

EXAMPLES FROM SCRIPTURE

The events of Israel's history were designed by God for us, as object lessons for the Church:

“Now these things happened as examples for us, that we should not crave evil things, as they also craved...Now these things happened to them (the Israelites) as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come”; 1 Corinthians 10:6-11

Scripture Is Full Of Examples Of Those Who Started Well But Didn't Finish Well

- 1. King Saul** - was anointed in the beginning, 1 Sam. 10:1-16, was popular with the people but later disobeyed the Lord. He tried to kill David, he ordered the death of the Lord's priests, consulted a witch and later was defeated in battle and committed suicide; 1 Sam. 31:1-6
- 2. Nadab and Abihu** - were priests, and among those who went up to the mount with Moses and Aaron; they saw the Lord in His glory; Exodus 24:1, 9-10. Later they were disobedient, offered “strange fire” (strange worship, of their own “kindling”) before the Lord and died; Lev. 10:1-7
- 3. King Uzziah** - reigned righteously in the beginning, but became strong and prideful, he acted corruptly, and was unfaithful to the Lord. He was smitten with leprosy and “cut off” from the house of the Lord; 2 Chronicles 26:16-21
- 4. The unnamed prophet** - was called a man of God; he prophesied accurately, gave a prophetic sign, healed the king's hand, but he disobeyed the word of the Lord. He listened to the words of an old prophet (who lied to him), and was killed by a lion; 1 Kings 13:11-25; Gal. 1:1-12
- 5. Hophni and Phinehas** - were sons of Eli the priest; they were immoral and guilty of unlawful practices in their priestly duties. They used a “fleshhook” to take “fat” (the Lord's portion) out of the pot. The Ark of God was captured and they were slain; 1 Samuel 2:12-17; 22-25; 4:4-11
- 6. Korah** - wanting to exalt himself, usurped his priestly duty, and led some prominent leaders of the congregation in a rebellion against Moses and Aaron. He provoked the Lord and the earth swallowed him up, along with other rebellious ones and their goods; Numbers 16:1-33; Jude 11
- 7. Gehazi** - was Elisha's servant, who witnessed the miracles of Elisha, including the healing of Naaman, a leper (who was a great captain). Gehazi became greedy, accepted a reward from Naaman, then lied to Elisha. Leprosy came upon Gehazi and his descendants; 2 Kings 5:15-27
- 8. Uzzah** - was a chosen man of Israel, but he was a self-motivated “opportunist” who attempted perform a ministry God did not call him to. He “took hold of the Ark”, when the oxen stumbled This whole event was out of order and God struck Uzzah down due to his irreverence; 2 Samuel 6:3-11
- 9. Jonathan** - a son of king Saul, was a valiant warrior who made a covenant with David. He assisted David but refused to leave “Saul's house”, with its status, wealth and privilege. Jonathan died in battle, being devoted to that which was “dead” in God's eyes. He would not go into the

wilderness with David and his company of “misfits” (who became mighty men), to participate in David’s coming kingdom; 1 Samuel 22:1-2; 31:2, 8

10. Demas - was a disciple who followed Paul, but deserted him and the ministry, because he “loved this present world”; Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:10

11. Ananias and Sapphira - this husband and wife promised all the money from the sale of their property to the disciples, but later kept some of it for themselves. They lied and were struck dead; Acts 5:1-11

12. Hymenaeus and Alexander - the faith of these men was made “shipwrecked”; they were apostates, “delivered over” to Satan, so that they could be taught not to blaspheme; 1 Timothy 1:19-20

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