

# 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).

## O

**Obadiah** ("servant of Jehovah"). [1] The governor or prime minister of Ahab who tried to protect the prophets against Jezebel (1 Kings 18:3-16). [2] A descendant of David (1 Chron. 3:21). [3] A chief of the tribe of Issachar (1 Chron. 7:3). [4] A descendant of King Saul (1 Chron. 8:38; 9:44). [5] A man of the tribe of Zebulun (1 Chron. 27: 19). [6] A chief of the Gadites who joined David at Ziklag (1 Chron. 12:9). [7] One of the princes whom Jehoshaphat commissioned to teach the Law (2 Chron. 17:7-9). [8] A Levite overseer in work done on the temple (2 Chron. 34: 12). [9] The chief of a family that returned to Jerusalem (Ezra 8:9). [10] One who sealed the covenant with Nehemiah (Neh. 10:5). [11] A gatekeeper for the sanctuary of the temple (Neh. 12:25). [12] The fourth of the "minor prophets." His message was directed against Edom (Obad. 1). [13] See Abda [2].

**Obal.** See Ebal.

**Obed** ("servant"). [1] A son of Boaz and Ruth, father of Jesse, and ancestor of Christ (Ruth 4:17; Matt. 1:5; Luke 3:32). [2] A descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 2:37-38). [3] One of David's warriors (1 Chron. 11:47). [4] A Levite gatekeeper in David's time (1 Chron. 26:7). [5] Father of Azariah, who helped make Joash king of Judah (2 Chron. 23: 1).

**Obed-edom** ("servant of [the god] Edorn"). [1] A man who housed the ark for three months (2 Sam. 6: 10-12; 1Chron. 13:13-14). [2] One of the chief Levitical singers and doorkeepers (1 Chron. 15:18,21,24; 16:5,38; 26:4,8,15). [3] A temple treasurer or official, or perhaps the tribe that sprang from [2] (2 Chron. 25:24).

**Obil** ("camel-keeper" or "lender"), a descendant of Ishmael who attended to David's camels (1 Chron. 27:30).

**Ocran** ("troubler"), a descendant of Asher (Num. 1:13; 2:27).

**Oded** ("aiding " or "restorer "). [1] Father of Azariah the prophet (2 Chron. 15:1). [2] A prophet of Samaria who persuaded the northern army to free their Judean slaves (2 Chron. 28:9-15).

**Og** ("giant"), the giant king of Bashan, defeated at Edrei (Num. 21:33 -35; Deut. 3:1-13).

**Ohad** ("strength"), a son of Simeon (Gen. 46:10; Exod. 6:15) .

**Ohel** ("tent"), a son of Zerubbabel (1 Chron. 3:20).

**Olympas** (meaning unknown) , a Roman Christian (Rom. 16:15) .

**Omar** ("speaker ; mountaineer "), a grandson of Esau and a duke of Edom (Gen. 36: 15).

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**Omri** ("Jehovah apportions ; pupil"). [1] The sixth king of Israel and founder of the third dynasty. He founded Samaria and made it Israel's capital (1 Kings 16:15-28) . [2] A descendant of Benjamin, the son of Becher (1 Chron. 7:8). [3] A descendant of Perez living at Jerusalem (1 Chron . 9:4). [4] A prince of Issachar in the days of David (1 Chron . 27: 18).

**On** ("sun" or "strength"), a Reubenite who rebelled against Moses and Aaron (Num. 16:1).

**Onam** ("vigorous "). [1] A grandson of Seir (Gen. 36:23 ; 1 Chron. 1:40). [2] A son of Jerahmeel of Judah (1 Chron. 2:26, 28).

**Onan** ("vigorous "), the second son of Judah. He was slain by God for disobedience (Gen. 38:4-10; Num. 26:19) .

**Onesimus** ("useful"), a slave on whose behalf Paul wrote an epistle to his master, Philemon (Col. 4:9; Philem. 10, 15).

**Onesiphorus** ("profit-bringer"), a loyal friend of Paul's who often refreshed him in prison (2 Tim. 1:16; 4:19).

**Ophir** ("fruitful; rich"), a son of Joktan (Gen. 10:29; 1 Chron. 1:23).

**Ophrah** ("fawn; hamlet "), a descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 4: 14).

**Oreb** ("raven"), a Midianite chieftain defeated by Gibeon and beheaded by the Ephraimites (Judg. 7:25).

**Oren** ("pine; strength"), a son of Jerahmeel of Judah (1 Chron. 2:25)

**Ornan [Araunah]** ("active"), a Jebusite from whom David bought a piece of land, on which Solomon's temple was erected (1 Chron. 21:15-25). He is called Araunah ("Jehovah is firm") in 2 Samuel 24: 16.

**Orpah** ("fawn; youthful freshness"), daughter -in-law of Naomi (Ruth 1:4-14).

**Osee**, Greek form of Hosea (q.v.).

**Oshea**. *See* Joshua.

**Othni** ("Jehovah is power"), a Levite, son of Shemaiah and tabernacle gatekeeper in David's time (1 Chron. 26:7).

**Othniel** ("God is power"), Caleb's younger brother who liberated Israel from foreign rule (Judg. 1:13; 3:8-11 ; 1 Chron . 27: 15).

**Ozem** ("strength"). [1] A brother of David (1 Chron. 2: 15). [2] A son of Jerahmeel of Judah (1 Chron. 2:25).

**Ozias** , Greek form of Uzziah (q.v.).

**Ozni**. *See* Ezbon [1].

End of the O's.

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