

WHO'S WHO
OF THE
BIBLE

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BIBLE

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Introduction

The Bible includes the names of over 3,000 different individuals. *Who's Who of the Bible* is an exhaustive listing of every named person in the 66 books of the Bible, together with a concise description of their life and significance. You will find this book helpful to answer such questions as *Why is Abraham important? Who were Hophni, Jezebel, Eliphaz, or Phoebe? Who were Ananias and Sapphira? What did Epaphroditus do?*

Alphabetical listing of names

An alphabetical list of every personal name with page numbers can be found at the end of the book. Look up the name you want in this list and then turn to the page number given:

Aaron	43
Abaddon	252
Abagtha	196

In the alphabetical listing many people (where there are multiple entries [1], [2], etc. – see below) are given a brief description to help you locate which Ananias, Joseph, Simon, etc., you are looking for:

Ananias	Sapphira's husband [1] 235; Christian in Damascus [2] 236; high priest [3] 241
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Dates

Dates have been added after each name to show when the person lived. In many instances it is not possible to give exact dates, so many dates are shown with c. (circa. = 'about'), for example:

Joshua (c. 1480–1370 BC)	Rahab (late C15th BC)
------------------------------------	---------------------------------

For additional notes on dates, see pages 13, 20, 57 and 121.¹

Arrangement of entries

Entries are arranged by the first Bible book in which the person is mentioned.


This has the advantage that individuals in family groups or people in the same part of the Bible appear together:

Luke

Simeon[2]

(C1st BC)


A righteous and devout man on whom the Holy Spirit rested. He was in the temple courts in Jerusalem when Jesus' parents presented him there to fulfil the requirements of the Law. He recognized Jesus as the promised Messiah and blessed him and his family and praised God.

 (2:25–35)


Anna

(C1st BC)

Daughter of Phanuel, from the tribe of Asher. She was very old and had been a widow for many years when Mary[1] and Joseph[6] brought Jesus to the temple. She worshipped continuously in the temple and when she saw Jesus she praised God and spoke about the redemption he would bring.

 (2:36–38)

Where more than one person has the same name, the different individuals are given the numbers [1], [2], etc., generally in the order in which they appear in the Bible text.

At the end of each entry the most important Bible references to that person are listed, preceded by the symbol . Where the name of the Bible book is omitted, it is the one in which the entry is included.

¹ The main sources of reference for these dates are:

McFall, Leslie, 'The Chronology of Saul and David', *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*, 53:3 (September 2010), pages 475-533

Oswalt, J.N., 'Chronology of the Old Testament', *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia: Volume 1* Eerdmans, 1979, pages 673-685

Thiele, Edwin R. *The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings* Kregel, revised edition, 1994

Variants and alternative names

The spellings of most names is definitive; however, a few names have variants. We have used the New International Version of the Bible (2011 edition) as a basis to give guidance on spellings; variant spellings are shown in brackets:

Abimelek[1] (Abimelech)

(reigned mid C19th BC)

King of Gerar who was deceived by Abraham...

Alternative names are also included:

Sarai/Sarah

(1942–1815 BC)

Wife of Abram who accompanied him...

Hananiah[15], Mishael[3], Azariah[25]

(born late C7th BC)

Also known respectively by the Babylonian names Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego...

Grouped entries

To save space, sometimes names of people are grouped together:

Euodia, Syntyche

(mid C1st AD)

Two Christian women in the church at Philippi...

From the tribe of Issachar

Uzzi[2], Rephaiah[3], Jeriel, Jahmai, Ibsam

(mid C17th BC)

Sons of Tola[1]. Grandsons of Issachar[1]...

Izrahiah

(late C17th BC)

Son of Uzzi[2]. Grandson of Tola[1]...

Michael[5], Obadiah[3], Joel[6], Ishiah[1] (Isshiah)

(early C16th BC)

Sons of Izrahiah. Grandsons of Uzzi[2]...

Additional features

In-depth feature articles and family trees provide additional information, e.g. on the names and titles of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, and the genealogies of individuals such as Abraham and David. See list of special features on p. 7.


Cross-references

Certain entries direct you to a different location:

Nathanael

(C1st AD)

See **Bartholomew** in *Matthew*, p. 224.

 (1:45–51)

Appendix

Selected entries from the books of the Apocrypha (deuterocanonical books) are included in an appendix to give the main personal names in those books.

Note that in the Appendix numbers are not added after names of individuals whose names have already been included in the main part of the book, although the names are included in the Index and are marked by [Ap].

Abbreviations

AD	anno Domini; after Christ
AM	anno Mundi; from the creation of the earth: see note on page 14
Ap	(in index) entry in the Apocrypha
BC	before Christ
C	century
c	(in family trees) concubine
c.	circa; about
m	(in family trees) married

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1 The Pentateuch

The Pentateuch is the name given to the first five books of the Old Testament of the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy). These books are collectively called ‘The books of the Law’ or ‘The Torah’ or ‘The Books of Moses’. They begin with the act of creation and then trace the earliest beginnings of the Israelite nation until the death of Moses. Abraham and his descendants are introduced as the fathers of this nation. The Israelite people face oppression in Egypt, and Moses leads them from Egypt, into the wilderness, travelling towards the Promised Land of Canaan. First, however, the God of Abraham appears to Moses and reveals his love and purposes for the Israelite people – expressed in terms of a covenant commitment (a binding agreement) to them. The people are called to respond with love and loyalty to God. In the uncertain years before entering Canaan, God’s people begin to regulate their community and religious life in the light of this covenant.

Because of the impossibility of establishing precise dates for Genesis 1–11, the dates from Adam to Terah have been given in years AM (Anno Mundi: from the creation of the earth). The ages that are given in Genesis have been taken at face value.


Genesis

Adam

(0–930 AM)

The first man in the Bible, created by God, made in the image of God and described as ‘the son of God’. His name sounds like the Hebrew word for ‘ground’ and points to the origin of man whom God forms ‘from the dust of the ground’ (2:7). Adam lived in the Garden of Eden where Eve became his ‘helper’. He was the father of Cain, Abel and Seth and other unnamed sons and daughters. He lived for 930 years. Adam is also a generic term for the human race. In the light of Adam’s involvement in the first sin of human beings against

God (the Fall, Genesis 3), his name is used in the New Testament to refer to human rebellion against God, so contrasting with Jesus Christ, ‘the new Adam’. Luke’s genealogy of Jesus begins with Adam. Paul explains the different roles of men and women in the church by referring back to Adam and Eve.


 (2:20; 3:17, 20–21; 4:1, 25; 5:3–5; 1 Chronicles 1:1; Hosea 6:7; Luke 3:38; Romans 5:12–14; 1 Corinthians 11:8–9; 15:22, 45; 1 Timothy 2:13–14; Jude 14)

Eve

(0–? AM)

The first woman in the Bible – the helper and then wife of Adam, formed from Adam’s rib. Mother of Cain, Abel and Seth and other sons

and daughters. Her name means ‘living’ and the Bible describes her as ‘mother of all the living’. In Genesis 3, Eve succumbs first to the serpent’s temptation and then encourages her husband to succumb to temptation too.


 (2:20–25; 3:1–21; 4:1–2, 25; 2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Timothy 2:13–14)

Cain

(?C1st AM)

Eldest son of Adam and Eve. Father of Enoch[1]. Grandfather of Irad. A farmer. He was the first murderer (he killed his brother Abel) and following


this his life was unsettled although God protected him.

 (4:1–17, 24–25; Hebrews 11:4; 1 John 3:12; Jude 11)

Abel

(?C1st AM)

Second son of Adam and Eve. A shepherd who brought the best of his flocks to God as an offering. Murdered by his brother but in Hebrews he is commended for his righteousness and faith.

 (4:2–10, 25; Matthew 23:35; Luke 11:51; Hebrews 11:4; 12:24)

God

The existence of God is assumed, not argued, in the Bible. God is the Creator and Redeemer of the world. He reveals himself to people in Scripture and supremely in Jesus Christ. The Bible emphasizes that God is personal and that he is completely trustworthy. He is the Father of Jesus Christ and of all believers. Christianity sees God as Trinity: only one God in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each person of the Trinity is distinct from, but also interrelated with, the others. All three persons are divine. *See also Jesus Christ, p. 219; Holy Spirit, p. 234.*

The titles and names of God

Although there are many names for God in the Bible, one name is particularly significant: YHWH, which is God’s personal name and is pronounced something like ‘Yahweh’. When reading their Scriptures, the Jews considered God’s name to be too holy to be spoken and so replaced that name by the title ‘the Lord’, which is also the common term for God in the New Testament. The name *Yahweh* was explained to Moses as ‘I am who I am’ (Exodus 3:13–14). It suggests that God is eternal, unique, unchangeable. He is actively present with his people as their Redeemer and committed to them as their covenant Lord. In English Bibles, the name Yahweh is usually printed as ‘the LORD’.

Names based on Yahweh (Hebrew YHWH) (‘The Lord’)

Yahweh-sabaoth	The LORD of Hosts (LORD Almighty)	1 Samuel 17:45
Yahweh-shalom	The LORD is peace	Judges 6:24
Yahweh-shamma	The LORD is there	Ezekiel 48:35
Yahweh-tsidkenu	The LORD is our righteousness	Jeremiah 23:6
Yahweh-yireh	The LORD provides	Genesis 22:8, 14

Names with El (‘God’)

El Elyon	God Most High	Genesis 14:18–20
El Olam	God Eternal	Genesis 21:33
El Shaddai	God Almighty	Genesis 17:1

Other common names and descriptions

Ancient of Days	Daniel 7:9, 13, 22
Creator	Isaiah 40:28
Father	Psalm 68:5–6; Mark 14:36; John 10:27–30
First and Last	Isaiah 44:6
Fortress	Psalm 18:2
God of peace	Romans 15:33
God of your fathers	Exodus 3:13
Holy One of Israel	Isaiah 12:6
Hope of Israel	Jeremiah 17:13
Husband	Hosea 2:16
Judge	Psalm 94:2
King	Isaiah 6:5; 1 Timothy 6:15
Living God	Psalm 84:2
Mighty One	Luke 1:49
Name	1 Kings 8:29
Redeemer	Isaiah 43:14
Refuge	Psalms 46:1; 91:2
Rock	Psalm 144:1
Saviour	Titus 1:3
Shepherd	Psalm 23:1
Shield	Genesis 15:1
Stronghold	Psalm 18:2

Enoch[1]

(?C2nd AM)

Son of Cain. Grandson of Adam. Father of Irad. Grandfather of Mehujael.

📖 (4:17–18)

Irad

(?C3rd AM)

Son of Enoch. Father of Mehujael. Grandfather of Methushael.

📖 (4:18)

Mehujael

(?C4th AM)

Son of Irad. Grandson of Enoch. Father of Methushael. Grandfather of Lamech[1].

📖 (4:18)

Methushael

(?C5th AM)

Son of Mehujael. Grandson of Irad. Father of Lamech[1].

📖 (4:18)

Lamech[1]

(?C6th AM)

Son of Methushael. Grandson of Mehujael. Father of Jabal and Jubal, Tubal-Cain and Naamah. First man to have more than one wife. He murdered someone who had injured him, so taking vengeance that exceeded what was legitimate for the crime.

📖 (4:18–19, 23–24)

Adah[1]

(?C6th AM)

Wife of Lamech[1]. Mother of Jabal and Jubal.

📖 (4:19–20, 23)

Zillah

(?C6th AM)

Wife of Lamech[1]. Mother of Tubal-Cain and Naamah.

📖 (4:19, 22–23)

Jabal

(?C7th AM)

Son of Lamech[1] and Adah[1]. A tent dweller and keeper of livestock.

📖 (4:20)

Jubal

(?C7th AM)

Son of Lamech[1] and Adah[1]. A musician (stringed instruments and pipes).

📖 (4:21)

Tubal-Cain

(?C7th AM)

Son of Lamech[1] and Zillah. Brother of Naamah[1]. Maker of bronze and iron tools.

📖 (4:22)

Naamah[1]

(?C7th AM)

Daughter of Lamech[1] and Zillah. Sister of Tubal-Cain.

📖 (4:22)

Seth

(130–1042 AM)

Third son of Adam and Eve, born after Abel's death. Father of Enosh. Lived 912 years. His descendants were mainly upright and followed God's ways (in contrast to those of his brother Cain). Mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus.

📖 (4:25–26; 5:4, 6–8; 1 Chronicles 1:1; Luke 3:38)

Enosh

(235–1140 AM)

Son of Seth. Grandson of Adam. Father of Kenan (and other sons and daughters). Lived 905 years. Mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus.

📖 (4:26; 5:6–7, 9–11; 1 Chronicles 1:1; Luke 3:38)

Kenan

(325–1235 AM)

Son of Enosh. Father of Mahalalel[1] (and other sons and daughters). Lived 910 years. Mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus.

📖 (5:9–14; Luke 3:37)

Mahalalel[1]

(395–1290 AM)

Son of Kenan. Father of Jared (and other sons and daughters). Lived 895 years. Mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus.

📖 (5:12–17; Luke 3:37)

Jared

(460–1422 AM)

Son of Mahalalel[1]. Father of Enoch[2] (and other sons and daughters). Lived 962 years. Mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus.

📖 (5:15–20; Luke 3:37)

Enoch[2]

(622–987 AM)

Son of Jared. Father of Methuselah (and other sons and daughters). Lived 365 years. He 'walked faithfully with God' and then he did not die but 'God took him away'. Mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus. Commended in Hebrews as a man of faith.

📖 (5:18–24; Luke 3:37; Hebrews 11:5; Jude 14–15)

Methuselah

(687–1656 AM)

Son of Enoch[2]. Father of Lamech[2] (and other sons and daughters). Grandfather of Noah. Oldest man