

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).

P

Paarai ("revelation of Jehovah" or "devotee of Peor"), one of David's mighty men (2 Sam. 23:35); probably the same as Naarai (1 Chron. 11:37).

Padon ("redemption"), one who returned with Zerubbabel (Ezra 2:44; Neh. 7:47).

Pagiel ("God's intervention"), a chief of Asher (Num. 1:13; 2:27).

Pahath-Moab ("ruler of Moab"), one whose descendants returned from the Exile (Ezra 2:6; Neh. 3:11). [2] Another of the same clan who returned from exile (Ezra 8:4). [3] The name of a family sealing the covenant (Neh. 10:14).

Palal ("judge"), one who helped rebuild the wall (Neh. 3:25).

Pallu [Phallu] ("distinguished"), a son of Reuben (Gen. 46:9; Exod. 6:14; 1 Chron. 5:3).

Palti ("Jehovah delivers"), the man selected from Benjamin to spy out the land (Num. 13:9).

Paltiel [Phaltiel] ("God delivers"). [1] A prince of the tribe of Issachar (Num. 34:26). [2] The man who married David's wife (2 Sam. 3:15). He is called Phalti ("Jehovah delivers") in 1 Sam. 25:44.

Parmashta ("stronger"), a son of Haman (Esther 9:9).

Parmenas ("steadfast"), one of the seven deacons (Acts 6:5).

Parnach ("gifted"), a descendant of Zebulun (Num. 34:25).

Parosh [Pharosh] ("fleeing; fugitive"). [1] One whose descendants returned from the Exile (Ezra 2:3; Neh. 7:8). [2] Another whose family returned from the Exile (Ezra 8:3). [3] One whose descendants had taken foreign wives during the Exile (Ezra 10:25). [4] One who sealed the covenant (Neh. 10:14). [5] The father of one who helped repair the wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 3:25). All of these are possibly the same.

Parshandatha ("given by prayer"), a son of Haman slain by the Jews (Esther 9:7).

Paruah ("blooming"), father of Jehoshaphat (1 Kings 4:17).

Pasach ("limping"), a descendant of Asher (1 Chron. 7:33).

Paseah [Phaseah] ("limping"). [1] A descendant of Judah through Caleb (1 Chron. 4:12). [2] One whose family returned (Ezra 2:49; Neh. 7:51). [3] Father of Jehoiada, who helped repair the wall (Neh. 3:6).

Pashur ("splitter; cleaver"). [1] Head of a priestly family (1 Chron. 9:12; Ezra 2:38; Neh. 7:41). [2] A

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priest who sealed the new covenant with God after the Exile (Neh. 10:3). [3] A priest, the "chief governor in the house of the Lord" who persecuted Jeremiah (Jer. 20:1-6; 38:1). [4] Son of Melchiah, a prince of Judah (Jer. 21:1; 38:1).

Pathrusim (a personification of the people of Pathros), a descendant of Mizraim (Gen. 10:14; 1 Chron. 1:12).

Patrobas ("paternal"), a Roman Christian (Rom. 16:14).

Paul (Latin, Paulus—"little"), a Pharisee who studied Jewish law under Gamaliel (Acts 21:39). He was converted and made an apostle to the Gentiles (Acts 26:12-20). Perhaps he changed his name from Saul to Paul in humility. The Book of Acts tells of his missionary journeys.

Pedahel ("whom God redeems"), a prince of Naphtali (Num. 34:28).

Pedahzur ("the rock delivers"), father of Gamaliel (Num. 1:10; 2:20).

Pedaiah ("Jehovah delivers"). [1] Father of Joel (1 Chron. 27:20). [2] Grandfather of King Josiah (2 Kings 23:36). [3] Son or grandson of Jeconiah (1 Chron. 3:18-19). [4] One who helped to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 3:25). [5] One who stood with Ezra when he read the Law (Neh. 8:4; 13:13). [6] A descendant of Benjamin (Neh. 11:7).

Pekah ("opening"), a usurper of the throne of Israel; he ruled for twenty years (2 Kings 15:25-31).

Pekahiah ("Jehovah watches"), son and successor of Menahem on the throne of Israel. He was murdered by Pekah (2 Kings 15:22-26).

Pelaiah ("Jehovah is distinguished"). [1] A son of Elioenai (1 Chron. 3:24). [2] A Levite who explained the Law when Ezra read it (Neh. 8:7). [3] A Levite who sealed the covenant (Neh. 10:10); he may be the same as [2].

Pelialiah ("Jehovah judges"), a priest whose grandson dwelled in Jerusalem after the Exile (Neh. 11:12).

Pelathiah ("Jehovah delivers"). [1] One who sealed the new covenant with God after the Exile (Neh. 10:22). [2] A descendant of David (1 Chron. 3:21). [3] A captain of Simeon (1 Chron. 4:42-43). [4] A wicked prince seen in Ezekiel's vision (Ezek. 11:1, 13).

Peleg [**Phalec**] ("division"), son of Eber and ancestor of Christ (Gen. 10:25; 11:16; Luke 3:35).

Pelet ("deliverance"). [1] A son of Jahdai of the family of Caleb (1 Chron. 2:47). [2] One who joined David at Ziklag (1 Chron. 12:3).

Peleth ("flight; haste"). [1] Father of On (Num. 16:1). [2] A son of Jonathan and a descendant of Pharez (1 Chron. 2:33).

Peninnah ("coral; pearl"), second wife of Elkanah, father of Samuel (1 Sam. 1:2,4).

Penuel ("face of God"). [1] A descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8:25). [2] A chief or father of Gedar (1 Chron. 4:4).

Peresh ("separate"), son of Machir, son of Manasseh (1 Chron. 7:16).

Perez [**Phares; Pharez**] ("bursting through"), eldest son of Judah and an ancestor of Christ (1 Chron. 27:3; Neh. 11:4). He is also called Pharez {Gen. 38:29; 46:12; Luke 3:33}.

Perida [**Peruda**] ("separation"), one whose descendants returned from the Exile (Neh. 7:57; Ezra 2:55).

Persis ("Persian"), a Christian woman at Rome (Rom. 16:12).

Peruda. *See* Perida.

Peter ("stone; rock"), a fisherman called to be an apostle of Christ. He became one of the leaders of the early church (Matt. 4:18-20; 16:15-19; Acts 2). Christ changed this man's name from Simon to a name meaning "rock" (*Cephas* in Aramaic, *Peter* in Greek).

Pethahiah ("Jehovah opens up"). [1] A chief Levite in the time of David (1 Chron. 24:16). [2] A Levite having a foreign wife (Ezra 10:23). [3] A descendant of Judah (Neh. 11:24). [4] A Levite who regulated the devotions of the people after Ezra had finished reading the Law (Neh. 9:5).

Pethuel ("God's opening"), father of Joel the prophet (Joel 1:1).

Peulthai ("Jehovah's seed"), a son of Obed-edom and gatekeeper in the time of David (1 Chron. 26:5).

Phalec, Greek form of Peleg (q.v.).

Phallu. *See* Pallu.

Phalti. *See* Paltiel [2].

Phaltiel. *See* Paltiel.

Phanuel ("vision of God"), father of Anna (Luke 2:36).

Pharaoh ("inhabitant of the palace"). [1] Royal title of Egyptian kings, equivalent to our word king (Gen. 12:15; 37:36; Exod. 2:15; 1 Kings 3:1; Isa. 19:11). [2] Father of Bithia, wife of Mered (1 Chron. 4:18).

Phares, Greek form of Perez (q.v.).

Pharez. *See* Perez.

Pharosh. *See* Parosh.

Phaseah. *See* Paseah.

Phebe ("shining"), a servant of the church at Corinth or Cenchrea who helped Paul (Rom. 16:1).

Phichol ("dark water"), a captain or captains of the army of Abimelech, king of the Philistines (Gen. 21:22; 26:26). Some scholars think this is not a proper name (nor Abimelech), but a Philistine military title. Abraham and Isaac journeyed to Gerar many years apart but yet both encountered an Abimelech and Phichol residing there. If these names are titles, that would help explain this puzzling situation. *See* Abimelech.

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Philemon ("friendship"), a convert at Colossae to whom Paul wrote an epistle on behalf of his runaway servant, Onesimus (Philem. 1, 5-7).

Philetus ("amiable"), a convert who was condemned by Paul because of his stand on the Resurrection (2 Tim. 2:17).

Philip ("lover of horses"). [1] One of the twelve apostles of Christ (Matt. 10:3; John 1:44-48; 6:5-9). [2] An evangelist mentioned several times in Acts (Acts 6:5; 8:5-13). [3] See Herod [3], [4].

Philologus ("a lover of learning"), a Roman Christian to whom Paul sent greetings (Rom. 16:15).

Phinehas ("mouth of brass"). [1] Grandson of Aaron and high priest (Exod. 6:25; Num. 25:6-18; 1Chron. 6:4; 9:20). [2] Younger son of Eli; he was a priest who abused his office (1 Sam. 1:3; 2:22-24, 34). [3] Father of Eleazar (Ezra 8:33).

Phlegon ("burning"), a Roman Christian (Rom. 16:14).

Phurah ("beauty"), a servant of Gideon (Judg. 7:10-11).

Phut [Put] ("bow"), the third son of Ham (Gen. 10:6; 1 Chron. 1:8).

Phuvah [Pua; Puah] ("utterance"). [1] Second son of Issachar (Gen. 46: 13; Num. 26:23; 1 Chron. 7: 1). [2] Father of Tola the judge (Judg. 10:1).

Phygellus ("fugitive"), one who deserted Paul in Asia (2 Tim. 1:15).

Pilate. See Pontius Pilate.

Pildash ("flame of fire"), a son of Nahor, Abraham's brother (Gen. 22:22).

Pileha ("worship"), one who sealed the covenant (Neh. 10:24).

Piltai ("Jehovah causes to escape"), a priest in Jerusalem in the days of Joiakim (Neh. 12:17).

Pinon ("darkness"), a chief of Edom (Gen. 36:41; 1 Chron. 1:52).

Piram ("indomitable" or "wild"), an Amorite king slain by Joshua (Josh. 10:3).

Pispah ("expansion"), a descendant of Asher (1 Chron. 7:38).

Pithon ("harmless"), a son of Micah and great-grandson of Saul (1 Chron. 8:35).

Pochereth ("binding"), one whose children returned (Ezra 2:57; Neh. 7:59).

Pontius Pilate (Latin, *Pontius Pilatus*—"marine dart-carrier"), a Roman procurator of Judea. When Christ was brought before him for judgment, Pilate, fearing the Jews, turned him over to the people even though he found him not guilty (Matt. 27:2-24; John 18:28-40).

Poratha ("favored"), a son of Haman slain by the Jews (Esther 9:8).

Porcius Festus. See Festus.

Potiphar ("belonging to the sun-god"), Egyptian captain of the guard who became the master of Joseph (Gen. 37:36; 39).

Poti-pherah ("given of the sun-god"), a priest of On; father-in-law of Joseph (Gen. 41:45, 50).

Prisca, shortened form of Priscilla (q. v.).

Priscilla [Prisca] ("ancient one"), the wife of Aquila; a Jewish Christian deeply loyal to her faith (Acts 18:2, 18, 26; Rom. 16:3).

Prochorus ("choir leader"), one of the seven deacons (Acts 6:5).

Pua. See Phuvah.

Puah. See Phuvah.

Publius ("common; first"), governor of Malta who courteously received Paul and his company when they were shipwrecked (Acts 28: 1-10).

Pudens ("shame faced"), a Roman Christian (2 Tim. 4:21).

Pul. See Tiglath-pileser.

Put. See Phut.

Putiel ("God enlightens"), father-in-law of Eleazer, son of Aaron (Exod. 6:25).

End of the P's.

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