

# 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).

## H

**Haahashtari** ("the courier"), a son of Ashur listed in the descendants of Judah (1 Chron. 4:6).

**Habaiah** ("Jehovah is protection"), ancestor of a priestly family (Ezra 2:61; Neh. 7:63).

**Habakkuk** ("love's embrace"), a prophet during the reigns of Jehoiakim and Josiah (Hab. 1:1; 3:1).

**Habaziniah** ("Jehovah's light"), the grandfather of Jaazaniah, the founder of a Jewish sect (Jer. 35:3).

**Hachaliah** ("Jehovah is hidden"), the father of Nehemiah the governor of Israel (Neh. 1:1).

**Hachmoni** ("the wise"), father of Jehiel, the royal tutor (1 Chron. 27:32).

**Hadad [Hadar; Hadad]** ("the god"). [1] One of the twelve sons of Ishmael and grandson of Abraham (1 Chron. 1:30). He is called Hadar, due to a copyist's mistake or a dialectal variant in Genesis 25:15. [2] A king of Edom who fought Midian (Gen. 36:35-36; 1 Chron. 1:46). [3] The last of Edom's early kings (1 Chron. 1:50-51). Due to a copyist's mistake or dialectal variant he is called Hadar in Genesis 36:39. [4] A member of the royal family of Edom who opposed Israel's rule of Edom (1 Kings 11:14-22,25).

**Hadadezer [Hadarezer]** ("[the god] Hadad is my help"), the king of Zobah in Syria that warred against David and Joab (2 Sam. 8:3-12). His name is also written Hadarezer; perhaps this is a dialectal variant (2 Sam. 10:16; 1 Chron. 18:3-10).

**Hadar.** See Hadad [1], [3].

**Hadarezer.** See Hadadezer.

**Hadassah** ("myrtle"), the Hebrew name of Esther (q.v.).

**Hadlai** ("resting"), the father of Amasa, a chief man of the tribe of Ephraim (2 Chron. 28:12).

**Hadoram** ("Hadad is high"). [1] The son of Joktan, a descendant of Noah (Gen. 10:27; 1 Chron. 1:21). [2] The son of the king of Hamath; he bore presents to David (1 Chron. 18:10). He is called Joram in 2 Samuel 8:9-10, perhaps as a token to honor David's God (i.e., Joram means "Jehovah is high"). [3] The superintendent of forced labor under David, Solomon, and Rehoboam. He is variously called Adoniram ("my lord is exalted"), and Adoram, a contraction of the former (2 Sam. 20:24; 2 Chron. 10:18; 1 Kings 4:6; 12:18). See also Jehoram.

**Hagab** ("locust"), an ancestor of captives returning with Zerubbabel (Ezra 2:46). See Hagaba.

**Hagaba [Hagabah]** ("locust"), an ancestor of some of the captives returning with Zerubbabel (Ezra 2:45);

# ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE

Neh. 7:48). *See* Hagab.

**Hagabah.** *See* Hagaba.

**Hagar** [Agar] ("wandering"), an Egyptian servant of Sarah; she became the mother of Ishmael by Abraham (Gen. 16:1-16; 21:14-17).

**Haggai** ("festive"), the first of the prophets who prophesied after the Babylonian captivity (Ezra 5:1; Hag. 1:1,3, 12).

**Haggeri** ("wanderer"), the father of one of David's mighty men (1 Chron. 11:38).

**Haggi** ("festive"), the second son of Gad (Gen. 46:16; Num. 26:15).

**Haggiah** ("feast of Jehovah"), a descendant of Levi (1 Chron. 6:30).

**Haggith** ("festal"), the fifth wife of David and mother of Adonijah (2 Sam. 3:4; 1 Kings 1:5, 11).

**Hakkatan** ("the little one"), the father of Johanan, who returned with Ezra (Ezra 8: 12).

**Hakkoz** ("the nimble"), a priest and chief of the seventh course of service in the sanctuary (1 Chron. 24: 10).

**Hakupha** ("incitement"), ancestor of a family returning from captivity (Ezra 2:51; Neh. 7:53).

**Hallohesh** [**Halohesh**] ("the whisperer; the slanderer"). [1] The father of one who repaired the wall (Neh. 3: 12). [2] A man or family that sealed the new covenant with God after the Exile (Neh. 10:24); some identify him with [1].

**Halohesh.** *See* Hallohesh.

**Ham**, the youngest son of Noah. Because of his wickedness, his son Canaan was cursed (Gen. 5:32; 9:22-27).

**Haman** ("celebrated Human [Humban]"), the prime minister of Ahasuerus who plotted against the Jews (Esther 3-9).

**Hammedatha** ("given by the moon"), the father of Haman (Esther 3:1).

**Hammelech.** This is not a proper name. It is a general title that means "the king" (Jer. 36:26; 38:6).

**Hammoleketh** ("the queen"), an ancestor of Gideon. It may be a proper name or title (1 Chron. 7: 18).

**Hamor** [**Emmor**] ("ass"), the prince of Shechem whose son Shechem brought destruction on himself and his family (Gen. 33: 19; 34:2-26).

**Hamran.** *See* Hemdan.

**Hamuel** ("wrath of God"), a descendant of Simeon (1 Chron. 4:26).

**Hamul** ("pity"), the younger son of Pharez (Gen. 46:12; 1 Chron. 2:5).

**Hamutal** ("kinsman of the dew"), one of King Josiah's wives (2 Kings 23:31; 24:18; Jer. 52:1).

**Hanameel** ("gift of grace of God"), a cousin of Jeremiah's who sold him a field (Jer. 32: 6-9).

**Hanan** ("merciful"). [1] A descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8:23). [2] A descendant of Benjamin through Saul (1 Chron. 8:38; 9:44). [3] One of David's heroes (1 Chron. 11:43). [4] A returned captive (Ezra 2:46; Neh. 7:49). [5] A Levite who assisted Ezra when reading the law (Neh. 8:7). [6] A Levite who sealed the covenant with Nehemiah (Neh. 10:10; 13:13). Perhaps identical with [5]. [7] A chief or family who sealed the covenant with Nehemiah (Neh. 10:22). [8] A chief or family who also sealed the covenant (Neh. 10:26). [9] A temple officer whose sons had a chamber in the temple (Jer. 35:4). [Note: This name should not be confused with Baal-hanan.]

**Hananeel** ("God is gracious"), the builder of the tower near the Sheep Gate (Neh. 3:1; Jer. 31:38).

**Hanani** ("gracious"). [1] A musician and head of one of the courses of the temple services (1 Chron. 25:4,25). [2] A seer cast into prison by Asa (1 Kings 16:1,7; 2 Chron. 19:2). [3] The father of the prophet Jehu (2 Kings 1:7; 2 Chron. 19:2; 20:34); possibly identical with [2]. [4] A priest who married a foreign wife (Ezra 10:20). [5] A brother of Nehemiah and a governor of Jerusalem under him (Neh. 1:2; 7:2). [6] A priest and musician who helped to purify the walls of Jerusalem (Neh. 12:36).

**Hananiah** ("Jehovah is gracious"). [1] A descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8:24). [2] An officer of Uzziah (2 Chron. 26: 11). [3] The father of a prince under Jehoiakim (Jer. 36: 12). [4] The leader of the sixteenth division of David's musicians (1 Chron. 25:4, 23). [5] The grandfather of Irijah (Jer. 37: 13). [6] A false prophet who opposed Jeremiah (Jer. 28). [7] One of Daniel's friends at Babylon (Dan. 1:7, 11,19). *See also* Shadrach. [8] A son of Zerubbabel (1 Chron. 3:19, 21). [9] A Levite who married a foreign wife during the Exile (Ezra 10:28). [10] A druggist and priest who helped to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 3:8). [11] One who helped to rebuild the gate of Jerusalem (Neh. 3:30); perhaps the same as [10]. [12] A faithful Israelite placed in charge of Jerusalem (Neh. 7:2). [13] One who sealed the new covenant with God after the Exile (Neh. 10:23). [14] A priest present at the dedication of the walls of Jerusalem (Neh. 12:12, 41).

**Haniel** [**Hanniel**] ("God is gracious"). [1] A prince of the tribe of Manasseh (Num. 34:23). [2] A hero of Asher (1 Chron. 7:39).

**Hannah** ("grace"), a prophetess, the mother of Samuel (1 Sam. 1).

**Hanniel.** *See* Haniel.

# ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE

**Hanoch [Henoah]** ("dedicated"). [1] A grandson of Abraham (Gen. 25:4), called Henoah in 1 Chronicles 1:33. [2] The eldest son of Reuben, and founder of the Hanochite clan (Gen. 46:9; 1 Chron. 5:3). [3] Enoch, the son of Jared (1 Chron. 1:3).

**Hanun** ("gracious"). [1] A king of Ammon who involved the Ammonites in a disastrous war with David (2 Sam. 10:1-6). [2] One who repaired the wall (Neh. 3:30). [3] One who repaired the valley gate of Jerusalem (Neh. 3:13).

**Haran** ("strong; enlightened"). [1] A brother of Abraham who died before his father (Gen. 11:26-31). [2] A descendant of Levi (1 Chron. 23:9). [3] A son of Caleb (1 Chron. 2:46).

**Harbona [Harbonah]** ("ass-driver"), a chamberlain under Ahasuerus (Esther 1:10; 7:9).

**Hareph** ("early born"), a son of Caleb (1 Chron. 2:51), not to be confused with Hariph (q.v.).

**Harhaiah** ("Jehovah is protecting"), father of Uzziel, a builder of the wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 3:8).

**Harhas [Hasrah]** ("glitter"), grandfather of Shallum, the husband of the prophetess Huldah (2 Kings 22: 14). Another form of the name is Hasrah (2 Chron. 34:22).

**Harhur** ("nobility; distinction"), ancestor of returned captives (Neh. 7:53; Ezra 2:51).

**Harim** ("snub-nosed"). [1] A priest in charge of the third division of temple duties (1 Chron. 24:8; Ezra 2:39; 10:21; Neh. 3: 11). [2] An ancestor of some returning from captivity (Ezra 2:32; Neh. 7:35). [3] One whose descendants took foreign wives during the Exile (Ezra 10:31). [4] One who sealed the new covenant with God after the Exile (Neh. 10:5). [5] A family that sealed the new covenant with God after the Exile (Neh. 10:27). [6] An ancestor of a family, perhaps [4] (Neh. 12:15). [Note: Many of those named Harim may be identical; there are many uncertainties.]

**Hariph [Jorah]** ("early born"). [1] An ancestor of returning captives (Neh. 7:24). [2] Head of a family who sealed the new covenant with God after the Exile (Neh. 10:19). He is called Jorah ("harvest-born") in Ezra 2: 18.

**Harnepher** ("panting"), a descendant of Asher (1 Chron. 7:36).

**Haroeh** ("the seer"), a descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 2:52); perhaps Reaiah (1 Chron. 4:2).

**Harsha** ("artificer"), an ancestor of returning captives (Ezra 2:52; Neh. 7:54).

**Harum** ("elevated"), a descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 4:8).

**Harumaph** ("slit-nosed"), father of Jedaiah the wall-builder (Neh. 3: 10).

**Haruz** ("industrious"), mother of King Amon (2 Kings 21:19).

**Hasadiah** ("Jehovah is kind"), a descendant of Jehoiakim (1 Chron. 3:20).

**Hasenuah** ("the violated"), a descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 9:7). The original name was probably Senuah, to which the Hebrew definite article (Ha-) is prefixed. *See also* Senuah.

**Hashabiah** ("Jehovah is associated"). [1] A descendant of Levi (1 Chron. 6:45). [2] Another descendant of Levi (1 Chron. 9: 14). [3] A son of Jeduthun (1 Chron. 25:3). [4] A descendant of Kohath (1 Chron. 26:30). [5] A son of Kemuel who was a prince of the Levites (1 Chron. 27: 17). [6] A chief of a Levite clan (2 Chron. 35:9). [7] A Levite who returned with Ezra from Babylon (Ezra 8: 19). [8] A chief of the family of Kohath (Ezra 8:24). [9] One who repaired the wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 3:17). [10] One who sealed the covenant with Nehemiah (Neh. 10: 11). [11] A Levite in charge of certain temple functions (Neh. 11:15). [12] An attendant of the temple (Neh. 11:22). [13] A priest in the days of Jeshua (Neh. 12:21). [14] A chief Levite (Neh. 12:24). [Note: It is quite possible that [10], [12], and [14] refer to the same person.]

**Hashabnah** ("Jehovah is a friend"), one who sealed the new covenant with God after the Exile (Neh. 10:25).

**Hashabniah** ("Jehovah is a friend"). [1] Father of Hattush who helped to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 3: 10). [2] A Levite who officiated at the fast under Ezra and Nehemiah when the covenant was sealed (Neh.9:5).

**Hashbadana** ("judge"), an assistant to Ezra at the reading of the Law (Neh. 8:4).

**Hashem** ("shining"), father of several of David's guards (1 Chron. 11:34).

**Hashub [Hasshub]** ("associate"). [1] A Levite chief (1 Chron. 9: 14). The KJV incorrectly spells his name *Hashub* in Nehemiah 11:15. [2] A builder of the wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 3: 11). [3] One of the signers of the new covenant with God after the Exile (Neh. 10:23). [4] One who repaired the wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 3:23).

**Hashubah** ("association"), a descendant of Jehoiakim (1 Chron. 3:20).

**Hashum** ("shining"). [1] One whose descendants returned from the Babylonian Captivity (Ezra 2: 19; 10:33; Neh. 7:22). [2] A priest who assisted Ezra (Neh. 8:4). [3] Head of a family who sealed the new covenant with God after the Exile (Neh. 10:18).

**Hashupha [Hasupha]** ("stripped"), an ancestor of returning captives (Ezra 2:43; Neh. 7:46).

**Hasrah.** *See* Harhas.

**Hassenaah** ("the thorn hedge"), an ancestor of those who rebuilt the Fish Gate at Jerusalem (Neh. 3:3). The

# ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE

name is probably identical with the Senaah of Ezra 2:35 and Nehemiah 7:38, which most English translators have understood to have the Hebrew definite article (Ha-) prefixed.

**Hasshub.** *See* Hashub.

**Hasupha.** *See* Hashupha.

**Hatach,** a chamberlain of Ahasuerus (Esther 4:5-10).

**Hathath** ("terror"), son of Othniel (1 Chron. 4:13).

**Hatipha** ("taken; captive"), an ancestor of returning captives (Ezra 2:54; Neh. 7:56).

**Hatita** ("exploration"), a temple gatekeeper or porter whose descendants returned from the Babylonian Captivity (Ezra 2:42; Neh. 7:45).

**Hattil** ("decaying"), an ancestor of some who returned from the Babylonian Captivity (Ezra 2:57; Neh. 7:59).

**Hattush** ("contender"). [1] Descendant of the kings of Judah, perhaps of Shechaniah (1 Chron. 3:22). [2] A descendant of David who returned from the Exile with Ezra (Ezra 8:2; 10:4; Neh. 3: 10). [3] A priest who returned from the Exile with Zerubbabel (Neh. 12:2). [4] One who helped to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 3: 10); possibly the same as [3].

**Havilah** (the personification of an unknown desert tribe). [1] Son of Cush (Gen. 10:7; 1 Chron. 1:9). [2] A descendant of Shem in two genealogies (Gen. 10:29; 1 Chron. 1:23).

**Hazael** ("God sees"), the murderer of Ben-hadad II who usurped the throne of Syria (1 Kings 19:15, 17; 2 Kings 8:8-29).

**Hazaiah** ("Jehovah is seeing"), a descendant of Judah (Neh. 11:5).

**Hazar-maveth** ("court of death"), the third son of Joktan (Gen. 10:26; 1 Chron. 1:20).

**Hazeleponi** ("protection of the face of"), a daughter of Etam in the genealogy of Judah (1 Chron. 4:3).

**Haziel** ("God is seeing"), a descendant of Levi in the time of David (1 Chron. 23:9).

**Hazo** ("vision; seer"), a son of Nahor and nephew of Abraham (Gen. 22:22).

**Heber** ("shoot; production"). [1] Head of a family of Gad (1 Chron. 5: 13). [2] A descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8:22).

**Heber** ("companion"). [1] A descendant of Asher (Gen. 46:17; 1 Chron. 7:31-32). [2] The husband of Jael, who killed Sisera (Judg. 4: 11, 17, 21; 5:24). [3] Head of a clan of Judah (1 Chron. 4: 18). [4] A descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8: 17). [5] Used in Luke 3:35 to refer to Eber [1].

**Hebron** ("ford; company"). [1] A son of Kohath (Exod. 6: 18; Num. 3: 19; 1Chron. 6:2, 18). [2] A descendant of Caleb (1 Chron. 2:42-43).

**Hegai [Hege],** a chamberlain of Ahasuerus (Esther 2:3, 8, 15).

**Helah** ("tenderness"), a wife of Asher (1 Chron. 4:5,7).

**Heldai [Helem]** ("enduring"). [1] A captain of the temple service (1 Chron. 27:15). [2] An Israelite who returned from the Babylonian Captivity and was given special honors (Zech. 6:10); he is called Helem in verse 14.

**Heleb [Heled]** ("fat"), one of David's mighty men (2 Sam. 23:29; 1 Chron. 11:30).

**Heled.** *See* Heleb.

**Helek** ("portion"), a descendant of Manasseh (Num. 26:30; Josh. 17:2).

**Helem** ("strength"). [1] A descendant of Asher (1 Chron. 7:35). [2] Another name for Heldai [2] (q.v.).

**Helez** ("vigor"). [1] One of David's mighty men (2 Sam. 23:26; 1 Chron. 11:27; 27:10). [2] A descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 2:39).

**Heli [Eli]** ("climbing"), the father of Joseph in Luke's genealogy (Luke 3:23). His Hebrew name is Eli.

**Helkai** ("Jehovah is my portion"), the head of a priestly family (Neh. 12:15).

**Helon** ("valorous"), the father of Eliab, the prince of Zebulun (Num. 1:9; 2:7; 7:24; 10:16).

**Heman.** *See* Homam.

**Heman** ("faithful"). [1] A musician and seer appointed by David as a leader in the temple's vocal and instrumental music (1 Chron. 6:33; 15:17; 2 Chron. 5:12; 35:15). [2] A wise man with whom Solomon was compared (1 Kings 4:31; 1Chron. 2:6). He composed a meditative Psalm (Psa. 88, title).

**Hemath [Hamath]** ("warmth"), father of the house of Rechab (1 Chron. 2:55); also called Hamath (Amos 6: 14).

**Hemdan** ("pleasant"), a descendant of Seir (Gen. 36:26). The KJV wrongly rendered this name *Amram* as Hamran in 1 Chronicles 1:41—the reading is either a copyist's mistake or a form of the above.

**Hen** ("favor"), a son of Zephaniah (Zech. 6:14); he is probably the same as Josiah in verse 10.

**Henadad** ("Hadad is gracious"), a head of a Levite family that helped to rebuild the temple (Ezra 3:9; Neh. 3: 18, 24; 10:9).

**Henoah.** *See* Hanoah.

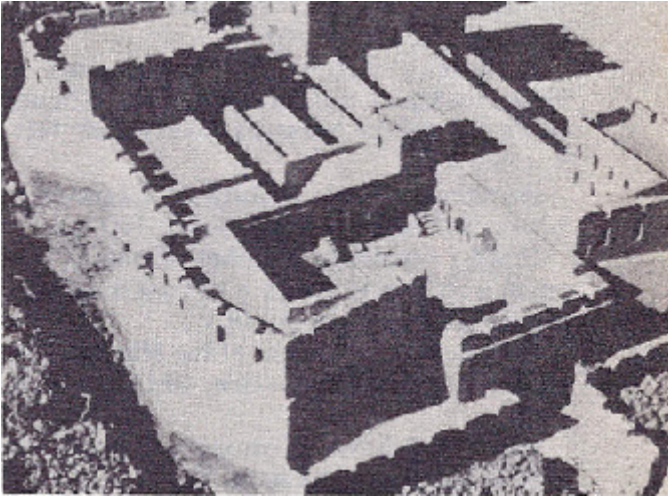
**Hepher** ("a digging; a well"). [1] The youngest son of Gilead and founder of the Hopherites (Num. 26:32; Josh. 17:2). [2] A man of Judah (1 Chron. 4:6). [3] One of David's heroes (1 Chron. 11:36).

**Hephzi-bah** ("my delight is in her"), the mother of King Manasseh (2 Kings 21: 1).

**Heresh** ("work; silence"), head of a Levite family (1 Chron. 9: 15).

**Hermas** ("Mercury; interpreter"), a Christian to whom Paul sent greetings (Rom. 16:14).

# ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE



**Antonia Fortress (Model).** Named for Mark Antony, this fortress was built by Herod the Great at the northwest corner of his temple. The structure is called "the castle" in Acts 21:34. It also served as a palace, and many scholars believe it was the place where Christ was tried before Pilate.

## The Herods

The family of the Herods exerted Rome's control over Palestine during the time of Christ and the founding of the Christian church. This family ruled tyrannically—and often violently—for about 100 years. The family that became known as the Herods were Idumean by birth. (Idumea was an area south of Bethlehem and Jerusalem, populated by the Edomites—former Jews who had refused to "inhabit the land" of Canaan.) The Maccabean leader John Hyrcanus I had conquered the Idumeans in about 126 B.C. and compelled them to accept orthodox Judaism. The Herod family ruled Idumea when the Maccabean dynasty began to lose control of Palestine.

The Maccabean family had led the Jews in a heroic struggle to free themselves from foreign rule. However, political intrigue and family jealousy among the Maccabeans left the Jewish state in a weakened condition, making it a prey to Rome. The last strong ruler of the Maccabean (later called the Hasmonean) line was Alexander Jannaeus. When he died (ca. 78 B.C.), he left the kingdom to his widow, Alexandra Salome. She made her older son, John Hyrcanus II, high priest and hoped to groom him for the throne. But Alexandra suddenly became ill and died, and her younger son Aristobulus proclaimed himself king. The Herods took advantage of this confused situation.

Antipater I of Idumea, father of Herod the Great, was cunning, wealthy, and ambitious. He allied himself with John Hyrcanus II in a bid to overthrow Aristobulus. They drew the Romans into the struggle and won. Antipater

reinstated Hyrcanus II as high priest, and Julius Caesar later appointed Antipater as governor of Judea. Antipater gave two of his sons positions in the government—Phasael was made prefect of Jerusalem and Herod was governor of Galilee. Herod ("the Great") was intelligent, charming in manners, and quite capable in statecraft. Like his father he was highly ambitious. But the Sanhedrin (Jewish legal council) turned against the young ruler when he executed some Jews without official consent; in fact, they demanded his death. He appealed to the Roman governor of Syria, who dismissed the Jews' charges and extended Herod's governorship to Coele-Syria and Samaria.

When Cassius, one of Julius Caesar's murderers, became ruler of the eastern sector of the Roman Empire, Herod and his father Antipater gave him their full cooperation. Many Jewish groups opposed their rule, and Antipater died of poisoning in 43 B.C. just after he paid a large tax to Cassius.

Then Mark Anthony assumed control of the eastern provinces, and Jewish leaders clamored to denounce Herod as a tyrant. But Anthony confirmed Herod and Phasael *tetrarchs* (i.e., each was ruler of one fourth of the region) of Judea.

In 40 B.C., the Hasmonean leader Antigonus (a nephew of John Hyrcanus I) ousted Herod from power and was proclaimed king of Judea. He ordered his men to cut off the ears of Hyrcanus II, so that he could no longer be high priest. (It was unlawful for a mutilated person to serve as priest.) Herod appealed to Anthony for aid. Octavian and Anthony advised the Roman senate to appoint Herod king of the Jews, but it took him three years of hard fighting to regain his kingdom. From that time until his death 33 years later, Herod governed his realm as a loyal ally of Rome.

When Octavian defeated Antony and Cleopatra at Actium in 31 B.C., Herod wisely surrendered his kingdom to his new master. Octavian confirmed Herod as king of Judea and added still more territory to his domain.

Herod the Great married a total of ten women—Doris, Mariamne I, Mariamne II, Malthace, Cleopatra, Pallas, Phaedra, Elpis, and two whose names are unknown (in that order). In all, they bore him at least 15 children.

Herod divorced Doris in order to marry Mariamne (known historically as Mariamne I). She was a member of the Hasmonean family, and Herod hoped to gain political status through this marriage. Eventually, Herod ordered his men to execute Mariamne I and her grandfather John Hyrcanus II. By doing this, Herod exterminated the Hasmonean family. Herod the Great tried to win the Jews' favor by rebuilding their temple on a magnificent scale. Yet he also built temples dedicated to pagan gods. The Jewish people resented Herod's Idumean ancestry and his marriage to Malthace, a Samaritan.

The last years of Herod's life were dismal and full of grief; he deteriorated mentally and physically. His mad

# ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE

jealousy caused him to order many executions. Three of his sons—Antipater II, Alexander, and Aristobulus I—were among the victims.

Herod's death in 4 B.C. brought a new era to Judea. Just before his death, Herod formally gave the Roman emperor power to supervise his kingdom. (Rome had been the real ruler of Palestine since the overthrow of Aristobulus in 63 B.C., but it now exerted its control more directly.) In his will, Herod the Great divided his kingdom among three of his sons. Archelaus received Judea, Samaria, and Idumea; Antipas II received Galilee and Perea; and Herod Philip II received the northeastern territories.

Herod Archelaus ruled "in the room of his father Herod" (Matt. 2:22), although without the title of king. He was Herod's oldest son by Malthace and had the worst reputation of all Herod's children. He angered the Jews by marrying Glaphyra, the widow of his half-brother Alexander. Rival Jews and Samaritans sent a united delegation to Rome, threatening to revolt if Archelaus were not removed. Accordingly, in A.D. 6, he was deposed and banished. Judea then became a Roman province, administered by governors appointed by the emperor.

Herod Antipas II was Herod's younger son by Malthace. The Gospels depict him as wholly immoral. He divorced his first wife to marry Herodias, the wife of his half-brother Herod Philip I; since Herodias was also his niece, their union was doubly sinful. He imprisoned John the Baptist for denouncing this marriage (Mark 6:17-18). Herodias made full use of her husband's pledge to give her daughter (possibly Salome II) anything that she wished (Mark 6:19-28). She demanded John's head on a platter, and so Antipas had him executed. However, Herod Antipas II was the ablest of Herod's sons; in A.D. 22 he built the city of Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee. Emperor Caligula exiled him in A.D. 39 after Herod Agrippa I accused him of plotting against Rome.

Herod Philip II was unlike the rest of the Herodian clan, for he was dignified, moderate, and just. He ruled for 37 years as the "tetrarch of Iturea, and of the region of Trachonitis" (Luke 3:1). He married Salome II, the daughter of Herod Philip I, his half-brother.

Herod Agrippa I was the son of Aristobulus I and a grandson of Herod the Great. In A.D. 37, Emperor Caligula gave Agrippa the title of king, with territories northeast of Palestine. When Antipas II was banished in A.D. 39, Galilee and Perea were added to Agrippa's kingdom. Emperor Claudius further extended Agrippa's territory by giving him Judea and Samaria in A.D. 41. Agrippa I killed the apostle James and persecuted the early church. Because of his arrogance, God took his life (Acts 12). Among his children were Bernice II, Herod Agrippa II, and Drusilla (who married Felix, the Roman governor of Judea—cf. Acts 24:24).

Emperor Claudius gave Herod Agrippa II the title of king, with territories north and northeast of Palestine; these territories were increased by Emperor Nero in A.D. 56. His

incestuous relationship with his sister Bernice II was a scandal among the Jews; the New Testament mentions that he and Bernice heard Paul (Acts 25:13-26:32). He urged his countrymen to remain loyal to Rome during the Jewish revolts; when the nation fell he moved to Rome, where he died in about A.D. 100.

Herod Philip I was the Herod the Great's son by Mariamne II. For a time, he was included in Herod's will; but the king later revoked this grant. Philip remained a private citizen and his life story is unclear. His wife, Herodias, left him to live with his half-brother Antipas II (cf. Mark 6:17-18).

Christ, the apostles, and the early Christians lived during the turbulent days of the Herods. While the Herods built many splendid edifices and strengthened Judea militarily, the verdict of their subjects was that they were guilty—of oppression, tyranny, and burden in the highest degree.

---

**Herod** ("heroic"). [1] Herod the Great, the sly king of Judea when Christ was born. In order to maintain power, he murdered the children of Bethlehem, thinking that he would be killing the Messiah (Matt. 2: 1-22; Luke 1:5). [2] Herod Antipas, son of the former, was tetrarch of Galilee and Perea. He was the murderer of John the Baptist (Matt. 14:1-10; Luke 13:31-32; Luke 23:7-12). [3] Herod Philip, son of Herod the Great, was tetrarch of Iturea and Trachonitis (Luke 3: 1). [4] Herod Philip, another son of Herod the Great, is the Philip whose wife Herod Antipas lured away (Matt. 14:3). [5] Herod Agrippa I, tetrarch of Galilee and eventual ruler of his grandfather's (i.e., Herod the Great's) old realm. He bitterly persecuted Christians (Acts 12:1-23). [6] Herod Agrippa II, son of Agrippa I and king of various domains, witnessed the preaching of Paul (Acts 25: 13-26; 32).

**Herodias** ("heroic"), granddaughter of Herod the Great, wife of Antipas, and ultimate cause of John the Baptist's death (Matt. 14:3-9; Luke 3: 19).

**Herodion** ("heroic"), a Jewish Christian to whom Paul sent greetings (Rom. 16: 11).

**Hesed** ("kindness"), father of one of Solomon's officers (1 Kings 4:10); not to be confused with Jushab-hesed (q.v.).

**Heth** (a personification of the Hittites), the ancestor of the Hittites (Gen. 10: 15; 1 Chron. 1:13).

**Hezeki** ("Jehovah is strength"), a descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8:17).

# ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE

**Hezekiah [Ezekias]** ("Jehovah is strength"). [1] One who returned from Babylon (Ezra 2: 16; Neh. 7:21). [2] The twelfth king of Judah; an ancestor of Christ. He instituted religious reform and improved the overall safety and prosperity of the nation (2 Kings 18-20; 2 Chron. 29-32; Matt. 1:9- 10). [3] A son of Neariah, a descendant of the royal family of Judah (1 Chron. 3:23).

**Hezion** ("vision"), the grandfather of Benhadad, king of Syria (1 Kings 15:18). Many scholars identify him with Rezon (q.v.).

**Hezir** ("returning home"). [1] A Levite in the time of David (1 Chron. 24: 15). [2] A chief of the people that sealed the new covenant with God after the Exile (Neh. 10:20).

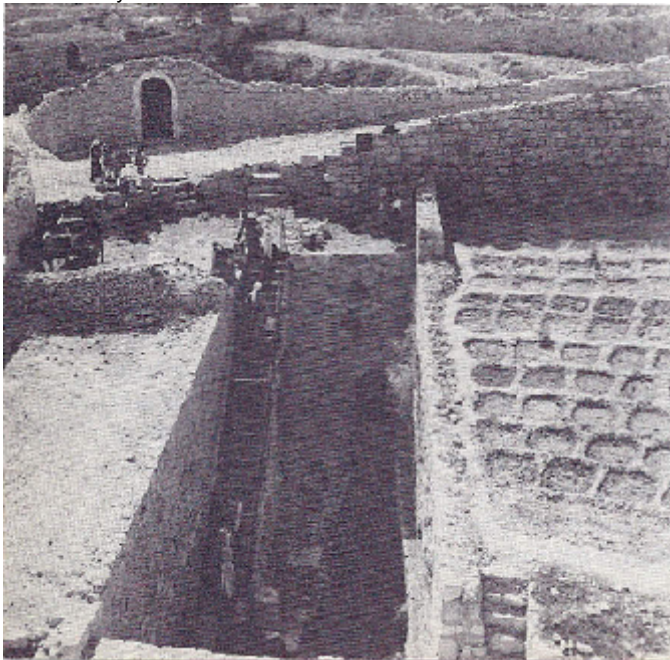
**Hezrai [Hezro]** ("blooming; beautiful"), one of David's warriors (2 Sam. 23:35). He is also called Hezro (1 Chron. 11:37).

**Hezro.** *See* Hezrai.

**Hezron [Esrom]** ("blooming"). [1] A son of Perez and an ancestor of Christ (Gen. 46: 12; 1 Chron. 2:5, 9, 18,21,24-25; Matt. 1:3; Luke 3:33). [2] A son of Reuben (Gen. 46:9; Exod.6:14).

**Hiddai [Hurai]** ("mighty; chief"), one of David's mighty men (2 Sam. 23:30). He is called Hurai ("free; noble") in 1 Chronicles 11:32.

**Pool of Siloam.** The pool is located in the Kidron Valley and was connected to the spring of Gihon by the Siloam Tunnel. King Hezekiah of Judah knew that the Assyrians would lay siege to Jerusalem. In order to assure a free flow of water into the city, he ordered that the waters of Gihon be diverted underground into a tunnel hewn out of stone (2 Chron. 32:1-5. 30). These waters flowed into the pool of Siloam, located within the city walls.



**Hiel** ("God is living"), a man who rebuilt Jericho (1 Kings 16:34) and sacrificed his sons, in fulfillment of Joshua's curse (Josh. 6:26).

**Hilkiah** ("Jehovah is protection" or "my portion"). [1] One who stood with Ezra at the reading of the Law (Neh. 8:4). [2] A Levite who kept the children of the temple officials (1 Chron. 6:45). [3] A gatekeeper of the tabernacle (1 Chron. 26: 11). [4] Master of the household of King Hezekiah (2 Kings 18: 18, 26; Isa. 22:20; 36:3). [5] A priest of Anathoth and father of Jeremiah (Jer. 1:1). [6] High priest and the discoverer of the Book of the Law in the days of Josiah (2 Kings 22:4, 8; 23:4).

**Hillel** ("praised greatly"), the father of Abdon, one of the judges (Judg. 12: 13, 15). Hinnom, an unknown person who had a son(s) after whom a valley near Jerusalem was named. Human sacrifices took place there in Jeremiah's day, and garbage was later incinerated in this defiled place (Josh. 15:8; 18:16; Neh. 11:30; Jer. 7:31-32).

**Hirah** ("distinction"), a friend of Judah (Gen. 38:1, 12).

**Hiram [Huram]** (abbreviated form of Ahiiram, "My brother is the exalted"). [1] A king of Tyre who befriended David and Solomon (2 Sam. 5: 11; 1 Kings 5; 9: 11; 10: 11). [2] The skillful worker in brass whom Solomon secured from King Hiram (1 Kings 7: 13, 40, 45; 2 Chron. 4: 11, 16). [3] A descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 8:5).

**Hizkiah [Hizkijah]** ("Jehovah is strength"). [1] An ancestor of the prophet Zephaniah (Zeph. 1:1); some think this is another name for Hezekiah. [2] One who sealed the covenant with God after the Exile (Neh. 10:17).

**Hobab** ("beloved"), the father-in-law or brother-in-law of Moses (Num. 10:29; Judg. 4: 11). The phrase "father-in-law" in Judges 4: 11 may possibly mean nothing more than "in-law," or perhaps Jethro was also named Hobab; but the identity is uncertain. *See also* Jethro.

**Hod** ("majesty"), one of the sons of Zophah (1 Chron. 7:37).

**Hodaiah** ("honor of Jehovah"), a descendant of the royal line of Judah (1 Chron. 3:24); possibly an alternate spelling of Hodaviah (q.v.).

**Hodaviah** ("honor of Jehovah"). [1] A chief of the tribe of Manasseh (1 Chron. 5:24). [2] A descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 9:7). [3] An ancestor of returning captives (Ezra 2:40). He is also called Hodevah ("Jehovah is honor") in Nehemiah 7:43. *See also* Hodaiah.

**Hodesh** ("new moon"), a wife of Shaharaim (1 Chron. 8:9).

**Hodevah.** *See* Hodaviah.

# ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE

**Hodiah [Hodijah]** ("splendor [or honor] of Jehovah"). [1] A brother-in-law of Naham (1 Chron. 4:19). The KJV incorrectly identifies him as the "wife" of Naham. [2] One of the Levites who explained the Law (Neh. 8:7; 10:10, 13). [3] One who sealed the new covenant with God after the Exile (Neh. 10: 18).

**Hodijah.** *See* Hodiah.

**Hoglah** ("partridge"), a daughter of Zelophehad (Num. 26:33; 27:1; Josh. 17:3).

**Hoham** ("whom Jehovah impels; Jehovah protects the multitude"), an Amorite king slain by Joshua (Josh. 10:1-27).

**Homam [Hemam]** ("raging"), a Horite descendant of Esau (1 Chron. 1:39). He is called Hemam in Genesis 36:22 (probably a copyist's error).

**Hophni** ("strong"), the unholy son of Eli slain at the battle of Aphek (1 Sam. 1:3; 2:22-24,34).

**Horam** ("height"), a king of Gezer defeated by Joshua (Josh. 10:33).

**Hori** ("free; noble"). [1] A descendant of Esau (Gen. 36:22; 1 Chron. 1:39). [2] The father of one of the men sent to spy out the Promised Land (Num. 13:5).

**Hosah** ("refuge"), one of the first doorkeepers of the ark of the covenant (1 Chron. 16:38; 26:10-11, 16).

**Hosea [Osee]** ("help; i.e., Jehovah is help"), a prophet of Israel; he denounced the idolatries of Israel and Samaria (Hos. 1: 1-2).

**Hoshaiah** ("whom Jehovah helps"). [1] The father of Jezebel or Azariah (Jer. 42: 1; 43:2). [2] A man who led half of the princes of Judah in procession at the dedication of the walls (Neh. 12:32).

**Hoshama** ("whom Jehovah heareth"), a son or descendant of Jeconiah or Jehoiakim (1 Chron. 3: 18).

**Hoshea [Hosea]** ("Jehovah is help or salvation"). [1] A chief of the tribe of Ephraim in the days of David (1 Chron. 27:20). [2] The last king of Israel; he was imprisoned by Sargon of Assyria (2 Kings 15:30; 17:1,4,6; 18:1). [3] One who sealed the covenant with Nehemiah (Neh. 10:23). [4] The original name of Joshua (q. v.).

**Hotham [Hothan]** ("determination"). [1] A descendant of Asher (1 Chron. 7:32). [2] Father of two of David's best men (1 Chron. 11:44).

**Hothan.** *See* Hotham.

**Hothir** ("abundance"), son of Heman in charge of the twenty-first course of the tabernacle service (1 Chron. 25:4, 28).

**Hul** ("circle"), grandson of Shem (Gen. 10:23; 1 Chron. 1:17).

**Huldah** ("weasel"), a prophetess in the days of King Josiah (2 Kings 22: 14; 2 Chron. 34:22).

**Hupham** ("coast-inhabitant; protected"), the head of a family descendant from Benjamin (Num. 26:39). In Genesis 46:21 and 1 Chronicles 7: 12, his name is listed as Huppim ("coast-people" or "protection").

**Huppah** ("protection"), a priest in the time of David who had charge of one of the courses of service in the sanctuary (1 Chron. 24: 13).

**Huppim.** *See* Hupham.

**Hur** ("free; noble"). [1] One of the men who held up Moses' arms during the battle with Amalek (Exod. 17: 10, 12; 24: 14). [2] A son of Caleb (Exod. 31:2; 35:30; 38:22). [3] A Midianite king slain by Israel (Num. 31:8; Josh. 13:21). [4] An officer of Solomon on Mount Ephraim (1 Kings 4:8). [5] The father of a man named Caleb (1 Chron. 2:50; 4:4). [6] A descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 4: 1). [7] The ruler of half of Jerusalem under Nehemiah (Neh. 3:9).

**Hurai.** *See* Hiddai.

**Huram.** *See* Hiram.

**Huri** ("linen weaver"), a descendant of Gad (1 Chron. 5:14).

**Hushah** ("haste"), a descendant of Judah (1 Chron. 4:4).

**Hushai** ("quick"), a friend and counselor of David (2 Sam. 15:32,37; 16:16-18; 17:5-15).

**Husham** ("hasting; alert"), a descendant of Esau who became king of Edom (Gen. 36:34,35; 1 Chron. 1:45-46).

**Hushim** ("hasting; hasters"), [1] A son of Dan (Gen. 46:23); in Numbers 26:42, his name is Shuham ("depression"). [2] A descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 7: 12). [3] One of the two wives of Shaharaim (1 Chron. 8:8, 11).

**Huz** ("firm"), the eldest son of Nahor and Milcah (Gen. 22:21). Elsewhere listed as Uz.

**Hymenaeus** ("nuptial"), an early Christian who fell into apostasy and error (1 Tim. 1:20; 2 Tim. 2:17).

End of the H's.

[Click here to go to the Main Menu](#)



# ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE



**Land of Ephraim.** The prophet Hosea predicted that God would punish the tribe of Ephraim, which lived in these fertile hills north of Jerusalem (cf. Hosea 12-13). Hosea said, "Now they sin more and more, and have made them... idols according to their own understanding..." (Hosea 13:2).