

# ALL 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).

## D

**Dalaiah** ("Jehovah is deliverer" or "Jehovah has raised"), a descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 3:24). *See also* Delaiah.

**Dalphon** ("swift"), a son of Haman slain by the Jews (Esther 9:6-7, 10).

**Damaris** ("heifer"), an Athenian woman converted by Paul (Acts 17:34).

**Dan** ("judge"), the fifth son of Jacob and ancestor of one of the twelve tribes of Israel (Gen. 30:6; 49:16-17).

**Daniel** ("God is my judge."). **[1]** A prophet at the time of Nebuchadnezzar and Cyrus. His wisdom and faith earned him a position of esteem under Nebuchadnezzar and Darius (Dan. 1:1-6; 2; 6:1-2). **[2]** One of the sons of David (1 Chron. 3: 1). *See* Chileab. **[3]** A Levite of the line of Ithamar (Ezra 8:2; Neh. 10:6).

**Dara** ("bearer [pearl] of wisdom"), a son of Zerah (1 Chron. 2:6). Possibly the same as Darda (q.v.).

**Darda** ("bearer [pearl] of wisdom"), a wise man with whom Solomon was compared (1 Kings 4:31). *See also* Dara.

**Darius** ("he that informs himself"). **[1]** The sub-king of Cyrus who received the kingdom of Belshazzar (Dan. 5:30-6:28); also known as Darius the Mede. **[2]** The fourth king of Persia (Ezra 4:5; Hag. 1:1; Zech. 1:1); also called Hystaspis. **[3]** Darius II (Nothus) who ruled Persia and Babylon (Neh. 12:22).

**Darkon** ("carrier"), a servant of Solomon whose descendants returned to Palestine after the Exile (Ezra 2:56; Neh. 7:58).

**Dathan** ("front"), a chief of the tribe of Reuben who tried to overthrow Moses and Aaron (Num. 16; 26:9; Deut. 11:6).

**David** ("beloved"), the great statesman, general, and king of Israel. He united the divided tribes of Israel and made many preparations for the temple, which his son Solomon would complete (1 Sam. 16-1 Kings 2:11). He was an ancestor of Christ (Matt. 1:6).

**Deborah** ("bee"). **[1]** The nurse of Rebekah (Gen. 24:59; 35:8). **[2]** Prophetess and judge of Israel who helped to deliver her people from Jabin and Sisera (Judg. 4:4-14; 5).

**Dedan** (possibly the personification of a nation near the Red Sea). **[1]** A descendant of Cush (Gen. 10:7). **[2]** A son of Jokshan and grandson of Abraham (Gen. 25:3).

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Both [1] and [2] were founders of Arabian or Idumean tribes (Isa. 21:13). *See also* Dedan in "All the Places of the Bible."

**Dekar** ("lancer"), father of one of Solomon's commissaries (1 Kings 4:9).

**Delaiah** ("Jehovah has raised; Jehovah is deliverer"). [1]. One of David's priests (1 Chron. 24: 18). [2] A prince who urged Jehoiakim not to destroy the roll containing Jeremiah's prophecies (Jer. 36: 12,25). [3] Ancestor of a postexilic family that had lost its genealogy (Ezra 2:60; Neh. 7:62). [4] The father of Shemaiah (Neh. 6: 10). *See also* Dalaiah.

**Delilah** ("longing; dainty one"), a woman whom the Philistines paid to find Samson's source of strength (Judg. 16).

**Demas** ("popular"), a friend of Paul at Rome who later forsook him (Col. 4:14; 2 Tim. 4: 10; Philem. 24).

**Demetrius** ("belonging to Demeter"). [1] A Christian praised by John (3 John 12). [2] A silversmith who led the opposition against Paul at Ephesus (Acts 19:24-41).

**Deuel** ("knowledge of God"), father of Eliasaph (Num. 1:14). He is called Reuel in Numbers 2: 14; we do not know which name is original.

**Diblaim** ("two cakes; double embrace"), father-in-law of Hosea (Hos, 1:3).

**Dibri** ("eloquent" or "on the pasture born"), a descendant of Dan whose daughter married an Egyptian; her son was stoned for blasphemy (Lev. 24: 11).

**Didymus**. *See* Thomas.

**Diklah** ("place of palms"), a son of Joktan (Gen. 10:27; 1 Chron. 1:21).

**Dinah** ("justice"), the daughter of Jacob and Leah who was violated by Hamor; this resulted in a tribal war (Gen. 34).

**Dionysius** ("Bacchus"), a member of the supreme court at Athens converted by Paul (Acts 17:34).

**Diotrephes** ("nourished by Jupiter"), a person who opposed John's authority (3 John 9-10).

**Diphath**. *See* Riphath.

**Dishan** ("antelope" or "leaping"), a son of Seir (Gen. 36:21, 28, 30; 1 Chron. 1:38, 42). *See also* Dishon.

**Dishon** ("antelope" or "leaping"). [1] A son of Seir (Gen. 36:21, 30; 1 Chron. 1:38). [2] A grandson of Seir (Gen. 36:25; 1 Chron. 1:41). *See also* Dishan.

**Dodai**. *See* Dodo.

**Dodanim [Rodanim]** (personification of the Island of Rhodes), the son of Javan (Gen. 10:4). First Chronicles 1:7 states his name as Rodanim; many scholars consider Rodanim to be original.

**Dodavah** ("loved of Jehovah"), father of Eliezer (2 Chron. 20:37).

**Dodo [Dodai]** ("beloved"). [1] The grandfather of Tola, a judge (Judg. 10:1). [2] A commander of one of the divisions of David's army and father of Eleazar [3] (2 Sam. 23:9; 1 Chron. 11:12; 27:4). [3] Father of Elhanan [2] (2 Sam. 23:24; 1 Chron. 11:26).

**Doeg** ("anxious; cared for"), a servant of King Saul who executed the priests of Nob on Saul's orders (1 Sam. 21:7; 22:9-19).

**Dorcas**. *See* Tabitha.

**Drusilla** ("watered by dew"), a Jewess, the daughter of Herod Agrippa I and wife of Felix; she and Felix heard a powerful message of Paul's (Acts 24:24-25).

**En-gedi**. This spring of fresh water is En-gedi, where David hid from Saul (1 Sam. 23:29). Located in the northeast corner of the Negev Desert, the fountain creates an oasis rich with semi-tropical vegetation and celebrated for its palms, vineyards, and balsam (Song of Sol. 1:14).



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End of the D's.

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