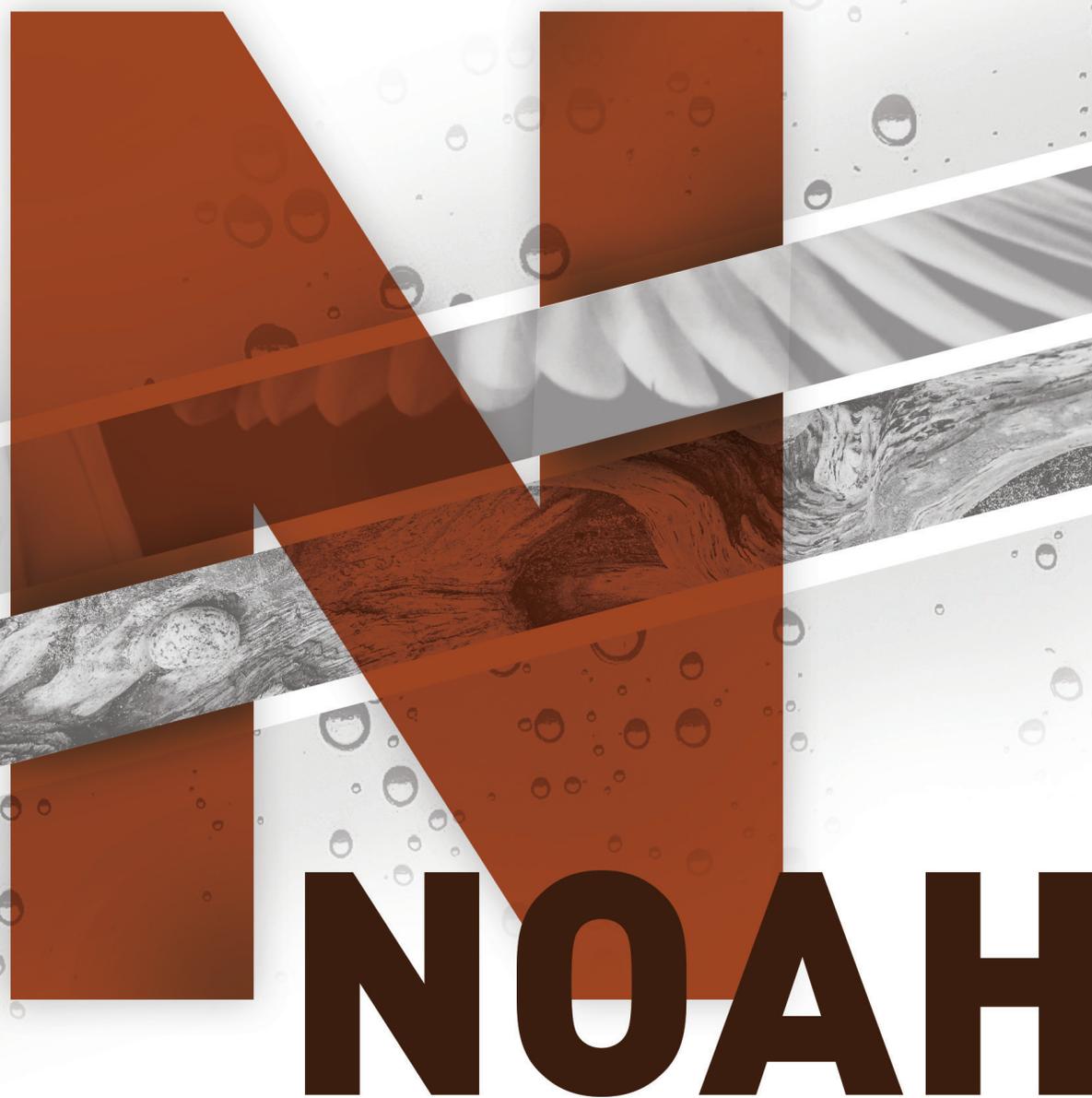




# CHARACTERS

CHARACTER PROFILES



# NOAH

- Noah fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth, all after he was 500 years old.
- Although it rained for 40 days, Noah and his family were on the ark for approximately one year.
- Noah lived a total of 950 years.
- His three sons are the male ancestors of all human beings alive today.



# SAMSON

- Samson's mother, who was previously childless, was instructed to place the child under a Nazirite vow from birth.
- The vow required that Samson's hair was never to be cut.
- Samson once used the jawbone of a donkey to kill a thousand Philistines.
- He died by pulling down a temple on himself and many Philistine worshippers.

# SOLOMON

- Solomon was the son of David and Bathsheba, the woman with which David had previously committed adultery.
- Early in his reign, Solomon prayed for wisdom, instead of money or anything else. So God gave him wisdom as well as riches and honor.
- Solomon engaged in great building projects, including a palace complex and, more significantly, the temple of the Lord.
- Solomon had a harem of seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines.

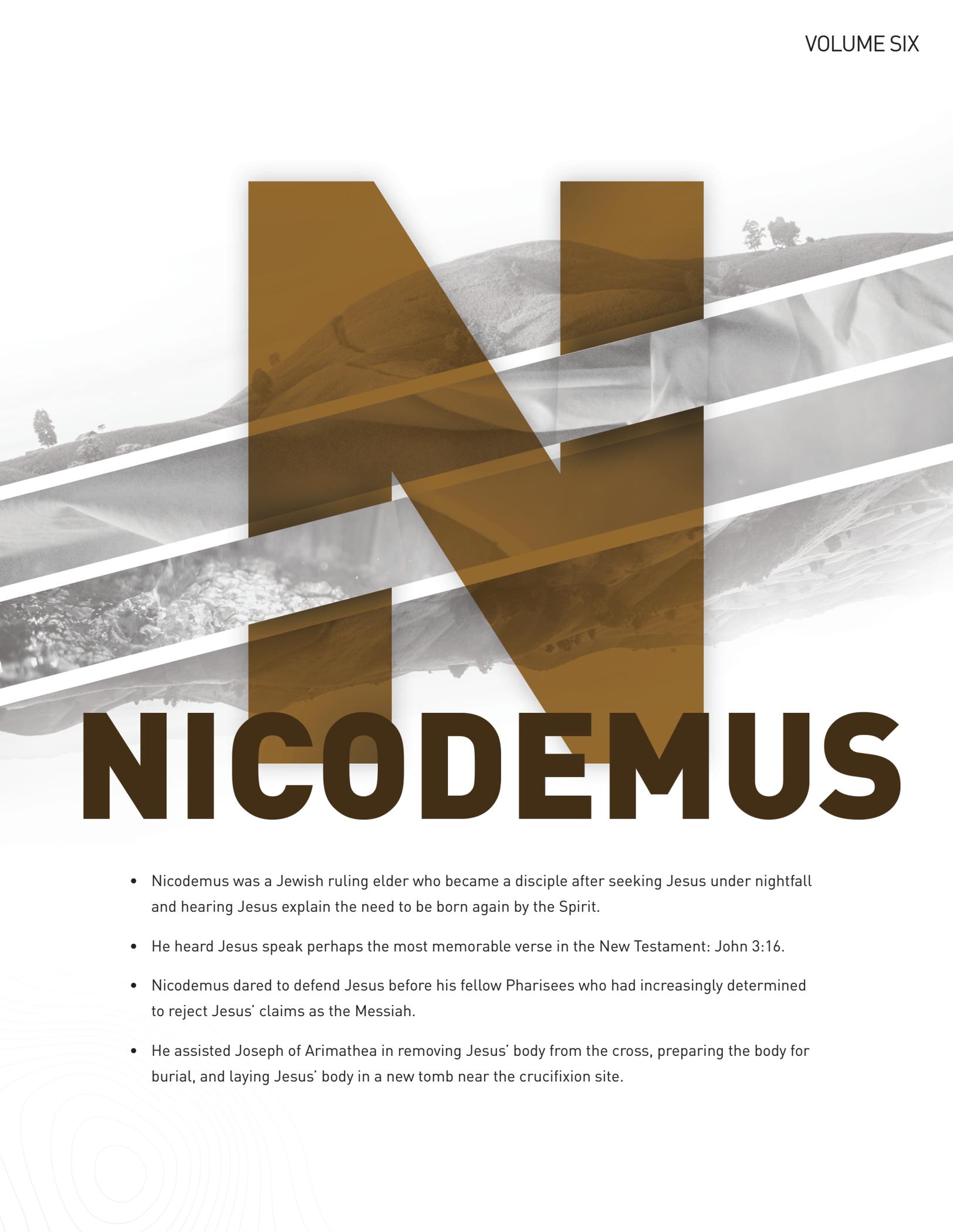
# ELIJAH

- Elijah lived a rustic lifestyle in wilderness areas, yet appeared in the palaces of kings to deliver prophetic messages from the Lord.
- He subsequently called on the Lord to manifest His power through sending fire on an altar, which the Lord did, even after Elijah had soaked the altar in water.
- Elijah did not die but was taken up into heaven in a whirlwind by the Lord.
- He later appeared alongside Moses at Jesus' transfiguration described in Matthew 17:1-4.



# JESUS

- Although His birth is the dividing line of history, Jesus was actually born around 6–4 BC, before the death of Herod the Great in 4 BC.
- Jesus had at least four half brothers, along with half sisters.
- Scholars believe that Jesus fulfilled between 200 and 400 Old Testament messianic prophecies.
- Jesus lived a sinless life, died a voluntary, substitutionary death for others' sins, and rose from the dead in victory over both sin and death.



# N

# NICODEMUS

- Nicodemus was a Jewish ruling elder who became a disciple after seeking Jesus under nightfall and hearing Jesus explain the need to be born again by the Spirit.
- He heard Jesus speak perhaps the most memorable verse in the New Testament: John 3:16.
- Nicodemus dared to defend Jesus before his fellow Pharisees who had increasingly determined to reject Jesus' claims as the Messiah.
- He assisted Joseph of Arimathea in removing Jesus' body from the cross, preparing the body for burial, and laying Jesus' body in a new tomb near the crucifixion site.

# PAUL

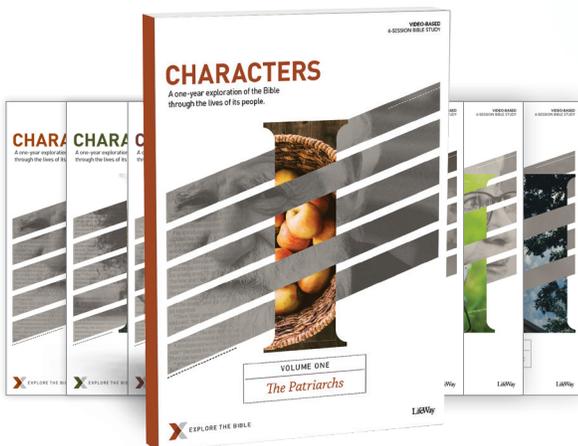
- The name Paul is of Greek origin, meaning “small” or “humble,” appropriate for his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus.
- More than any other Christian leader of his day, Paul developed church planting and strengthening as a model for gospel expansion and fulfillment of the Great Commission.
- Paul endured numerous instances of suffering for the gospel, including floggings, beatings, imprisonments, stonings, and personal hardships.
- Under God’s inspiration, Paul wrote about a quarter of the New Testament (based on actual word count).



# You've never seen the Bible like this before.

Over the course of one year, *Characters* examines more than 40 key people in the Old and New Testaments. Seeing how God worked through their lives can teach us a lot about Him and how He wants to work in ours. Learn more online or call 800.458.2772.

[LifeWay.com/Characters](http://LifeWay.com/Characters)



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

LifeWay