

# Adventure Club

A weekly lesson for children, young people, parents and grandparents, from the GCI Watford Church.  
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## Learning From and About Some Bible Men

Part 2, New Testament



### Andrew: First Disciple and First Missionary

Andrew was one of the 12 apostles of Jesus. At first he was a fisherman. He came from Bethsaida at the north end of the Sea of Galilee *John 1:44*. Andrew was the brother of Simon Peter *Matthew 4:18*. On one occasion John the Baptist pointed to Jesus and said: 'Behold the Lamb of God' *John 1:35-40* and Andrew, hearing him, became a follower of Jesus, the first of His disciples. It is noteworthy that Andrew thrice brings others to Jesus: 'He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus' *John 1:41-42, NKJV*. Secondly, he brought the lad with five barley loaves and two fish to Jesus *John 6:8-9* and thirdly some Greeks *John 12:20-22*. These three incidents can possibly be

regarded as a key to Andrew's character.

### Barnabas: 'One Who Encourages Others'

'Joseph was one of the followers who had sold a piece of property and brought the money to the apostles. He was a Levite from Cyprus, and the apostles called him Barnabas, which means "one who encourages others" ' *Acts 4:36-37, CEV*. When Saul (Paul) came to Jerusalem, the disciples were afraid of him because of his history of persecuting Christians, however, it was Barnabas that commended Saul (Paul) as a genuine believer *Acts 9:26-27*. Later some Christians from Cyprus and Cyrene went to Antioch and started telling Gentiles the good news about Jesus. The Church in Jerusalem wanted to know more about this, so 'they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.' *Acts 11:22-24, NKJV*. Barnabas and Saul (Paul) teach in Antioch for about a year, then, because of a famine in Judea, they bring a financial contribution from the Christians in Antioch to aid some of the suffering Judean brethren. *Acts 11:25-30*. Barnabas was chosen to be Paul's companion in some of his missionary journeys: 'The church in Antioch had grown strong, with many prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon (a dark man from Central Africa), Lucius (from Cyrene in North Africa), Manaen (a member of Herod's governing council), and Saul. Once they were engaged in a time of worship and fasting when the Holy Spirit spoke to them, "Commission Barnabas and Saul to a project I have called them to accomplish." They fasted and prayed some more, laid their hands on the two selected men, and sent them off on their new mission' *Acts 13:1-3, Voice*.



### Aquila: A 'Fellow Worker'



'Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers' *Acts 18:1-3, NKJV*. Aquila, with his wife Priscilla, were hospitable; Paul may have stayed with them for about a year and a half *Acts 18:11*. Paul speaks highly of the two of them:

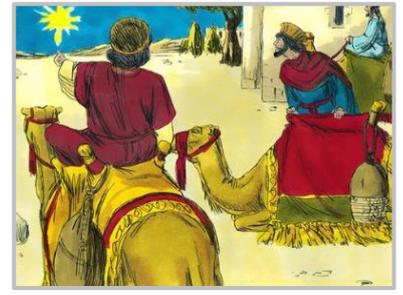
'my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their own necks for my life' *Romans 16:3, NKJV*. Through their spiritual knowledge they helped Apollos *Acts 18:26*. They also had a Church which met in their home *1 Corinthians 16:19*.



The Shepherds, Luke 2:8

## Historical Unnamed Men

The historical unnamed characters of the New Testament are far more numerous than all the named men of the Bible put together. There are thousands of these anonymous men, famous or infamous as the case may be, and they all have one thing in common, we don't know their names. Below are some examples:



The Wise Men, Matthew 2:1

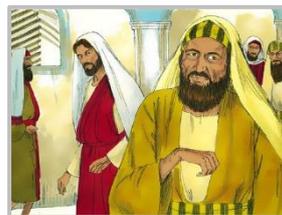
The Wise Men from the East [Matt. 2:1](#); The Leper [Matt. 8:2](#); The Centurion and His Servant [Matt. 8:5-6](#); The Certain Scribe [Matt. 8:19](#); The Two Demon-Possessed Men [Matt. 8:28](#); The Paralytic Man and His Four Bearers [Matt. 9:2](#); The Two Blind Men [Matt. 9:27](#); The Man with a Withered Arm [Matt. 12:10](#); The Demon-possessed, Blind and Mute Man [Matt. 12:22](#); The Four Thousand Men [Matt. 15:38](#); The Father of the Epileptic [Matt. 17:14-15](#); The Rich Young Ruler [Matt. 19:16](#); The Blind Men [Matt. 20:34](#); The Lawyer [Matt. 22:35](#); The Man Who had a House [Matt. 26:18](#); The Two False Witnesses [Matt. 26:60](#); The Soldiers Who Stripped Christ [Matt. 27:27-28](#); The Two Robbers [Matt. 27:38](#); The One Who Offered the Sponge [Matt. 27:48](#); The Saints Who Were Raised [Matt. 27:52](#); The Centurion [Matt. 27:54](#); The Man with an Unclean Spirit [Mark 1:23](#); The Man with an Unclean Spirit in amongst Tombs [Mark 5:2](#); The Executioner of John [Mark 6:27](#); The Lad Who Gave His Lunch [John 6:9](#); The Five Thousand Men [Mark 6:44](#); The Deaf and Dumb Man [Mark 7:32](#); The One Who Cast Out Demons [Mark 9:38](#); The Young Man [Mark 14:51](#); The Shepherds [Luke 2:8](#); The Widow's Son [Luke 7:12](#); The Seventy Disciples [Luke 10:1](#); The Questioners [Luke 12:13](#); 13:23; The Man with Abnormal Body Swelling [Luke 14:2](#); The Ten Lepers [Luke 17:12](#); The Pharisee and the Publican [Luke 18:10](#); The Nobleman [Luke 19:12](#); The Master of Ceremonies [John 2:9](#); The Samaritans [John 4:40](#); The Government Official [John 4:46](#); The Infirm Man [John 5:5](#); The Man Born Blind [John 9:1](#); The Greeks [John 12:20](#); The Unnamed among the 120 [Acts 1:15](#); The Men Among the Three Thousand [Acts 2:41](#); The Lame Man [Acts 3:2](#); The Five Thousand Men [Acts 4:4](#); The Believers [Acts 5:14](#); The Eunuch [Acts 8:37](#); The Cripple [Acts 14:8](#); The Jailer [Acts 16:27](#).



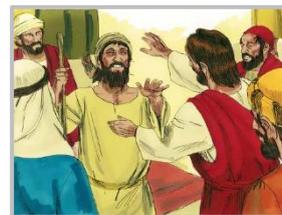
Matthew 8:5-6



Matthew 9:2



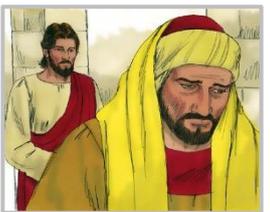
Matthew 12:10



Matthew 12:22



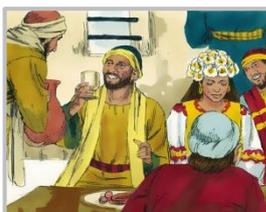
Matthew 17:15



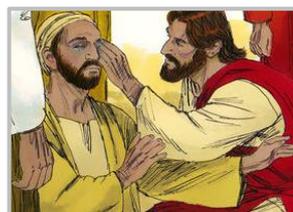
Matthew 19:16



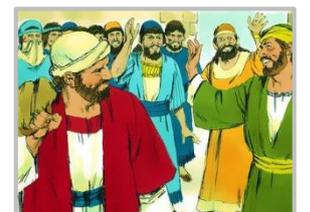
Luke 17:10



John 2:9



John 9:1



1 Corinthians 16:20

Fourteen men are highlighted by name as examples of faith in Hebrews 11, but the writer of Hebrews also highlights 'others' referred to as a 'cloud of witnesses': '**Others** were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still **others** had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a **cloud of witnesses**, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith' [Hebrews 11:35-12:1, NKJV](#).

## 'Fellow Workers, Whose Names Are in the Book of Life'

Paul at the end of in his Epistles sent personal greetings to many of his fellow labourers by name. But think of all those Paul knew who are not named and just summarised as 'brethren'. Following is a long list of those in this category: [Rom. 16:17](#); [1 Cor. 16:20](#); [2 Cor. 13:11](#); [Gal. 6:18](#); [Eph. 6:23](#); [Phil. 4:21](#); [Col. 4:15](#); [1 Thess. 5:26-27](#); [2 Thess. 3:13](#); [1 Tim. 6:2](#) and [2 Tim. 4:21](#). Also Paul refers to: 'fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life' [Phil. 4:3, NKJV](#). Most of this page is based on *All the Men of the Bible* by Herbert Lockyer.



Matthew 13:45

## Fictitious Unnamed Men

The parables of Jesus in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke abound in fictitious characters. Perhaps some of these characters were based on real people? Think of the parable of the sower. I like to imagine that when Jesus told this story, perhaps He pointed to a local farmer in a nearby field who was actually sowing his seed at the same time? Then perhaps at



Luke 18:10

the end of the day when the farmer's family were having their evening meal, one of the farmer's children, who earlier was with the crowd listening to Jesus, said: 'Guess what Daddy, today Jesus told a story about you!' Of course, we do not know, but we do know that some of these fictitious characters are just as forceful and memorable as the real historical figures. Below are some examples:

The Sower Matt. 13:3; The Enemy Who Sowed Weeds Matt. 13:25; The Man Who Found Treasure Matt. 13:44; The Pearl Merchant Matt. 13:45; The Shepherd Matt. 18:12; The Brother Matt. 18:15; The King who wanted to Settle Accounts Matt. 18:23; The Landowner Matt. 20:1; The Man with Two Sons Matt. 21:28; The Vineyard Owner Matt. 21:33; The King who arranged a Marriage Matt. 22:2; The Servant Matt. 24:46; The Bridegroom Matt. 25:1; The Traveller Matt. 25:14; The Strong Man Mark 3:27; The Rich Man Mark 10:25; The Man Journeying Mark 13:34; The Creditor Luke 7:41; The Good Samaritan Luke 10:36; The Friend Luke 11:5; The Rich Fool Luke 12:16; The Wise Steward Luke 12:42; The Builder Luke 14:28; The King Luke 14:31; The Loving Father and His Two Sons Luke 15:11; The Unjust Steward Luke 16:1; The Pharisee and Tax-collector Luke 18:10. Most of this paragraph is based on *All the Men of the Bible* by Herbert Lockyer.



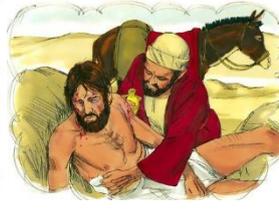
Matthew 13:3



Matthew 13:25



Matthew 13:44

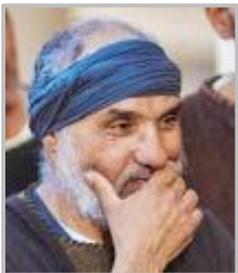


Luke 10:36



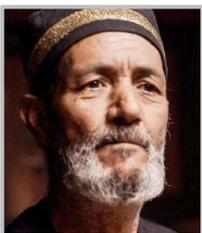
Luke 15:11

## Epaphras: A Giant in Prayer

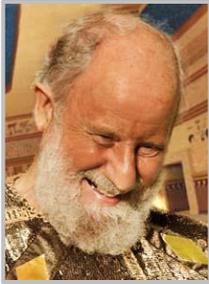


Epaphras was held in high esteem by Paul. In Paul's letter to the Colossians he writes: 'You learned of God's grace from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is Christ's faithful worker on our behalf' Colossians 1:7, *GNT*. It has been inferred from this verse that Epaphras was the founder of the Colossian Church. He also had great zeal for the Churches in Laodicea and Hierapolis. It is in Epaphras' prayer-ministry that he is conspicuous. He prayed constantly and earnestly for the Colossians. He wrestled in prayer that their Christian maturity would strengthen. His prayers for the stability and maturity of others were numerous, continuous and strenuous. Epaphras was certainly concerned about the spiritual welfare of others. Paul also writes of him: 'Epaphras, another member of your Church, and a real servant of Christ, sends his greeting. He works hard for you even here, for he prays constantly and earnestly for you, that you may become mature Christians, and may fulfil God's will for you. From my own observation I can tell you that he has a real passion for your welfare' Colossians 4:12-13, *Phillips*. In Philemon 23 Paul calls Epaphras his 'fellow prisoner'.

## Apollos: 'Mighty in the Scriptures'



'Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ' Acts 18:24-28, *NKJV*. When Apollos came to Ephesus his understanding was not incorrect, but it was incomplete. With the help of Aquila and Priscilla, he continued to 'grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ' 2 Peter 3:18, *NKJV* and in doing so greatly helped many others to do the same.



## Epaphroditus: Known for his ‘Loyalty to Christ’

The apostle Paul gives a brief, but commendable biography of Epaphroditus. ‘I have considered it desirable, however, to send you Epaphroditus. He has been to me brother, fellow-worker and comrade-in-arms, as well as being the messenger you sent to see to my wants. He has been home-sick for you, and was worried because he knew that you had heard that he was ill. Indeed he was ill, very dangerously ill, but God had mercy on him – and incidentally on me as well, so that I did not have the sorrow of losing him to add to my sufferings. I am particularly anxious, therefore, to send him to you so that when you see him again you may be glad, and to know of your joy will lighten my own sorrows. Welcome him in the Lord with great joy! You should hold men like him in highest honour, for his loyalty to Christ brought him very near death – he risked his life to do for me in person what distance prevented you all from doing’ *Philippians 2:25-30, Phillips*. ‘Now I have everything I want – in fact I am rich. Yes, I am quite content, thanks to your gifts received through Epaphroditus’ *Philippians 4:18, Phillips*.

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## Cornelius: ‘A Devout Man of Extraordinary Character’

‘At that time there was a Roman military officer, Cornelius, who was in charge of one hundred men stationed in Caesarea. He was the captain of the Italian regiment, a devout man of extraordinary character who worshipped God and prayed regularly, together with all his family. He also had a heart for the poor and gave generously to help them. One afternoon about three o’clock, he had an open vision and saw the angel of God appear right in front of him, calling out his name, “Cornelius!” Startled, he was overcome with fear by the sight of the angel. He asked, “What do you want, Lord?” The angel said, “All of your prayers and your generosity to the poor have ascended before God as an eternal offering’ *Acts 10:1-4, TPT*. Cornelius was the first Gentile convert to Christianity. Benevolence, prayerfulness, obedience and spiritual receptivity characterise this devout Roman centurion.

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## Tychicus: ‘A Beloved Brother’ able to ‘Comfort Your Hearts

Paul writes that Tychicus is a ‘beloved brother’ and able to ‘comfort your hearts’ twice! Tychicus travelled in advance of Paul as well as with him at times *Acts 20:4-6*. Paul sent him to the Ephesus Church where he delivered, and probably read, the Epistle to the Ephesians. In the Epistle Paul writes: ‘But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, Tychicus, a **beloved brother** and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you; whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and that he may **comfort your hearts**’ *Ephesians 6:21-22, NKJV*. In addition, Paul affectionally writes in the Epistle to the Colossians: ‘Tychicus, a **beloved brother**, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and **comfort your hearts**’ *Colossians 4:7-8, NKJV*.

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## ‘Demas Has Forsaken Me, Having Loved This Present World’

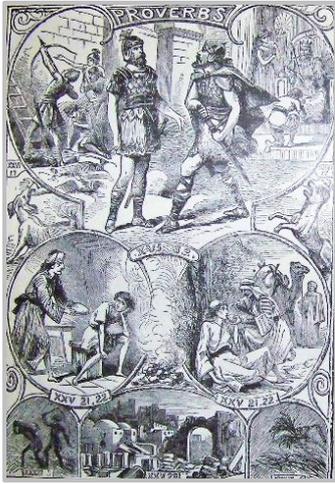
We read about Demas in the final greetings at the end of the Epistle to the Colossians and at the end of the Epistle to Philemon: ‘Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you’ *Colossians 4:14, NKJV*. Also ‘Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow labourers’. Demas is a companion of Paul during his first imprisonment. During Paul’s second imprisonment Paul writes one of the most heart-breaking sentences in his letters: ‘Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world’ *2 Timothy 4:10, NKJV*. Consider *1 John 2:15-17*.

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See if you can memorise some, or all, of the following: ‘Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever’ *1 John 2:15-17, NKJV*.

## Some Proverbs: Illustrated by New Testament Men



1:5 'Even the wise could become wiser by listening to these proverbs.' *ERV* Apollos Acts 18:24-28

1:8 'Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.' *NIV* Timothy 2 Tim. 1:5, 3, 15

2:6 'All wisdom comes from the LORD, and so do common sense and understanding.' *CEV* Stephen Acts 6:5, 10

3:9 'Honour the LORD with your wealth and with the first and best part of all your income.' *GW* Cornelius Acts 10:2, 4

3:35 'The wise will inherit honour and glory, but dishonour and shame is conferred on fools.' *AMP* Paul 2 Tim. 4:8

5:21 'For your ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all your paths.' *NIV* Nathanael John 1:48

5:22 'Sinners are trapped and caught by their own evil deeds.' *CEV* Judas John 12:6; Matt. 26:47-49

10:5 'At harvest season it's smart to work hard, but stupid to sleep.' *CEV* Timothy 2 Timothy 3:15; Acts 16:1-2

10:8 'The wise accept instruction, but fools argue and bring trouble on themselves.' *ERV* Diotrefes 3 John 9-10

10:19 'You will say the wrong thing if you talk too much – so be sensible and watch what you say.' *CEV* Peter Matt. 16:22; 26:74

10:21 'Many are helped by useful instruction.' *CEV* Peter Acts 4:1-4; Philip Acts 8:5-8; Paul & Barnabas 11:26; Judas & Silas Acts 15:32

10:24 'The righteous get what they want, but the wicked will get what they fear most.' *GNT* Simeon Luke 2:25-30

11:17 'Those who are kind benefit themselves.' *NIV* Centurion Luke 7:2-10; Cornelius Acts 10:4

11:25 'Generous persons will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.' *CEB* Publius Acts 28:7-8

12:5 'Good people have kind thoughts, but you should never trust the advice of someone evil.' *CEV* Nathanael John 1:47

12:8 'Everyone admires a man of principles, but the one with a corrupt heart is despised.' *TPT* Lost son Luke 15:15-16

12:11 'A hard-working farmer has plenty to eat, but it is stupid to waste time on useless projects.' *GNT* Theudas Acts 5:36

12:13 'The wicked are trapped by their foolish words, but good people escape from such trouble.' *ERV* Peter Acts 12:3-18

12:19 'Truth will last forever; lies are soon found out.' *CEV* Ananias Acts 5:5

13:10 'Pride leads to arguments; be humble, take advice, and become wise.' *TLB* Apostles Luke 22:24

13:16 'The prudent all act intelligently, but fools display their stupidity.' *CEB* Herod Matt. 14:7

13:20 'Wise friends make you wise, but you hurt yourself by going around with fools.' *CEV* Andrew John 1:40-41

14:6 'Conceited people can never become wise, but intelligent people learn easily.' *GNT* Pharisees John 9:29; Acts 8:27-39

14:10 'Each heart knows its own bitterness, and no one else can share its joy.' *NIV* Herod Mark 6:16

14:32 'The right-living find hope's sanctuary even in their death.' *Voice* Stephen Acts 7:55

15:1 'A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.' *NKJV* Paul and Barnabas Acts 15:39

15:12 'Fools hate to be told they are wrong, so they refuse to ask wise people for advice.' *ERV* Pharisees Luke 7:30

15:14 'Anyone with good sense is eager to learn more, but fools are hungry for foolishness.' *CEV* Ethiopian Acts 8:28

15:16 'It is better to be poor and respect the LORD than to be rich and have many troubles.' *ERV* Paul Philippians 4:11

16:2 'We may think we know what is right, but the LORD is the judge of our motives.' *CEV* Pharisee Luke 18:11-14

16:18 'Pride comes before disaster, and arrogance before a fall.' *CEB* Herod Agrippa Acts 12:21-23

17:3 'Gold and silver are tested by fire, and a person's heart is tested by the LORD.' *GNT* Young man Matt. 19:16-22

17:17 'A friend is always a friend, and relatives are born to share our troubles.' *CEV* Barnabas Acts 9:27

19:25 'Warn a person with understanding, and he will gain knowledge.' *EHV* Sergius Paulus Acts 13:6-12

23:4 'Don't wear yourself out trying to get rich; be smart enough to stop.' *CEB* Rich fool Luke 12:16-20

26:11 'Like a dog that returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats foolish mistakes.' *CEB* Herod Mark 6:20-27

27:2 'Don't brag about yourself – let others praise you.' *CEV* Epaphroditus Philippians 2:25

28:1 'The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.' *NIV* Peter and John Acts 4:18-20; Stephen Acts 7:51-60; Paul Acts 20:22-24

29:25 'People are trapped by their fear of others; those who trust the LORD are secure.' *CEB* Nicodemus John 3:1-2



# Word Search

- ANDREW EPAPHRODITUS
- AQUILA DIOTREPHES
- DEMAS BARNABAS
- PAUL EPAPHRAS
- SILAS APOLLOS
- PETER CORNELIUS
- PHILIP TYCHICUS
- HEROD STEPHEN
- SIMEON TIMOTHY
- JOHN NATHANAEL
- PUBLIUS DIOTREPHES
- JUDAS ANANIAS
- MARK NICODEMUS
- LUKE ARISTARCHUS

E	P	A	P	H	R	U	D	I	T	O	S	X	B	T
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A	U	S	L	U	I	M	O	B	K	I	L	E	R	C
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M	I	H	R	A	R	R	I	L	Z	R	N	N	E	L
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Thanks to the book *All the Men of the Bible* by Herbert Lockyer which greatly helped this lesson.

Bible abbreviations: *Amp.*: Amplified Bible. *CEB*: Common English Bible. *CEV*: Contemporary English Version. *EHV*: Evangelical Heritage Version. *ERV*: Easy-to-Read Version. *GNT*: Good News Translation. *GW*: God's Word Translation. *NIV*: New International Version. *NKJV*: New King James Version. *Phillips*: J.B. Phillips New Testament. *TLB*: The Living Bible. *TPT*: The Passion Translation. *Voice*: The Voice.

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Any questions, etc, please contact the UK GCI Watford Church Council or Geoff Sole, 01707 880782 or [geoff@geoffsole.co.uk](mailto:geoff@geoffsole.co.uk).