

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? 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).

Z

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

Zabad ("endower"). [1] A descendant of Jerahmeel of Judah (1 Chron. 2:36-37). [2] A man of Ephraim and son of Tahath (1 Chron. 7:21). [3] Son of Alai and one of David's mighty men (1 Chron. 11:41). [4], [5], [6] Three who married foreign wives during the Exile (Ezra 10:27, 33, 43). [7] *See* Jozachar.

Zabbai ("roving about; pure"). [1] One who took a foreign wife during the Exile (Ezra 10:28). [2] Father of Baruch (Neh. 3:20).

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

Zabdi [Zimri] ("Jehovah is endower"). [1] Father of Carmi (Josh. 7:1, 17-18); called Zimri in 1 Chronicles 2:6. [2] A descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8:19). [3] One of David's storekeepers (1 Chron. 27:27). [4] An ancestor of Mattaniah (Neh. 11:17); also called Zichri (1 Chron. 9:15).

Zabdiel ("my gift is God"). [1] Father of Jashobeam, David's captain (1 Chron. 27:2). [2] An overseer of the priests (Neh. 11:14).

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

Zaccai ("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).

Zaccur [Zacchur] ("well remembered"). [1] A descendant of Simeon (1 Chron. 4:26). [2] Father of Shammua, one of the spies (Num. 13:4). [3] Descendant of Merari (1 Chron. 24:27). [4] A son of Asaph (1 Chron. 25:2, 10; Neh. 12:35). [5] A Levite who sealed the covenant (Neh. 10:12). [6] Father of Hanan (Neh. 13:13); possibly the same as [5]. [7] One who rebuilt part of the wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 3:2).

Zachariah [Zechariah] ("memory of the Lord"). [1] Son and successor of Jeroboam II. He reigned only six months (2 Kings 14:29; 15:8-11). [2] Father of Abi or Abijah, mother of Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:2); written *Zechariah* in 2 Chronicles 29:1.

Zacharias (Greek form of Zechariah—"memory of the Lord"). [1] The prophet whom the Jews stoned (Matt. 23:35; Luke 11:51). [2] A priest, father of John the Baptist (Luke 1).

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

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Zadok ("righteous"). [1] A high priest in the time of David (2 Sam. 8: 17; 15:24-36; 1 Kings 1:8-45). [2] Father of Jerusha, wife of Uzziah and mother of Jotham, both kings of Israel (2 Kings 15:33; 2 Chron. 27:1). [3] Son of Ahitub and father of Shallum or Meshullam (1 Chron. 6: 12, 13; Ezra 7:2). [4] A young man of valor (1 Chron. 12:28). [5], [6] Two who repaired the wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 3:4,29). [7] One who sealed the covenant with Nehemiah (Neh. 10:21). [8] A scribe under Nehemiah (Neh. 13:13).

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 Ahohite 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. 4: 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.

Zattu [Zatthu] ("lovely; pleasant"). [1] One whose descendants returned from the Exile (Ezra 2:8; 10:27; Neh. 7: 13). [2] A co-sealer of the new covenant (Neh. 10:14).

Zavan. See Zaavan.

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

Zealotes. See Simon [2].

Zebadiah ("Jehovah is endower"). [1] A descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8: 15). [2] A son of Elpaal (1 Chron. 8: 17). [3] One who joined David (1 Chron. 12:7). [4] A descendant of Levi through Kohath (1 Chron. 26:2). [5] A son of Asahel (1 Chron. 27:7). [6] A Levite sent by Jehoshaphat to teach the Law (2 Chron. 17:8). [7] A son of Ishmael (2 Chron. 19:11). [8] Head of a family who returned from exile (Ezra 8:8). [9] A priest who had taken a foreign wife (Ezra 10:20).

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).

Zechariah ("Jehovah is renowned"). [1] A chief of the tribe of Reuben (1 Chron. 5:7). [2] A Levite gatekeeper in the days of David (1 Chron. 9:21; 26:2, 14). [3] A Levite set over the service of song in the days of David (1 Chron. 15:18,20; 16:5). [4] A priest in the days of David (1 Chron. 15:24). [5] A descendant of Levi through Kohath (1 Chron. 24:25). [6] A descendant of Levi through Merari (1 Chron. 26: 11). [7] Father of Iddo (1 Chron. 27:21). [8] A prince of Jehoshaphat sent to teach the people (2 Chron. 17:7). [9] A Levite who encouraged Jehoshaphat against Moab (2 Chron. 20: 14). [10] A son of Jehoshaphat (2 Chron. 21:2). [11] A son of Jehoiada who was stoned (2 Chron. 24:20). [12] Prophet in the days of Uzziah (2 Chron. 26:5). [13] A Levite who helped to cleanse the temple (2 Chron. 29: 13). [14] A descendant of Levi (2 Chron. 34:12). [15] A prince of Judah in the days of Josiah (2 Chron. 35:8). [16] A prophet in the days of Ezra. His book still exists (Ezra 5: 1; 6:14; Zech. 1:1,7; 7:1, 8). [17] A chief man of Israel (Ezra 8:3). [18] One who returned from the Exile (Ezra 8: 11, 16). [19] One who took a foreign wife during the Exile (Ezra 10:26). [20] A prince with Ezra (Neh. 8:4). [21] A descendant of Perez (Neh. 11:4). [22] One whose descendants dwelled in Jerusalem (Neh. 11:5). [23] A priest (Neh. 11:12). [24] A priest in the time of Joiakim (Neh. 12:16). [25] A priest of the line of Asaph (Neh. 12:35; 12:41). [26] One whom Isaiah took as a witness (Isa. 8:2). [27] See Zachariah [2]. [28] See Zacher.

Zedekiah ("Jehovah my righteousness; Jehovah is might"). [1] A false prophet who encouraged Ahab to attack the Syrians at Ramoth-gilead (1 Kings 22: 11,24; 2 Chron. 18: 10,23). [2] A false prophet (Jer. 29:21-23). [3] A prince of Judah in the days of Jehoiakim (Jer. 36:12). [4] The last king of Judah; his rebellion spelled the doom of Judah (2 Kings 24:18-25:7; 2 Chron. 36:11-21).

Zeeb ("wolf"), a prince of Midian slain by Gideon (Judg. 7:25; 8:3).

Zelek ("split"), an Ammonite, a valiant man of David (2 Sam. 23:37; 1 Chron. 11:39).

Zelophehad ("firstborn"), grandson of Gilead (Num. 26:33; 27:1, 7; Josh. 17:3).

Zemira ("song"), a son of Becher, a descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 7:8).

Zenas ("living"), a Christian who had been a teacher of the Law (Titus 3: 13).

Zephaniah ("Jehovah is darkness; Jehovah has treasured"). [1] A prophet in the days of Josiah (Zeph. 1:1). [2] A Levite or priest, ancestor of Samuel (1 Chron. 6:36). Possibly the same as Uriel [1]. [3] Son of Josiah

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the priest (Zech. 6:10, 14). [4] A priest who opposed Babylonian rule (2 Kings 25: 18; Jer. 21: 1; 37:3).

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.

Zerah [Zara; Zarah] ("sprout"). [1] A son of Reuel (Gen. 36:13, 17; 1 Chron. 1:37). [2] Father of Jobab (Gen. 36:33; 1 Chron. 1:44). [3] A son of Judah (Gen. 38:30; 1 Chron. 2:4, 6). [4] A descendant of Gershon (1 Chron. 6:21). [5] A Levite (1 Chron. 6:41). [6] A king of Ethiopia who warred with Asa (2 Chron. 14:9). [7] See Zohar [2].

Zerahiah ("Jehovah has come forth"). [1] A priest of the line of Eleazar (1 Chron. 6:6, 51; Ezra 7:4). [2] Head of a family who returned from the Exile with Ezra (Ezra 8:4).

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).

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

Zerubbabel [Zorobabel] ("seed of Babylon"). [1] The leader of a group who returned from exile; he began the rebuilding of the temple (Ezra 3-5; Neh. 7:7; 12:1,47). He was an ancestor of Christ (Matt. 1:12-13). [2] An ancestor of Christ (Luke 3:27); perhaps the same as [1].

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"), a 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).

Zibeon ("wild robber"). [1] A Hivite man (Gen. 36:2, 14). [2] A son of Seir (Gen. 36:20, 24; 1 Chron. 38, 40).

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).

Zichri ("renowned"). [1] A son of Izhar (Exod. 6:21). [2] A descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8: 19). [3] A descendant of Benjamin of Shishak (1 Chron. 8:23). [4] A descendant of Benjamin of Jeroham (1 Chron. 8:27).

[5] A descendant of Eliezer in the days of Moses (1 Chron. 26:25). [6] Father of Eliezer, a descendant of Reuben (1 Chron. 27: 16). [7] Father of Amaziah (2Chron. 17:16). [8] Father of Elishaphat (2 Chron. 23:1). [9] A man of valor who slew the son of King Ahaz (2 Chron. 28:7). [10] Father of Joel (Neh. 11:9). [11] A priest of the sons of Abijah (Neh. 12: 17). [12] See Zabdi [4].

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

Zidon. See Sidon.

Ziha ("dried"). [1] One whose children returned from the Babylonian Captivity (Ezra 2:43; Neh. 7:46). [2] A ruler of the Nethinim (Neh. 11:21).

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

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

Zilthai ("shadow"). [1] A descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8:20). [2] A captain who joined David at Ziklag (1 Chron. 12:20).

Zimmah ("counsel"). [1] A Levite of the family of Gershon (1 Chron. 6:20). [2] A Levite in the fourth or fifth degree of temple service (1 Chron. 6:42). [3] A Levite who assisted in cleansing the temple (2 Chron. 29: 12).

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

Zimri ("celebrated"). [1] A disobedient Israelite slain by Phinehas (Num. 25:14). [2] A captain who slew Elah (1 Kings 16:9-20). [3] A son of Zerah of Judah (1 Chron. 2:6). [4] A descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8:36; 9:42).

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

Ziph ("refining place"). [1] Grandson of Caleb (1 Chron. 2:42). [2] A son of Jehaleleel (1 Chron. 4:16).

Ziphah ("lent"), a son of Jehaleleel (1 Chron. 4:16).

Ziphion. See Zephon.

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 ("Jehovah is protection"), a descendant of Levi through Kohath (Exod. 6:22).

Ziza [Zizah] ("shining; brightness"). [1] A chief of Simeon (1 Chron. 4:37). [2] A son of King Rehoboam (2 Chron. 11:20). [3] See Zina.

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

Zohar ("nobility; distinction"). [1] Father of Ephron, from whom Abraham bought a field (Gen. 23:8; 25:9). [2] A son of Simeon of Judah (Gen. 46:10; Exod. 6:15). He is also called Zerah (1 Chron. 4:24).

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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.

Zur ("rock"). [1] A prince of Midian slain by Phinehas (Num. 25: 15; 31 :8). [2] A son of Jehiel (1 Chron. 8:30; 9:36).

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).

End of the Z's.

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