

## The Five Constipated Men in the Bible

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a 4/4 time signature. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, then a quarter rest, and a quarter note G4. This is followed by a double bar line with repeat dots on both sides. The second staff continues with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4. The third staff continues with a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note D4. The lyrics are: "There were five, five, con - sti - pat - ed men In the five, five, con - sti - pat - ed men In the". Above the second staff, there is a first ending bracket labeled "1." with a chord symbol "E7" above the first measure and "A" above the second measure. The second ending bracket labeled "2." has a chord symbol "E7" above the first measure and "A" above the second measure. The lyrics for the second staff are: "Bib - le, in the Bib - le, There were five books of -". The third staff has a chord symbol "E7" above the first measure and "A" above the second measure. The lyrics are: "Mo - ses.".

There were five, five, con - sti - pat - ed men In the  
five, five, con - sti - pat - ed men In the

1. E7 A Bib - le, in the Bib - le, There were five books of -

2. E7 A Mo - ses.

### Chorus:

There were five, five, constipated men  
In the Bible, in the Bible  
There were five, five, constipated men  
In the five books of Moses.

1. Well, the first, first, constipated man  
Was Cain, he wasn't Abel  
And the first, first, constipated man  
Was Cain, he wasn't Abel.  
**Chorus**
2. And the second, second constipated man  
Was Balaam, he couldn't move his ass  
And the second, second constipated man  
Was Balaam, he couldn't move his ass.  
**Chorus**

3. And the third, third, constipated man  
Was Moses, he took the tablets  
And the third, third, constipated man  
Was Moses, he took the tablets.  
**Chorus**

4. And the fourth, fourth, constipated man  
Was Solomon, he sat for forty years  
And the fourth, fourth, constipated man  
Was Solomon, he sat for forty years.  
**Chorus**

5. And the fifth, fifth constipated man  
Was Samson, he brought the house down  
And the fifth, fifth constipated man  
Was Samson, he brought the house down.  
**Chorus**

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This song is not actually bawdy since there are no sexual references. It is purely scatological. It does not seem to have been printed anywhere and there are no known field collections but it does appear on a number of websites. It seems to be fairly well known purely from oral tradition. The tune is related to a drinking song "Quartermaster Corps". Both songs are parodies on the refrain of the hymn tune "Power in the Blood" which was written by Lewis E. Jones around 1899.

Despite the chorus stating that "There were five, five constipated men in the Five Books of Moses", only three are in fact characters in the Pentateuch (the Five Books of Moses) (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy):

- Cain (Genesis 4) - son of Adam and Eve
- Moses (Exodus) brought the tablets of the law down from Mt. Sinai
- Balaam (Numbers 22) - in his journey with his donkey (ass), the donkey refused to move to avoid an angel (invisible to Balaam) in his path

The other two constipated men not in the Pentateuch are:

- Solomon (1 Kings) reigned (sat) for forty years
- Samson (Judges) destroyed himself and the lords of the Philistines by collapsing the temple.

Some versions include more than five men including:

- Noah (Genesis 7) - he went for forty days and forty nights and passed nothing but water.
- Joshua (Joshua 6) - he blew the walls down
- King David (1st Samuel 17) - he dropped the big one (Goliath)
- Titus (not even in the Old Testament) - "his name speaks for itself"

I learned this at one of the Sunhearth dulcimer shop July 4th gatherings when a couple of drunken guys, whose names I can't remember, came trucking arm in arm along the creek singing it.

The Fresno State website reports that it was printed in **Sing Out!** magazine in volume 26 (1978) but the magazine's website doesn't include it in the index of songs.