

# ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE

## I

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).

**Ibhar** ("chooser; Jehovah chooses"), one of David's sons born at Jerusalem (2 Sam. 5:15; 1 Chron. 3:6).

**Ibneiah [Ibnijah]** ("Jehovah builds up"). **[1]** A descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 9:8). **[2]** A man of Benjamin whose descendants lived in Jerusalem (1 Chron. 9:8).

**Ibnijah.** *See* Ibneiah.

**Ibri** ("one who passes over; a Hebrew"), a descendant of Merari in the time of David (1 Chron. 24:27).

**Ibzan** ("famous; splendid"), a Bethlehemite who judged Israel for seven years (Judg. 12:8-10).

**Ichabod** ("inglorious"), son of Phinehas, born after his father's death and after the ark was taken (1 Sam. 4: 19-22).

**Idbash** ("honey-sweet"), one of the sons of Abi-etam (1 Chron. 4:3).

**Iddo** ("honorable; happy"), the official of Casiphia who provided Levites for Ezra (Ezra 8: 17).

**Iddo** ("beloved"). **[1]** Captain of the tribe of Manasseh in Gilead (1 Chron. 27:21). **[2]** A descendant of Gershon (1 Chron. 6:21); called Adaiah in 1 Chronicles 6:41.

**Iddo** ("timely"). **[1]** Father of Abinadab (1 Kings 4: 14). **[2]** Grandfather of the prophet Zechariah (Zech. 1:7; Ezra 5:1).

**Iddo** ("adorned"). **[1]** A prophet who wrote about the kings of Israel (2 Chron. 9:29; 2 Chron. 12:15). **[2]** A priest who returned to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel (Neh. 12:4); perhaps the same as **[1]**.

**Igal [Igeal]** ("Jehovah redeems"). **[1]** One of the twelve spies sent to search out Canaan (Num. 13:7). **[2]** One of David's heroes (2 Sam. 23:36). **[3]** A descendant of the royal house of Judah (1 Chron. 3:22).

**Igdaliah** ("Jehovah is great"), ancestor of persons who had a "chamber" in the temple (Jer. 35:4).

**Igeal.** *See* Igal.

**Ikkesh** ("subtle" or "crooked"), father of Ira, one of David's mighty men (2 Sam. 23:26; 1 Chron. 11:28; 27:9).

**Ilai.** *See* Zalmon.

**Imla [Imlah]** ("fullness"), father of Micaiah (2 Chron. 18:7-8).

**Imlah.** *See* Imla.

**Immer** ("loquacious; prominent"). **[1]** A priest in the time of David (1 Chron. 24: 14). **[2]** A priest of Jeremiah's time (Jer. 20: 1). **[3]** The father of Zadok (Neh. 3:29). **[4]** One who returned from Babylon without a genealogy (Ezra 2:59; Neh. 7:61). **[5]** A family of

# ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE

priests who gave their name to the sixteenth course of the temple service (1 Chron. 9: 12; Ezra 2:37; Neh.7:40).

**Imna [Jimna; Jimnah; Imnah]** ("lugging"). [1] A descendant of Asher (Gen. 46: 17; 1 Chron. 7:35). [2] A son of Asher (Num. 26:44; 1 Chron. 7:30). [3] Father of Kore in Hezekiah's reign (2 Chron. 31:14).

**Imnah.** See Imna.

**Imrah** ("height of Jehovah" or "stubborn"), a descendant of Asher (1 Chron. 7:36).

**Imri** ("talkative; projecting "), [1] A descendant of Judah (1 Chron . 9:4), [2] Father of Zaccur, one of Nehemiah's assistants (Neh. 3:2).

**Iphedeiah** (" Jehovah redeems "), a descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8:25).

**Ir** ("watcher " or "city "), a descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 7:12); possibly the same as Iri (v. 7). Not to be confused with Ir-nahash.

**Ira** ("watchful"). [1] A priest to David (2 Sam, 20:26). [2] One of David 's thirty mighty men (1 Chron . 11:28; 2 Sam. 23:38) and a captain of the temple guard (1'Chron. 27:9). [3] Another of David 's thirty (1 Chron . 11:40; 2 Sam. 23:26).

**Irad** ("fleet"), a descendant of Enoch (Gen. 4:18).

**Iram** ("citizen"), a duke of Edom (Gen. 36:43).

**Iri** ("watchfu l"), a descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 7:7); possibly the same as Ir (v. 12),

**Irijah** ("seen of Jehovah"), a captain of the gate who arrested Jeremiah (Jer. 37:13-14).

**Ir-nahash** ("serpent city"), a descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 4:12).

**Iru** ("watch"), a son of Caleb (1 Chron. 4:15).

**Isaac** ("laughter"), the son of Abraham and Sarah, born to them in their old age. He was the father of Jacob and Esau and an ancestor of Christ (Gen. 21-25; Matt. 1:2).

**Isaiah [Esaias]** ("salvation of Jehovah"), called the "prince of prophets "; his career lasted over sixty years. He foretold the coming of Christ (Isa. 1:1; 7:14; 9:6; 52:12-53).

**Iscah** ("Jehovah is looking" or "who looks"), daughter of Haran, sister of Milcah, and niece of Abraham (Gen. 11:29).

**Iscariot.** See Judas Iscariot .

**Ishbah** ("praising ; appeaser "), a descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 4:17).

**Ishbak** ("leaning; free"), son of Abraham and father of a northern Arabian tribe (Gen. 25:2; 1 Chron . 1:32).

**Ishbi-benob** ("dweller at Nob"), one of the sons of Rapha the Philistine; he attacked David but was killed by Abishai (2 Sam. 21: 15-22).

**Ish-bosheth [Esh-baal]** ("man of shame"), son and successor of King Saul. He reigned two years before being defeated by David (2 Sam. 2:8-15; 3:8, 14-15; 4:5-

12). He also was known as Esh-baal (1 Chron. 8:33; 9:39).

**Ishi** ("my husband" or "salutary"). [1] A descendant of Pharez , son of Judah (1 Chron. 2:31). [2] A descendant of Judah (1 Chron . 4:20). [3] A descendant of Simeon (1 Chron. 4:42). [4] A chief of the tribe of Manasseh (1 Chron. 5:24).

**Ishiah.** See Isshiah.

**Ishijah.** See Isshiah.

**Ishma** ("high" or "desolate"), a brother of Jezreel and Idbash, all descendants of Caleb (1 Chron. 4:3).

**Ishmael** ("God hears"). [1] Son of Abraham and Hagar; his descendants are the Arabian nomads (Gen. 16:11-16; 17:18-26; 25:9-17; 28:9; 36:3). [2] The cunning son of Nethaniah and traitor of Israel (Jer. 40:8-41:18). [3] A descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. \_8:38). [4] Father of Zebadiah (2 Chron. 19:11). [5] A captain in the time of Johoiada and Joash (2 Chron. 23:1). [6] A Levite who married a foreign wife during the Exile (Ezra 10:22).

**Ishmaiah [Ismaiah]** ("Jehovah hears"). [1] A chief of Zebulun in David's time (1 Chron. 27: 19). [2] A chief of Gibeon who joined David at Ziklag (1.Chron. 12:4).

**Ishmerai** ("Jehovah is keeper" or "to guard"), a descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8:18).

**Ishod** ("man of majesty"), a man of Manasseh (1 Chron. 7: 18).

**Ish-pan** ("he will hide"), a chief man of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8:22).

**Ishuah [Isuah]** ("he will level"), second son of Asher (Gen. 46:17; 1 Chron. 7:30).

**Ishui [Ishuai; Isui; Jesui]** ("equal"). [1] Third son of Asher (Gen. 46:17; Num. 26:44; 1 Chron. 7:30). [2] A son of King Saul by Ahinoam (1 Sam. 14:49).

**Ismachiah** ("Jehovah will sustain"), an overseer under King Hezekiah (2 Chron. 31:13).

**Ismaiah.** See Ishmaiah.

**Ispah** ("firm"), a descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8: 16).

**Israel.** See Jacob.

**Issachar** ("reward"). [1] Ninth son of Jacob and ancestor of one of the twelve tribes of Israel (Gen. 30:17-18; 49:14-15). [2] A tabernacle porter (1 Chron. 26:5).

**Isshiah [Ishiah; Ishijah]** (" Jehovah exists"). [1] One of David's chiefs (1 Chron. 7:3). [2] See Jesiah [2]. [3] A man who took a foreign wife during the Exile (Ezra 10:31). [4] A descendant of Moses (1 Chron. 24:21). See Isaiah.

**Isuah.** See Ishuah.

**Isui.** See Ishui.

**Ithai** ("being"), one of David's thirty mighty men (1 Chron. 11:31). He is called Ittai in 2 Samuel 23:29.

# ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE

**Ithamar** ("land; island of palms"), a son of Aaron (Exod. 6:23; 28:1); Eli was high priest of his line (1 Chron. 24:6).

**Ithiel** ("God is"), a man of the tribe of Benjamin (Neh. 11:7).

**Ithiel and Ucal** ("signs of God"; or verb meaning "to be weary"), the names of two wise men to whom Agur spoke his words. Some scholars believe these are not proper names, but two verbs. If so, the last part of verse 1 would read: "The man said, I have wearied myself, O God, I have wearied myself, O God, and am consumed" (Prov. 30: 1).

**Ithmah** (purity"), a Moabite, one of David's guards (1 Chron. 11:46).

**Ithra** ("abundance"), the father of Amasa, Absalom's captain (2 Sam. 17:25). He was also known as Jether (1 Kings 2:5, 32).

**Ithran** ("excellent"). [1] A descendant of Seir (Gen. 36:26). [2] A son of Zophah of Asher (1 Chron. 7:37).

**Ithream** ("residue of the people"), a son of David probably by Eglah (2 Sam. 3:5).

**Ittai** ("timely"). [1] A Philistine friend and general of David (2 Sam. 15:11,22; 18:2,4, 12). [2] See Ithai.

**Izhar [Izhar]** ("shining"), a Levite, the father of Korah (Exod. 6:18-21; Num. 3: 19).

**Izrahiah** ("Jehovah shines"), a descendant of Issachar (1 Chron. 7:3).

**Izri** ("creator"), leader of the fourth musical course (1 Chron. 25: 11); perhaps the same as Zeri (v. 3).



**Isaiah inscription.** Archaeologists excavating the Western Wall of the temple in Jerusalem found this stone, bearing a portion of Isaiah 66:14. Carved during the fourth century A.D., the inscription encouraged the Jews with Isaiah's prophetic words: "And when ye see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb..." Less than 32 km. (20 mi.) to the southeast is the barren territory of the Dead Sea.

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