin was Jacob's youngest son and Joseph's brother. His mother, Rachel, died as he was born. When Benjamin went to Egypt, Joseph kept him there, accusing him of stealing a silver cup. As a result of this trick, Jacob was persuaded to go to Egypt, where he was reunited with Joseph.

Genesis 35:18, 24; 42:4, 36; 43–45

## Ephraim “fruit”

Ephraim was Joseph's second son and brother of Manasseh. Even though he was the younger of Joseph's sons, his grandfather Jacob gave him the blessing reserved for the firstborn son. Ephraim was an ancestor of one of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Genesis 41:52; 46:20; 48; 50:23

## Zipporah “bird”

Zipporah was one of seven daughters of Jethro, a priest in Midian, who gave Moses a home when he fled from Egypt. Zipporah became Moses' wife and they had two sons, Gershom and Eliezer.

Exodus 2:16–22; 4:24–26; 18:2–4

## Miriam “loved by God”

Miriam was Moses' sister. As a child, she helped her mother hide her baby brother and kept watch until he was rescued. As an adult, she was a prophetess. For a time she opposed Moses' leadership and was temporarily punished with leprosy.

Exodus 2:4, 7–8; 15:20–21; Numbers 12; 20:1

## Aaron “enlightened”

Aaron was Moses' elder brother. Because Moses had protested to God that he was not a good speaker, Aaron became Moses' spokesman to Pharaoh. In the desert Aaron gave in to the Israelites' demand for



*Joshua.*

gods and helped them to make a golden calf. He became Israel's first high priest and was in charge of God's tent of worship, the tabernacle.

Exodus 4:14, 30; 5–12; 28; 29; 32

## Joshua “God is salvation”

Joshua had courage and faith. He was both a spiritual and military leader. As Moses' right-hand man in the wilderness, he went to reconnoiter the land of Canaan and, with Caleb, encouraged the people to attack. Though this advice was ignored, he eventually led the people to victory in Canaan, having taken over the leadership upon Moses' death. At the end of his life, Joshua challenged the Israelites to follow God faithfully; he said, “As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Exodus 17:9–13; 24:13; Numbers 13–14; Joshua

*The Cave of Machpelah, where Abraham, Sarah, and Jacob are believed to be buried.*



### **Judah "praise"**

Judah, the fourth son of Jacob and Leah, gained the birthright Reuben forfeited. After his brothers had planned to kill Joseph, Judah persuaded them to sell him to traders instead.

Genesis 29:35; 37:26-28; 38; 43:3-10

### **Levi "joined"**

Levi was the third son of Jacob and Leah. With his brother Simeon, he avenged his sister Dinah's rape in a dreadful slaughter of the people of Shechem. Levi was the ancestor of the Levites, the Israelite tribe who served God and His priests in the tabernacle and later in the Temple.

Genesis 29:34; 34:25-31; 49:5-7

### **Manasseh "one who causes forgetfulness"**

Joseph's elder son, Manasseh, was adopted, with his brother Ephraim, by his grandfather Jacob, and so became an ancestor of one of the twelve tribes of Israel. Jacob, however, gave the blessing for the firstborn son to Ephraim and not to Manasseh.

Genesis 41:51; 48

### **Potiphar "belonging to the sun-god"**

Potiphar was a captain of the guard, a high-ranking Egyptian official. He bought Joseph from the Ishmaelite traders, and when he saw that "the Lord was with Joseph," he put him in charge of all his household. Potiphar later threw Joseph into prison after his wife falsely accused Joseph of attempted rape.

Genesis 37:36; 39

### **Reuben "see, a son"**

Reuben, the first of Jacob and Leah's six sons, tried to rescue Joseph after his brothers had planned to kill him.

Genesis 29:32; 35:22-23; 37:21-29; 42:37-38



**Moses and Aaron plead with Pharaoh to let their people go.**

### **Moses "drawn out"**

When Moses was a baby, he was saved from death by Pharaoh's daughter, who found him hidden in a reed basket among the bulrushes in the river Nile. She brought him up as her son, a prince of Egypt. But when he was a young man he "refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be ill-treated along with the people of God." After killing an Egyptian taskmaster, he fled to Midian, where he became a shepherd and married Zipporah.

### **The Exodus**

When he went to look at a burning bush in the desert, Moses received God's call to return to Egypt and rescue the people, with his brother, Aaron, as his spokesman. Moses confronted Pharaoh, but only after the land had been devastated by plagues and all the firstborn Egyptian sons had died did Pharaoh give permission for the Israelites to leave—an event

remembered every year in the Jewish Passover festival.

### **In the desert**

After leading the people to safety on dry land through the Red Sea, Moses brought them to Mount Sinai, where God gave him the Ten Commandments. He also gave detailed rules for daily living and instructions for the building of the tabernacle. Moses led the often rebellious people through the desert for forty years, supervising their conversion from a rabble of discontented slaves to a fighting force. After his doubts at Meribah, he did not receive the privilege of entering the Promised Land.

Moses was the first and greatest of the prophets. He gave the Law and revealed God as "Yahweh" ("I am"). He was a man to whom "God spoke face to face as a man speaks with his friend."

Exodus 2—Deuteronomy; Luke 9:28-36; Hebrews 11:23-29

### **Simeon "hearing"**

Simeon was Jacob and Leah's second son. With his brother Levi, he avenged his sister Dinah's rape by slaughtering the people of Shechem.

Genesis 29:33; 34:25-30; 49:5-7

### **Caleb "dog"**

Caleb was one of the twelve men Moses sent to recon-

noiter the Promised Land. He and Joshua submitted a report that, with God's help, they could conquer the land, a courageous stand that almost cost Joshua his life. Out of all those who left Egypt, only Joshua and Caleb eventually entered Canaan.

Numbers 13-14; 26:65

### **Puah "girl" and Shiphrah "beautiful"**

The midwives who disobeyed the command of Pharaoh to kill the Israelite boys when they were born. Their names are mentioned in Exodus while that of Pharaoh is not.

Exodus 1:15-19

# The Twelve

Jesus chose twelve men to be with Him during His three years' work of preaching and teaching. He called them "Apostles," meaning "those who are sent."

## **Andrew** "manly"

Andrew introduced his brother, Peter, to Jesus on the shores of Lake Galilee, where they were fishermen like John and James. Andrew brought to Jesus a boy who had two small fish and five barley loaves, which Jesus miraculously used to feed 5,000 people. Matthew 4:18-20; Mark 1:16-18; John 1:35-42; 6:8-9

## **Bartholomew** "son of Talmi"

Nothing is known about Bartholomew. The only time his name appears is in the list of all Jesus' Apostles. (See **Nathanael**.) Matthew 10:3

## **James** (form of Jacob)

James was a fisherman, working with his brother, John, and father, Zebedee, in the family business. He was mending nets when Jesus first called him, and he followed Jesus at once. Jesus gave John and James the nickname "sons of thunder," because they had stormy natures. They suggested, for example, that Jesus should ask God to rain down fire on an unbelieving village. James became one of Jesus' three closest Apostles, whom Jesus chose to have with Him at special moments, such as the Transfiguration. James was beheaded for his Christian faith by Herod Agrippa I about ten years after the Resurrection of Jesus.

Matthew 4:21-22; 10:2; 17:1-13; 26:37; Mark 5:37; 10:35-45; Luke 9:51-56; Acts 12:2

## **James** (form of Jacob)

There were two Apostles called James. The James who was not John's brother was the son of Alphaeus, and nothing else is known about him.

Matthew 10:3; Acts 1:13

## **John** "the Lord is gracious"

John, a fisherman and son of Zebedee, was one of Jesus' inner circle of three very close Apostles; along with his brother, James, he was given the nickname "sons of thunder." John, who leaned on Jesus at the Last Supper, was Jesus' closest friend, and as Jesus was dying, He asked John to look after Mary, His Mother. John wrote one

Gospel, the Book of Revelation (during his exile on the island of Patmos), and three short letters. In his Gospel, John never mentions himself by name, but uses the words "the disciple Jesus loved" instead. John became a leader in the early Church.

Matthew 4:21-22; 10:2; 20:20-23; John 13:23-25; 19:25-27; Acts 1:13; 3-4; Galatians 2:9; 1, 2, and 3 John; Revelation 1:1

## **Judas** "praise"

The Judas who did not betray Jesus is called "Judas, not Iscariot," and is probably the same person as Thaddaeus. In English, he is often called Jude.

Luke 6:16; Acts 1:13

## **Judas Iscariot**

Judas Iscariot was the treasurer for the Twelve Apostles. For thirty silver pieces he betrayed Jesus with a kiss in the Garden of Gethsemane. When Judas saw that Jesus had been condemned to death, he was overtaken by remorse, and returned the silver to

the elders, saying, "I have sinned for I have betrayed innocent blood." Judas then hanged himself. Judas is always the last name in the list of the Apostles.

Matthew 26:1-27:10; Acts 1:15-26

## **Matthew** "gift of the Lord"

Matthew, also known as Levi, was called from being a tax collector to follow Jesus. He abandoned everything and held a feast in his house for Jesus and many tax collectors and "sinners." He is the traditional author of the first Gospel.

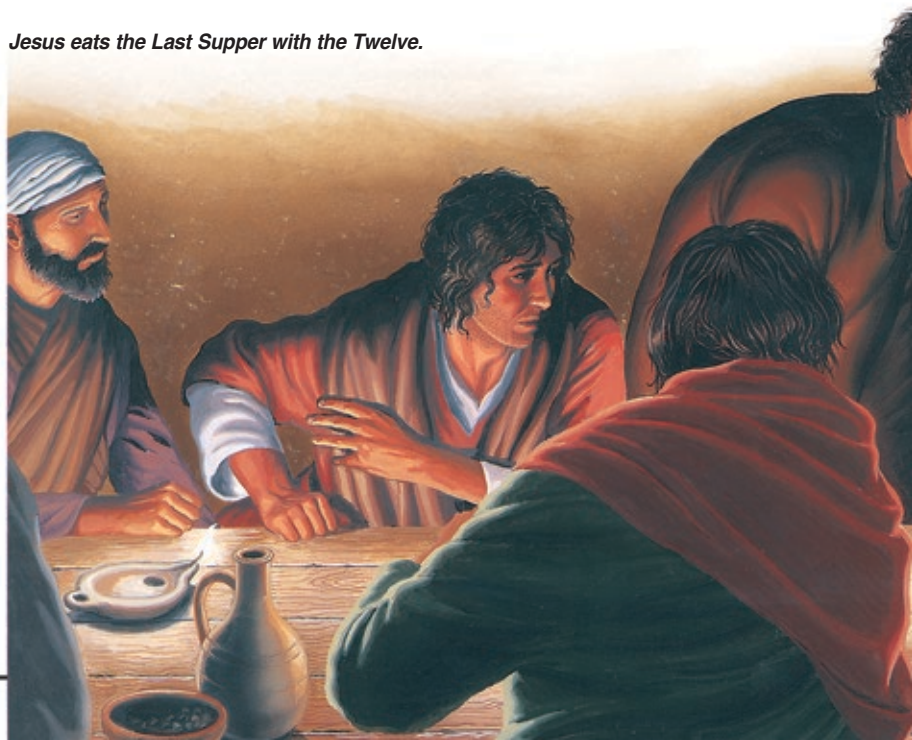
Matthew 9:9-10

## **Nathanael** "God has given"

Nathanael is most probably the same person as Bartholomew. Philip told Nathanael about Jesus. When Nathanael met Jesus, Jesus said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false."

John 1:43-51

## *Jesus eats the Last Supper with the Twelve.*



### **Thomas “twin”**

Thomas, whose name is Didymus in Greek, showed his courage when he was prepared to die for Jesus before Jesus went to raise Lazarus. At the Last Supper, Thomas asked Jesus, “How can we know the way?” and Jesus replied, “I am the way, the truth and the life.” Thomas is remembered as “doubting” Thomas because he said that he would never believe in Jesus’ Resurrection unless he saw Jesus for himself and touched His wounds. When the risen Lord Jesus did appear to him, Thomas immediately worshiped Him and called Him his Lord and God.

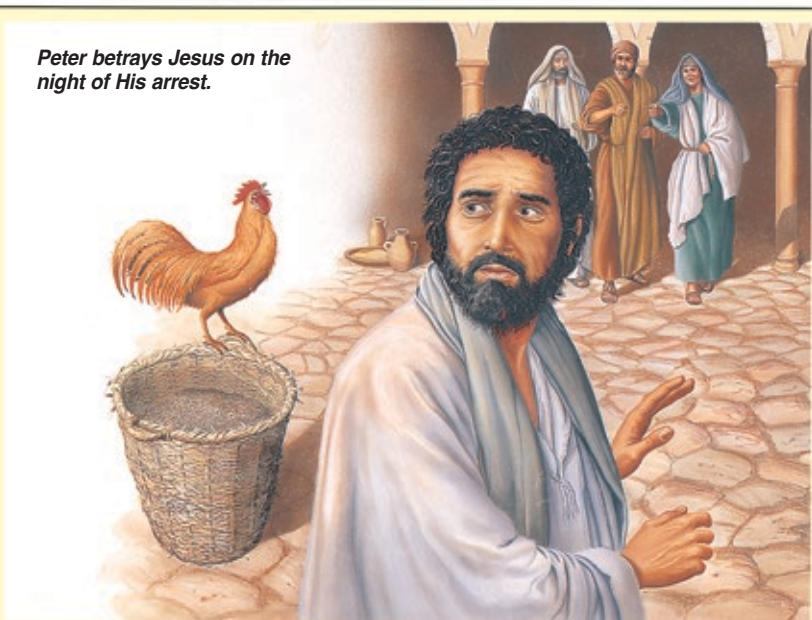
Matthew 10:3; John 11:16; 14:5-6; 20:24-28

### **Simon “he hears”**

Simon, not to be confused with Simon Peter, is known as Simon the Zealot, because he was probably a member of a Jewish revolutionary group dedicated to driving the Romans from Israel.

Matthew 10:4

### ***Peter betrays Jesus on the night of His arrest.***



### **Peter “rock”**

Peter, the outspoken and often brash leader of the Twelve, always heads the lists of the Apostles. With his brother, Andrew, Peter left his fishing at Christ’s command and became one of Jesus’ three closest Apostles. At Caesarea Philippi, Peter told Jesus that he was “the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Peter boasted that he would die for Jesus, but denied Him three times. After Jesus’ Resurrection, Jesus told Peter to be a shepherd and “feed his sheep.” Peter led the first Christians, preaching fearlessly, from the Day of Pentecost, when 3,000 people

accepted his message and were baptized. With John, Peter healed a cripple outside the Temple gate called Beautiful. As the number of Christians swelled to over 5,000, Peter and John were thrown into prison for teaching the people that the resurrection of the dead comes through Jesus. Peter wrote two short letters, and much of Mark’s Gospel is usually seen as a summary of his teaching. Jesus predicted that Peter would be martyred, and it is thought that he was executed by Nero in Rome.

Matthew 4:18-20; 10:2; 14:25-31; 16:13-23; 17:1-13; 26:31-35, 69-75; 1 and 2 Peter

### **Philip “lover of horses”**

Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was a fisherman from Bethsaida, who brought Nathanael to meet Jesus. When 5,000 hungry people needed food, Jesus tested Philip’s faith. At the Last Supper, Philip asked Jesus to show them the Father, and Jesus replied, “I am in the Father and the Father is in me.”

John 1:43-51; 6:5-7; 12:20-22; 14:8-9

