

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).

U

Ucal. *See* Ithiel.

Uel ("will of God"), a son of Bani who had taken a foreign wife (Ezra 10:34).

Ulam ("solitary" or "preceding"). **[1]** A descendant of Manasseh, the son of Peresh (1 Chron. 7:16-17). **[2]** A descendant of Benjamin whose sons were "mighty men of valor", (1 Chron. 8:39-40).

Ulla ("elevation; burden"), a descendant of Asher (1 Chron. 7:39).

Unni ("answering is with Jehovah"). **[1]** One of the Levites chosen as singers (1 Chron. 15: 10, 18,20). **[2]** A Levite that returned to the land with Zerubbabel (Neh. 12:9).

Ur ("flame; light"), father of one of David's mighty men (1 Chron. 11:35).

Urbane [Urbanus] ("pleasant; witty"), a faithful Roman Christian whom Paul greeted (Rom. 16:9).

Uri ("enlightened; my light"; a contracted form of Uriah). **[1]** The son of Hur, and father of Bezaleel (Exod. 31:1-2; 1 Chron. 2:20). **[2]** The father of Geber (1 Kings 4: 19). **[3]** A porter of Levi who had married a foreign wife (Ezra 10:24).

Uriah [Urias; Urijah] ("Jehovah is my light"). **[1]** A Hittite soldier in David's army. He was killed in a fierce battle, for David, desiring to marry his wife, Bath-sheba, had placed him on the front battle line (2 Sam. 11). **[2]** A priest under Ahaz who built a pagan altar on the king's command; then placed it in the temple (2 Kings 16:10-16). **[3]** A prophet whose message of judgment so offended Jehoiakim that he murdered him (Jer. 26:20,23). **[4]** A priest, the father of Meremoth (Ezra 8:33; Neh. 3:4, 21). **[5]** A man who stood by Ezra when he read the Law (Neh. 8:4). Possibly the same as [4]. **[6]** A priest whom Isaiah took as a witness (Isa. 8:2).

Urias, Greek form of Uriah (q.v.).

Urijah. *See* Uriah.

Uriel ("God is my light"). **[1]** A chief of the sons of Kohath (1 Chron. 6:24; 15:5, 11). Possibly the same as Zephaniah **[2]**. **[2]** Father of Michaiah, one of Rehoboam's sons (2 Chron. 13:2).

Uthai ("my iniquity; Jehovah is help"). **[1]** A son of Bigvai who returned to the land of Israel with Ezra (Ezra 8: 14). **[2]** A descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 9:4).

Uz ("counsel; firmness"). **[1]** Eldest son of Aram (Gen. 10:23; 1Chron. 1:17). **[2]** A son of Dishon (Gen. 36:28; 1 Chron. 1:42).

Uzai ("hoped for"), the father of Palal (Neh. 3:25).

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Uzal ("wandering"), a son of Joktan (Gen. 10:27; 1 Chron. 1:21).

Uzza [Uzzah] ("strength"). [1] A man who was struck dead by God when he touched the ark of the covenant (2 Sam. 6:2-7; 1 Chron. 13:6-10). [2] A descendant of Memri (1 Chron. 6:29). [3] A descendant of Ehud (1 Chron. 8:7). [4] An ancestor of a Nethinim family that returned from Babylon (Ezra 2:49; Neh. 7:51).

Uzzah. See Uzza.

Uzzi ("Jehovah is strong" or "my strength"). [1] A descendant of Issachar (1 Chron. 7: 1-3). [2] Chief of a priestly family of Jedaiah (Neh. 12:19, 42). [3] Descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 7:7). [4] The overseer of the Levites at Jerusalem (Neh. 11:22). [5] The father of Elah, a descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 9:8). [6] A son of Bukki; even though in the line of high priests, he does not seem to have held this office (1 Chron. 6:5-6,51; Ezra 7:4).

Uzzia ("Yahweh is strong"), one of David's valiant men (1 Chron. 11:44).

Uzziah [Ozias] ("Jehovah is strong" or "my strength is Jehovah"). [1] The eleventh king of Judah. When he attempted to offer incense unlawfully, God struck him with leprosy. He was also called Azariah (2 Kings 15: 1-8; 2 Chron. 26). He was an ancestor of Christ (Matt. 1:8, 9). [2] A Levite descended from Kohath and ancestor of Samuel (1 Chron. 6:24). [3] Father of Jehonathan (1 Chron. 27:25). [4] A priest who had married a foreign wife (Ezra 10:21). [5] A descendant of Judah (Neh. 11:4).

Uzziel ("God is my strength" or "God is strong"). [1] The ancestor of the Uzzielites; the son of Kohath (Exod. 6:18). [2] Captain of the sons of Simeon (1 Chron. 4:42). [3] A son of Bela and grandson to Benjamin (1 Chron. 7:7). [4] An assistant wall-builder (Neh. 3:8). [5] A Levite, son of Jeduthun, who helped to cleanse the temple (2 Chron. 29: 14). [6] A musician set by David over the service of song in the temple (1 Chron. 25:4). Uzziel is the same as Azareel in verse 18.

V

Vajezatha ("born of Ized" or "given-of the-Best-One"), one of the sons of Haman slain by the Jews (Esther 9:9).

Vaniah ("praise, or nourishment, of Jehovah"), a son of Bani who had sinned by marrying a foreign wife (Ezra 10:36).

Vashni ("the second"), according to 1 Chronicles 6:28, the firstborn son of Samuel, but 1 Samuel 8:2 states Joel was his firstborn. Because of this, some scholars follow the Septuagint and Syriac versions, where verse 28 reads thus: "And the sons of Samuel: the first-born, Joel, and the second Abiah."

Vashti ("beautiful woman; best"), the queen of Persia who was divorced by King Ahasuerus because she refused to come to his great feast (Esther 1:10-22).

Vophsi ("fragrant; rich"), a descendant of Naphtali, the father of Nahbi the spy (Num. 13:14).

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End of the V's.

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