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).

**S**

**Sabta [Sabtah]** ("striking"), the third son of Cush (Gen. 10:7; 1 Chron. 1:9).

**Sabtechah [Sabtechah]** ("striking"), the fifth son of Cush (Gen. 10:7; 1 Chron. 1:9).


**Sadoc** (Greek form of Zadok—"righteous"), an ancestor of Christ (Matt. 1:14).

**Sala [Shelah]** ("petition; sprout"), a son of Arphaxad and ancestor of Christ (Gen. 10:24; 11:12; Luke 3:35). He is called Shelah in 1 Chronicles 1:18,24.

**Salathiel**, Greek form of Shealtiel (q.v.).


**Salome** ("clothing; strength"). [1] One of the women who saw the Crucifixion (Mark 15:40; 16:1). Matthew 27:56 mentions that the mother of the sons of Zebedee was present; she is probably to be identified with Salome. John 19:25 lists the sister of Jesus' mother among those near the cross; some scholars identify her with Salome, but others deny this. [2] The daughter of Herodias who danced before Herod (Matt. 14:6; Mark 6:22).

**Salu** ("miserable; unfortunate"), father of Zimri, who was slain (Num. 25:14).

**Samgar-nebo**, a Babylonian officer who sat with other officials in the middle gate of Jerusalem (Jer. 39:3). Some take this as a proper name (perhaps meaning "be gracious, Nebo"). Others view it as a title of Nergal-sharezer.

**Samlah** ("garment"), king of Edom (Gen. 36:36; 1 Chron. 1:47-48). Samson ("distinguished; strong"), judge of Israel for 20 years. His great strength and moral weakness have made him famous (Judg. 13:24; 14-16).

**Samuel [Shemuel]** ("asked of God; heard of God"),
prophet and last judge of Israel. He anointed Saul and later David as king (1 Sam. 1:20; 3-13; 15-16; 19; 25:1; Heb. 11:32).

Sanballat ("strong"), a leading opponent of the Jews at the time they were rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem (Neh. 2:10; 4:1, 7; 6:1-14).

Saph ("preserver"), a descendant of Rapha the giant (2 Sam. 21:18). He is called Sippai ("Jehovah is preserver") in 1 Chronicles 20:4.

Sapphira ("beautiful; sapphire"), the dishonest wife of Ananias, who was struck dead by God (Acts 5:1-10).

Sara, Greek form of Sarah (q.v.).

Sarah [Sara; Sarai] ("princess"), the wife of Abraham and mother of Isaac (Gen. 17:18; 20-21; Heb. 11:11; 1 Pet. 3:6). Her name was changed from Sarai ("Jehovah is prince") to Sarah ("princess") because she would be the progenitor of a great nation (Gen. 17:15).

Saria. See Sarah.

Saraph ("burning"), a descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 4:22).

Sargon ("[the god] Sargon has established the king [ship]"), an important king of Assyria who finished the siege of Samaria and carried away Israel. He is called by name only once in Scripture (Isa. 20:1).

Sarsechim ("chief of the eunuchs"), a prince of Babylon who sat at the gate (Jer. 39:3).

Saruch, Greek form of Serug (q.v.).

Saul [Shaul] ("asked"). [1] The first king of Israel; God eventually gave him up. He tried several times to slay David, but was killed himself at Gilboa (1 Sam. 9-31). [2] The original name of Paul (q.v.). [3] See Shaul [1].

Sevea ("fitted"), a Jewish priest at Ephesus whose sons attempted to cast out a demon, but were wounded by it instead (Acts 19:14-16).

Seba ("drunkard"), eldest son of Cush (Gen. 10:7; 1 Chron. 1:9). Not to be confused with Sheba.


Seir ("rough; wooded"), a chief of the Horites (Gen. 36:40-21; 1 Chron. 1:38).

Seled ("exultation"), a descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 2:30).

Sem, Greek form of Shem (q.v.).

Semachiah ("Jehovah supports"), a gatekeeper of the tabernacle in David's day (1 Chron. 26:7).

Semei (Greek form of Shimei), an ancestor of Christ (Luke 3:26).

Sennacherib (Babylonian, Sin-ah-eriba—"[the god] Sin has substituted for my brother"), an Assyrian king who killed his brother to usurp the throne. He unsuccessfully invaded Judah. The amazing story of the destruction of his army is told in 2 Kings 19 (2 Kings 18:13; Isa. 36:1; 37:17, 21, 37).

Senuah ("the violated"), a descendant of Benjamin (Neh. 11:9). Possibly the same as Hasenuah (q.v.).

Seorim ("fear; distress"), a priest in the days of David (1 Chron. 24:8).

Serah ("extension"), a daughter of Asher (Gen. 46:17; 1 Chron. 7:30). Numbers 26:46 should read Serah, not Sarah.


Sered ("escape; deliverance"), eldest son of Zebulun (Gen. 46:14; Num. 26:26).

Sergius Paulus, the Roman deputy of Cyprus who was converted because Elymas was struck blind (Acts 13:7).


Seth [Sheth] ("compensation; sprout"), son of Adam and Eve, and an ancestor of Christ (Gen. 4:25-26; 1 Chron. 1:1; Luke 3:38).

Sethur ("secreted; hidden"), one sent to spy out the land (Num. 13:13).


Shaashgaz ("lover of beauty; one anxious to learn"), a chamberlain of Ahasuerus (Esther 2:14).


Shachia ("fame of Jehovah"), a descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8:10).

Shadrach ("servant of [the god] Sin"), the name given to Hananiah at Babylon. He was cast into a fiery furnace and rescued (Dan. 1:7; 3).

Shage ("erring; wandering"), father of one of David's mighty men (1 Chron. 11:34). Possibly another name of Shammah (q.v.).
**Shaharaim** ("double dawn"), a descendant of Benjamin who went to Moab (1 Chron. 8:8).


**Shalma** ("Jehovah is recompenser"), ancestor of Shammuth. [4]

**Shallum** ("hearer"), one of David's heroes (1 Chron. 11:44).

**Shema** ("fame; renown"), a captain of David's army (1 Chron. 27:32).


**Shammuth.** See Shammah [4].


**Shamsi, Shemsi** ("heroic"), a descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8:26).

**Shaphan** ("youthful; vigorous"), a chief of Gad (1 Chron. 5:12).


**Sharai** ("Jehovah is deliverer"), one who took a foreign wife (Ezra 10:40).

**Sharar.** See Sacar [1].

**Sharezer [Sherezar]** (Babylonian, Sharutsar—"he has protected the king"). [1] A son of the Assyrian king Sennacherib who, with his brother, killed their father (2 Kings 19:37; Isa. 37:38). [2] One sent to consult the priests and prophets (Zech. 7:2).

**Shashai** ("noble; free"), one who married a foreign wife during the Exile (Ezra 10:40).


**Shalmaim** ("Jehovah is recompenser"), ancestor of returned exiles (Ezra 2:46; Neh. 7:48).

**Shalman,** the king who sacked Beth-arbel (Hos. 10:14). Perhaps he was either Shalmanser V of Assyria or Shalman king of Moab.

**Shalmaneser** (Babylonian, Shulmanarasharidu—"[the god] Sulman is chief"), the king of Assyria to whom Hoshea became subject was Shalmaneser V (2 Kings 17:3). Either Shalmaneser or Sargon, his successor, was the king to whom Samaria fell after a long siege (2 Kings 17:6; 18:9).

**Shama** ("hearer"), one of David's heroes (1 Chron. 11:44).

**Shamariah.** See Shemariah.

**Shamed** ("destroyer"), a son of Elpaal (1 Chron. 8:12).


**Shangar** ("cupbearer; fleer"), judge of Israel who rescued his people from the Philistines (Judg. 3:31; 5:6).

**Shamhuth** ("fame; renown"), a captain of David's army (1 Chron. 27:8).

**Shamir** ("thorn hedge; approved"), a son of Micah, a Levite (1 Chron. 24:24).

**Shamma** ("fame; renown"), a descendant of Asher (1 Chron. 7:37). See Shammah.


**Shavsha.** See Seraiah [1].

**Sheal** ("request"), one who took a foreign wife (Ezra 10:29).

**Shealtiel** ("sent by God"), father of Zerubbabel and an ancestor of Christ (Ezra 3:2, 8; 5:2; Hag. 1:12, Matt. 1:12).
Sheariah ("Jehovah is decider"), a descendant of Saul (1 Chron. 8:38; 9:44).

Shear-jashub ("a remnant returns"), symbolic name given a son of Isaiah (Isa. 7:3).


Sheber ("breach"), a descendant of Jephunneh (1 Chron. 2:48).


Shechur ("shredder of light"), one who helped number the people (Num. 1:5; 2:10; 7:30,35).

Shechariah ("Jehovah is the dawn"), a descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8:26).


Sheleph ("drawn out"), a son of Joktan (Gen. 10:26; 1 Chron. 1:20).

Shelesh ("might"), a descendant of Asher (1 Chron. 7:35).

Shelomi ("Jehovah is peace"), father of a prince of Asher (Num. 34:27).


Shelomoth ("peacefulness"), a descendant of Izhar (1 Chron. 24:22). Many identify him with Shelomith [4].

Shelumiel ("God is peace"), a chief of Simeon appointed to assist Moses (Num. 1:6; 2:12; 7:36).

Shem (Sem) ("name; renown"), son of Noah and ancestor of Christ (Gen. 5:32; 6:10; 10:1; Luke 3:36).


Shemaah ("the fame"), father of two valiant men who joined David (1 Chron. 12:3).


Shemeber ("splendor of heroism"), the king of Zebirom in the days of Abraham (Gen. 14:2).

Shemer ("watch"), owner of the hill on which Omri bought and on which he built Samaria (1 Kings 16:24).

Shemida [Shemidah] ("fame of knowing"), a grandson of Manasseh (Num. 26:32; Josh. 17:2; 1 Chron. 7:19).


Shenazar ("ivory keeper; Sin [the god] protect"), son or grandson of Jeconiah (1 Chron. 3:18).


Shephi [Shepho] ("unconcern"), a descendant of Seir the Horite (1 Chron. 1:40). He is called Shepho in Genesis 36:23.

Shepho. See Shepho.

Shephuphan. See Muppim.

Sherah ("blood-relationship"), a woman descendant of Ephraim (1 Chron. 7:24). She was either his daughter or granddaughter; the text is unclear.


Sheresh ("union"), a descendant of Manasseh (1 Chron. 7:16).

Sherezer. See Sharezer.
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Shimeon ("hearing"), one who married a foreign wife (Ezra 10:31). Not to be confused with Simeon.

Shimhi. See Shimei.

Shimi. See Shimei.

Shimmam. See Shammah [2].

Shimon ("trier; valuer"), a descendant of Caleb (1 Chron. 4:20).

Shimrath ("watch"), a descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8:21).


Shimrom [Shimron] ("watch"), the fourth son of Issachar (Gen. 46:13; Num. 26:24; 1 Chron. 7:1).

Shimshai ("Jehovah is splendor"), a scribe who, with Rehem, wrote to the king of Persia opposing the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem (Ezra 4:8-9, 17, 23).

Shinah, the king of Admah attacked by Chedorlaomer and his allies (Gen. 14:2).

Shihi ("Jehovah is fulness"), father of a chief of Simeon (1 Chron. 4:37).

Shipraka ("beauty"), one of the Hebrew midwives at the time of the birth of Moses (Exod. 1:15).

Shiphtan ("judge"), father of Kemuil, a chief of Ephraim (Num. 34:24).

Shisha ("distinction; nobility"), father of two of Solomon's scribes (1 Kings 4:3). Possibly the same as Seraiah [1].

Shishak, another name for Sesonchis I, king of Egypt. He sheltered Jeroboam against Solomon and in later years invaded Judah (1 Kings 11:40; 14:25; 2 Chron. 12).

Shittrai ("Jehovah is deciding"), a man in charge of David's herds in Sharon (1 Chron. 27:29).

Shiza ("splendor"), father of one of David's valiant men (1 Chron. 11:42).


Shobach ("expansion"), captain of the army of Hadarezer of Zobah (2 Sam. 10:16, 18); he is also called Shophach (1 Chron. 19:16).

Shobai ("Jehovah is glorious"), a tabernacle gatekeeper whose descendants returned from the Babylonian Captivity (Ezra 2:42; Neh. 7:45).


Shobek ("free"), one who sealed the covenant with Nehemiah (Neh. 10:24).

Shobi ("Jehovah is glorious"), a man who helped David when he fled from Absalom (2 Sam. 17:27).

Shoham ("leek-green beryl"), a descendant of Merari (1 Chron. 24:27).


Shophach. See Shobach.


Shuah [Shua] ("prosperity"), a Canaanite whose daughter Judah married (Gen. 38:2; 12; 1 Chron. 2:3).


Shuah ("jackal"), the third son of Zophah (1 Chron. 7:36).


Shuham. See Hushim [1].

Shuni ("fortunate"), a son of Gad (Gen. 46:16; Num. 26:15).

Shupham. See Muppim.


Siaha [Sia] ("congregation"), ancestor of returned captives (Ezra 2:44; Neh. 7:47).

Sibbechai [Meb Sibbecai] ("Jehovah is intervening"), a mighty man who killed a Philistine giant (2 Sam. 21:18; 1 Chron. 11:29; 20:4). He is called Mebunnai ("built up") in 2 Samuel 23:27.

Sidon [Zidon] ("fortress"), eldest son of Canaan, son of Ham (Gen. 10:15). He is called Zidon in 1 Chronicles 1:13.

Sihon ("great; bold"), an Amorite king that was defeated by Israel (Num. 21:21-31; Deut. 1:4; 2:24-32; Josh. 13:15-28).

Silas [Silvanus] ("forest; woody; third; asked"), an eminent member of the early church who traveled with Paul through Asia Minor and Greece and was imprisoned with him at Philippi (Acts 15:22,32-34; 2 Cor. 1:19; 1 Thess. 1:1).

Silvanus. See Silas.


Simri. See Shimri.

Sippai. See Saph.

Sisamai ("Jehovah is distinguished"), a descendant of Jerahmeel son of Pharez (1 Chron. 2:40).


So ("vizier"), a king of Egypt, either Osorkon IV or Tefnakht. Others believe this name is a reference to a city (2 Kings 17:3-7).

Socho ("brambly"), a son of Heber (1 Chron. 4: 18).

Sodi ("Jehovah determines"), father of one of the spies sent into Canaan (Num. 13: 10).

Solomon ("peace"), son of David by Bathsheba and king of a united, strong Israel for forty years. His wisdom and carnal sin stand out in his multi-faceted character (1 Kings 1:11; 2: 11). He was an ancestor of Christ (Matt. 1:6-7).

Sopater ("one who defends the father"), a man of Berea who accompanied Paul to Asia (Acts 20:4). Perhaps the same as Sosipater (q.v.).

Sophereth ("learning"), servant of Solomon whose ancestors returned from exile (Ezra 2:55; Neh. 7:57).

Sosipater ("one who defends the father"), one who sent greetings to the Roman Christians (Rom. 16:21). He was Jewish (a "kinsman" of Paul) and is possibly the same as Sopater (q.v.).


Stachys ("ear of com"), a believer of Rome to whom Paul sends greetings (Rom. 16:9).

Stephanas ("crown"), one of the first believers of Achaia (1 Cor. 1:16; 16:15-17).

Stephen ("crown"), one of the seven deacons. He became the first martyr of the church after Christ (Acts 6:5-9; 7:59; 8:2).

Suah ("riches; distinction"), a son of Zophah, a descendant of Asher (1 Chron. 7:36).

Susanna ("lily"), one of the women who ministered to Christ and was His follower (Luke 8:3).

Susi ("Jehovah is swift or rejoicing"), father of one of the spies (Num. 13:11).

Syntyche ("fortunate"), a woman of the church at Philippi (Phil. 4:2).