

# **Fruit of Discipleship**

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## I. Introduction.

- A. A pattern for fruit from Old Testament disciples.
- B. These disciples would not meet the ministry nor the New Testament profile, but God used them in a great way.
- C. The ‘dynamic equivalent’ of a cultural comparison would end up with the same results even though the results would look different. These Old Testament disciples have the dynamic equivalent of the New Testament disciples.

## II. God’s view of the past and present.

- A. There were sixty-six generations from Adam to Christ. The population at the time of Abraham was approximately 250 million. (Genesis 11:10; Luke 3)
- B. Noah lived 350 years after the flood. He was probably preaching to those during Abraham’s time of what it was like not to repent.
- C. Apparently one of Noah’s sons carried over his pre-flood beliefs. (Joshua 24:15)
- D. God’s object through Abraham was to bless all families of the earth through him. The influence of Noah probably was extending during this time, but with the population expansion, new things had to be done.

## III. Disciple 1: Moses. (Deuteronomy 2:25)

- A. He was well qualified to do what was done. He attended a university with high expectations—he had to become well versed in everything that was known at the time.
- B. The first part of his life he spent learning to be somebody. Moses spent the next few years learning to be nobody. The last part of his life Moses was fruitful.

## IV. Disciple 2: Joshua. (Joshua 4:24)

- A. All forty million people were to be reminded of who God was through Joshua.
- B. God’s fame was known throughout all the country on his account and the nations feared Him. (Joshua 6:27; 9:29)
- C. God performed the halt of the sun during Joshua’s time that is recorded in major cultures of the earth having a tradition. God had different ways to let the people know He was around and in charge.

## V. Disciples 3 & 4: David and Solomon. (1 Samuel 17)

- A. The events against Goliath happened so that the world would know about the true and living God.
- B. There is likely no event captured in art more than the event of David and Goliath.
- C. Solomon's intention with the temple was that all the world would know God.
- D. All the earth sought Solomon to hear his wisdom. Evangelism was different then because all were to go to Israel, rather than all Israel going out. One of the most famous visitors was the queen of Sheba.

VI. Disciple 5: Hezekiah. (2 Kings 19:10)

- A. Hezekiah was being threatened by the invader Sennacherib.
- B. However, he refused to submit because he trusted in the might of his God over the vanquished nations' gods. Hezekiah had world vision—God promised to defend Jerusalem.
- C. The Angel of the Lord wiped out 185,000 of Sennacherib's army.
- D. Word got around that day that there was one true and living God.

VII. Disciple 6: Jeremiah. (Jeremiah 22:19)

VIII. Disciples 7-10: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. (Daniel)

- A. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to worship another God at the command of Nebuchadnezzar and they were thrown into the fire. They were saved, however, by the Angel of the Lord.
- B. Nebuchadnezzar put out a decree sharing his testimony after seeing the results of this.
- C. Daniel was raised to one of the highest positions of the land as a result of interpreting the dreams of the king. He was delivered by God under both Nebuchadnezzar and Darius.
- D. Darius too sent out a decree to worship God.

IX. Disciple 11: Mordecai. (Esther 8:16)

- A. There was a decree sent out by Xerxes that every Jew was to be killed.
- B. However, due to Mordecai's intervention another counter decree was sent out that the Jews were to defend themselves.
- C. The Jews were vindicated and many people of the land turned to the God of the Jews because the fear of God fell upon them. It may have well been the greatest revival in history.

X. Summary.

- A. Discipleship has to do with evangelism—and a worldwide impact through it.

B. In every generation God has known how to evangelize the world.

C. There are far more people now than there has ever been. God needs a lot of disciples to reach the expansive population that is growing today.

D. We need a new desire to make sure that we are involved in the fruit of discipleship that has to do with an impact of the world of Jesus Christ. This is to fulfill the great commission.

**Application questions.**

1. What outstanding example of discipleship stood out to you from the Old Testament examples? How does this show 'dynamic equivalence' with the New Testament concept of discipleship?

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2. What seems to be the main thread that is moving through the speaker's concept of discipleship? Do you agree? Who is the initiator in this process?

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3. Evangelism is part of discipleship. What are some of the different ways that God used these people to evangelize? How can God use you where you are at to make an impact for Christ?

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