This article identifies all of the people whose proper names occur in the Bible, excluding the deuterocanonical books.

The names are set out alphabetically as they are spelled in the King James Version, with variant spellings enclosed in brackets [ ]. The meaning of the name is then given in parentheses ( ). Under each entry, various individuals bearing this name are differentiated by boldface brackets, like this: [1]; [2]; and so on. Then follows a description of the character, with several Bible verses listed where the name occurs. (Not all verses could be given; so if the reader is considering a passage that is not cited in the section, he must choose the character that would most likely be identical with the person in his passage.)

We have made no attempt to designate each person as a Palite, Harodite, Gileadite, and so on. Many of these designations refer to the ancestor of an individual; in other cases, they refer to the person's city, district, or distinctive clan. It is often a guess as to which meaning is intended.

The meanings of the names are not infallibly accurate; they are simply interesting possibilities. These names are ancient and their history is obscure and uncertain. Many people in Scripture bear the same name. In dozens of cases, we cannot determine whether an individual in one book is identical with someone having the same name in another book. In the ancient world, a person was often called by more than one name.

In the transmission of Scripture, copyists occasionally made errors. Surely Reuel was not also called Deuel, nor Jemuel called Nemuel, and so on. Yet which is original? Only in a few cases do we have any clues.

We find variant forms and contractions of names through the Bible. They probably presented little difficulty to an ancient reader. But this further complicates the identification problem for us.

The Hebrew genealogies are abbreviated at many points. At times it is difficult to distinguish a man from his ancestor. Consider also the problem of trying to match an abbreviated list with a fuller list. Either the names in the abbreviated list are independent of the longer list or they are already included in it. In other words, we may find the same person included in two lists or two different people in two lists.

In a few cases, our English versions use the same word to transliterate several similar Hebrew names. In these instances, we have recorded a separate entry for each Hebrew name (e.g., Iddo).

**Jaakan [Jakan]** ("intelligent"), a son of Ezer son of Seir (Deut. 10:6; 1 Chron. 1:42). In Genesis 36:27, he is called Akan. Many scholars believe the reference in the Deuteronomy passage is to a city.

**Jaakobah** ("to Jacob"), a descendant of Simeon (1 Chron. 4:36).

**Jaalah [Jaala]** ("elevation"), a servant of Solomon whose descendants returned from the Exile (Ezra 2:56; Neh. 7:58).

**Jaalam** ("hidden"), a duke of Edom (Gen. 36:5, 14, 18; 1 Chron. 1:35).

**Jaanai** ("answerer"), a descendant of Gad (1 Chron. 5:12).

**Jaare-oregim** ("foresters"), father of Elhanan, slayer of Goliath the Gittite (2 Sam. 21:19). Some suggest this is a copyist's error for Jair, another name of Elhanan's father (1 Chron. 20:5).

**Jaasau** ("maker"), one who married a foreign wife (Ezra 10:37).


**Jaaziah** ("Jehovah is determining"), a descendant of Merari living in Solomon's day (1 Chron. 24:26-27).

**Jaaziel** ("God is determining"), a temple musician in David's time (1 Chron. 15:18). He is called Aziel ("God is might") in verse 20.

**Jabal** ("moving"), son of Lamech, a nomad (Gen. 4:20).

**Jabesh** ("dry place"), father of Shallum, who killed Zechariah and reigned in his place (2 Kings 15:10-14).

**Jabez** ("height"), head of a family of Judah (1 Chron. 4:9-10).

**Jabin** ("intelligent; observed"). [1] A king of Hazor defeated by Joshua (Josh. 11:1). [2] Another king of Hazor who oppressed Israel and was defeated by Deborah (Judg. 4).

**Jachan** ("afflicting"), a descendant of Gad (1 Chron. 5:13).


Jadon ("judging"), one who helped repair the wall (Neh. 3:7).

Jael ("a wild goat"), wife of Heber who killed Sisera (Judg. 4:17-22; 5:6, 24).


Jahaziah ("Jehovah reveals"), one who assisted in recording those who had foreign wives (Ezra 10:15).


Jahdiel ("union of God; God gives joy"), head of a family of Manasseh east of the Jordan (1 Chron. 5:24).

Jahdo ("union"), descendant of Gad (1 Chron. 5:14).

Jahleel ("God waits; wait for God"), a son of Zebulun (Gen. 46:14; Num. 26:26).

Jahmai ("Jehovah protects"), head of a clan of Issachar (1 Chron. 7:2).

Jahzeel [Jahziel] ("God apportions"), a son of Naphtali listed three times (Gen. 46:24; Num 26:48; 1 Chron. 7:13).

Jahzerah ("Jehovah protects"), a priest of the family of Immer whose descendants dwelt in Jerusalem (1 Chron. 9:12). Perhaps another name for Ahasai (q.v.).

Jahziel, See Jahzeel.


Jairus ("enlightened"), a ruler of a synagogue near Capernaum whose daughter Jesus raised from the dead (Luke 8:41).

Jakan. See Jaakan.

Jakeh ("hearkening"), the father of Agur, the wise man (Prov. 30:1).


Jalon ("Jehovah abides"), a descendant of Caleb the spy (1 Chron. 4:17).

Jambres, one of the Egyptian magicians who opposed Moses (Exod. 7:9-13; 2 Tim. 3:8; cf. Exod. 7:9-13).

James (Greek form of Jacob). [1] The son of Zebedee and brother of John called to be one of the twelve. He
was slain by Herod Agrippa I (Matt. 4:21; Mark 5:37; Luke 9:54; Acts 12:2). [2] The son of Alpheus, another of the twelve apostles. He is probably the same as James "the less," the son of Mary. By "the less" is meant his age or height in relation to James the son of Zebedee (Matt. 10:3; Mark 15:40; Acts 1:13). [3] The brother of Jesus (Matt. 13:55). After Christ’s resurrection, he became a believer (1 Cor. 15:7) and a leader of the church at Jerusalem (Acts 12:17; Gal. 1:19; 2:9). He wrote the epistle of James (James 1:1). [4] Unknown person mentioned as "the' brother of Judas." Most view this as an incorrect translation and would render "...Judas, the son of James" (Luke 6:16; Acts 1:13).

**Jamin** ("right hand; favor"). [1] A son of Simeon (Gen. 46:10; Exod. 6:15; Num. 26:12; 1 Chron. 4:24).

**Jamlech** ("Jehovah rules"), a prince of Simeon (1 Chron. 4:34).


**Jannes** ("he who seduces"), an Egyptian magician who opposed Moses (2 Tim. 3:8-9; cf. Exod. 7:9-13).

**Japheth** ("the extender; fair; enlarged"), second son of Noah, considered the father of the Indo-European races (Gen. 5:32; 6:10; 7:13; 9:18, 23, 27; 1 Chron. 1:4-5).


**Japhlet** ("Jehovah causes to escape"), a descendant of Asher (1 Chron. 7:32-33).

**Jarah [Jehoahad]** ("unveiler; honey"), a son of Ahaz of the family of Saul (1 Chron. 9:42). He is called Jehoadaah ("Jehovah unveils; Jehovah has numbered") in 1 Chronicles 8:36.

**Jareb** ("contender; avenger"), a king of Assyria (Hos. 5:13:10); surely a nickname.

**Jared [Jered]** ("descending"), a descendant of Seth and ancestor of Christ (Gen. 5:15-20; 1 Chron. 1:2; Luke 3:37).

**Jaresiah** ("Jehovah gives a couch"), a descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8:27).

**Jarha**, an Egyptian servant who married his master's daughter (1 Chron. 2:34-35).


**Jaroah** ("new moon"), a descendant of Gad (1 Chron. 5:14).

**Jashen** ("shining"), the father of some, or one, of David's mighty men (2 Sam. 23:32). But the text probably should read thus: "... Jashen, Jonathan the son of Shammah the Hararite." Thus, Jashen would be one of the mighty men, and Shage (1 Chron. 11:34) is the same as Shammah (2 Sam. 23:33). See also Hashem.

**Jasher** ("upright"), one who wrote a new lost book (Josh. 10:13; 2 Sam. 1:18).


**Jashubi-lehem** ("turning back to Bethlehelm"), a descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 4:22).

**Jasiel**, See Jaisiel.


**Jathniel** ("God is giving"), a gatekeeper of the tabernacle (1 Chron. 26:2).

**Javan** (personification of the eastern Greeks, "Ionians"), fourth son of Japheth (Gen. 10:2, 4; 1 Chron. 1:5, 7).

**Jaziz** ("shining"), David's chief shepherd (1 Chron. 27:31).

**Jeterai** ("steadfast"), a descendant of Gershon (1 Chron. 6:21).

Jeberechiah ("Jehovah is blessing"), the father of the Zecchariah whom Isaiah took as a witness (Isa. 8:2).


**Jecholiah [Jecoliah]** ("Jehovah is able"), mother of Uzziah (or Azariah), king of Judah (2 Kings 15:2; 2 Chron. 26:3).

**Jechonias**, Greek form of Jeconiah. See Jehoiachin.

**Jecoliah**, See Jecholiah.

**Jecoliah**, See Jehoiachin.


**Jedidah** ("beloved"), mother of King Josiah (2 Kings 22:1).

**Jedidiah** ("Beloved of Jehovah"), the name God gave Solomon through Nathan (2 Sam. 12:25).

**Jeduthun** ("a choir of praise"), one of the three chief musicians of the service of song (1 Chron. 9:16; 16:38-
42; 25:1-6; Neh. 11:17). He was also named Ethan (1 Chron. 6:44; 15:17, 19).

**Jeezer** (contracted form of Abiezer, "father of help"), a descendant of Manasseh (Num. 26:30). Probably the same as the Abiezer of Joshua's time (Josh. 17:2; 1 Chron. 7:18).


**Jehiah** ("Jehovah is living"), a Levite gatekeeper of the ark (1 Chron. 15:24).


**Jehiel**, a Levite set over the treasures of the sanctuary in David's time (1 Chron. 26:21-22). See Jehiel.

**Jehizkiah** ("Jehovah is strong" or "Jehovah strengthens"), an opponent of those who would have made fellow Jews slaves (2 Chron. 31:13). See Hezekiah.

**Jehoaddah.** See Jarah.

**Jehoaddan** ("Jehovah gives delight"), mother of King Amaziah and wife of King Joash (2 Kings 14:2; 2 Chron. 25:1).


**Jehoash** ("Jehovah has given; Jehovah supports"). [1] The ninth king of Judah. Until the time of Jehoiaada the priest's death Jehoash followed God; afterwards, he brought idolatry and disaster to his country (2 Kings 11:21-12:21). He is more frequently called by the shortened form of his name, Joash. [2] The twelfth king of Israel; he was successful in many military campaigns (2 Kings 13:9-14:16). He is most frequently called Joash, an abbreviated form of his name.

**Jehoiada** ("Jehovah establishes"), ruler of Judah when it was captured by Nebuchadnezzar. He was an ancestor of Christ (2 Kings 24:8-16; 2 Chron. 36:9-10; Matt. 1:11-12). Jeconiah [Jechonias] ("Jehovah is able") is an altered form of his name (I Chron. 3:16-17; Jer. 24:1) as is Coniah ("Jehovah is creating"); Jer. 22:24, 28; 37:1).

**Jehoiachin** ("Jehovah establishes"), ruler of Judah when it was captured by Nebuchadnezzar. He was an ancestor of Christ (2 Kings 24:8-16; 2 Chron. 36:9-10; Matt. 1:11-12). Jeconiah [Jechonias] ("Jehovah is able") is an altered form of his name (I Chron. 3:16-17; Jer. 24:1) as is Coniah ("Jehovah is creating"); Jer. 22:24, 28; 37:1).


Jehosheba. See Jehoshabeath.

Jehoshua. See Joshua.


Jehozadak. See Josedech.


Jehubbah ("hidden"), a descendant of Asher (1 Chron. 7:34).

Jehucal [Jucal] ("Jehovah is able"), a messenger of Zedekiah (Jer. 37:3; 38:1).

Jehudi ("a Jew"), a man who brought Baruch to the princes and read the king Jeremiah's prophecies (Jer. 36:14, 21, 23).

Jehudijah ("the Jewess"), the wife of Ezra and descendant of Caleb (1 Chron. 4: 18).

Jehush ("collector"), a man of the family of Saul (1 Chron. 8:39). Not to be confused with Jeush.


Jekameam ("standing of the people"), a descendant of Levi (1 Chron. 23: 19; 24:23).

Jekamiah. See Jecamiah.

Jekuthiel ("God is mighty"), a descendant of the spy Caleb (1 Chron. 4: 18).

Jemima ("little dove"), first daughter of Job to be born after his restoration from affliction (Job 42: 14).
Mount of Beatitudes. This traditional site of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount is located on the northern edge of the Plain of Gennesaret. In 1937, the Italian dictator Benito Mussolini ordered the construction of a convent that now stands at the top of the hill.

Jemuel, See Nemuel.

Jephthae, Greek form of Jephthah (q.v.).

Jephthah (Jephthae) ("an opposer"), a judge of Israel who delivered his people from Ammon (Judg. 11:1-12:7).


Jerah ("moon"), a son of Joktan (Gen. 10:26; 1 Chron. 1:20).


Jeremai ("Jehovah is high"), one who took a foreign wife during the Exile (Ezra 10:33).


Jeremias, Greek form of Jeremiah (q.v.).


Jeriah (Jerijah) ("Jehovah is foundation"), a descendant of Hebron in the days of David (1 Chron. 23:19; 24:23; 26:31).

Jeribai ("Jehovah contends"), one of David's mighty men (1 Chron. 11:46).

Jeriel ("Jehovah contends"), a descendant of Issachar (1 Chron. 7:2).

Jerijah. See Jeriah.


Jerioth ("tremulousness"), a wife or concubine of Caleb (1 Chron. 2:18).

Jeroboam ("enlarger; he pleads the people's cause"). [1] The first king of Israel after the division of the kingdom. He reigned for 22 years (1 Kings 11:26-40; 12:1-14:20). [2] The thirteenth king of Israel; his Israel was strong but overtly idolatrous (2 Kings 14:23-29).


Jerubbabel ("contender with Baal"), the name given to Gideon by his father (Judg. 6:32; 7:1; 8:29).

Jerubbesheth ("contender with the idol"), name given to Jerubbabel (Gideon) by those who wanted to avoid pronouncing Baal (2 Sam. 11:21).

Jerusha (Jerushah) ("possession"), the wife of King Uzziah (2 Kings 15:33; 2 Chron. 27:1).

Jesus' hometown. This town in Galilee was the home of Mary and Joseph (Luke 2:3 9). Jesus lived here for about 30 years, and He was therefore called "Jesus of Nazareth." Nazareth sits in a high valley about 360 m. (1,200 ft.) above sea level, among the southernmost limestone hills of the Lebanon range.


Jesharelah. See Asarelah.

Jeshebeab ("seat of the father"), head of the fourteenth course of priests (1 Chron. 24: 13).

Jesher ("rightness"), a son of Caleb (1 Chron. 2:18).

Jeshishai ("Jehovah is ancient" or "aged"), a descendant of Gad (1 Chron. 5: 14).

Jeshohaiah ("humbled by Jehovah"), a descendant of Simeon (1 Chron. 4:36).


[8] One who sealed the new covenant with God after the Exile (Neh. 10:9). [9] See Joshua. [6], [7], [8], and [9] may refer to the same person.


Jesimiel ("God sets"), a descendant of Simeon (1 Chron. 4:36).

Jesse ("Jehovah exists; wealthy"), father of David and an ancestor of Christ (Ruth 4: 17, 22; 1 Sam. 17:17; Matt. 1:5-6).

Jesui. See Ishui.

Jesus (Greek form of Joshua). [1] A Christian who, with Paul, sent greetings to the Colossians (Col. 4: 11); he was also called Justus. [2] See Joshua.

Jesus Christ (Jesus—"Jehovah is salvation," Christ— the anointed one"), the son of the Virgin Mary who came to earth to fulfill the prophecies of the King who would die for the sins of His people. The account of His ministry is found in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.


Jetheth ("subjection"), a duke of Edom (Gen. 36:40; 1 Chron. 1:51).
Jethro ("pre-eminence"), the father-in-law of Moses. He advised Moses to delegate the time-consuming administration of justice (Exod. 3:1; 4:18; 18:1-12). He is called Reuel in Exodus 2:18. In Numbers 10:29, the KJV calls him Raguel; but the Hebrew text reads Reuel.

Jetur, a son of Ishmael (Gen. 25:15; 1 Chron. 1:31).

Jeuel ("snatching away"), a descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 9:6).


Jeuz ("counselor"), son of Shaharaim, a descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8:10).

Jezaniah. See Jaazaniah [1].


Jezebel's Idolatry

Jezebel, daughter of King Ethbaal of Sidon, was raised in Sidon, a commercial city on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Sidon was considered to be a center of vice and ungodliness. When Jezebel married King Ahab of Israel, she moved to Jezreel, a city that served Jehovah. Jezebel soon decided to turn Jezreel into a city similar to her native town.

Jezebel tried to convince her husband to begin serving the golden calf, under the pretense that such worship would really be a service to Jehovah. Actually, the calf was a central idol in the worship of Baal, a sun-god who was important to ancient Phoenicians. Because Baal was believed to have power over crops, flocks, and the fertility of farm families, the golden calf was often linked with him. As the worship of Baal spread to countries bordering Phoenicia, more peoples adopted the religion's lascivious rites, which included human sacrifice, self-torture, and kissing the image. The practices of the Baal cult offended pious Jews, but because King Ahab was easily manipulated by Jezebel, beautiful temples honoring Baal were soon erected throughout Israel.

The priests of Jehovah opposed Jezebel; many of them were murdered. Even the great prophet Elijah fled from her wrath (1 Kings 18:4-19).

In her effort to erase the mark of Jehovah throughout Israel, Jezebel became the first female religious persecutor in Bible history. She so effectively injected the poison of idolatry into the veins of Israel that the nation suffered.

Elijah said, "The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel" (1 Kings 21:23). This prophecy came true; only Jezebel's skull, feet, and the palms of her hands were left to bury (2 Kings '9:36-37).

The hearts of the Israelites must have been ripe for idolatry, or Jezebel would not have been able to so pervert their religion. King Ahab committed a grave sin against God by marrying her, because Jezebel worshiped Baal (1 Kings 21:25-26).

Jezer ("formation"), the third son of Naphtali (Gen. 46:24; Num. 26:49; 1 Chron. 7:13).

Jeziah ("Jehovah unites"), one who took a foreign wife (Ezra 10:25).

Jeziel ("God unites"), man of valor who joined David at Ziklag (1 Chron. 12:3).

Jezliah ("Jehovah delivers"), a descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8:18).

Jezoar, a descendant of Caleb, the son of Hur (1 Chron. 4:7).

Jezrahiah ("Jehovah is shining"), an overseer of the singers at the purification of the people (Neh. 12:42). See Izrahiah.


Jibsam ("lovely scent"), a son of Tola (1 Chron. 7:2).

Jidaph ("melting away"), son of Nahor and nephew of Abraham (Gen. 22:22).

Jimna. See Inna.


Joatham, Greek form of Jotham (q.v.).

Job ("hated; persecuted"). [1] A pious man of Uz. His endurance in fierce trial resulted in marvelous blessing (Job 1:3; 42; Ezek. 14:14, 20). [2] The third son of Issachar (Gen. 46:13); he is also called Jashub (Num. 26:24; 1 Chron. 7:1).


Jochebed ("Jehovah is honor or glory"), a descendant of Levi and mother of Moses (Exod. 6:20; Num. 26:59).

Joed ("Jehovah is witness"), a son of Pedaiah, a descendant of Benjamin (Neh. 11:7).


Joelah ("God is snatching; may he avail!"). one who joined David at Ziklag (1 Chron. 12:7).

Joeezer ("Jehovah is help"), a warrior who joined David at Ziklag (1 Chron. 12:6).

Jogli ("exiled"), a prince of Dan (Num. 34:22).


Joiakim ("Jehovah knows"), the son of Jeshua who returned from the Babylonian Captivity (Neh. 12:10, 12,26). Not to be confused with Jehoiakim.


Jokim ("Jehovah sets up"), a descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 4:22).

Jokshan ("fowler"), a son of Abraham by Keturah (Gen. 25:2-3; 1 Chron. 1:32).

Joktan (a personification of an Arabian tribal group), a son of Eber of Shem's line (Gen. 10:25-26; 1 Chron. 1:19-20, 23).


Jonadab. See Jehonadab.

Jonah. See Jona.


Jorah. See Hariph [2].

Jorai ("taught of God"), a chief of the tribe of Gad (1 Chron. 5:13).


Jorkoam ("spreading the people"), a son of Raham, or a city he founded (1 Chron. 2:44).

Josabah. See Jozabad.

Josaphat, Greek form of Jehoshaphat (q. v.).

Jose, an ancestor of Christ (Luke 3:29). Not to be confused with Joses.

Josedeck [Jehozadak; Jozadak] ("Jehovah is righteous"), a priest and father of Jeshua the high priest (Hag. 1:1, 12, 14; Zech. 6:11). He is also called Jozadak (Ezra 3:2; 8; 5:2; 10:18; Neh.12:26) and Jehozadak (1 Chron. 6:14-15).


Joshah ("Jehovah is a gift"), a descendant of Simeon (1 Chron. 4:34).

Joshaphat ("Jehovah judges"), one of David's valiant men (1 Chron. 11:43). Not to be confused with Jehoshaphat.

Joshaviah ("Jehovah is equality"), one of David's valiant men (1 Chron. 11:46).

Joshbekashah ("seated in hardness"), a son of Heman, David's song leader (1 Chron. 25:4, 24).


Josias, Greek form of Josiah (q.v.).

Josibiah ("Jehovah causes to dwell"), a descendant of Simeon (1 Chron. 4:35).

Josiphiah ("Jehovah abides"), father of one who returned from the Exile (Ezra 8:10).


Jozadak. See Josedeck.

Jubal ("playing; nomad"), son of Lamech; he was skilled with musical instruments (Gen. 4:21).

Jucal. See Jehucal.


Judith ("Jewess"), a wife of Esau (Gen. 26:34). See Esau's Wives.

Julia ("soft-haired"), a woman Christian to whom Paul sent greetings (Rom. 16:15).

Julius ("soft-haired"), a centurion who delivered Paul to Rome (Acts 27:1,3).

Junia ("youth"), a man or woman (probably a man) to whom Paul sent greetings (Rom. 16:7).

Jushab-hesed ("kindness is returned"), a son of Zerubbabel (1 Chron. 3:20).


End of the J's.

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