

# 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).

## F

**Felix** ("happy"), Roman governor of Judea that presided over the trial of Paul at Caesarea (Acts 23:23-27; 24:22-27).

**Festus** ("swine-like"), successor of Felix to the governorship of Judea. He continued the trial of Paul begun under Felix (Acts 25; 26).

**Fortunatus** ("fortunate"), a Corinthian Christian who cheered and comforted Paul at Ephesus (1 Cor. 16:17-18).



**Where Felix and Festus held court.** Scattered columns, broken walls, and a large open well are the only remains of Caesarea Maritima, the lavish Roman port where Felix and Festus heard Paul's testimony (Acts 24-26). Paul remained imprisoned in this city for about two years before facing the emperor in Rome.

End of the F's.

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## G

**Gaal** ("rejection"), a son of Ebed. He tried to lead a rebellion against Abimelech (Judg. 9:26-41).

**Gabbai** ("collector"), a chief of the tribe of Benjamin after the return from the Exile (Neh. 11:8).

**Gad** ("fortune"). [1] The seventh son of Jacob and an ancestor of one of the twelve tribes (Gen. 30:11; 49:19). [2] David's seer who frequently advised him (1 Sam. 22:5; 1 Chron. 21:9-19).

**Gaddi** ("my fortune"), one of those sent to spy out Canaan (Num. 13:11).

**Gaddiel** ("fortune of God"), one of the spies (Num. 13:10).

**Gadi** ("fortunate"), father of King Menahem of Israel (2 Kings 15:14, 17).

**Gaham** ("blackness"), a son of Nahor (Gen. 22:24).

**Gahar** ("prostration; concealment"), one whose family returned from captivity (Ezra 2:47; Neh. 7:49).

**Gaius** ("lord"). [1] One to whom John's third epistle is addressed (3 John 1). [2] A native of Macedonia and a companion of Paul (Acts 19:29). [3] A man of Derbe who accompanied Paul as far as Asia (Acts 20:4). [4] The host to Paul when he wrote to the Romans (Rom. 16:23). [5] A convert whom Paul baptized at Corinth (1 Cor. 1:14); some think he is identical with [4].

**Galal** ("great; rolling"). [1] A returned exile (1 Chron. 9: 15). [2] A Levite who returned from the Exile (1 Chron. 9:16; Neh. 11:17).

**Gallio** (meaning unknown), Roman proconsul of Achaia before whom Paul was tried in Corinth (Acts 18:12-17).

**Gamaliel** ("reward or recompense of God"). [1] A prince of the tribe of Manasseh (Num. 1:10; 2:20). [2] A great Jewish teacher of the Law. He persuaded his fellow Jews to let the apostles go free (Acts 5:33-40; 22:3).

**Gamul** ("weaned"), a chief priest (1 Chron. 24:17).

**Gareb** ("reviler; despiser"), one of David's mighty men (2 Sam. 23:38; 1 Chron. 11:40).

**Gashmu**. *See* Geshem.

**Gatam** ("burnt valley"), an Edomite chief, grandson of Esau (Gen. 36:11, 16; 1 Chron. 1:36).

**Gazez** ("shearer"). [1] A son of Caleb (1 Chron. 2:46). [2] A grandson of Caleb (1 Chron. 2:46).

**Gazzam** ("devourer; swaggerer"), one whose descendants returned (Ezra 2:48; Neh. 7:51).

**Geber** ("man; strong one"). [1] The father of one of Solomon's officers (1 Kings 4:13). [2] One of Solomon's commissaries (1 Kings 4: 19).

**Gedaliah** ("Jehovah is great"). [1] Governor of Jerusalem after the Exile (2 Kings 25:22; Jer. 40:5-6). [2] A Levite musician (1 Chron. 25:3,9). [3] A priest

who had married a foreign wife during the Exile (Ezra 10:18). [4] A chief of Jerusalem that imprisoned Jeremiah (Jer. 20: 1-6). [5] Grandfather of the prophet Zephaniah (Zeph. 1: 1).

**Gedeon**, Greek form of Gideon (q.v.).

**Gedor** ("wall"). [1] An ancestor of Saul (1 Chron. 8:31). [2] A descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 4:4). [3] A descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 4: 18).

**Gehazi** ("valley of vision; diminisher"), the dishonest servant of Elisha (2 Kings 4: 12-37; 5:20-27; 8:4).

**Gemalli** ("camel owner"), father of Ammiel (Num. 13:12).

**Gemariah** ("Jehovah has accomplished"). [1] One who sought to stop Jehoiakim from burning Jeremiah's prophecies (Jer. 36:10-11, 12,25). [2] One of Zedekiah's ambassadors to Babylon (Jer. 29:3).

**Genubath** ("theft"), a son of Hadad the Edomite (1 Kings 11:20).

**Gera** ("enmity" or "grain"). [1] A son of Benjamin (Gen. 46:21). [2] A son of Bela (1 Chron. 8:3, 5, 7). [3] Father of Ehud (Judg. 3:15). [4] Father or ancestor of Shimei (2 Sam. 16:5; 19:16, 18; 1 Kings 2:8). [Note: All of these may be identical.]

**Gershom** ("exile"). [1] Firstborn son of Moses and Zipporah (Exod. 2:22; 18:3). [2] *See* Gershon. [3] A descendant of Phinehas (Ezra 8:2). [4] Father of Jonathan, a Levite during the time of the judges (Judg. 18:30).

**Gershon [Gershom]** ("exile"), an important priest, the eldest son of Levi (Gen. 46: 11; Exod. 6: 16; 1 Chron. 6: 1). He is also called Gershom (1 Chron. 6:16-17, 20; 15:7).

**Gesham** ("firm"), a descendant of Caleb (1 Chron. 2:47).

**Geshem [Gashmu]** ("rain storm" or "corporeality"), an Arabian opponent of Nehemiah (Neh. 2:19; 6:1-2).

**Gether** (a personification of an unknown people). [1] A descendant of Shem (1 Chron. 1:17). [2] The third of Aram's sons (Gen. 10:23).

**Geuel** ("salvation of God"), the spy sent out from Gad to bring back word about Canaan (Num. 13:15).

**Gibbar** ("high; mighty"), one who returned to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel (Ezra 2:20). *See also* Gibeon.

**Gibea** ("highlander"), a descendant of Caleb (1 Chron. 2:49). *See also* "All the Places of the Bible."

**Giddalti** ("I have magnified"), a son of Heman in charge of one of the courses at the temple (1 Chron. 25:4).

**Giddel** ("very great"). [1] One whose descendants returned to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel (Ezra 2:47; Neh. 7:49). [2] Head of a family of Solomon's servants (Ezra 2:56; Neh. 7:58).

**Gideon [Gedeon]** ("feller [i.e., great warrior]"), the



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great judge of Israel who delivered his people from Midian (Judg. 6-8); he was given the name Jerubbaal (q.v.).

**Gideoni** ("feller"), a descendant of Benjamin (Num. 1:11; 2:22).

**Gilalai** ("rolling; weighty"), one of a party of priests who played on David's instruments at the consecration of the Jerusalem walls under Ezra (Neh. 12:36).

**Gilead** ("strong; rocky"). [1] A son of Machir (Num. 26:29-30). [2] Father of Jephthah the judge (Judg. 11:1-2). [3] A descendant of Gad (1 Chron. 5: 14). *See also* "All the Places of the Bible."

**Ginath** ("protection"), father of Tibni (1 Kings 16:21-22).

**Ginnetho** [**Ginnethon**] ("great protection"), a prince or priest who sealed the new covenant with God after the Exile (Neh. 10:6; 12:4, 16).

**Ginnethon**. *See* Ginnetho.

**Gispa** ("listening; attentive"), an overseer of the Nethinim (Neh. 11:21).

**Gog** ("high; mountain"). [1] A descendant of Reuben (1 Chron. 5:4). [2] A prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal and Tires (Ezek. 38:2; 39: 1, 11). The name is probably to be understood symbolically. *See also* Magog.

**Goliath** ("an exile or soothsayer"). [1] The Philistine giant who was slain by David (1 Sam. 17:4-54). [2] Another giant, possibly the son of [1] (2 Sam. 21:19).

**Gomer** (the personification of a nation of Central Asia). [1] Eldest son of Japheth (Gen. 10:2-3; 1 Chron. 1:5-6). [2] The immoral wife of Hosea (Hos. 1:3; 3: 1-4).

**Guni** ("protected"). [1] Son of Naphtali found in three lists (Gen. 46:24; Num. 26:48; 1 Chron. 7: 13). [2] Father of Abdiel (1 Chron. 5:15).



**Home of Gideon's enemies.** A simple village stands at the site of Midian, the center for a tribe that threatened to take the Promised Land from the newly-arrived Israelites. Gideon and an army of 300 men repelled the Midianites in a surprise attack near Mount Moreh (Judg. 7).

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End of the G's.

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