

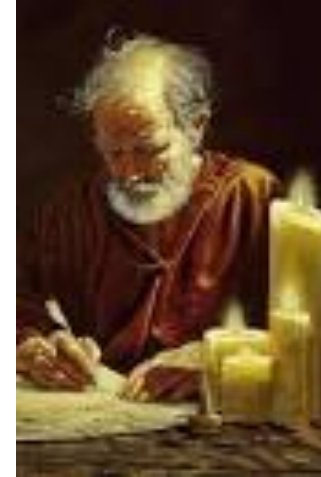
ATTRIBUTES OF SOME GREAT LEADERS



King David



Nehemiah



The Apostle Paul



Joseph

KING DAVID



- Was a man after God's own heart and a worshiper

In the book of Acts we read,

“And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.’” **(Acts 13:22)**



King David wrote,

“O GOD, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for you; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You.” **(Psalm 63:1-3)**

- **He had a great desire to do the will of God.**

**King David wrote, “I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart.”
(Psalm 40:8)**



- **King David always had a repentant heart and a desire to ensure that His heart was always right with God**
- We see this clearly in Psalm 51



King David wrote,

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, And
renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not
cast me away from Your presence, And do
not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore
to me the joy of Your salvation, And
uphold me by Your generous Spirit.”
(Psalm 51:10-12)



King David also wrote,

“Search me, O God, and know my heart;

Try me, and know my anxieties;

And see if there is any wicked way in me,

And lead me in the way everlasting.”

(Psalm 139:23-24)



- **He learned to strengthen himself in the LORD when going through trials**



In 1 Samuel we read,

“Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. BUT DAVID STRENGTHENED HIMSELF IN THE LORD HIS GOD.” (1 Samuel 30:6)

- King David was a man of great courage and led Israel to many victories against enemy armies.



- He trusted in the faithfulness of God at all times

In the book of Daniel we read, “...but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.” (Daniel 11:32)

- He had great faith in God's ability to deliver him from his enemies and he knew that with God on his side nothing was impossible



- This was clearly evident when David took on the giant Philistine named Goliath

In 1 Samuel we read,

“Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.” (1 Samuel 17:45)



“This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.” **(1 Samuel 17:46)**



- He was a great role model and inspiration to others.
- King David's mighty army began with people who were unmotivated and down on life, people who were distressed, in debt and discontented.



- We see this in 1 Samuel 22:1-2



“David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. So when his brothers and all his father’s house heard it, they went down there to him. And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him.” **(1 Samuel 22:1-2)**

- But through King David's influence and example, they became mighty men of valour who did great exploits



- In 2 Samuel Chapter 23 we see some of the acts of David's mighty men of valour who were greatly inspired by David's life

“These *are* the names of the mighty men whom David had: [a]Josheb-Basshebeth the Tachmonite, chief among [b]the captains. He was called Adino the Eznite, because he had killed eight hundred men at one time. And after him *was* Eleazar the son of [c]Dodo, the Ahohite, *one* of the three mighty men with David when they defied the Philistines *who* were gathered there for battle, and the men of Israel had retreated.”

(2 Samuel 23:8-9)



“He arose and attacked the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand stuck to the sword. The LORD brought about a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to plunder.” **(2 Samuel 23:10)**



“And after him *was* Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines had gathered together into a troop where there was a piece of ground full of lentils. So the people fled from the Philistines. But he stationed himself in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the LORD brought about a great victory.” **(2 Samuel 23:11-12)**



THE APOSTLE PAUL

- **Had a great love and concern for all the churches and had a heart to make mature disciples (2 Corinthians 11:28) (Galatians 4:19) (1 Thessalonians 2:7-8) (Acts 19:1-10)**



The Apostle Paul wrote to the churches in Galatia,

**“My little children, for whom I labour in birth again until Christ is formed in you,”
(Galatians 4:19)**



The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.”

(1 Thessalonians 2:7-8)



- He had a great love for the lost and a great passion for seeing people come to Christ



The Apostle Paul wrote, “For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law,” (1 Corinthians 9:19-20)

“to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.” Now this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.” **(1 Corinthians 9:21-23)**



- The Apostle Paul would not allow trials and even imprisonments to stop him from fulfilling God's plan for his life



In the book of Acts, we read the words of the Apostle Paul,

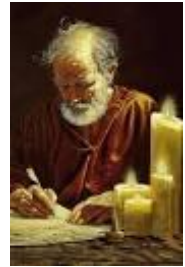
“And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there,” **(Acts 20:22)**

“except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me.

“But none of these things move me; nor to I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.” **(Acts 20:23-24)**



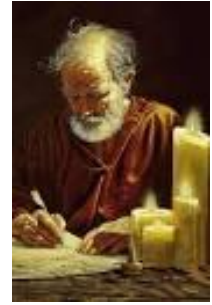
- He had a great trust in God's faithfulness and ability to deliver him from all trials



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us.” **(2 Corinthians 1:9-10)**

- He lived a life totally consecrated to the Lord and was a man of prayer

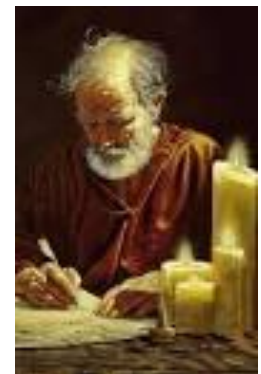


The Apostle Paul wrote,

“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” **(Philippians 3:7-8)**

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)



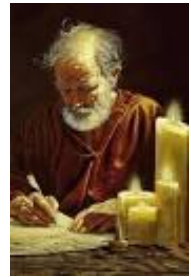
The Apostle Paul wrote, “pray without ceasing,” (1 Thessalonians 5:17)



In the book of Acts we read,

“But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed.” (Acts 16:25-26)

- He was a father of the faith and mentored many disciples such as Timothy



The Apostle Paul wrote, “For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.” (1 Corinthians 4:15-16)

**The Apostle Paul wrote in the epistle of
1 Timothy,**

“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the
commandment of God our Savior and
the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope,

To Timothy, a true son in the faith:

Grace, mercy, *and* peace from God our
Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.”

(1 Timothy 1:1-2)

- The Apostle Paul had a great passion to help believers to become mature disciples and had many spiritual sons such as Timothy and Titus



The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labour, striving to His working which works in me mightily.”
(Colossians 1:28-29)

- **The way that the Apostle Paul lived his life was also an example to others**

The Apostle Paul wrote, “But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness – God is witness. Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others,...”

(1 Thessalonians 2:4-6)

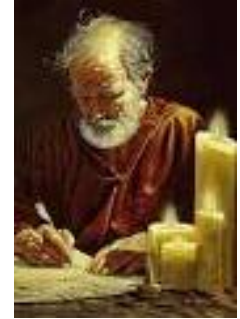


“But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.”
(1 Thessalonians 2:7-8)

AND



- **The Apostle Paul used his time wisely in living for the Kingdom cause.**



- The apostle Paul achieved much in his life here on earth. He wrote around one third of the New Testament, planted many churches and went on three lengthy missionary trips. **(See Acts 12:25-14:28, Acts 15:36-18:22 and Acts 18:23-21:14)**

- **The Apostle Paul then journeyed to Rome after he had ministered again in Jerusalem (Acts 21:15-23:35) (Acts 27:1-28:31)**



The Apostle Paul wrote, “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” (Ephesians 5:15-17)

NEHEMIAH

- Had a great heart for God's people (his brethren) and was motivated by compassion
- We see this in Nehemiah 1:2-4



In the book of Nehemiah we read,



“that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said to me, “The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province *are* there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem *is* also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire.” **(1 Nehemiah 1:2-3)**

“So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned *for many* days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.” **(Nehemiah 1:4)**



- He was prepared to make sacrifices and to leave a comfortable lifestyle in the Kings Palace to pursue his God given passion to see the wall around Jerusalem being rebuilt



- **Nehemiah was a man of prayer and intercession**
- We see this in Nehemiah 1:4-6



“So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned *for many* days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

And I said: “I pray, LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God, *You* who keep *Your* covenant and mercy with those who love [\[a\]](#)You and observe [\[b\]](#)Your commandments,” **(Nehemiah 1:4-5)**



“Please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father’s house and I have sinned.” **(Nehemiah 1:6)**



- **Nehemiah was a leader of vision**
- God had put on his heart to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem
- We see this in Nehemiah 2:12

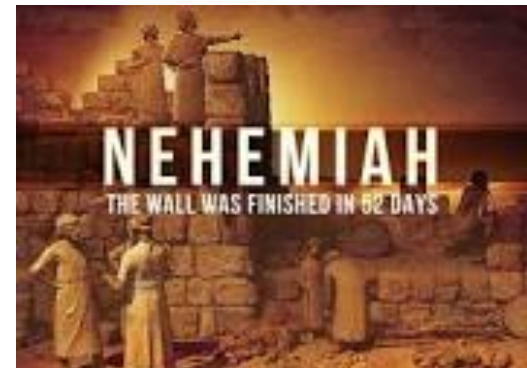


“Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem; nor was there any animal with me, except the one on which I rode.” **(Nehemiah 2:12)**

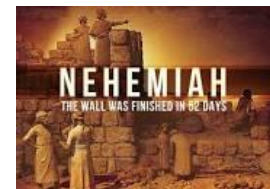


- **We must always be careful about who we share our vision with and the right timing to share with others what God has put on our heart to do**

- **Nehemiah was able to attract others to work together in unity to see the vision come to pass**
- We see this in Nehemiah 2:17-18



“Then I said to them, “You see the distress that we *are* in, how Jerusalem *lies* ^[a]waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach.” And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king’s words that he had spoken to me.



So they said, “Let us rise up and build.” Then they set^[b] their hands to *this* good work.”

- **Nehemiah completely trusted in God's faithfulness at all times and in all circumstances**
- We see this in both Nehemiah 4:7-9 and Nehemiah 4:14



“Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the ^[a]gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry, and all of them conspired together to come *and* attack Jerusalem and create confusion. Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night.”
(Nehemiah 4:7-9)



“And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, “Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses.”
(Nehemiah 4:14)

AND



- **Nehemiah was focused and would not be sidetracked from his God given assignment by opposition**
- We see this in Nehemiah 6:1-4



“Now it happened when Sanballat, Tobiah, [\[a\]](#)Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall, and *that* there were no breaks left in it (though at that time I had not hung the doors in the gates), that Sanballat and [\[b\]](#)Geshem sent to me, saying, “Come, let us meet together [\[c\]](#)among the villages in the plain of Ono.” But they thought to do me harm.” **(Nehemiah 6:1-2)**



“So I sent messengers to them, saying,
“I *am* doing a great work, so that I cannot
come down. Why should the work cease
while I leave it and go down to you?”

But they sent me this message four times,
and I answered them in the same manner.”
(Nehemiah 6:3-4)

AND

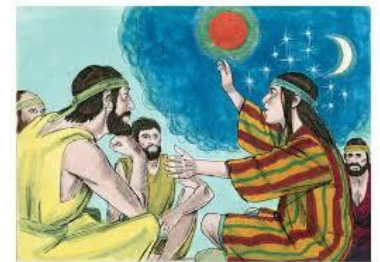


JOSEPH

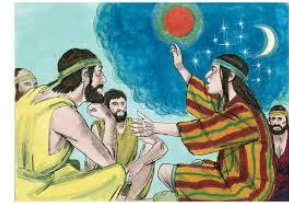
- **Had a clear vision (dreams) for his life**
- **We see this in Genesis 37:5-11**



“Now Joseph had a dream, and he told *it* to his brothers; and they hated him even more. So he said to them, “Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf.”
(Genesis 37:5-7)

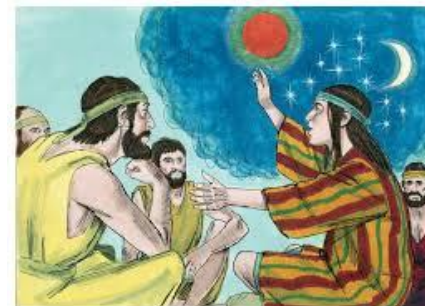


“And his brothers said to him, “Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?” So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.



Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, “Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.” (**Genesis 37:8-9**)

“So he told *it* to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, “What *is* this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?” And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter *in mind*.” **(Genesis 37:10-11)**



- **Joseph was a man of Godly character and would not compromise when faced with temptations to sin**
- We see this in Genesis 39:7-12



“And it came to pass after these things that his master’s wife ^[a]cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, “Lie with me.”



But he refused and said to his master’s wife, “Look, my master does not know what *is* with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. *There is* no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you *are* his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” **(Genesis 39:7-9)**

“So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her *or* to be with her.



But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house *was* inside, that she caught him by his garment, saying, “Lie with me.” But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.” **(Genesis 39:10-12)**

- **Joseph grew better and not bitter when he went through many years of trials, betrayals and injustices**



- He was thrown in a pit to die before being sold by his brothers into slavery
- He was wrongly imprisoned for doing the right thing, and
- He was forgotten by the chief butler after he was released from prison after Joseph had interpreted his dream whilst in prison

- Joseph had favour wherever he found himself as a result of his godly integrity



In the book of Genesis we read,

“The keeper of the prison did not look into anything *that was* under ^[a]Joseph’s authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made *it* prosper.”
(Genesis 39:23)

- He was committed to seeing God's plan for his life come to pass and knew that God was sovereign in all things



- **Joseph became a man of great humility and compassion as a result of all the trials that he went through in life**
- **We see this in Genesis chapter 45 and verses 1-11**



“Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Make everyone go out from me!” So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard *it*.” **(Genesis 45:1-2)**



“Then Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph; does my father still live?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence. And Joseph said to his brothers, “Please come near to me.” So they came near. Then he said: “I *am* Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt.”” **(Genesis 45:3-4)**



“But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For these two years the famine *has been* in the land, and *there are* still five years in which *there will be* neither plowing nor harvesting.” **(Genesis 45:5-6)**



“And God sent me before you to preserve a [a]posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now *it was* not you *who* sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.” **(Genesis 45:7-8)**



- **Joseph had a clear understanding that God had been continually directing his steps in life**

“Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph: “God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not [\[b\]](#)tarry. You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children’s children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have.” **(Genesis 45:9-10)**



“There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for *there are* still five years of famine.” ’ **(Genesis 45:11)**

AND FINALLY



- **Joseph had the ability to interpret dreams and to give godly counsel and wisdom to others**
- This was no doubt due to his intimate walk with God and from living a lifestyle of simple obedience to God's word and His commandments



- I will finish with one final thought. That learning to overcome trials is an important part of being prepared for greatness in God's Kingdom



- So how important it is that we never, like Joseph, give up on God's plan for our life and that we finish His assignment for our lives here on earth