ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE

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?

In 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).

Z

Zaavan [Zavan] ("causing fear"), a descendant of Seir (Gen. 36:27). Also called Zavan (1 Chron. 1:42).


Zabbud ("endowed"), one who returned from the Exile with Ezra (Ezra 8:14).


Zabud ("bestowed"), officer and friend of Solomon (1 Kings 4:5).

Zaccaei ("pure"), one whose descendants returned (Ezra 2:9; Neh. 7:14). Possibly the same as Zabbai [2].

Zaccheus ("pure"), a publican with whom Jesus lodged during his stay at Jericho (Luke 19:1-10).


Zacher [Zechariah] ("fame"), son of Jeiel (1 Chron. 8:31); called Zechariah in 1 Chronicles 9:37.

Zaham ("fatness"), a son of Rehoboam (2 Chron. 11:19).

Zalaph ("purification"), the father of one who repaired the wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 3:30).

Zalmon [Ilai] ("terrace; accent"), the Ahoite who was one of David's guards (2 Sam. 23:28). He is called Ilai ("exalted") in 1 Chronicles 11:29. Not to be confused with Salmon.

Zalmunna ("withdrawn from protection"), a Midianite king slain by Gideon (Judg. 8:521).

Zanoah ("broken district"), one of the family of Caleb (1 Chron. 2: 18).

Zaphnath-paaneah ("savior of the world; revealer of secrets"), name given to Joseph by Pharaoh (Gen. 41:45).

Zara, Greek form of Zara or Zerah (q.v.).

Zarah. See Zerah.


Zavan. See Zaavan.

Zaza ("projection"), a son of Jonathan (1 Chron. 2:33).

Zealotes. See Simon [2].


Zebah ("victim"), Midianite king slain by Gideon (Judg. 8:5-21).

Zebedee ("the gift of Jehovah"), a fisherman of Galilee, husband of Salome, and father of the apostles James and John (Matt. 4:21; 27:56; Mark 1: 19-20).

Zebina ("bought"), one who married a foreign wife during the Exile (Ezra 10:43).

Zebudah ("endowed"), wife of Josiah, king of Judah (2 Kings 23:36).

Zebul ("dwelling"), ruler of Shechem (Judg. 9:28-41).

Zebulun ("dwelling"), tenth son of Jacob and ancestor of one of the twelve tribes (Gen. 30:20; 49: 13; 1 Chron. 2: 1).


**Zephi [Zepho]** ("watch"), a son of Eliphaz (Gen. 36:11, 15; 1 Chron. 1:36).

Zepho. See Zephi.

**Zephon [Ziphion]** ("dark; wintry"), a son of Gad (Num. 26:15). Also called Ziphion ("looking out; serpent; dark") in Genesis 46: 16.


**Zeresh** ("gold"), wife of Haman (Esther 5: 10, 14; 6: 13).

**Zereth** ("brightness"), a descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 4:7).

**Zeri** ("balm"), a musician in the days of David (1 Chron. 25:3); perhaps the same as Izri (v. 11).

**Zeror** ("bundle"), an ancestor of Kish (1 Sam. 9: 1).

**Zeruiah** ("full-breasted"), the mother of Jeroboam I (1 Kings 11:26).


**Zeruiah** ("balm"), a daughter of Jesse and David's sister (1 Sam. 26:6; 2 Sam. 2:13, 18).

**Zetham** ("shining"), son or grandson of Laadan (1 Chron. 23:8; 26:22).

**Zethan** ("olive tree"), a descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 7: 10).

**Zethar** ("conqueror"), an eunuch of Ahasuerus (Esther 1:10).

**Zia** ("terrified"), a descendant of Gad (1 Chron. 5: 13).

**Ziba** ("plantation"), a steward of Saul (2 Sam. 9:2-13; 16:1-4; 19:17-29).


**Zibia** ("gazelle"), a descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8:9).

**Zibiah** ("gazelle"); mother of King Joash of Judah (2 Kings 12:1; 2 Chron. 24:1).


**Zidkijah** ("Jehovah is mighty"), a chief prince of the Jews (Neh. 10: 1). Not to be confused with Zedekiah.

**Zidon. See Sidon.**


**Zillah** ("protection; screen"), one of the wives of Lamech (Gen. 4: 19, 22-23).

**Zilpa** ("myrrh dropping") mother of Gad and Asher (Gen. 29:24; 30:9-13; 35:26).


**Zimran** ("celebrated") , a son of Abraham by Keturah (Gen. 25:2; 1 Chron. 1:32).


**Zina [Zizah]** ("fruitful"), second son of Shimei (1 Chron. 23: 10). He is called Zizah in verse 11.


**Zipphah** ("lent"), a son of Jehaleeel (1 Chron. 4:16).

**Ziphion. See Zepho.**

**Zippor** ("bird"), father of Balak, king of Moab (Num. 22:2, 4, 10, 16).

**Zipporah** ("little bird"), the wife of Moses and daughter of Reuel (Exod. 2:21; 4:25; 18:2).

**Zithri** ("counsel") , a descendant of Levi through Kohath (Exod. 6:22).

**Ziza [Zizah]** ("Jehovah is protection"), a descendant of Levi through Kohath (Exod. 6:22).

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**Zobeah** ("the affable"), a descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 4:8).

Zoheth ("strong"), a descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 4:20).
Zophah ("watch"), a descendant of Asher (1 Chron. 7:35-36).
Zophai [Zuph] ("watcher"), a brother of Samuel (1 Chron. 6:26). He is called Zuph ("honeycomb") in verse 35.
Zophar ("hairy; rough"), a Naamathite and "friend" of Job (Job 2:11; 11:1; 20:1).
Zorobabel, Greek form of Zerubbabel (q.v.).
Zuar ("little"), father of Nethaneel and a chief of Issachar (Num. 1:8; 2:5).
Zuph. See Zophai.
Zuriel ("God is my rock"), a chief of the Levites, descendant from Merari (Num. 3:35).
Zurishaddai ("the Almighty is a rock"), father of Shelumiel (Num. 1:6; 2:12).