

"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." - Proverbs 25:11

## 1. Gideon

After he tore down the grove – with its demon hoard – the ox himself was offered on the altar of the LORD.

### 2. Peter

Even though you saw beyond the Law and stood on the Mount you were prone to withdraw until Paul paid a call and seasoned your flesh with his jaw.

# 3. Nicodemus

To the manor born, he came by night to see how this singular man had set the whole world alight.

#### 4. Martha

O beautiful, dutiful child, So greatly admired! One of the few who knew what He would do on the Last Day, when all who are saved will be raised from the grave.

# 5. Joseph

No camel hair here. Just the sweetest fleece for his little boy, his pride and joy, whose glorious hues – the stuff of dreams – served only to harden the news.

# 6. Ark

Summoned by her humble flight, one tangible token was all it took to make the eight shake with delight and in her little leaf perceive the promised renewal of life.

### 7. Gamaliel

Don't say you didn't know; don't say you couldn't see when every day a wave of His patience and grace poured over your lonely soul and said *Repent, dear one, and follow Me.* 

# 8. Ten Lepers

Just why this dude got gratitude and came to say, "Hey, that was really cool of you!" – while the other nine were not inclined to be so kind – is really nothing new.

### 9. Saul

Afflicted by contradictions, and pride as wide as a crocodile's hide, your unsightly demise met the final design of both the LORD on high and the Philistine.

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#### 10. Lazarus

They came for miles to see this startling inconsistency, to touch his flesh and hear his breath and ask *Who let you step through death?* 

### 11. Hailstones

Slain in Canaan, they were greatly displeased to have these unexpected projectiles dive from the sky and claim their lives.

### 12. Four Lepers

If we die, we die, they said as they went from tent to tent, accumulating lucre and laughing, before asking what it all meant.

### 13. Cockerel

Though his song never changed a notable performance one morning – unarranged – left a man weeping bitterly and wholly estranged.

# 14. Jabbok

A name-changing event, a bout we know little about, apart from the fact that it happened after dark and a man crawled out.

15. Joshua's Stone
Somehow his words got stuck in a rock, an inscrutable witness
– stock still on a hill –
to their continuing fitness.

### 16. Rebekah

We blame her son but she's the one who thought it through, who got him to do something that made his dad mad.

# 17. Shunammite

*I never asked for a child*, she said, *and now he's dead*. But she didn't hesitate to hasten to the seer, and was – with seven sneezes – reconciled.

### 18. Judas

How on earth did you hide the darkness inside you, the seed of unbelief, the greed, the simple willingness to kill? Then suicide.

#### 19. Pilate

If only he had listened to his wife, or taken advice and set aside the Satanic gang and their vile harangue, he might have exercised his iron will more wisely.

# 20. Mary Magdalene

Such a beautiful soul and, behold, seven demons! We wince at the scene, but God alone knows what we owe and the price of our peace – paid by Jesus.

#### 21. Uriah

His termination was determined when he wed, for his darling found another bed which led all the way to the wall where he bled.

### 22. Abigail

Just how she ended up with an oaf is hard to explain. How many at her wedding said *It will never last*? Surely his surly name gave him away? Oh, who can understand the human heart?

# 23. Simeon

All the years you had to wait to hold him must have seemed but an hour when his mum said, "Here."

# 24. Zebedee

Your wife went a little too far, I think, when she sought the top spot for your sons. Maybe you were still at home on your own, unaware that she'd even dare ask such a thing?

# 25. White Horse

He could have chosen the great whirling wheels of the cherubim but picked instead a means that we could share with Him.

26. Ziklag Hearts failing before the flames of a shameless invasion, deprived of their wives and little ones. Lo, men of war wailing.

27. Bezaleel His fingers were handpicked by God to cut and join and filigree a golden antique tapestry to stand in a sea of sand.

# 28. Five Thousand

A simple meal without equal, a single course coursing with more than any feast could afford. A taste of Eden.

29. Stephen

You were the goad that inflicted the pricks that made him kick ridiculously until finally he fell to the earth and rebirth.

# 30. Rhoda

You probably told your story over and over, the constant knocking ignored and a man left standing at the door, while those in prayer said over and over *There's no-one there!* 

### 31. Refuge

Six cities set aside to hide the cry of an untimely demise, where the slayer waits hour by hour, day by day, for the priest on high to die.

### 32. Jeroboam

He put the lowest people in high places and made the least a priest, who bowed before a golden calf and gave the land an epitaph that, sadly, never ceased.

# 33. Solomon

She came a long way to check him out and brought the nicest of spices to please the palate from which his pearls of wisdom dripped.

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### 34. Bears

The pair emerged from nowhere. The forty-two hardly knew what hit them or why their blasphemous jibe was indescribably vile.

# 35. Nimrod

Why seek details of his deeds when the pattern of his heart reflects perfectly the End Time crimes and perfidy of his breed?

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