

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).

Q

Quartus ("fourth"), a Corinthian Christian who sent greetings to the church in Rome (Rom. 16:23).

End of the Q's.

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R

Raamah ("trembling"), a son of Cush (Gen. 10:7; 1 Chron. 1:9).

Raamiah ("Jehovah causes trembling"), a chief who returned to the land (Neh. 7:7). In Ezra 2:2, he is called Reelaiah ("Jehovah causes trembling").

Rabmag. This is not a proper name, but an official position of some sort. It is unclear whether it is a high religious or governmental position (Jer. 39:3, 13). Nergal-sharezer of Babylonia bore this title.

Rabsaris. Not a proper name, but an official position in the Babylonian and Assyrian governments. Its precise nature is unknown (Jer. 39:3,13; 1 Kings 18:17).

Rabshakeh, the title of an office in the Assyrian government. Its precise function is unknown, but suggestions include that of a field marshal or governor of the Assyrian provinces east of Haran (2 Kings 18:17-28; 19:4, 8).

Rachab, Greek form of Rahab (q. v.).

Rachel [Rahel] ("ewe"), daughter of Laban, wife of Jacob, and mother of Joseph and Benjamin (Gen. 29-35).

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Raddai ("Jehovah subdues" or "beating down"), brother of David (1 Chron. 2: 14).

Ragau, Greek form of Reu (q.v.).

Raguel. *See* Jethro.

Rahab [Rachab] ("broad"), the harlot of Jericho who helped the Hebrew spies and who became an ancestor of Christ (Josh. 2:1-21; 6:17-25; Matt. 1:5).

Raham ("pity; love"), a descendant of Caleb (1 Chron. 2:44).

Rahel. *See* Rachel.

Rakem ("friendship"), a descendant of Manasseh (1 Chron. 7: 16).

Ram [Aram] ("exalted"). [1] An ancestor of David and of Christ (Ruth 4: 19; Matt. 1:3-4; Luke 3:33). [2] Son of Jerahmeel of Judah (1 Chron. 2:27). [3] Head of the family of Elihu (Job 32:2).

Ramiah ("Jehovah is high"), one who married a foreign wife during the Exile (Ezra 10:25).

Ramoth ("heights"), one who had taken a foreign wife (Ezra 10:29).

Rapha [Rephaiah] ("fearful"). [1] The fifth son of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8:2). He is called Rephaiah in 1 Chronicles 9:43. [2] A descendant of King Saul (1 Chron. 8:37).

Raphu ("feared; one healed"), father of a spy sent into Canaan (Num. 13:9).

Reaia [Reaiah] ("Jehovah sees"). [1] A descendant of Reuben (1 Chron. 5:5). [2] One whose descendants returned from the Exile (Ezra 2:47; Neh. 7:50). [3] A descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 4:2); perhaps the same as Haroeh (1 Chron. 2:52). Reba ("fourth part"; "sprout"; or "off-spring"), one of the Midianite chieftains slain by the Israelites under Moses (Num. 31:8; Josh. 13:21).

Rebecca, Greek form of Rebekah (q. v.).

Rebekah [Rebecca] ("flattering"), wife of Isaac and mother of Jacob and Esau (Gen .. 22:23; 24-28).

Rechab ("companionship"). [1] A descendant of Benjamin who murdered Ish-bosheth (2 Sam. 4:2, 5-9). [2] Founder of a tribe called Rechabites (2 Kings 10:15; Jer. 35). [3] A descendant of Hemath (1 Chron. 2:55). [4] One who helped to build the wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 3: 14).

Reelaiah. *See* Raamiah.

Regem ("friendship"), a descendant of Caleb (2 Chron. 2:47). *See* Regem-melech.

Regem-melech ("royal friend"), a messenger sent out by some Jews. Some authorities do not take this as a proper name but read: "...Sherezzer, the friend of the king" (Zech. 7:2).

Rehabiah ("Jehovah is a widener"), eldest son of Eliezer, son of Moses (1 Chron. 23:17; 24:21).

Rehob ("width"). [1] Father of Hadadezer, king of Zobah (2 Sam. 8:3, 12). [2] A Levite who sealed the covenant (Neh. 10:11).



Tomb of Rachel. This is the traditional spot where Jacob erected a pillar to mark the tomb of his wife Rachel, who died near Bethlehem (Gen. 35:19-20). Today, this small building commemorates the site.

Rehoboam [Roboam] ("freer of the people"), the son of Solomon; when he was king, ten tribes revolted from him and he set up the southern kingdom of Judah (1 Kings 11:43; 12; 14). He was an ancestor of Christ (Matt. 1:7).

Rehum [Nehum] ("pity"). [1] A chief man that returned from Exile with Zerubbabel (Ezra 2:2; Neh. 12:3). He is called Nehum ("comfort") in Nehemiah 7:7. [2] A chancellor of Artaxerxes (Ezra 4:8, 17). [3] A Levite who helped to repair the wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 3:17). [4] One who sealed the covenant (Neh. 10:25).

Rei ("friendly"), a friend of David (1 Kings 1:8).

Rekem ("friendship"). [1] A Midianite king slain by the Israelites (Num. 31:8; Josh. 13:21). [2] A son of Hebron (1 Chron. 2:43-44).

Remaliah ("Jehovah increases" or "whom Jehovah has adorned"), father of Pekah (2 Kings 15:25-37). This is perhaps not a proper name, but a slur on Pekah's impoverished background.

Rephael ("God has healed"), firstborn son of Obed-edom and tabernacle gatekeeper (1 Chron. 26:7).

Rephah ("healing; support"), a descendant of Ephraim (1 Chron. 7:25).

Rephaiah ("Jehovah is healing"). [1] Head of a family of the house of David (1 Chron. 3:21). [2] A captain of Simeon (1 Chron. 4:42). [3] A son of Tola (1 Chron. 7:2). [4] One who helped to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 3:9). [5] *See* Rapha [1].

Resheph (the name of a Canaanite deity; meaning unknown), a descendant of Ephraim (1 Chron. 7:25).

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Reu [Ragau] ("friendship"), son of Peleg and ancestor of Christ (Gen. 11:18-21; Luke 3:35).

Reuben ("behold, a son"), eldest son of Jacob and Leah; he lost his birthright through sin against his father (Gen. 29:32; 35:22; 37:29). His descendants became one of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Reuel ("God is his friend"). [1] A son of Esau by Bashemath (Gen. 36:4; 1Chron. 1:35, 37). [2] Descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 9:8). [3] *See* Jethro. [4] *See* Deuel.

Reumah ("pearl; coral"), Nahor's concubine (Gen. 22:24).

Rezia ("Jehovah is pleasing"), a descendant of Asher (1 Chron. 7:39).

Rezin ("dominion"). [1] The last king of Syria who, along with Pekah, fought Judah (2 Kings 15:37; 16:5-10). [2] One whose descendants returned from the Babylonian Captivity (Ezra 2:48; Neh. 7:50).

Rezon ("prince; noble"), a Syrian rebel who set up his own government in Damascus (1 Kings 11:23). Many scholars think Rezon simply is a title denoting a prince and identify him with Hezion (q.v.).

Rhesa ("head"), an ancestor of Christ (Luke 3:27).

Rhoda ("rose"), a maid in the house of Mary (Acts 12:12-15).

Ribai ("Jehovah contends"), father of Ittai, one of David's valiant men (2 Sam. 23:29; 1 Chron. 11:31).

Rimmon ("pomegranate"), father of Ishbosheth's murderers (2 Sam. 4:2-9).

Rinnah ("praise to God; strength"), a descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 4:20).

Riphath [Diphath] ("spoken"), a son of Gomer (Gen. 10:3). A copyist's mistake makes him Diphath in 1 Chronicles 1:6.

Rizpah ("variegated" or "hot stone"), a concubine of Saul (2 Sam. 3:7; 21:8-11).

Roboam, Greek form of Rehoboam.

Rodanim. *See* Dodanim.

Rohgah ("outcry; alarm"), a chief of Asher (1 Chron. 7:34).

Romanti-ezer ("highest help"), son of Heman appointed over the service of song (1 Chron. 25:4, 31).

Rosh ("head"), a descendant of Benjamin (Gen. 46:21).

Rufus ("red"). [1] A son of Simon of Cyrene (Mark 15:21). He was probably well-known to those to whom Mark wrote his Gospel. [2] A Roman Christian (Rom. 16:13); some identify him with [1].

Ruth ("friendship; companion"), Moabite wife of Mahlon and Boaz; she was the great grandmother of David and an ancestor of Christ (Ruth 1:4-5, 14-16; 4:10; Matt. 1:5).

End of the R's.

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