

# 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).

## N

**Naam** ("pleasantness"), a son of Caleb (1 Chron. 4: 15).

**Naamah** ("pleasant"). [1] Daughter of Lamech and Zillah (Gen. 4:22). [2] A wife of Solomon and mother of Rehoboam (1 Kings 14:21; 2 Chron. 12: 13).

**Naaman** ("pleasantness"). [1] A Syrian general who was healed of leprosy by bathing in the Jordan (2 Kings 5; Luke 4:27). [2] Grandson of Benjamin (Gen. 26:38, 40). [3] A son of Benjamin and founder of a tribal family (Gen. 46:21).

**Naarah** ("a girl" or "posterity"), a wife of Ashur (1 Chron. 4:5,6).

**Naarai** ("youthful"), one of David's valiant men (1 Chron. 11:37). Probably the same as Paarai (2 Sam. 23:35).

**Naashon.** *See* Nahson.

**Naasson**, Greek form of Nahshon (q.v.).

**Nabal** ("foolish; wicked"), a wealthy Carmelite who refused David and his men food (1 Sam. 25).

**Naboth** ("a sprout"), the owner whom Jezebel had killed in order to obtain his vineyard (1 Kings 21:1-18).

**Nachon** ("stroke"). Scripture refers to the threshing floor of Nachon/Chidon (1 Sam. 6:6; 1 Chron. 13:9). This is either the combined name of two individuals, of two place names, or a combination of both. Chidon possibly means "destruction or a Javelin."

**Nachor**, Greek form of Nahor (q.v.).

**Nadab** ("liberal"). [1] Firstborn son of Aaron, struck dead for offering "strange fire" to God (Exod. 6:23; Lev. 10:1-3). [2] A descendant of Jerahmeel (1 Chron. 2:28, 30). [3] A brother of Gibeon (1 Chron. 8:30). [4] Son of Jeroboam I; he ruled Israel for two years (1 Kings 15:25-31).

**Nagge** ("splendor"), ancestor of Jesus (Luke 3:25). *See also* Neariah.

**Naham** ("comfort"), a descendant of Judah, a chieftain (1 Chron. 4: 19).

**Nahamani** ("compassionate"), one who returned with Zerubbabel (Neh. 7:7).

**Naharai** [**Nahari**] ("snorting one"), Joab's armor-bearer (1 Chron. 11:39; 2 Sam. 23:37).

**Nahari.** *See* Naharai.

**Nahash** ("oracle" or "serpent"). [1] The father of Abigail and Zeruah (2 Sam. 17:25). [2] An Ammonite king that was defeated by Saul (1 Sam. 11: 1-2; 12: 12). [3] Another king of Ammon (2 Sam. 10:2; 17:27; 1 Chron. 19: 1-2). Not to be confused with Ir-nahash, **Nahath** ("lowness"). [1] A descendant of Esau (Gen. 36:

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13; 1 Chron. 1:37). [3] An overseer of the offerings at the temple (2 Chron. 31: 13). [3] *See* Toah.

**Nahbi** ("Jehovah is protection"), the spy of Naphtali whom Moses sent out to explore Canaan (Num. 13: 14).

**Nahor [Nachor]** ("piercer"). [1] Grandfather of Abraham and ancestor of Christ (Gen. 11:22-25; Luke 3:34). [2] A brother of Abraham (Gen. 11:26-27,29; 22:20,23; Josh. 24:2).

**Nahshon [Naashon]** ("oracle"), a descendant of Judah and ancestor of Christ. Perhaps Aaron's brother-in-law (Exod. 6:23; Num. 1:7; Matt. 1:4).

**Nahum** ("comforter"), one of the later prophets; he prophesied against Nineveh (Nah. 1:1). Not to be confused with Naum.

**Naomi** ("pleasantness; my joy"), mother-in-law to Ruth (Ruth 1:2-4:17).

**Naphish** ("numerous"), son of Ishmael (Gen. 25:15; 1 Chron. 1:31).

**Naphtali** ("wrestling"), the sixth son of Jacob (Gen. 30:7-8). His descendants became one of the twelve tribes.

**Narcissus** (meaning unknown), a Roman Christian (Rom. 16: 11).

**Nathan** ("gift"). [1] Prophet and royal advisor to David (2 Sam. 7:2-17; 12:1-25). [2] A son of King David and ancestor of Christ (2 Sam. 5:14; 1 Chron. 3:5; Luke 3:31). [3] Father of Igal (2 Sam. 23:36). [4] A descendant of Jerahmeel (1 Chron. 2:36). [5] A companion of Ezra (Ezra 8:16). [6] One of those who had married a foreign wife (Ezra 10: 39). [7] Brother of Joel, one of David's valiant men (1 Chron. 11:38). [8] Father of Solomon's chief officer (1 Kings 4:5). [9] A chief man of Israel (Zech. 10:10). *See* Nathan-melech.

**Nathanael** ("God has given"), a Galilean called by Christ to be a disciple. He is probably to be identified with Bartholomew (John 1:45-49; 21:2; Acts 1:13). *See also* Bartholomew.

**Nathan-Melech** ("King's gift"), an official under Josiah (2 Kings 23: 11).

**Naum** ("comforter"), an ancestor of Christ (Luke 3:25). Not to be confused with Nahum.

**Neariah** ("Jehovah drives away"). [1] A descendant of David (1 Chron. 3:22). [2] A descendant of Simeon who smote the Amalekites in Mount Seir (1 Chron. 4:42). **Nebai** ("projecting"), a co-covenanter with Ezra (Neh. 10:19).

**Nebaioth [Nebajoth]** ("husbandry"), oldest son of Ishmael (Gen. 25:13; 28:9; 36:3; 1 Chron. 1:29).

**Nebajoth.** *See* Nebaioth.

**Nebat** ("cultivation"), father of Jeroboam I (1 Kings 11:26).

**Nebo** ("height"), an ancestor of Jews who had taken foreign wives during the Exile (Ezra 10:43).

**Nebuchadnezzar [Nebuchadrezzar]** (Babylonian, *Nabur-kudurri-utsur*—"may [the god] Nabu guard my boundary stones"), great king of the Babylonian Empire; he captured Jerusalem three times and carried Judah into captivity (2 Kings 24: 1, 10-11; 25: 1,8,22; Dan. 1-4).

**Nebushasban** ("Nabu delivers me"), a Babylonian prince (Jer. 39: 13).

**Nebuzaradan** (Babylonian, "[the god] Nabu has given seed"), a Babylonian captain of the guard at the siege of Jerusalem (2 Kings 25:8, 11, 20).

**Necho**, Pharaoh of Egypt who fought Josiah at Megiddo (2 Chron. 35:20).

**Nedabiah** ("Jehovah is willing"), a descendant of Jehoiakim king of Judah (1 Chron. 3:18).

**Nehemiah** ("Jehovah is consolation"). [1] Governor of Jerusalem; he helped rebuild the fallen city (Neh. 1:1; 8:9; 12:47). [2] A chief man who returned from the Exile (Ezra 2:2; Neh. 7:7). [3] One who repaired the wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 3: 16).

**Nehum.** *See* Rehum.

**Nehushta** ("basis; ground"), wife of Jehoiakim mother of Jehoiachin (2 Kings 24:8).

**Nekoda** ("herdsman"). [1] Head of a family of Nethinim (Ezra 2:48; Neh. 7:50). [2] The head of a family without genealogy after the Exile (Ezra 2:60; Neh. 7:62).

**Nemuel** ("God is speaking"). [1] A descendant of Reuben (Num. 26:9). [2] A son of Simeon (Num. 26: 12; 1 Chron. 4:24). In Genesis 46: 10; Exodus 6: 15, he is called Jemuel ("God is light").

**Nepheg** ("sprout; shoot"). [1] A brother of Korah (Exod. 6:21). [2] A son of David (2 Sam. 5: 15; 1 Chron. 3:7; 14:6).

**Nephishtesim [Nephusim]** ("expansions"), ancestor of returned captives (Neh. 7:52). He is called Nephusim in Ezra 2:50. This man is possibly identical with Naphish.

**Nephusim.** *See* Nephishtesim.

**Ner** ("light"). [1] An uncle of Saul, father of Abner (1 Sam. 14:50). [2] Grandfather of Saul (1Chron. 8:33; 9:39). These relationships are unclear. Abner may have been Saul's uncle. If so, Ner [1] and [2] are the same.

**Nereus** ("lamp"), a Roman Christian (Rom. 16:15).

**Nergal-sharezer** ("May the god Nergal defend the prince"), a Babylonian officer who released Jeremiah (Jer. 39:3, 13-14).

**Neri** ("whose lamp is Jehovah"), ancestor of Christ (Luke 3:27).

**Neriah** ("whose lamp is Jehovah"), father of Baruch (Jer. 32: 12, 16; 36:4, 8, 32).

**Nethaneel** ("God gives"). [1] Chief of Issachar whom Moses sent to spy out the land of Canaan (Num. 1:8; 2:5; 7:18, 23; 10:15). [2] Fourth son of Jesse (1 Chron. 2: 14). [3] One of the trumpet blowers when the ark of the covenant was brought up (1 Chron. 15:24). [4] A Levite

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(1 Chron. 24:6). [5] A son of Obed-edom and gatekeeper of the tabernacle (1 Chron. 26:4). [6] A prince commissioned by Jehoshaphat to teach the people (2 Chron. 17:7). [7] A Levite in the days of Josiah (2 Chron. 35:9). [8] A priest who married a foreign wife (Ezra 10:22). [9] A priest in the days of Joiakim (Neh. 12:21). [10] Levite musician at the purification ceremony (Neh. 12:36).

**Nethaniah** ("Jehovah gives"). [1] A musician in David's worship services (1 Chron. 25:2, 12). [2] A Levite whom Jehoshaphat sent to teach in Judah's cities (2 Chron. 17:8). [3] Father of Jehudi (Jer. 36:14). [4] Father of Ishmael, the murderer of Gedaliah (Jer. 40:8, 14-15; 41: 11).

**Neziah** ("preeminent"), head of a Nethinim family that returned to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel (Ezra 2:54; Neh. 7:56).

**Nicanor** ("conqueror"), one of the seven chosen in the ministry to the poor (Acts 6:5).

**Nicodemus** ("innocent blood"), a Pharisee and ruler of the Jews who assisted in Christ's burial (John 3:1-15; 7:50-52; 19:39-42).

**Nicolas** ("conqueror of the people"), one of the seven chosen to aid in the ministrations to the poor (Acts 6:5).

**Niger**, surname of Simeon (q.v.).

**Nimrod** ("valiant; strong"), a son of Cush (Gen. 10:8-9; 1 Chron. 1:10).

**Nimshi** ("Jehovah reveals"), an ancestor of Jehu (1 Kings 19:16; 2 Kings 9:2, 14).

**Noadiah** ("Jehovah assembles"). [1] Son of Binnui to whom Ezra entrusted the sacred vessels of the temple (Ezra 8:33). [2] A prophetess opposed to Nehemiah (Neh. 6: 14).

**Noah [Noe]** ("rest"), son of Lamech; the patriarch chosen to build the ark. Only his family survived the flood (Gen. 5:28-32; 6:8-10; 7-10). He was an ancestor of Christ (Luke 3:36).

**Noah** ("flattery; movement"), a daughter of Zelophehad (Num. 26:33; Josh. 17:3).

**Nobah** ("prominent"), a descendant of Manasseh who conquered Kenath (Num. 32:42).

**Noe**, Greek form of Noah (q.v.).

**Nogah** ("splendor"), a son of David (1 Chron. 3:7; 14:6).

**Nohah** ("rest"), a son of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8:2).

**Non**. See Nun.

**Nun [Non]** ("continuation; fish"). [1] A descendant of Ephraim (1 Chron. 7:27); possibly the same as [2]. [2] The father of Joshua (Exod. 33: 11; 1 Kings 16:34).

**Nymphas** ("bridegroom"), a Christian of Laodicea to whom Paul sends greetings (Col. 4: 15). Some manuscripts read Nympha, which would make this individual a woman.

**Nehemiah's wall.** Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon razed the walls of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. and captured the city. When Cyrus allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem, Nehemiah (the governor of Judea) ordered his men to rebuild the wall of the old material (Neh. 2:13-15; 4:1-2, 7). This section of Nehemiah's wall is found on the hill of Ophel.



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End of the N's.

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