

# What Did Joseph, Abraham, Moses, Judas, Pharaoh, and King Saul - ALL Have in Common?

**Read these stories and decide what all these Bible characters had in common!**

## **Joseph:**

Joseph was the first son of Rachel, the wife Jacob loved. Jacob doted on Joseph so much that his half-brothers, the sons of Leah, the other wife of Jacob, began to hate Joseph. Eventually, Joseph's half-brothers decided to kill Joseph, when he was only a teenager. Then, after second thoughts, they, instead, decided to sell him into slavery to a caravan of Ishmaelites heading towards Egypt.

Joseph never saw his mother again.

In Egypt, Joseph was bought, as a slave, by Potiphar, the captain of the guard for Pharaoh. Potiphar placed Joseph in charge of his whole household, except Potiphar's wife.

But Potiphar's wife found young Joseph attractive and tried to seduce him. Joseph refused and stayed loyal to God. So Potiphar's wife, humiliated by Joseph's rejection, falsely charged Joseph, to her husband, with attempted rape. Joseph was put in prison for several years under these false charges.

Finally, he was released from prison, and because of Joseph's ability to interpret the dreams of Pharaoh – through God showing Joseph the interpretation – Joseph was elevated in the Egyptian empire to second to Pharaoh.

## **Abraham:**

God called Abraham to leave Babylon (Ur of the Chaldeas) and go to another nation of God's choosing. "By Faith, Moses went out, not knowing where he as going" Heb 11:8) God took Abraham to the pagan nation of Canaan, and later promised Abraham that God would give that entire nation to Abraham's heirs.

On the way there, Abraham's father died. Abraham's nephew, Lot, continued on to Canaan with Abraham. For many years, Abraham could not have a child with his wife Sarah, because she was barren. Only when God intervened, did

Abraham and Sarah have a son, Isaac. Ishmael, Abraham's older son by Hagar, Sarah's maid – a son of Abraham's own doing, rather than God's choice, a son of an adulterous relationship – had to be sent away. Abraham never saw Ishmael again.

Because of a famine in Canaan, Abraham, by his own choice, traveled to Egypt for food. He lied, saying Sarah was his sister (indeed, she was his half-sister), and reaped what he had sown because Pharaoh took Sarah for his harem. With God's intervention, through disastrous plagues on Pharaoh's household, Sarah was released to Abraham, accompanied by many gifts that made Abraham wealthy.

Eventually Lot, Abraham's nephew, went to live in Sodom. Later, Lot and his family were abducted by warriors, along with many others from Sodom. Abraham and his personal army, went after them and were able to get them released and restored to their home and possessions.

Abraham lived as a stranger (foreigner) in the pagan land of Canaan, even though God promised that land to his heirs.

### **Moses:**

Moses was born in Egypt, during the reign of a Pharaoh who had ordered the midwives to kill ALL the male babies born to the Israelites. The Israelites were having so many children that Pharaoh was concerned the Israelite slaves would become more numerous than the Egyptians.

However, Moses' mother, Jochebed, hid the baby Moses in the bulrushes of the Nile where Pharaoh's daughter found him, paid Jochebed (unaware that she was the baby's mother) to nurse him. Then Pharaoh's daughter raised Moses as her own son in Pharaoh's palace.

Eventually, Moses understood God's plan for him to lead the Israelites out of slavery – out of the land of Egypt. But Moses chose to follow his OWN ways, rather than God's way. Because Moses was a warrior, the equivalent of the Minister of Defense for the Egyptian government of his grandfather, Pharaoh, Moses assumed he would be delivering the Israelites by war.

One day, Moses saw an Egyptian mistreating an Israelite. Moses killed the Egyptian and buried his body in the sand. Soon, Moses realized that the murder had been witnessed, and he had to run for his life – to Midian – a journey on foot of about 200 miles.

Moses tended sheep for 40 years in Midian, married a wife and had a number of children. But when Moses was 80 years old, and had finally decided to let God make his decisions rather than Moses running his own life, God appeared to Moses in the burning bush, recruiting him to lead the Israelites out of Egyptian slavery, into the Promised land of Canaan.

At first, Moses argued with God, pleading for his brother, Aaron (who apparently still lived in Egypt and spoke Egyptian), to accompany him to speak for Moses. Moses had been away from Egypt for 40 years and, not surprisingly, did not speak Egyptian that well anymore.

But God told Moses that He would put the appropriate words in Moses' mouth. But Moses apparently did not trust God enough, so still asked for Aaron. God accommodated Moses' request, but it would turn out badly because Aaron is the one who built the pagan golden calf for the Israelites to worship while Moses was on Mt. Sinai, talking to God.

During the forty years in the wilderness, there were several mutinies against Moses, not only by different groups of Israelites, over lack of water, and lack of food, but also by members of Moses own family, namely his sister, Miriam, who felt she was just as important as Moses – arrogance that eventually brought on her the curse of leprosy!

Throughout the Exodus, the Israelites were always complaining. God's wrath – God giving the Israelites what they asked for, and allowing them to reap what they had sown – was the result. God had given the Israelites the perfect food – Manna that fell from heaven – representing Jesus Christ – the (spiritual) bread from heaven. But they hated it and demanded the flesh pots of Egypt. Finally, God gave them flesh food – quail, for a month – until “it came out their nostrils.” And thousands died with the flesh still between their teeth. Not one of those who participated in that flesh-eating orgy in the wilderness – entered the promised land. They ALL died in the wilderness.

After 40 years in the wilderness, leading over a million complaining, antagonistic Israelites toward the Promised Land, Moses committed a great sin against God when he struck the rock to obtain water – when God told him only to “speak” to the rock – and because Moses took credit, along with God, for giving the Israelites water to drink. Moses had to die in the wilderness. Joshua was then chosen by God to lead the Israelites into Canaan.

### **Judas:**

Judas Iscariot, one of the original 12 disciples, was the only one who appears to have been educated, and from an upper class family. He was also the only

Judean of the 12, and thus harbored some contempt for the uneducated Galileans – fishermen, tax collectors and others in low level trades, who comprised the rest of the disciples of Jesus.

Judas was the financier in the group - - he “carried the bag” (of money). Some believe he held resentment against Jesus because he was not given special prominence among the group of 12, for his position as the treasurer.

The Bible says:

“Then Satan entered Judas Iscariot, who was one of the Twelve. And Judas went to discuss with the chief priests and temple officers how he might betray Jesus to them. They were delighted and agreed to give him money.... “ Luke 22:3-5

At the Last Supper – the Passover – Jesus, knowing Judas was about to betray Him, said to Judas:

“What you are going to do, do quickly.” John 13:27

Why would Jesus respond so cavalierly if, by betraying Jesus, Judas would be consigned to hellfire forever – or even at all?

Judas received the 30 pieces of silver, handed Jesus over to the Pharisees, Sadducees and the priests for humiliation, persecution by beating Him, and finally, torture – by Jesus’ death on the Cross.

When Judas realized that his actions had caused the murder of an innocent man, Judas hanged himself.

## **Pharaoh**

God told Moses to ask Pharaoh to let the Israelites go, but God also told Moses that Pharaoh would NOT let the Israelites go.

The Lord told Moses, "Pharaoh won't listen to you. As a result, my wonders will increase throughout the land of Egypt. Ex 11:9

God told Moses to ask Pharaoh eight more times, to let the Israelites go, and God brought eight more plagues. But each time Pharaoh ultimately said, “No.”

Finally, the Tenth Plague, the death of the first-born of every family in Egypt, was the plague that changed Pharaoh’s mind. Obviously, he lost his OWN first-born. By that time, the Egyptians couldn’t get the Israelites out of their country fast

enough! They even gave the Israelites gifts (bribes?) to leave rapidly: gold, silver and yard goods.

**Why didn't Pharaoh let the Israelites go long before the devastating 10<sup>th</sup> plague? God said:**

“But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in Egypt,

“But Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you, that I may lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring forth mine armies, and my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments.” Exodus 7:3,4

“But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said to Moses.” Exodus 9:12

**King Saul:**

King Saul had been disobedient to God before going into battle. What happened to Saul after he was severely wounded in battle?

“Then said Saul unto his armorbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armorbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it.” 1 Samuel 31:4

Who does God say killed King Saul?

“God killed King Saul.” 1 Chron 10:13

What do all these men have in common?

**NONE of them had Freewill!**

In the Bible, God gives us one example after another, after another, after another, **PROVING that we do NOT have Freewill** – proving that “ALL is of God” (Romans 11:36) - but arrogant, rebellious human beings, including – and especially - Christians, **refuse to believe God!**