

# People Who Knew God

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*And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.  
James 2:23*

*It is given to all of us who believe to know God through Scripture and experience. Here are some Old Testament people who knew God through repeated encounters with Him.*

Studies included in this article are: Abraham, Hagar, Jacob, Moses, Balaam.

For more information on this topic, please see: "Man After God-- David"; "Man After God-- Moses"; "Man After God-- Paul"; "Christians' Privilege To Know God"; "The Knowledge of God"; "Fellowship"

## **Abraham:**

The Lord appeared to Abram Genesis 12:1, 7; 13:14; 15:1-10, 13, 17-18; 17:1, 9, 13, 18-19, 22; 18:1-33; 19:27; 21:12; [22:1-2].

And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, "since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? "For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him." Genesis 18:17-19 cp Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

Then He finished talking with him, and God went up from Abraham. Genesis 17:22

So the LORD went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place. Genesis 18:33

And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. And he was called the friend of God. James 2:23

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## **Hagar:**

Now the Angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai." The Angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand." Then the Angel of the LORD said to her, "I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude." Genesis 16:7-10

Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, You–Are–the–God–Who–Sees; for she said, "Have I also here seen Him who sees me?" Therefore the well was called \*Beer Lahai Roi [Well of the One Who lives and sees Me]; observe, *it is* between Kadesh and Bered. Genesis 16:13-14

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### **Jacob:**

Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder *was* set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I *am* the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. "Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. "Behold, I *am* with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know *it*." And he was afraid and said, "How awesome *is* this place! This *is* none other than the house of God, and this *is* the gate of heaven!" Genesis 28:12-17

"Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, 'Jacob.' And I said, 'Here I am.' "And He said, 'Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks *are* streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. 'I *am* the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar *and* where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.'" Genesis 31:11-13

Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!" So He said to him, "What *is* your name?" He said, "Jacob." And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell *me* Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why *is* it *that* you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there. And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel [Face of God]: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved." Genesis 32:24-30

Then God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there; and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother...Then let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me in the way which I have gone...And he built an altar there and called the place El Bethel [God of the House of God], because there God appeared to him when he fled from the face of his brother. Genesis 35:1, 3, 7

Then God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Padan Aram, and blessed him. And God said to him, "Your name *is* Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, but Israel shall be your name." So He called his name Israel. Also God said to him: "I *am* God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body...Then God went up from him in the place where He talked with him...And Jacob called the name of the place where God spoke with him, Bethel. Genesis 35:9-11, 13

Then Jacob said to Joseph: "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me... Genesis 48:3

And he blessed Joseph, and said: "God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has fed me all my life long to this day, The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil..." Genesis 48:15-16a

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**Moses:**

And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush *was* not consumed...Moreover He said, "I *am* the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. Exodus 3:2, 6

So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle. Exodus 33:11

So the LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name." And he said, "Please, show me Your glory." Exodus 33: 17-18

I speak with him face to face, Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses? Numbers 12:8

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**Balaam:**

Then God came to Balaam and said...And God said to Balaam... And God came to Balaam at night and said to him...Numbers 22: 9-10, 12, 20

Angel of the Lord [God] and Balaam and his donkey. Numbers 22:22-35

Then Balaam said to Balak, "Stand by your burnt offering, and I will go; perhaps the LORD will come to meet me, and whatever He shows me I will tell you." So he went to a desolate height. And God met Balaam, and he said to Him, "I have prepared the seven altars, and I have offered on *each* altar a bull and a ram." Then the LORD put a word in Balaam's mouth, and said, "Return to Balak, and thus you shall speak." Numbers 23:3-5

And Balaam raised his eyes, and saw Israel encamped according to their tribes; and the Spirit of God came upon him. Then he took up his oracle and said: "The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor, The utterance of the man whose eyes are opened, The utterance of him who hears the words of God, Who sees the vision of the Almighty, Who falls down, with eyes wide open: Numbers 24:2-4

The utterance of him who hears the words of God, And has the knowledge of the Most High, Who sees the vision of the Almighty, Who falls down, with eyes wide open: "I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And batter the brow of Moab, And destroy all the sons of tumult. Numbers 24:16-17

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