

# 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).

## K

**Kadmiel** ("God the primeval" or "before God"). **[1]** One whose descendants returned from Exile (Ezra 2:40; Neh. 7:43). **[2]** One who helped rebuild the temple (Ezra 3:9). **[3]** Levite who led the devotions of the people (Neh. 9:4, 5; 10:9).

**Kallai** ("Jehovah is light" or "swift"), a priest who returned with Zerubbabel (Neh. 12:20).

**Kareah** [**Careah**] ("bald head"), the father of Johanan and Jonathan (Jer. 40:8). The KJV spells the name Careah in 2 Kings 25:23.

**Kedar** ("powerful" or "dark"), second son of Ishmael (Gen. 25:13; 1 Chron. 1:29).

**Kedemah** ("eastward"), a son of Ishmael, head of a clan (Gen. 25:13; 1 Chron. 1:31).

**Keilah** ("fortress"), a descendant of Caleb (1 Chron. 4:19).

**Kelaiah** ("Jehovah is light; swift for Jehovah"), one of the priests who married a foreign wife during the Exile (Ezra 10:23). Possibly the same as Kelita (q.v.).

**Kelita** ("littleness"). **[1]** A priest who explained the Law when it was read by Ezra (Neh. 8:7). **[2]** One of those who sealed the covenant (Neh. 10:10); possibly the same as **[1]**. One or both of these names may be the same as Kelaiah (q.v.).

**Kemuel** ("God stands" or "God's mound"). **[1]** A son of Nahor and a nephew of Abraham (Gen. 22:21). **[2]** A prince of Ephraim (Num. 34:24). **[3]** A Levite (1 Chron. 27:17).

**Kenan.** *See* Cainan.

**Kenaz** [**Kenez**] ("side" or "hunting"). **[1]** A duke of Edom (Gen. 36:42; 1 Chron. 1:53). **[2]** The fourth son of Eliphaz (Gen. 36:11, 15; 1 Chron. 1:36); perhaps the same as **[1]**. **[3]** Father of Othniel the judge (Josh. 15:17; Judg. 1:13). **[4]** A grandson of Caleb (1 Chron. 4:15).

**Keren-Happuch** ("horn of antimony"), the third daughter of Job to be born after his restoration to health (Job 42:14).

**Keros** ("fortress; crooked"), ancestor of a clan who returned from Exile to the land of Israel (Ezra 2:44; Neh. 7:47).

**Keturah** ("incense"), a wife of Abraham (Gen. 25:1, 4; 1 Chron. 1:32).

**Kezia** ("cassia"), the second daughter of Job to be born after his restoration from affliction (Job 42:14).

**Kish** [**Cis**] ("bow; power"). **[1]** A son of Gibeon (1 Chron. 8:30; 9:36). **[2]** A Levite in David's time (1 Chron. 23:21; 24:29). **[3]** A descendant of Levi who assisted in the cleansing of the temple under Hezekiah (2 Chron. 29:

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12). [4] Great-grandfather of Mordecai (Esther 2:5). [5] The father of King Saul (1 Sam. 9:1, 3; 14:51; Acts 13:21).

**Kishi** ("snarer; fowler"), father of Ethan, also known as Kushaiah ("bow of Jehovah" ; 1 Chron. 6:44; 15:17).

**Kittim** ("knotty"), a son of Javan; his descendants became the inhabitants of Cyprus and the islands nearby (Gen. 10:4; 1 Chron. 1:7).

**Koa** ("male camel"), a prince or people dwelling between Egypt and Syria; named as enemy of Jerusalem (Ezek. 23:23).

**Kohath** ("assembly"), the second son of Levi and beginning of a priestly clan (Gen. 46: 11; Exod. 6: 16, 18).

**Kolaiah** ("voice of Jehovah"). [1] A descendant of Benjamin (Neh. 11:7). [2] Father of the false prophet Ahab (Jer. 29:21).

**Korah [Core]** ("baldness"). [1] A son of Esau by Aholibamah (Gen. 36:5, 14, 18; 1 Chron. 1:35). [2] A son of Eliphaz (Gen. 36: 16). [3] A son of Hebron (1 Chron. 2:43). [4] One of the leaders of the rebellion against Moses and Aaron; the earth swallowed them up (Num. 16:1-35). [5] Grandson of Kohath and ancestor of some sacred musicians (1 Chron. 6:22; Psa. 42; 45-46 titles).

**Kore** ("one who proclaims; quail"). [1] A Levite in charge of the freewill offerings in Hezekiah's time (2 Chron. 31:14). [2] A son of Asaph whose descendants were gatekeepers at the tabernacle (1 Chron. 9:19; 26:1, 19).

**Gibeon (?)** Archaeologists believe that this site, known as el-Jib, is the biblical Gibeon. God instructed Joshua to destroy all of the people of Canaan when the Israelites took the land, but the people of Gibeon tricked him into making a treaty with them. Neighboring Amorite kings attacked Gibeon for defecting to the Israelites, and Joshua came to their aid. God granted a hailstorm and an extension of the daylight hours to help Joshua defeat the Amorites (Josh. 9-10; 11 :19). The treaty remained in force during the time of Saul and David. When the Gibeonites demanded justice for murders that Saul had committed there, David gave them seven of Saul's sons to be executed (2 Sam, 21 :1-11).



**Koz** ("thorn"). [1] The ancestor of a priestly family returning from captivity (Ezra 2: 61; Neh. 7:63). In the Hebrew text, the name appears as *Hakkoz*; the KJV considers the Ha- of the name to be the prefixed Hebrew definite article—here denoting a *certain* family. Others take all the word as a name (i.e., *Hak-koz*). If this be the case, the Hakkoz of 1 Chronicles 24: 10 probably also refers to this person. [2] An ancestor of one who helped to repair the walls of Jerusalem (Neh. 3:4, 21).

**Kushaiah.** See Kishi.

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## L

**Laadah** ("order; festival"), a descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 4:21).

**Laadan** ("festive-born; ordered"). [1] A descendant of Ephraim (1 Chron. 7:26). [2] A Levite from the family of Gershon (1 Chron. 23:7-9; 26:21). Also known as Libni (Exod. 6:17; Num. 3:18).

**Laban** ("white; glorious"), the brother of Rebekah and father of Rachel and Leah. Jacob served him for seven years in order to marry Rachel, but Laban tricked him by substituting Leah at the wedding festivals (Gen. 24-31).

**Lael** ("belonging to God"), a descendant of Gershon (Num. 3:24).

**Lahad** ("oppression; dark colored"), a descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 4:2).

**Lahmi** ("warrior"), brother of Goliath, the giant (1 Chron. 20:5).

**Laiash** ("lion"), father of Phalti, who became the husband of Michal (1 Sam. 25:44; 2 Sam. 3:15).

**Lamech** ("strong youth; overthrewer"). [1] Father of Noah and ancestor of Christ (Gen. 5:25-31; Luke 3:36). [2]

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Father of Jabal and Jubal; he is the first recorded polygamist (Gen. 4: 18-26).

**Lapidoth** ("flames; torches"), the husband of Deborah, the prophetess (Judg. 4:4).

**Lazarus** (abridged form of Eleazar, "God has helped"). [1] The brother of Mary and Martha whom Jesus raised from the dead (John 11:1-12: 17). [2] A believing beggar who was carried to Abraham's bosom (Luke 16:19-31).

**Leah** ("weary"), Jacob's wife through the deception of her father, Laban (Gen. 29-31).

**Lebana [Lebanah]** ("white"), chief of a family of returning exiles (Ezra 2:45; Neh. 7:48).

**Lebanah.** *See* Lebana.

**Lebbaeus.** *See* Thaddeus.

**Lecah** ("walking; addition"), a descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 4:21).

**Lehabim** ("flame, red"), a descendant of Mizraim (Gen. 10:13; 1 Chron. 1:11). His descendants are possibly the Lubim (2 Chron. 12:3).

**Lemuel** ("Godward; dedicated"), an unknown king often supposed to be Solomon or Hezekiah, whose words are recorded in Proverbs 31:1-9.

**Letushim** ("hammered"), a son of Dedan (Gen. 25:3).

**Leummim** ("nations"), a son of Dedan (Gen. 25:3).

**Levi** ("joined"). [1] The third son of Jacob who avenged Dinah's wrong (Gen. 34:25-31), and went to Egypt with his father (Gen. 39:34; Exod. 6: 16). His descendants became the priests of Israel. [2] An ancestor of Christ (Luke 3:24). [3] An ancestor of Christ (Luke 3:29). [4] Another name of Matthew (q.v.).

**Libni** ("whiteness; distinguished"). [1] A son of Merari (1 Chron. 6:29). [2] *See* Laadan.

**Likhi** ("learned"), a descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 7: 19).

**Linus** ("net"), a Roman friend of Paul (2 Tim. 4:21).

**Lo-ammi** ("not my people"), symbolic name of Hosea's son (Hos. 1:9).

**Lois** ("pleasing; better"), the pious grandmother of Timothy (2 Tim. 1:5).

**Lo-ruhamah** ("receiving no compassion"), a figurative name of Hosea's daughter, indicating God's rejection of Israel (Hos. 1:6).

**Lot** ("veiled"), Abraham's nephew that escaped from wicked Sodom (Gen. 13:1-14; Gen. 19).

**Lotan** ("hidden"), an Edomite duke (Gen. 36:20-29).

**Lucas.** *See* Luke.

**Lucius** ("morning born; of light"). [1] A prophet or teacher from Cyrene ministering at Antioch (Acts 13: 1). [2] A Jewish Christian who saluted the community at Rome (Rom. 16:21). Perhaps the same as [1].

**Lud** (personification of the Lydians), a son of Shem (Gen. 10:22).

**Ludim** (the personification of an unknown nation near Egypt), a son of Mizraim (Gen. 10:13).

**Luke [Lucas]** ("light-giving"), evangelist, physician, and author of the Third Gospel and Acts (Col. 4: 14; 2 Tim. 4: 11; Philem. 24).

**Lydia** ("native of Lydia"), a woman convert of Thyatira (Acts 16:14-15).

**Lysanias** ("that drives away sorrow"), the tetrarch of Abilene (Luke 3: 1).

**Lysias.** *See* Claudius Lysias.

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