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Question 9 - Who are the 100 most important or well-known individuals in the Bible?

Harold Willmington
Liberty University, hwillmington@liberty.edu

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101 MOST ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE

9. Who are the 100 most important or well-known individuals in the Bible?

A. Sixty Old Testament individuals

1. **Aaron.** The older brother of Moses and Israel's first high priest (Num. 26:59; Exod. 28:1).
2. **Abel.** Adam & Eve's second son, killed by his older brother Cain (Gen. 4:2, 8).
3. **Abraham.** Father of the Hebrew nation and the ultimate role model for faith (Gen. 12:1-3; 1 Chron. 1:34; 2:1-2; Heb. 11:8-10).
4. **Adam.** He was the world's first human being (Gen. 1:27; 2:7).
5. **Balaam.** He was a false prophet who attempted to curse Israel and thus prevent them from entering the Promised Land (Num. 23-24).
6. **Bathsheba.** She was the wife of David and mother of Solomon (2 Sam. 12:24).
7. **Belshazzar.** A Babylonian King condemned by God for his blasphemy through a written message on a wall during a drunken banquet as interpreted by Daniel the prophet (Dan. 5).
8. **Boaz.** The husband of Ruth, great grandfather of King David, and an ancestor in the line leading to Jesus Christ (Ruth 4:13, 21-22; Mt. 1:5-16).
9. **Cain.** He was the first baby to be born on this earth and would later murder his younger brother Abel (Gen. 4:1, 8).
10. **Caleb.** He was Joshua's faithful partner who urged Israel to enter the Promised Land at Kadesh-barnea as opposed to the 10 evil spies (Num. 14:6-9).
11. **Cyrus.** This Persian King issued the return decree allowing the Jews to go back and rebuild Jerusalem (2 Chron. 36:22-23).
12. **Daniel.** He served as Prime Minister in Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar and Darius and interpreted the handwriting on the wall to King Belshazzar (Dan. 2:48; 6:1-3; 5:25-28).
13. **David.** He was Israel's greatest king, the father of Solomon and author of over one-half of the Psalms (Psa. 78:70-72; 2 Sam. 12:24; 23:1-2).
14. **Deborah.** This Israelite prophetess and judge helped Barak in defeating their nation's enemies (Judges 4:4, 8-9).

15. **Eli.** He was Israel's high priest who helped raise Samuel in the tabernacle and later died in great sorrow upon hearing that the Ark of the Covenant had been captured by the Philistines (1 Sam. 1:17-20; 4:12-18).
16. **Elijah.** A fearless and rugged Israelite prophet who defeated his enemies on Mt. Carmel and was later caught up into heaven without dying (1 Kings 18:16-45; 2 Kings 2:1-18).
17. **Elisha.** He was Elijah's successor who parted the Jordan River and healed Naaman of his leprosy (2 Kings 2:9-14; 5:10-14).
18. **Enoch.** He was the first of two individuals taken from earth without dying (Gen. 5:23-24; Heb. 11:5).
19. **Esau.** He was Jacob's brother and the father of the Edomites (Gen. 25:26; 36-43).
20. **Esther.** This Jewish Persian Queen saved her people from an attempted holocaust (Esther 7:3-6; 8:3-8).
21. **Eve.** She was Adam's wife and the world's first mother who was successfully tempted by Satan (Gen. 2:22; 3:1-6; 4:1-2; 1 Tim. 2:14).
22. **Ezekiel.** This prophet and priest became the key religious leader to the Jewish people in Babylon during the Babylonian captivity (Ezek. 1:3; 2:3-4).
23. **Ezra.** He was a learned Jewish scribe and priest who led the second (of three) Jewish returns from the Babylonian captivity back to Jerusalem (Ezra 7:1, 6-10).
24. **Gideon.** He was Israel's 6th military leader during the days of the Judges who defeated a vastly superior enemy army with just 300 chosen men (Judges 6:14; 7:22; 8:10-12).
25. **Hagar.** She was Abraham's second wife and mother of Ishmael (Gen. 16:1-3, 15).
26. **Hannah.** She was the godly mother of Samuel (1 Sam. 1:20).
27. **Hezekiah.** He was the 13th king of Judah and was on the throne when God saved the city of Jerusalem from the Assyrian army by the death angel (2 Kings 19).
28. **Hosea.** He was an Israelite prophet whom God commanded to marry a harlot named Gomer (Hosea 1:2).
29. **Isaac.** He was Abraham's promised son and the father of Jacob (Gen. 17:19; 25:21-26).
30. **Isaiah.** He was the Old Testament's greatest prophet who predicted the virgin birth of Jesus (Isa. 7:14), his spirit filled mission and message

(Isa. 11:13; 61:1-3), his dual nature (Isa. 9:6), his suffering and death (Isa. 53:1-10a-12b), and his millennial reign (Isa. 2:2-4; 65:25).

31. **Ishmael.** He was Abraham's first son (Gen. 16:15).
32. **Jacob.** He was Isaac's son and the father of 12 sons who would later found Israel's 12 tribes (1 Chron. 2:1-2).
33. **Jeremiah.** He was known as Judah's weeping prophet who authored the second longest book in the entire Bible (book of Jeremiah) and later wrote a funeral dirge lamenting the destruction of Jerusalem (book of Lamentations).
34. **Job.** God permitted this rich and righteous believer to be tormented by Satan to demonstrate the presence of divine sovereignty even in the hour of great suffering which eventually resulted in Job seeing both his creator and himself in a much clearer light (Job 1-2, 40-42).
35. **Jonah.** This Hebrew prophet, punished by God for his disobedience by being swallowed by a great sea creature, later preached the divine message of repentance in Nineveh which resulted in a city wide revival (Jonah 1-3).
36. **Jonathan.** He was King Saul's son and David's closest friend (1 Sam. 14:1; 18:1-4).
37. **Joseph.** He was the patriarch Jacob's favorite son, sold into slavery by his own brothers, who would later use his position in Egypt to save both his brothers and father from famine (Gen. 37:3; 37:28; 45:7-11).
38. **Joshua.** He was Moses' successor who led Israel into the Promised Land (Josh. 1:1-3; 3:1-17).
39. **Josiah.** This 16th king of Judah who was both its finest and final saved ruler, used the discovery of the only remaining copy of the Law of Moses in the land to lead his people in a great revival (2 Chron. 32:1, 26-28; 34:19, 29-32).
40. **Leah.** She was Jacob's first wife who bore him six sons (including Levi and Judah) and one daughter (Gen. 30:21; 35:23).
41. **Melchizedek.** He was the mysterious king/priest of Jerusalem to whom Abraham paid tithes, his priestly work later being associated with the high priestly ministry of Jesus Christ Himself (Gen. 14:18-20; Psa. 110:4).
42. **Methuselah.** He lived longer than any other human being in history, dying at age 969 (Gen. 5:27).
43. **Miriam.** She was the elder (and only) sister of Moses who once saved him from the Nile River when he was a baby (Exod. 2:1-9; 1 Chron. 6:3).

44. **Mordecai.** He was Queen Esther's cousin who helped her in saving the Jewish people from slaughter and later became prime minister of Persia (Esther 2:7; 4:14; 10:3).
45. **Moses.** He was Israel's great deliverer and law giver who led his people from Egypt to the border of the Promised Land and the author of scripture's first five books (Exod. 14; 20; Deut. 31:9; 34:4).
46. **Naaman.** This Syrian military leader was the only Old Testament person to be healed of leprosy (2 Kings 5:14; Lk. 4:27).
47. **Naomi.** She was Ruth's mother-in-law and the great great-grandmother of King David (Ruth 1:3-6; 4:18-21).
48. **Nebuchadnezzar.** He was the founder/king of the Neo-Babylonian Empire who once attempted to destroy three godly Hebrew men in a fiery furnace but later befriended and promoted both them and Daniel (Dan. 3-4).
49. **Nehemiah.** He led the final (of three) return trips from Persia to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity and rebuilt the walls around the city (Neh. 7:1).
50. **Noah.** He constructed a ship at God's command and survived the Great Flood along with his wife, three sons and their three wives (Gen. 6:9; 8:19).
51. **Rachel.** She was the beloved wife of Jacob and mother of both Joseph and Benjamin (Gen. 29:18; 30:23-24; 35:16-20).
52. **Rahab.** She was the former harlot who saved the lives of two Israelite spies in Jericho and later was included in the genealogy leading to Jesus Christ (Josh. 2:6; Mt. 1:5).
53. **Rebekah.** She was the wife of Isaac and the mother of both Esau and Jacob (Gen. 24:67; 25:24-26).
54. **Ruth.** She was Naomi's daughter-in-law, Boaz's wife, David's great-grandmother, and was eventually listed in the genealogy leading to Jesus Christ (Ruth 1:14-17; 4:21-22; Mt. 1:5, 16).
55. **Samson.** He was Israel's 13th military leader during the time of the Judges and the strongest man who ever lived (Judges 14:6, 19; 15:14).
56. **Samuel.** He was the prophet son of Hannah, raised as a Nazarite in the tabernacle, who later would anoint both Saul and David as king over Israel (Sam. 1:11, 20, 24; 9:27-10:1; 16:13).
57. **Sarah.** She was Abraham's wife and Isaac's mother (Gen. 11:29; 21:1-7).
58. **Saul.** He was Israel's first king who was later set aside and finally slain by God Himself because of his twin sins of disobedience and seeking counsel from a witch (1 Sam. 10:17-27; 13:13-14; 1 Chron. 10:13).

59. **Solomon.** He was David's son, the wisest man who ever lived, the last king over all 12 tribes and author of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon (2 Sam. 12:24; 1 Kings 3:11-12).
60. **Zerubbabel.** He was a political leader who organized and led the first (of three) return trips from Babylon and Persia following the Babylonian captivity (Ezra 2:2).

B. Forty New Testament individuals

1. **Ananias.** He was a devout and well respected believer living in Damascus who ministered to the stricken Saul of Tarsus following his Damascus Road Conversion (Acts 9:10-18; 22:12-16).
2. **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).
3. **Apollos.** He was a gifted teacher and preacher from Alexandria who ministered in Ephesus, Greece, and Corinth (Acts 18:24-28; 1 Cor. 1:12; 3:6).
4. **Barnabas.** He was a godly exhorter, the uncle of John Mark, who initially ministered in Antioch and later joined up with Paul during his first missionary journey (Acts 4:36; 11:22-26; 13:1-3).
5. **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).
6. **Cornelius.** He was a God seeking military commander living in Caesarea who was eventually led to Christ by Simon Peter (Acts 10).
7. **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).
8. **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).
9. **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).
10. **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).
11. **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; James 1:1).

12. **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).
13. **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).
14. **Joseph.** He was the husband of Mary and the godly, legal (but not physical) father of Jesus (Mt. 1:18-25).
15. **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).
16. **Lazarus.** He was the brother of Mary and Martha whom Christ raised from the dead at Bethany (Jn. 11).
17. **Luke.** He was a Gentile physician, who traveled with Paul and author of the gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts (Acts 16:8, 10; Lk. 1:1-4; Acts 1:1).
18. **Lydia.** She was a business woman and Paul's first female convert in Greece (Acts 16:14-15).
19. **Mark.** He was the nephew of Barnabas who initially failed God in the ministry but was later restored and wrote the gospel of Mark (Acts 13:13; 2 Tim. 4:11).
20. **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).
21. **Mary, the 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).
22. **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).
23. **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).
24. **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).
25. **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).

26. **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).
27. **Paul.** He was the greatest missionary, church planter, soul winner, and theologian in all of church history, who would author (at least) 13 of the 27 New Testament books before being martyred by Nero in Rome (Acts 13:2-3; 20:17-21; 2 Tim. 4:6-8).
28. **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).
29. **Philemon.** He received a letter from his imprisoned friend in Rome, the apostle Paul, urging him to forgive and restore Onesimus, a new convert who had previously stolen money from his master but was now returning a brother in Christ (Book of Philemon).
30. **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).
31. **Philip the Evangelist.** He was one of the original seven deacons in the Jerusalem church who later became a powerful evangelist, preaching to the masses in Samaria and a single man (the Ethiopian eunuch) in the Gaza desert (Acts 6:3-5; 8:6-8; 27-39).
32. **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).
33. **Priscilla.** She and her husband, tent makers by trade, instructed Apollos in the scriptures and greatly assisted the apostle Paul in his ministry (Acts 18:1-3, 24-26; Rom. 16:3-4).
34. **Silas.** He was Paul's faithful companion during the second missionary journey (Acts 15:40).
35. **Stephen.** He served as one of the original seven deacons, later ministering as a spirit-filled, miracle working evangelist who was eventually arrested, unjustly condemned, and stoned to death by some wicked Jewish leaders, thus becoming the church's first martyr (Acts 6-7).
36. **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).

37. **Timothy.** He was one of Paul's most faithful associates, being looked upon by the great apostle as his own son in the faith, who would later address two New Testament epistles (1 and 2 Timothy) to this godly undershepherd (1 Tim. 1:2; 6:11; 2 Tim. 1:5).
38. **Titus.** He was a Greek Gentile, pastoring on the Isle of Crete, and along with Timothy, one of Paul's most trusted associates who later received a New Testament epistle from the great apostle (the Book of Titus).
39. **Zacchaeus.** This dishonest tax collector met Jesus while in a sycamore tree and immediately accepted Him as Savior (Lk. 19:1-10).
40. **Zacharias.** He was a priest, visited by the angel Gabriel who predicted his barren wife would present him a son, John the Baptist (Lk. 1:5-25, 57-80).