

It would have been easy for God to choose one person and dictate to him or her all the facts about the world we live in and a long list of rules for the way we should live.

But this is not the way God works: he chooses to work through people. He chose individuals and groups, and worked in their lives so that they learned valuable truths about him through the things that happened to them.

SOME OLD TESTAMENT WRITERS

Moses

God's people were slaves in Egypt when Moses was born. Baby Israelite boys were being killed, so his parents hid him in a basket at the river's edge.

He was rescued by an Egyptian princess and brought up at the palace. This was God's way of

preparing a leader for his people.

When Moses grew up, God told him he had chosen him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, back to Canaan, the land God had promised them.

It was to Moses that God gave the law — part of the first five books of the Bible.

David

David's story is a dramatic one. Brought up a shepherd boy, he was chosen by God to be king of Israel. David showed himself to be a brave soldier and a great king. He was also a gifted poet and musician, writing many of the most beautiful prayers and psalms in the Bible.

The stories of their experiences and what they learned through them were then written down and handed on from one generation to another. As we read about them we can see God at work in real situations.

The very mixed bunch of people who feature in the Bible demonstrate clearly that God is interested in everyone, whatever we are like. Here are the stories of just some of the people God trusted with this message.



Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel

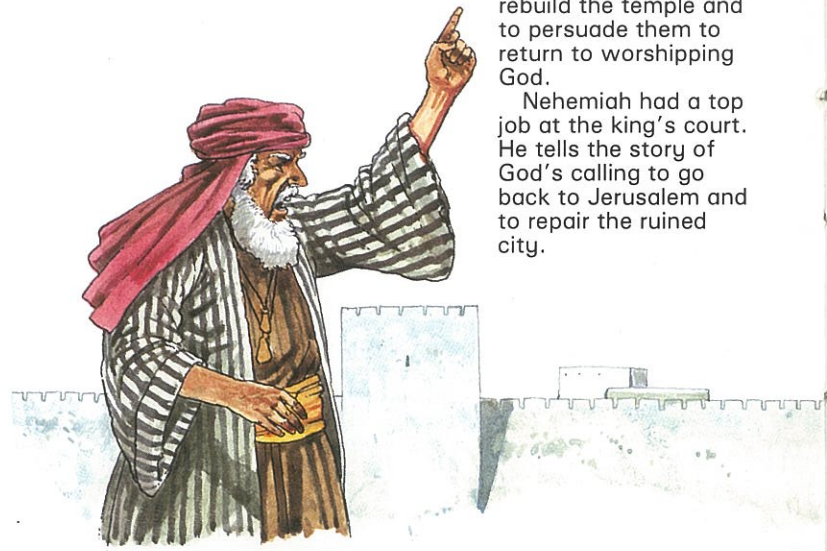
These were just three of the prophets — people to whom God gave a message at a time of special need. They called people back to faith when they took up pagan practices or when they

were fearful of foreign invaders. The later prophets encouraged them in exile, and gave them a new hope for the future — a hope of a coming deliverer who would give them a new start.

Ezra and Nehemiah

Ezra was a priest and teacher of the Law at the time when most of God's people were captives in Babylonia under the rule of a Persian king. He was called by God to lead them back to their own country, to rebuild the temple and to persuade them to return to worshipping God.

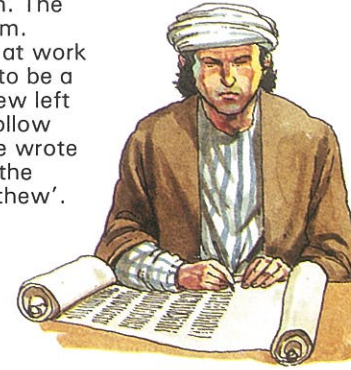
Nehemiah had a top job at the king's court. He tells the story of God's calling to go back to Jerusalem and to repair the ruined city.



SOME NEW TESTAMENT WRITERS

Matthew

Matthew lived at the same time as Jesus. He was a tax collector, siding with the Romans and collecting money for them. The people hated him. Jesus saw him at work and called him to be a disciple. Matthew left everything to follow Jesus. Later, he wrote about Jesus in the 'Gospel of Matthew'.



Mark

John Mark was a young man when Jesus and the disciples met in Mark's mother's house in Jerusalem. He would watch them and listen to the teaching. He may have been present at the crucifixion. He certainly became a Christian and went with Peter and Paul on their missionary journeys. When he wrote his Gospel Mark probably drew on what Peter remembered.



Who wrote the Bible?
All sorts of different people.

Luke

Luke was a Greek-speaking doctor who journeyed with Paul. He carefully researched the life of Jesus and the story of the early church in his Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles, to explain the Christian faith to the non-Jewish world.

John

John and his brother James worked in their father's fishing business. They were probably disciples of John the Baptist before leaving him to follow Jesus. John was one of the small group of disciples who were closest to Jesus. Later he became a leader of the church. He wrote the Gospel of John, several letters, and may also have written the book of Revelation.



Peter

Peter and his brother Andrew, like James and John, were fishermen on Lake Galilee and joined Jesus early in his work. Peter soon became the leader of the twelve disciples, and later a leader of the church at Jerusalem. Two letters of Peter are included in the New Testament.

Paul

Paul was at first very much against Jesus. He was well educated, a top man in Jewish religious circles and a Roman citizen. He was on the way to arrest some Christians when he saw the risen

Jesus. From that moment, he became a keen follower and missionary to the whole Roman world. His many letters form the largest part of the New Testament.

