

# 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).

## B

**Baal** ("master; lord"). [1] A descendant of Reuben (1 Chron. 5:5). [2] The fourth of ten sons of Jehiel (1 Chron. 8:29, 30; 9:36).

**Baal-hanan** ("the lord is gracious"). [1] The seventh of the kings of Edom (Gen. 36:38-39; 1 Chron. 1:49-50). [2] A tender of olive and sycamore trees in David's time (1 Chron. 27:28).

**Baalis** ("lord of joy"), the king of the Ammonites after Jerusalem was taken (Jer. 40:14).

**Baana [Baanah]** ("son of grief; patient"). [1] One of Solomon's royal merchants (1 Kings 4:12). [2] Another merchant of Solomon, responsible for Asher (1 Kings 4:16). [3] Father of Zadok, the builder of the temple (Neh. 3:4). [4] Father of one of David's mighty men (2 Sam. 23:29; 1 Chron. 11:30). [5] A captain in Ish-bosheth's army (2 Sam. 4:2, 5-6, 9). [6] One who returned from the Exile with Zerubbabel (Ezra 2:2; Neh. 7:7; 10:27).

**Baara** ("a wood; the burning one"), a wife of Shoham (1 Chron. 8:8).

**Baaseiah** ("Jehovah is bold"), an ancestor of Asaph (1 Chron. 6:40).

**Baasha** ("boldness"), the third king of Israel; war and wickedness characterized his reign (1 Kings 15:16-16:13).

**Bakbakkar** ("diligent; searcher"), a Levite who returned from the Babylonian Captivity (1 Chron. 9:15).

**Bakbuk** ("waste; hollow"), one whose descendant returned from the Exile (Ezra 2:51; Neh. 7:53).

**Bakbukiah** ("wasted by Jehovah"), second leader of the postexilic temple service (Neh. 11:17; 12:9,25).

**Balaam** ("a pilgrim; lord [Baal] of the people"), a prophet that the king of Moab induced to curse Israel. Instead, God put words of blessing in his mouth (Num. 22-24; 31:8).

**Balac**, Greek form of Balak (q.v.).

**Baladan** ("having power"), father of the king of Babylon in Hezekiah's time. (2 Kings 20:12; Isa. 39:1).

**Balak [Balac]** ("void; empty"), the king of Moab that hired Balaam to curse Israel (Num. 22-24; Josh 24:9).

**Bani** ("posterity"). [1] One of David's mighty men (2 Sam. 23:36). [2] A descendant of Merari (1 Chron. 6:46). [3] A descendant of Pharez (1 Chron. 9:4). [4] Father of a family that returned from the Babylonian Captivity (Ezra 2:10; 10:29). In Nehemiah 7:15, he is called Binnui. [5] One whose descendants had taken foreign wives during the Exile (Ezra 10:34). [6] A

# ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE

descendant of [5] who took a foreign wife during the Exile (Ezra 10:38). [7] A Levite who helped to repair the wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 3: 17; 8:7; 9:4-5). [8] A Levite who assisted in the devotions of the people (Neh. 9:4; 10:13). [9] One who sealed the new covenant with God after the Exile (Neh. 10:14). [10] A Levite whose son was an overseer of the Levites after the Exile. Perhaps the same as [7] or [8] (Neh. 11:22).

**Barabbas** ("father's son"), a murderer whom the people demanded that Pontius Pilate should release instead of Christ (Matt. 27:17,20-21,26; Mark 15:7).

**Barachel** ("blessed of God"), father of Elihu, a figure in Job (Job 32:2, 6).

**Barachiah [Berechiah]** ("blessed of Jehovah"), father of Zechariah the prophet (Zech. 1:1).

**Barachias** (Greek form of Barachiah), the father of a prophet whom the Jews killed (Matt. 23:35).

**Barak** ("lightning"), the general of the judge Deborah; he helped to defeat Sisera (Judg. 4:6--5:15).

**Bariah** ("fugitive"), a descendant of David (1 Chron. 3:22).

**Bar-jesus.** *See* Elymas.

**Bar-jonah.** *See* Peter.

**Barkos** ("partly colored"), an ancestor of captives returning from the Exile (Ezra 2:53; Neh.7:55).

**Barnabas** ("son of consolation"), a Jewish Christian who traveled widely with Paul (Acts 4:36; 9:27; 11:22-30; Gal. 2: 1). His original name was Joses, but he was named Barnabas by the apostles (Acts 4:36); obviously they considered him to be their consoler.

**Barsabas.** *See* Joseph [11]; Juda [13].

**Bartholomew** ("son of Tolmai"), one of Jesus' twelve apostles (Matt. 10:3; Mark 3: 18; Acts 1: 13). He is probably the same as Nathanael (q.v.).

**Bartimaeus** (Aramaic *bar*, "son" and Greek *timaios*, "honorable"), a blind beggar healed by Christ (Mark 10:46-52).

**Baruch** ("blessed"). [1] Jeremiah's friend and scribe (Jer. 32:12-13,16; 36). [2] One who helped to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 3:20; 10:6). [3] A descendant of Perez who returned from the Exile (Neh. 11:5).

**Barzillai** ("strong"). [1] One who befriended David when he fled from Absalom (2 Sam. 17:27; 19:31-39). [2] Husband of Merab, Saul's eldest daughter, and father of Adriel (2 Sam. 21:8). [3] A priest whose genealogy was lost during the Exile (Ezra 2:61; Neh. 7:63).

**Bashemath [Basmath]** ("fragrant"). [1] A daughter of Solomon (1 Kings 4: 15). [2] A wife of Esau (Gen. 26:34). *See also* Esau. [3] Another wife of Esau, whom he married to appease his father (Gen. 36:3-4, 10, 13). *See also* Esau's Wives.

**Basmath.** *See* Bashemath.

**Bath-sheba [Bathshua]** ("the seventh daughter; daughter of the oath"), the beautiful wife of Uriah the Hittite, and afterward the wife of David (2 Sam. 11:3; 12:24; 1 Kings 1:11-2:19). She was the mother of Solomon and an ancestor of Christ (Matt. 1:6). She is called Bathshua in 1 Chronicles 3:5.

**Bath-shua** ("daughter of prosperity"). [1] Another name of Bath-sheba (q.v.). [2] The wife of Judah. In Genesis 38:2 and 1 Chronicles 2:3, the KJV incorrectly renders her name as "daughter of Shua "; Bath-shua is really a proper name.

**Bavai** ("wisher"), one who helped to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 3: 18).

**Bazlith [Bazluth]** ("asking"), one whose descendants returned from the Exile (Ezra 2:52; Neh.7:54).

**Bealiah** ("Jehovah is lord"), a man who joined David at Ziklag (1 Chron. 12:5).

**Bebai** ("fatherly"). [1] An ancestor of captives returning from the Exile (Ezra 2: 11; Neh. 7: 16). [2] An ancestor of some returning from the Exile with Ezra (Ezra 8: 11; 10:28); perhaps the same as [1]. [3] One who sealed the new covenant with God after the Exile (Neh. 10:15).

**Becher** ("youth; firstborn"). [1] A son of Ben-hadad I, the king of Syria who made a son of Ephraim (Num. 26:35); perhaps the same as Bered in 1 Chronicles 7:20.

**Bechorath** ("first birth"), an ancestor of Saul (1 Sam. 9:1).

**Bedad** ("alone"), father of Hadad, fourth king of Edom (Gen. 36:35; 1 Chron. 1:46).

**Bedan** ("son of judgment"). [1] A leader of Israel mentioned as a deliverer of the nation (1 Sam. 12:11). The Septuagint, Syriac, and Arabic read Barak instead; however, many think this is a reference to Abdon. [2] A descendant of Manasseh (1 Chron. 7: 17).

**Bedeiah** ("servant of Jehovah"), one who had married a foreign wife during the Exile (Ezra 10:35).

**Beeliada [Eliada]** ("the lord knows"), a son of David (1 Chron. 14:7) also known as Eliada (2 Sam. 5:16; 1 Chron. 3:8). The meanings of these two names are thought to be identical.

**Beera [Beerah]** ("expounder"). [1] A descendant of Asher (1 Chron. 7: 37). [2] A prince of Reuben who was carried captive to Assyria (1 Chron. 5:7).

**Beeri** ("man of the springs" or "expounder"). [1] Father of Judith, a wife of Esau (Gen. 26:34). *See also* Esau's Wives. [2] Father of the prophet Hosea (Hos. 1:1).

**Bela [Belah]** ("consumption"). [1] A king of Edom, the first mentioned in Scripture (Gen. 36:32-33; 1 Chron. 1:43-44). [2] A son of Benjamin and one of the left-handed heroes (Gen. 46:21; 1 Chron. 7:6-7). [3]

# ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE

Descendant of Reuben (1 Chron. 5:8).

**Belshazzar** (Hebrew form of the Babylonian name Bel-shar-usur-"[the god] Bel has protected the king[ship]"), the son of Nakonidus and co-regent in Babylon. He witnessed strange handwriting on the wall of his palace before his kingdom was overthrown by Persia. (Dan. 5; 7:1; 8:1).

**Belteshazzar** (Hebrew form of the Babylonian name, Balat-usu-usur-"Protect his life!"), the name given to Daniel in Babylon (Dan. 1:7). *See* Daniel.

**Ben** ("son"), an assistant in the temple musical service at the time of David (1 Chron. 15:18).

**Benaiah** ("Jehovah has built"). [1] The third leader of David's army, counselor to the kings, and loyal friend of both David and Solomon (2 Sam. 8: 18; 20:23; 1 Kings 1:8-2:46). [2] One of David's mighty men (2 Sam. 23:30; 1 Chron. 11:31). [3] Head of a family of the tribe of Simeon (1 Chron. 4:36). [4] One of David's priests (1 Chron. 15:18,20,24; 16:56). [5] Father of one of David's counselors (1 Chron. 27:34). [6] The grandfather of Jahaziel (2 Chron. 20:14). [7] An overseer of the temple during Hezekiah's reign (2 Chron. 31: 13). [8], [9], [10], [11] Four men who married foreign wives during the Exile (Ezra 10:25,30,35,43). [12] Father of Pelatiah, a prince of Judah (Ezek. 11:1, 13).

**Ben-ammi** ("son of my people"), the ancestor of the Ammonites (Gen. 19:38), born to Lot and his daughter.

**Ben-hadad** ("son of [the god] Hadad"). [1] Beh-hadad I, the king of Syria who made a league with Asa of Judah and invaded Israel (1 Kings 15: 18, 20; 2 Chron. 10:2, 4). [2] Benhadad II, another king of Syria defeated by Ahab; he eventually laid siege to Samaria itself (1 Kings 20; 2 Kings 6:24; 8:7, 9. [3] The son of Hazael who reigned over Syria as the empire disintegrated (2 Kings 13:3, 24-25; Amos 1:4). [4] Possibly a general title of the Syrian kings (Jer. 49:27).

**Ben-hail** ("strong; son of strength"), a prince of Judah under Jehoshaphat (2 Chron. 17:7).

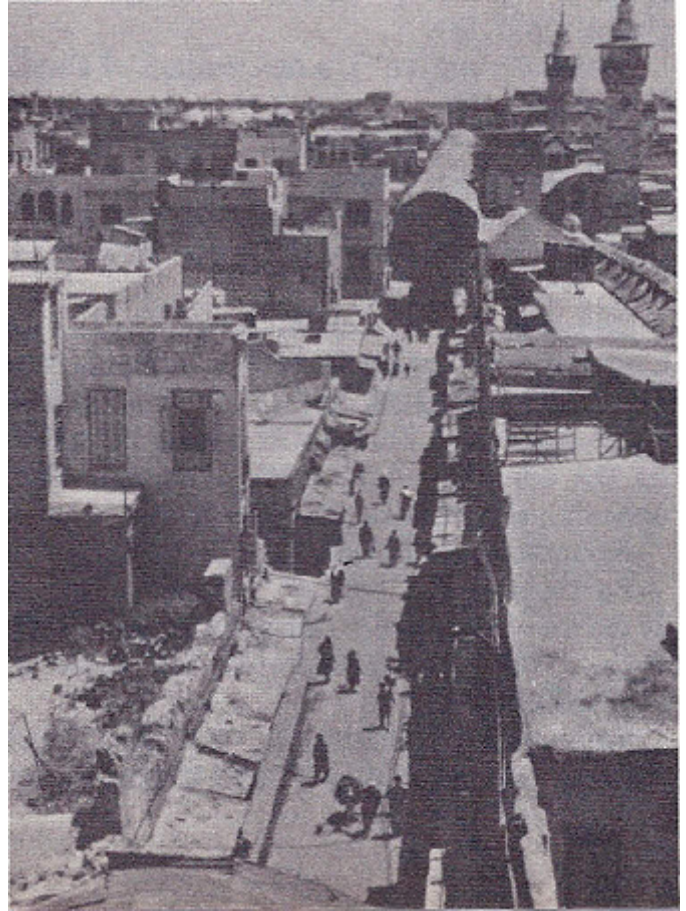
**Ben-hanan** ("son of grace"), a son of Shimon of the tribe of Judah (1 Chron. 4:20).

**Beninu** ("our son"), one who sealed the new covenant with God after the Exile (Neh. 10:13).

**Benjamin** ("son of the right hand"). [1] The youngest son of Jacob; his descendants became one of the twelve tribes of Israel (Gen. 35:18,24; 42:4, 36; 43-45. [2] A descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 7: 10). [3] A descendant of Harim (Ezra 10:32). [4] One who helped to repair the wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 3:23). [5] One who helped to dedicate the wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 12:34).

**Beno** ("his son"), a descendant of Merari (1 Chron. 24:26-27).

**Ben-hadad's capital.** When Ben-hadad II united the Arameans (who lived in the territory northwest of Israel) he strengthened Damascus as the capital of his domain. Ben-hadad's armies defeated the combined forces of Israel and Judah in a battle at Ramoth-gilead, in which King Ahab was killed (1 Kings 22:1-35). Modern Damascus shows the strong influence of Muslim culture.



**Benoni** ("son of my sorrow"), name given to Rachel's child as she died bearing him; Jacob changed his name to Benjamin (q. v.).

**Ben-zoheth** ("son of Zoheth; corpulent; strong"), a descendant of Judah through Caleb (1 Chron. 4:20).

**Beor [Bosor]** ("shepherd"). [1] Father of Bela, the king of Edom (Gen. 36:32; 1 Chron. 1:43). [2] Father of the prophet Balaam (Num. 22:5; 24:3, 15; 31:8).

**Bera** ("gift"), a king of Sodom in the time of Abram (Gen. 14:2).

**Berachah** ("blessing"), one who joined David at Ziklag (1 Chron. 12:3).

**Berachiah.** *See* Berechiah [2].

**Beraiah** ("unfortunate"). [1] A son of Asher (Gen. 46:17; Num. 26:44-45). [2] A son of Ephraim (1 Chron. 7:23). [3] A descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8:13, 16). [4] A descendant of Levi (1 Chron. 23: 10-11).

**Berechiah [Berachiah]** ("Jehovah is blessing"). [1] A



# ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE

descendant of Jehoiakim (1 Chron. 3:20). [2] Father of Asaph, the chief singer (1 Chron. 6:39; 15:17). [3] A Levite who lived near Jerusalem (1 Chron. 9:16). [4] One of the tabernacle doorkeepers (1 Chron. 15:23). [5] A descendant of Ephraim in the time of Pekah (2 Chron. 28: 12). [6] Father of one who repaired the wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 3:4, 30; 6: 18).

**Bered** (" seed place"), a descendant of Ephraim (1 Chron. 7:20); perhaps the same as Becher (Num. 26:35).

**Beri** ("expounder"), a descendant of Asher (1 Chron. 7:36).

**Beriah** ("unfortunate"). [1] A descendant of Asher (Gen. 46:17; Num. 26:44-45; 1 Chron. 7:30-31). [2] A descendant of Ephraim (1 Chron. 7:23). [3] A descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8:13,16). [4] A descendant of Levi (1 Chron. 23:10-11).

**Bernice** ("victorious"), the immoral daughter of Herod Agrippa I. She and her brother Agrippa (with whom she was living in incest) sat in judgment on Paul (Acts 25:13, 23; 26:30).

**Berodach-baladan**, a copyist's mistake or another form of Merodach-baladan (q.v.).

**Besai** ("treading down"), one who returned to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel (Ezra 2:49; Neh.7:52).

**Besodeiah** ("given to trust in Jehovah"), one of the repairers of the old gate of Jerusalem (Neh. 3:6).

**Beth-rapha** ("place of fear"), a descendant of Judah through Caleb (1 Chron. 4:12).

**Bethuel** ("dweller in God"), a son of Nahor, Abraham's brother (Gen. 22:22-23; 28:5).

**Bezai** ("shining; high").[1] An ancestor of 323 captives returning from the Exile (Ezra 2:17; Neh. 7:23). [2] One who sealed the new covenant with God after the Exile (Neh. 10:18).

**Bezaleel** ("God is protection"). [1] A chief worker and designer of the tabernacle (Exod. 31:2; 35:30; 36:1-2). [2] One who had married a foreign wife (Ezra 10:30).

**Bezer** ("strong"), one of the heads of Asher (1 Chron. 7:37).

**Bichri** ("youth; firstborn"), an ancestor of Sheba, who rebelled against David (2 Sam. 20: 1).

**Bidkar** ("servant of Ker [Kar]"), a captain in the service of Jehu who executed the sentence on Ahab's son (2 Kings 9:25).

**Bigthah** ("given by fortune"), a chamberlain of Ahasuerus (Esther 1:10).

**Bigthah [Bigthana]** ("given by fortune"), a chamberlain who conspired against Ahasuerus (Esther 2:21; 6:2).

**Bigvai** ("happy; of the people"). [1] A chief who came up with Zerubbabel (Ezra 2:2; Neh. 7:7). [2] An ancestor of captives returning from the Exile (Ezra 2: 14; Neh. 7: 19). [3] One whose descendants returned with Ezra (Ezra

8: 14). [4] The name of a family who sealed the new covenant with God after the Exile (Neh. 10:16).

**Bildad** ("lord Adad; son of contention"), one of Job's three "friends" (Job 2:11; 8:1; 18:1; 25:1; 42:9).

**Bilgah** ("bursting forth; firstborn"). [1] A priest in the tabernacle service (1 Chron. 24: 14). [2] A priest who came up to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel (Neh. 12:5, 18).

**Bilgai** ("bursting forth"), one who sealed the new covenant with God after the Exile (Neh. 10:8); perhaps the same as Bilgah [2].

**Bilhah** ("tender"), the handmaid of Rachel and mother of Dan and Naphtali (Gen. 29:29; 30:3-5, 7).

**Bilhan** ("tender"). [1] A descendant of Seir (Gen. 36:27; 1 Chron. 1:42). [2] A descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 7: 10).

**Bilshan** ("searcher"), a prince who returned from the Exile (Ezra 2:2; Neh. 7:7).

**Bimhal** ("circumcised"), a descendant of Asher (1 Chron. 7:33).

**Binea** ("wanderer"), a descendant of Saul (1 Chron. 8:37; 9:43).

**Binnui** ("being a family"). [1] A Levite appointed by Ezra to weigh gold and silver (Ezra 8:33). [2],[3] Two men who married foreign wives during the Exile (Ezra 10:30, 38). [4] One who repaired the wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 3:24; 10:9). [5] A Levite who came up with Zerubbabel (Neh. 12:8). [6] *See* Bani [4].

**Birsha** ("thick; strong"), a king of Gomorrah in the days of Abraham (Gen. 14:2).

**Birzavith** ("olive well"), descendant of Asher (1 Chron. 7:31).

**Bithiah** ("daughter of Jehovah"), a daughter of the pharaoh and wife of Mered (1 Chron. 4:18); her name implies her conversion.

**Biztha** ("eunuch"), one of Ahasuerus' eunuchs (Esther 1:10).

**Blastus** ("a bud"), the chamberlain of Herod Agrippa I (Acts 12:20).

**Boanerges**, the surname bestowed upon James and John, the sons of Zebedee. It means "sons of thunder" (Mark 3: 17).

**Boaz [Booz]** ("fleetness; strength"), a Bethlehemite of Judah who became the husband of Ruth and an ancestor of Christ (Ruth 2-4; Matt. 1:5; Luke 3:32).

**Bocheru** ("youth"), a descendant of King Saul (1 Chron. 8:38; 9:44).

**Bohan** ("stumpy"), a descendant of Reuben for whom a boundary stone between Judah and Benjamin was named (Josh. 15:6; 18:17).

**Booz**, Greek form of Boaz (q.v.).

**Bosor**, Greek form of Beor (q.v.).

**Bukki** ("proved of Jehovah; mouth of Jehovah"). [1] An ancestor of Ezra and descendant of Aaron

# ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE

(1 Chron. 6:5, 51; Ezra 7:4). [2] A prince of the tribe of Dan (Num. 34:22).

**Bukkiah** ("proved of Jehovah; mouth of Jehovah"), a son of Heman and musician in the temple (1 Chron. 25:4, 13).

**Bunah** ("understanding"), a son of Jerahmeel (1 Chron. 2:25).

**Bunni** ("my understanding"). [1] An ancestor of Shemaiah the Levite (Neh. 11:15). [2] A Levite who helped Ezra in teaching the Law (Neh. 9:4). [3] One who sealed the new covenant with God after the Exile (Neh. 10:15).

**Buz** ("contempt"). [1] The second son of Nahor, the brother of Abraham (Gen. 22:21). [2] A descendant of Gad (1 Chron. 5: 14).

**Buzi** ("despised by Jehovah"), a descendant of Aaron and father of Ezekiel (Ezek. 1:3).

End of the B's.

[Click here to go to the Main Menu](#)