BIBLICAL ALLUSIONS

1. **Alpha and Omega** - The beginning and the end, from a quote in Revelations in the New Testament

2. **Armageddon** - The place of the last decisive battle at the Day of Judgment; hence used allusively for any ‘final’ conflict on a great scale

3. **Blind leading the blind** - In Luke 6 (and Matthew 15:14) Christ tells this parable to His disciples: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher." (Lk. 6:39-40) Christ's parable about the blind leading the blind wasn't intended to be used as a tool to gauge others leadership, but rather our own. How good a job we do.

4. **Brother’s keeper** - from the story of Adam and Eve’s son Cain, who killed his brother Abel out of jealousy. When God asked Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” Cain replied, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?” The phrase has come to indicate someone avoiding responsibility for the welfare of others

5. **Can a leopard change his spots?** -- Habit is second nature. It was argued that the Jews could not possibly alter their inveterate habits of sin; therefore, nothing remained but the infliction of the extremist punishment, their expatriation (Jer 13:24).

6. **Cast the first stone** -- Be the first to attack a sinner. From the King James Bible, John 8:7: “So when they continued asking Him, [Jesus] lifted up Himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.”

7. **Den of thieves** – “And [Jesus] said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.” (Matthew 21:13) A house of prayer: place of sacred worship. A den of thieves: A cave full of robbers. The language indicates that it was a corrupt and fraudulent traffic, which a corrupt and fraudulent priesthood had permitted to encroach on the worship of God. It is a desecration of religious (and other) institutions to use them for worldly gain.

8. **Eye for an eye** -- a quotation from Exodus (21:23–27) in which a person who has taken the eye of another in a fight is instructed to give his own eye in compensation. At the root of this principle is that one of the purposes of the law is to provide equitable retaliation for an offended party. It defined and restricted the extent of retaliation in the laws of the Old Testament. Often referred to as “Old Testament Justice.”

9. **Eye of the needle** - A very difficult task; from famous narrow gateway called "the needle." In the NT, Jesus said it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of the needle than for a rich man to enter heaven.

10. **Fly in the ointment** -- The English idiom That's the fly in the ointment is used to express a drawback, especially one that was not at first apparent, e.g. Sam's lack of map-reading skills turned out to be the fly in the ointment when he applied for the job. A likely source is a phrase in the King James Bible: “Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour.” (Ecclesiastes 10:1) For five centuries now 'a fly in the ointment' has meant a small defect that spoils something valuable or is a source of annoyance. The modern version thus suggests that something unpleasant may come or has come to light in a proposition or condition that is almost too pleasing; that there is something wrong hidden, unexpected somewhere

11. **Forbidden fruit** -- Illicit pleasure; something that one should not take or get involved with, such as an another person's spouse. With reference to Genesis 2:17: ‘But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.’ (King James Bible)

12. **Gird up one’s loins** -- to prepare oneself for something requiring readiness, strength, or endurance. Likely a Hebraism, often used in the King James Bible (e.g., 2 Kings 4:29). Literally referred to the need to strap a belt around one's waist when getting up in order to avoid the cloak falling off.

13. **David and Goliath** – A Goliath is a large person; from the giant from the Philistine city of Gath, slain by David, when he was a shepherd boy. Thus, a reference to David is a reference to a victorious underdog in a contest with a superior (seeming) opponent.

14. **Golden calf** -- As recounted in the Book of Exodus, Moses went up onto Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments, leaving the Israelites for forty days and forty nights. The Israelites feared that Moses would not return and asked Aaron to make idols or gods for them to worship. Aaron complied and gathered up the Israelites' golden earrings. He melted them and constructed the golden calf. Aaron also built an altar before the calf. The next day, the Israelites made offerings and celebrated. Meanwhile, the Lord told Moses that his people had corrupted themselves in idolizing false gods (“worshiping false idols”), and that he planned to punish them, which he did, later having been convinced by Moses to spare the Jews for the time being. A metaphoric interpretation emphasizes the "gold" part of "golden calf" to criticize the pursuit of wealth as an end in itself.

15. **Good Samaritan** - someone who helps another person, perhaps someone of a different race or background; from a NT parable about a Samaritan, a traditional enemy of the Hebrews, who stopped to help a Jewish man who had been beaten and left for dead at the side of the road.

16. **Handwriting on the wall** - what the future holds; from the OT story of Daniel, who was able to accurately predict some mysterious writing that appeared on a wall (translated, it predicted the imminent death of the king)

17. **Jeremiad** - A literary work or speech expressing a bitter lament or a righteous prophecy of doom. Jeremiah was a Hebrew prophet and reformer, and the author of the Book of Jeremiah. His most significant prophecy looked to a time when God would make a new covenant with Israel. The Catcher in the Rye is, in essence, a Jeremiad, an extended complaint to God about the state of the world. Contemporary filmmaker Michael Moore has produced several cinematic jeremiads (Bowling for Columbine, Fahrenheit 9-11, and Sicko).

18. **Patience of Job** - Job suffers a great deal but remains faithful; from an OT character whose faith in God was tested by Satan; though he lost his family and belongings, he remained patient and faithful. James 5.11: “You have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the Lord in the outcome, and how the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.”

19. **Jonah** - one who brings bad luck; an OT prophet who ran from God and sailed to sea. When a storm arose, he admitted that he was the cause, and the sailors threw him overboard, where he was swallowed by a large fish. Jonah 1:15: “So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.”

20. **Judas** – a Judas is a traitor. The Biblical Judas was one of the 12 Apostles of Jesus, notorious for betraying Jesus. His surname in Latin means "murderer" or "assassin." According to the account given in the Gospel of John, Judas carried the disciples' money bag and betrayed Jesus for a bribe of thirty pieces of silver by identifying him with a kiss—the so-called “kiss of Judas"—to arresting soldiers of the High Priest Caiaphas, who then turned Jesus over to Pontius Pilate's soldiers.

21. **Lamb to the slaughter** -- In an unconcerned manner - unaware of any impending catastrophe. From Jeremiah 11:19: “But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter; And I did not know that they had devised plots against me, [saying,] ‘Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, And let us cut him off from the land of the living, That his name be remembered no more’ and Isaiah 53:7: “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.” – both King James Version

22. **Land of milk and honey** – The original expression, "a land flowing with milk and honey", is a Biblical reference to the agricultural abundance of the Land of Israel. The first reference appears in Exodus 3:8 during Moses's vision of the burning bush: "And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites." (KJV)

23. **Manna (from Heaven)** - a sustaining life-giving source or food; from the sweetish bread-like food that fell from heaven for the Israelites as they crossed the Sinai Desert to the Promised Land with Moses

24. **Original Sin/The “Fall”** - the idea that all men are innately sinful as a result of Adam and Eve's fall from the state of innocence. When they ate of the forbidden fruit, they were cast out of the Biblical Garden of Eden; a post-biblical expression for the doctrine of Adam's transgression and mankind's consequential inheritance of a sinful nature because he ate the forbidden fruit from the Tree of Knowledge.

25. **Philistine** - a person indifferent or hostile to the arts and refinement; from Sea-going people from Crete who became enemies of the Israelites and fought over their lands

26. **Prodigal Son** - a wasteful son who disappoints his father; from the NT parable of a man with two sons. When he split his estate between the two, the younger son gathered his fortune and left home to live the wild life, while the older son stayed home to work in the fields. When the younger son spent all of the money, he came crawling back to his father, who accepted him, pardoning his error by saying he was "lost but was found."

27. **Scapegoat** - (n) one that is made an object of blame for others; the goat was symbolically burdened with the sins of Jewish people and thrown over a precipice outside of Jerusalem to rid the nation of iniquities.

28. **Sodom and Gomorrah** - any place associated with wickedness or sin; from the evil cities of the OT that were destroyed by fire

29. **Solomon** - an extremely wise person; from the son of King David, the Israelite king who wrote Proverbs, and was known for wisdom

30. **Wolf in sheep’s clothing** -- The King James Version of the Bible gives this warning, in Matthew 7:15: “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.” In other words, be on the lookout for someone who hides malicious intent under the guise of kindliness. This cautionary advice that one cannot necessarily trust someone who appears kind and friendly has been with us for many centuries. Both Aesop's Fables and the Bible contain explicit references to wolves in sheep's clothing. Aesop must have originated the phrase, as his tales are much older than any biblical text.