

THE
— COMPLETE —
PEOPLE &
PLACES
OF THE BIBLE

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INTRODUCTION

Complete People and Places of the Bible is designed to help students of the Word understand all the specifically named characters and locales of scripture. In the pages following, you'll find information on more than 3,000 names found in the Bible—just over 2,000 people names (covering some 3,400 individuals) and approximately 1,000 place names—providing concise details on each one's contribution to the story of God's Word.

Names were very important to the people of Bible times. People's names had meanings, often assigned by a child's parents but occasionally by God Himself. Places were often named to reflect incidents that occurred there. Throughout this book, the meanings of Hebrew-based names are given; where no meaning of a name is shown, it is unknown or of foreign derivation.

In addition to meanings, the names in *Complete People and Places of the Bible* are also accompanied by

- A quick visual indicator for “people” or “place”
- The number of times mentioned; an overall figure for all people by the name, a breakdown of Old Testament and New Testament usages for place names
- The number of men or women with a particular name
- A notation indicating if a person is found in the genealogy of Jesus
- Essays describing the persons or places, with more important names receiving proportionally longer entries
- Scripture references for further study; every entry will have at least one reference (first or only), while more prominent entries will also include other key chapter-and-verse notations

Names and spellings in *Complete People and Places of the Bible* are those used in the King James Version of the Bible. This work is based on *Strong's Expanded, Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, a classic reference that uses the King James Version as its source. But since many readers use other Bible versions, we have sometimes provided alternative translations (for example, the Wilderness of Zin may be referred to as the Desert of Zin).

Where a person had more than one name or scripture provides us with variations of the name, alternative names or spellings are listed at the end of the biography section. For example, Jashub's biography includes the information “Same as Job (1),” referring readers to the first listing for the name Job. Please note that we have not included titles or the names of spirit beings in this dictionary.

To assist you in understanding the geography of the areas referred to in scripture, seven maps have been included beginning on page 485. Many places, especially in the Old Testament and where a name is mentioned only once, cannot be accurately identified. On some maps, a question mark indicates that scholars are not certain this is the correct site.

Because the scriptures deal with many people, places, and nations, we have provided a time line that can help you sort out the differences of empires, rulers, and times. The dates are often approximate, since accurate dating at such a distance and in various cultures is difficult. Scholars often disagree on exact dates for many of these events; and a few dates, such as those of the ministries of the prophets Obadiah and Joel, remain inconclusive. We are deeply indebted to Stephen M. Miller's book *The Complete Guide to the Bible* (Barbour Publishing) for the lists of the kings of Israel and Judah and the prophets.

For the many hundreds of people and places recorded in scripture, this book will provide the concise information you need to quickly understand their background, prominence, and contribution to history. We hope *Complete People and Places of the Bible* will spur you on to further study of scripture.

TIME LINES

Old Testament History

- 2100–1500 BC Age of the patriarchs (Middle Bronze Age)
- c. 1950 BC The Amorites conquer Mesopotamia
- 1500–1200 BC The Exodus and the Promised Land conquest (Late Bronze Age)
- c. 1469–c. 1211 BC Possible dates for the Exodus
- 1200–900 BC Establishment of Israel (Early Iron Age)
- c. 1050 BC The Philistines settle in southern Palestine

Ancient Empires

Assyrian Empire 1100–609 BC

- 859–824 BC Reign of King Shalmaneser III
- 855–625 BC Assyrian influence on Palestine
- 783–773 BC Reign of King Shalmaneser IV
- 744–727 BC Reign of King Tiglath-pileser III
- c. 732–612 BC Israel and Judah subject to Assyria
- 727–722 BC Fall of Israel to Assyria; Samaria destroyed
- 722 BC Reign of King Shalmaneser V
- 705–681 BC Reign of King Sennacherib
- 612 BC Fall of Nineveh to Neo-Babylonian (Chaldean) Empire
- 609 BC Chaldeans defeat Assyria

Neo-Babylonian (Chaldean) Empire 605–538 BC

- c. 626 BC Start of Neo-Babylonian (Chaldean) Empire
- 586 BC Fall of Jerusalem to the Chaldeans; temple destroyed
- 539 BC Fall of Neo-Babylonian Empire

Persian Empire 538–331 BC

- 538 BC Cyrus conquers Babylon (Chaldea) and establishes Persian Empire
- 522–485 BC Reign of King Darius I
- 486–465 BC Reign of King Ahasuerus (Xerxes) of Persia
- c. 479 BC Esther made queen of Persia
- 465–423 BC Reign of King Artaxerxes I of Persia
- 333 BC End of Persian control of Palestine
- 331 BC End of Persian Empire

Macedonian Empire 336–168 BC

- 336–323 BC Rule of Alexander the Great
- 333 BC Alexander the Great gains control of Palestine
- 331 BC Alexander the Great conquers Persian Empire

Seleucid rule 312–83 BC

- 175–163 BC Rule of Syrian king Antiochus IV (Epiphanes)

Roman Empire 27 BC–AD 476

- 63 BC Roman Empire takes control of Judaea
- 37–4 BC Reign of Herod the Great, king of Judaea

Israel/Judah

Prophets

- 770–750 BC Ministry of the prophet Jonah in Assyria
- 763–750 BC Ministry of the prophet Amos in Israel
- 750–722 BC Ministry of the prophet Hosea in Israel
- 742–687 BC Ministry of the prophet Micah in Judah
- 740–700 BC Ministry of the prophet Isaiah in Judah
- 640–621 BC Ministry of the prophet Zephaniah in Judah
- 627–586 BC Ministry of the prophet Jeremiah in Judah
- 612–588 BC Ministry of the prophet Habakkuk in Judah
- c. 605–536 BC Ministry of the prophet Daniel in Babylon
- 593–571 BC Ministry of the prophet Ezekiel in Babylon
- c. 586 BC Book of Obadiah written to Judah
- 520 BC Book of Haggai written to Judah
- 520–518 BC Ministry of the prophet Zechariah in Judah
- 440–430 BC Ministry of the prophet Malachi in Judah

Rulers

United Israel

- 1050–1010 BC Reign of King Saul of Israel
- 1023 BC Samuel anoints David king of Israel
- 1010–970 BC Reign of King David of Israel
- 970–930 BC Reign of King Solomon of Israel

c. 966–959 BC King Solomon builds the temple

Divided Israel

930 BC Start of Divided Kingdom (separate states of Israel and Judah)

Judah

930–913 BC Reign of King Rehoboam
913–910 BC Reign of King Abijam
910–872 BC Reign of King Asa
872–853 BC Reign of King Jehoshaphat
853–841 BC Reign of King Jehoram
841 BC Reign of King Ahaziah
841–835 BC Reign of Queen Athaliah
835–796 BC Reign of King Joash
796–792 BC Reign of King Amaziah
792–750 BC Reign of King Azariah (Uzziah)
750–735 BC Reign of King Jotham
735–715 BC Reign of King Ahaz
715–697 BC Reign of King Hezekiah
697–642 BC Reign of King Manasseh
642–640 BC Reign of King Amon
640–609 BC Reign of King Josiah
609 BC Reign of King Jehoahaz
609–598 BC Reign of King Jehoiakim
598–597 BC Reign of King Jehoiachin
597–586 BC Reign of King Zedekiah

Northern Israel

930–909 BC Reign of King Jeroboam I
909–908 BC Reign of King Nadab
908–886 BC Reign of King Baasha
886–885 BC Reign of King Elah
885–874 BC Reign of King Omri
874–853 BC Reign of King Ahab
853–852 BC Reign of King Ahaziah
852–841 BC Reign of King Joram (Jehoram)
841–814 BC Reign of King Jehu
814–798 BC Reign of King Jehoahaz
798–793 BC Reign of King Jehoash
793–753 BC Reign of King Jeroboam II
753–752 BC Reign of King Zechariah
752 BC Reign of King Shallum
752–742 BC Reign of King Menahem
742–740 BC Reign of King Pekahiah
740–732 BC Reign of King Pekah
732–722 BC Reign of King Hoshea

586 BC Babylonian Empire conquers Judah and destroys Jerusalem and Solomon's temple

538 BC The first exiles return to Jerusalem

c. 516 BC Second temple completed
457 BC Ezra returns to Judah with more exiles
c. 445 BC Nehemiah leads Jews back to Jerusalem

432 BC Nehemiah's second visit to Jerusalem
152–37 BC Rule of the Maccabees

New Testament

c. 6 BC Birth of Jesus
4 BC–AD 6 Rule of Herod Archelaus, ethnarch of Judaea, Samaria, and Idumea
4 BC–AD 39 Rule of Herod Antipas, tetrarch of Galilee and Peraea
4 BC–AD 34 Rule of Herod Philip, tetrarch of Iturea and Trachonitis
AD 26 Jesus' public ministry begins
AD 30 Jesus' death and resurrection
AD 47–49 Paul's first missionary journey
AD 49 Roman emperor Claudius expels Jews from Rome; church holds Council of Jerusalem
AD 50–52 Paul's second missionary journey
c. AD 52–56 Paul's third missionary journey
AD 59 Paul's first Roman imprisonment begins
AD 67–68 Paul's final imprisonment and death in Rome
AD 70 Herod's temple destroyed

AARON

of times mentioned: 350

of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Uncertain

The older brother of Moses, Aaron was called into God's service when Moses balked at confronting Pharaoh about his enslavement of the people of Israel. "I know that he can speak well," God said of Aaron (Exodus 4:14). He became God's spokesman and supported Moses' leadership for nearly forty years. He was the first priest of Israel and headed a familial line of priests that continued for more than a thousand years. But Aaron made three memorable mistakes: He created a golden calf idol for the people of Israel when Moses stayed long on Mount Sinai receiving God's Ten Commandments (Exodus 32)—starting a cycle of idolatry that would plague the Israelites for centuries. He and his sister, Miriam, complained about Moses' Ethiopian wife—and Miriam contracted a temporary case of leprosy as punishment (Numbers 12). And Aaron and Moses both incurred God's judgment—banishment from the Promised Land—when they disobeyed the Lord by striking, rather than speaking to, a rock to provide miraculous water for the people at Kadesh (Numbers 20). Aaron died at age 123 on Mount Hor (Numbers 33:39), with his brother at his side.

First reference: Exodus 4:14 / Last reference: Hebrews 9:4 / Key references: Exodus 4:30; 32:2–4; Leviticus 9:7

ABAGTHA

of times mentioned: 1

of MEN by this name: 1

One of seven eunuchs serving the Persian king Ahasuerus in Esther's time.

Only reference: Esther 1:10

ABANA

of times mentioned: OT 1

Meaning: Stony

A river of Damascus that the Syrian commander Naaman would have preferred to the Jordan River as a place to wash away his leprosy.

Only reference: 2 Kings 5:12

ABARIM

of times mentioned: OT 4

Meaning: Regions beyond

On their way to conquer the Holy Land, Moses and the Israelites pitched their tents in this mountain range east of the Jordan River. From Mount Nebo, which was part of the Abarim range, God allowed Moses a view of the Holy Land just before he died.

First reference: Numbers 27:12 / Last reference: Deuteronomy 32:49

ABDA

of times mentioned: 2

of MEN by this name: 2

Meaning: Work

1) Father of King Solomon's official over forced labor, Adoniram.

Only reference: 1 Kings 4:6

2) A Levite worship leader in Jerusalem after the Babylonian Exile.

Only reference: Nehemiah 11:17

ABDEEL

of times mentioned: 1

of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Serving God

Father of Shelemiah, an official under Judah's king Jehoiakim.

Only reference: Jeremiah 36:26

ABDI

of times mentioned: 3

of MEN by this name: 2

Meaning: Serviceable

1) A Levite, father of temple servant Kish of King Hezekiah's day.

First reference: 1 Chronicles 6:44 / Last reference: 2 Chronicles 29:12

2) An exiled Israelite who married a “strange” (foreign) woman.

Only reference: Ezra 10:26

ABDIEL

of times mentioned: 1

of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Servant of God

A descendant of Abraham through Jacob's son Gad.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 5:15

ABDON

of times mentioned: 6

of MEN by this name: 4

Meaning: Servitude

1) The twelfth judge of Israel who led the nation for eight years. He was known for having forty sons and thirty nephews who each rode a donkey.

First reference: Judges 12:13 / Last reference: Judges 12:15

2) A descendant of Abraham through Jacob's son Benjamin.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 8:23

3) Another descendant of Abraham through Jacob's son Benjamin.

First reference: 1 Chronicles 8:30 / Last reference: 1 Chronicles 9:36

4) One of five men sent by King Josiah to ask God's prophetess Huldah what to do about the “book of the law” recently discovered in the temple.

Only reference: 2 Chronicles 34:20

ABDON

of times mentioned: OT 2

Meaning: Servitude

One of the forty-eight cities given to the Levites as God had commanded. Abdon was given to them by the tribe of Asher.

First reference: Joshua 21:30 / Last reference: 1 Chronicles 6:74

ABED-NEGO

of times mentioned: 15

of MEN by this name: 1

The Babylonian name for Azariah, one of Daniel's companions in exile. Daniel had King Nebuchadnezzar make Abed-nego a ruler in Babylon. When some Chaldeans accused Abed-nego and his fellow Jews and corulers, Shadrach and Meshach, of not worshipping the king's golden idol, the three faithful Jews were thrown into a furnace. God protected His men, who were not even singed. The king recognized the power of their God and promoted them in his service.

First reference: Daniel 1:7 / Last reference: Daniel 3:30 / Key reference: Daniel 3:16–18

ABEL

of times mentioned: 12

of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Emptiness or vanity

Humanity's fourth member, the second son of Adam and Eve, Abel was murdered by his jealous brother, Cain. Abel the shepherd's meat offering pleased God more than Cain's “fruit of the ground.” When God asked Cain the whereabouts of his murdered brother, Cain replied, “I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?” (Genesis 4:9). Jesus called Abel “righteous” in His denunciation of the scribes and Pharisees for persecuting the prophets.

First reference: Genesis 4:2 / Last reference: Hebrews 12:24 / Key reference: Genesis 4:4

ABEL

of times mentioned: OT 4

1) A stone in Joshua the Beth-shemite's field. After the Philistines stole the ark of the covenant and returned it to Israel on a cart pulled by two milk cows, the ark was set here. When God struck down seventy men for looking upon the ark, the people of Beth-shemesh asked the people of Kirjath-jearim to take it to their city.

Only reference: 1 Samuel 6:18

2) A city in the land of the tribe of Naphtali that David's battle commander Joab besieged in order to capture the rebel Sheba, who had risen up against David's rule.

First reference: 2 Samuel 20:14 / Last reference:
2 Samuel 20:18

📍ABEL-BETH-MAACHAH

of times mentioned: OT 2

Meaning: Meadow of Beth-maachah

One of three cities in Naphtali that was attacked by the Syrian prince Ben-hadad, at the instigation of King Asa of Judah. During the reign of Pekah, king of Israel, Abel-beth-maachah was conquered by the Assyrian king Tiglath-pileser III, who took its people into captivity in Assyria. Same as Abel-maim.

First reference: 1 Kings 15:20 / Last reference:
2 Kings 15:29

📍ABEL-MAIM

of times mentioned: OT 1

Meaning: Meadow of water

A city in northern Israel that was attacked by the Syrian prince Ben-hadad, at the instigation of King Asa of Judah. Same as Abel-beth-maachah.

Only reference: 2 Chronicles 16:4

📍ABEL-MEHOLAH

of times mentioned: OT 3

Meaning: Meadow of dancing

A city in the Jordan Valley. When Gideon's army routed them, the Midianites fled to Abel-meholah's border. Under King Solomon's governmental organization, Baana was the officer in charge of providing the king with provisions from this place. The prophet Elisha came from Abel-meholah.

First reference: Judges 7:22 / Last reference: 1 Kings
19:16

📍ABEL-MIZRAIM

of times mentioned: OT 1

Meaning: Meadow of Egypt

Joseph brought the body of his father, Jacob, to Abel-mizraim and buried him at this "threshing floor of Atad," east of the Jordan River. When the Canaanites saw Egyptians mourning there, they gave the place this name. Same as Atad.

Only reference: Genesis 50:11

📍ABEL-SHITTIM

of times mentioned: OT 1

Meaning: Meadow of acacias

A spot in the plains of Moab where the Israelites camped before entering the Promised Land.

Only reference: Numbers 33:49

📍ABEZ

of times mentioned: OT 1

Meaning: To gleam; conspicuous

A city that became part of the inheritance of Issachar when Joshua cast lots in Shiloh to provide territory for the seven tribes that had yet to receive their land.

Only reference: Joshua 19:20

👥ABI

of times mentioned: 1

of WOMEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Fatherly

Daughter of Zachariah and mother of Judah's good king Hezekiah.

Only reference: 2 Kings 18:2

👥ABIA

of times mentioned: 4

of MEN by this name: 2

Meaning: Worshipper of God

1) Grandson of King Solomon and son of King Rehoboam. He inherited the throne of Judah. Same as Abijah (3).

First reference: 1 Chronicles 3:10 / Last reference:
Matthew 1:7

Genealogy of Jesus: Yes (Matthew 1:7)

2) A priest who headed a division of priests at the time of Jesus' birth.

Only reference: Luke 1:5

ABIAH

of times mentioned: 4

of MEN by this name: 2

of WOMEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Worshipper of God

1) The second son of the prophet Samuel. Abiah and his brother, Joel, served as judges in Beersheba, but their poor character caused Israel's leaders to ask Samuel for a king to rule over them.

First reference: 1 Samuel 8:2 / Last reference:
1 Chronicles 6:28

2) Wife of Hezron, a descendant of Abraham through Jacob's son Judah.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 2:24

3) A descendant of Abraham through Jacob's son Benjamin.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 7:8

ABI-ALBON

of times mentioned: 1

of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Father of strength

One of King David's warriors known as the "mighty men."

Only reference: 2 Samuel 23:31

ABIASAPH

of times mentioned: 1

of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Gatherer

A descendant of Abraham through Jacob's son Levi.

Only reference: Exodus 6:24

ABIATHAR

of times mentioned: 31

of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Father of abundance

The only priest of Nob who escaped when King Saul killed this enclave of priests because they supported David. He became one of David's trusted counselors and the high priest of Israel. But at the end of David's life, Abiathar supported David's son Adonijah as king and drew King Solomon's displeasure down on him. He was banished to his home, though he kept the title of high priest.

First reference: 1 Samuel 22:20 / Last reference:
Mark 2:26 / Key references: 1 Samuel 22:21–22;
1 Kings 1:7

ABIDA

of times mentioned: 1

of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Knowing

A descendant of Abraham through his second wife, Keturah. Same as Abidah.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 1:33

ABIDAH

of times mentioned: 1

of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Knowing

A descendant of Abraham through his second wife, Keturah. Same as Abida.

Only reference: Genesis 25:4

ABIDAN

of times mentioned: 5

of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Judge

A prince of Benjamin who helped Moses take a census of his tribe.

First reference: Numbers 1:11 / Last reference:
Numbers 10:24

ABIEL

of times mentioned: 3
of MEN by this name: 2

Meaning: Possessor of God

1) Grandfather of Israel's king Saul and Saul's army commander, Abner.

First reference: 1 Samuel 9:1 / Last reference:
1 Samuel 14:51

2) One of King David's valiant warriors.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 11:32

ABIEZER

of times mentioned: 7
of MEN by this name: 2

Meaning: Helpful

1) A descendant of Abraham through Joseph's son Manasseh.

First reference: Joshua 17:2 / Last reference:
1 Chronicles 7:18

2) A commander in King David's army, overseeing twenty-four thousand men in the ninth month of each year.

First reference: 2 Samuel 23:27 / Last reference:
1 Chronicles 27:12

ABIGAIL

of times mentioned: 17
of WOMEN by this name: 2

Meaning: Source of joy

1) A wife of King David. She provided food for David and his men after her first husband, Nabal, refused to help these warriors who defended his land from harm while King Saul and David fought. Nabal died following his wife's telling him what she had done. Because David appreciated Abigail, he married her.

First reference: 1 Samuel 25:3 / Last reference:
1 Chronicles 3:1

2) Mother of Amasa, whom Absalom made captain of his army, and aunt of David's commander Joab.

First reference: 2 Samuel 17:25 / Last reference:
1 Chronicles 2:17

ABIHAIL

of times mentioned: 6
of MEN by this name: 3

of WOMEN by this name: 2

Meaning: Possessor of might

1) Forefather of a Levitical family that had responsibility for parts of the tabernacle.

Only reference: Numbers 3:35

2) Wife of Abishur, a descendant of Abraham through Jacob's son Judah.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 2:29

3) A descendant of Abraham through Jacob's son Gad.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 5:14

4) One of the wives of King Rehoboam of Judah.

Only reference: 2 Chronicles 11:18

5) The father of Queen Esther, who married the Persian king Ahasuerus.

First reference: Esther 2:15 / Last reference: Esther
9:29

ABIHU

of times mentioned: 12
of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Worshipper of God

A son of Aaron who, along with his brother Nadab, offered strange fire before the Lord. God sent fire from His presence to consume them, and they died. He had no children.

First reference: Exodus 6:23 / Last reference:
1 Chronicles 24:2 / Key reference: Leviticus 10:1

ABIHUD

of times mentioned: 1
of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Possessor of renown

A descendant of Abraham through Jacob's son Benjamin.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 8:3

ABIJAH

of times mentioned: 20
of MEN by this name: 5
of WOMEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Worshipper of God

1) A son of King Jeroboam of Israel who died in childhood.

Only reference: 1 Kings 14:1

2) One of twenty-four priests in David's time who was chosen by lot to serve in the tabernacle.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 24:10

3) A son of King Rehoboam of Judah. He inherited the throne from his father and went to war against Jeroboam of Israel, claiming that God had given Israel to David and his heirs. Triumphant because his troops called on the Lord in desperation, he gained some cities from Israel and "waxed mighty" (2 Chronicles 13:21). Same as Abia (1).

First reference: 2 Chronicles 11:20 / Last reference:
2 Chronicles 14:1 / Key reference: 2 Chronicles 13:1-5

4) Mother of Judah's good king Hezekiah.

Only reference: 2 Chronicles 29:1

5) A priest who renewed the covenant under Nehemiah.

Only reference: Nehemiah 10:7

6) An exiled priest who returned to Judah under Zerubbabel.

First reference: Nehemiah 12:4 / Last reference:
Nehemiah 12:17

ABIJAM

of times mentioned: 5
of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Seaman

Son of Rehoboam, king of Judah. He inherited his father's throne and did evil for the three years of his reign, during which he fought with King Jeroboam of Israel.

First reference: 1 Kings 14:31 / Last reference:
1 Kings 15:8

ABILENE

of times mentioned: NT 1

Meaning: Grassy meadow

A Palestinian territory north of Damascus, which was ruled by the tetrarch Lysanias during Tiberius Caesar's reign.

Only reference: Luke 3:1

ABIMAEEL

of times mentioned: 2
of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Father of Mael

A descendant of Noah through Noah's son Shem.

First reference: Genesis 10:28 / Last reference:
1 Chronicles 1:22

ABIMELECH

of times mentioned: 66
of MEN by this name: 3

Meaning: Father of the king

1) The Philistine king of Gerar who took Abraham's wife, Sarah, as his concubine because Abraham introduced her as his sister. God warned Abimelech, and the king returned Sarah to her husband. Later Abraham made a covenant with Abimelech.

Isaac repeated his father Abraham's lie when he moved to Gerar during a famine, but the king discovered it and protected him and his wife, Rebekah. God so blessed Isaac that Abimelech asked him and his family to leave. But eventually the two made a covenant.

First reference: Genesis 20:2 / Last reference:
Genesis 26:26 / Key references: Genesis 20:3-18;
26:8-11

2) A son of Gideon, by his concubine. He killed all but one of his brothers and was made king of Shechem. But three years later the Shechemites rebelled, and he destroyed the city. He moved on to attack Thebez, and there he was killed when a woman dropped part of a millstone on his head.

First reference: Judges 8:31 / Last reference:
2 Samuel 11:21 / Key references: Judges 9:5-6, 45,
50-53

3) One of the chief priests serving in the government of King David.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 18:16

ABINADAB

of times mentioned: 13

of MEN by this name: 4

Meaning: Liberal or generous

1) A Levite who lived in Gibeah and housed the ark of the covenant for twenty years.

First reference: 1 Samuel 7:1 / Last reference:
1 Chronicles 13:7

2) The second son of Jesse and older brother of King David.

First reference: 1 Samuel 16:8 / Last reference:
1 Chronicles 2:13

3) One of three sons of Israel's king Saul. Abinadab and his brothers died with Saul in a battle against the Philistines on Mount Gilboa (1 Samuel 31:1–2). Same as Ishui.

First reference: 1 Samuel 31:2 / Last reference:
1 Chronicles 10:2

4) Father of one of King Solomon's commissary officers, who married the king's daughter Taphath.

Only reference: 1 Kings 4:11

ABINOAM

of times mentioned: 4

of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Gracious

Father of Barak, who led Israel's army under Deborah.

First reference: Judges 4:6 / Last reference: Judges
5:12

ABIRAM

of times mentioned: 11

of MEN by this name: 2

Meaning: Lofly

1) One of the Reubenites who, with Korah the Levite, conspired against Moses. Because they

wrongly claimed that all of Israel was holy, God had the earth swallow the rebellious Reubenites.

First reference: Numbers 16:1 / Last reference:
Psalm 106:17

2) The son of Hiel, who rebuilt Jericho. Abiram died as his father built the foundations of the city.

Only reference: 1 Kings 16:34

ABISHAG

of times mentioned: 5

of WOMEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Blundering

A beautiful young woman called to serve the dying King David by lying with him to keep him warm. After David died, his son Adonijah wanted to marry Abishag, but he was put to death by his half brother Solomon, who feared Adonijah was trying to usurp the kingship.

First reference: 1 Kings 1:3 / Last reference: 1 Kings
2:22

ABISHAI

of times mentioned: 25

of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Generous

The brother of David's commander, Joab, Abishai accompanied David to Saul's camp on a spying mission in which David chose to spare the king's life. Abishai became a military leader under his brother and supported David in his fight with Absalom. He killed the Philistine Ishbi-benob, who sought to kill David and became a respected captain of the king's troops.

First reference: 1 Samuel 26:6 / Last reference:
1 Chronicles 19:15 / Key reference: 1 Samuel
26:6–12

ABISHALOM

of times mentioned: 2

of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Friendly

Grandfather of King Abijam of Judah.

First reference: 1 Kings 15:2 / Last reference:
1 Kings 15:10

ABISHUA

of times mentioned: 5
of MEN by this name: 2

Meaning: Prosperous

1) A descendant of Abraham through Jacob's son Levi and a priest through the line of Aaron.

First reference: 1 Chronicles 6:4 / Last reference: Ezra 7:5

2) A descendant of Abraham through Jacob's son Benjamin.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 8:4

ABISHUR

of times mentioned: 2
of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Mason

A descendant of Abraham through Jacob's son Judah.

First reference: 1 Chronicles 2:28 / Last reference: 1 Chronicles 2:29

ABITAL

of times mentioned: 2
of WOMEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Fresh

One of several wives of King David; mother of David's son Shephatiah.

First reference: 2 Samuel 3:4 / Last reference: 1 Chronicles 3:3

ABITUB

of times mentioned: 1
of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Good

A descendant of Abraham through Jacob's son Benjamin.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 8:11

ABIUD

of times mentioned: 2
of MEN by this name: 1

Genealogy of Jesus: Yes (Matthew 1:13)

Meaning: My father is majesty

A descendant of Abraham through Isaac's line.

Only reference: Matthew 1:13

ABNER

of times mentioned: 63
of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Enlightening

The son of Ner, Abner was the uncle of King Saul of Israel and captain of his army. David confronted Abner for not protecting Saul when David crept into Israel's camp and removed Saul's spear and water jar. After Saul's death, Abner declared Saul's son Ishbosheth king of Israel. When Ishbosheth wrongly accused Abner of taking one of his father's concubines, Abner went over to David's side and began encouraging all Israel to support him as king.

David's commander, Joab, objected to David's accepting Abner as a friend, because Abner had killed the commander's brother Asahel. After Joab and his brother Abishai killed Abner, David mourned at his funeral. Solomon declared that Abner was more righteous than his killer (1 Kings 2:32).

First reference: 1 Samuel 14:50 / Last reference: 1 Chronicles 27:21 / Key reference: 2 Samuel 3:12

ABRAHAM

of times mentioned: 250
of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Father of a multitude

A new name for Abram, whom God called out of Ur of the Chaldees and into the Promised Land. This new name was a symbol of the covenant between God and Abraham. The Lord promised to build a nation through Abraham and his wife, Sarai (whom he renamed Sarah), though she was too old to have children. God refused to accept Ishmael, son of Abraham and Sarah's maid, Hagar, as the child of promise.

In time, God gave Sarah and Abraham a son, Isaac, who would found the nation God promised. When

God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son on an altar, Abraham took Isaac and set out toward Moriah. There he prepared the altar and laid his son on it. But the angel of the Lord intervened, and God gave Abraham a ram to sacrifice in Isaac's place. God knew the depth of Abraham's faith from his willingness to sacrifice his son. He promised to bless Abraham and his seed.

In his old age, after Sarah's death, Abraham arranged a marriage for Isaac, ensuring God's promise. Then the old man married Keturah. But her sons and the sons of his concubines were not to disturb Isaac's inheritance. Abraham gave them gifts and sent them away from his land.

Abraham lived to be 175. He was buried with Sarah in the cave of Machpelah, in Hebron. Same as Abram.

First reference: Genesis 17:5 / Last reference:
1 Peter 3:6 / Key references: Genesis 17:2–8; 22:8

ABRAM

of times mentioned: 58

of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: High father

A man from Ur of the Chaldees, married to Sarai. God called him to the Promised Land and promised to bless him. At age seventy-five, Abram left with Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all their goods and servants. As he entered Canaan, God promised to give the land to Abram and his descendants.

God blessed Abram. When his flocks and Lot's were too large, they separated, and Lot headed for the area around Sodom. When Lot ran into trouble there, Abram rescued him and prayed for him, and God removed his family from the wicked city.

God promised Abram a son, but he and Sarai waited many years. Sarai gave him her maid, Hagar, to bear him a child, but the promised child did not come. When Abram was ninety years old, God made a covenant with him and changed his name to Abraham. Same as Abraham.

First reference: Genesis 11:26 / Last reference:
Nehemiah 9:7 / Key references: Genesis 12:1–4;
17:1–5

ABSALOM

of times mentioned: 102

of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Friendly

King David's son by his wife Maacah. When Absalom's sister Tamar was raped by their brother Amnon, Absalom hated him and commanded his servants to kill Amnon. When this was accomplished, Absalom fled Jerusalem for three years.

Joab, the head of David's army, tried to reconcile father and son. Though David allowed Absalom to return to Jerusalem, he would not see him. But as David ignored him, Absalom won over the hearts of Israel's people. David's counselor Ahithophel went over to Absalom's side.

When David left Jerusalem, Absalom took over the city and a battle began in the wood of Ephraim. As Absalom rode under an oak tree, he was caught in it and his mule ran out from under him.

Joab heard of this, went to Absalom, and thrust three spears into his heart. Yet Absalom lived, so Joab's armor bearers killed him and threw his body into a pit. They covered his body with a pile of stones, and the battle ended.

First reference: 2 Samuel 3:3 / Last reference:
2 Chronicles 11:21 / Key references: 2 Samuel
13:22; 15:10; 18:9

ACCAD

of times mentioned: OT 1

Meaning: A fortress

A city of Shinar that was part of the kingdom of Nimrod.

Only reference: Genesis 10:10–15

ACCHO

of times mentioned: OT 1

Meaning: To hem in

A Canaanite seaport that was part of the inheritance of the tribe of Asher. In the Middle Ages Accho was called Acre. Same as Ptolemais.

Only reference: Judges 1:31

ACELDAMA

of times mentioned: NT 1

Meaning: Field of blood

The name Jerusalem's residents gave to the field Judas bought with the money he got for betraying Jesus. In his sermon in Acts 1, Peter described the

unfaithful disciple's gruesome death there: he fell headlong and "burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out" (Acts 1:18).

Only reference: Acts 1:19

ACHAIA

of times mentioned: NT 11

The southern Greek province of the Roman Empire. Here the local Jews made insurrection against Paul and brought him before the proconsul Gallio for judgment. The ruler refused to hear their case and allowed the Jews to beat their synagogue ruler in front of his court.

Epaenetus and the household of Stephanas were some of the first converts in Achaia. Apollos went to Achaia with a recommendation from the Christians at Ephesus; he preached in Achaia, refuting the Jews who denied Christ. Christians of Achaia contributed to the collection of funds for the impoverished Christians in Jerusalem.

Though it bears the name of one church, Paul wrote the book of 2 Corinthians to the Achaians at large. In this epistle he comforted the suffering church of that province and encouraged them in faithfulness.

First reference: Acts 18:12 / Last reference: 1 Thessalonians 1:8 / Key references: Acts 18:12–17, 27–28; 2 Corinthians 1:1

ACHAICUS

of times mentioned: 1
of MEN by this name: 1

A Corinthian Christian who visited the apostle Paul in Ephesus and "refreshed [Paul's] spirit."

Only reference: 1 Corinthians 16:17

ACHAN

of times mentioned: 6
of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Troublesome

An Israelite who ignored Joshua's command that nothing in Jericho should live or be taken from the city. He stole a mantle, 200 shekels of silver, and 50 shekels of gold and hid them under his tent. Because of his sin, Israel could not stand at the first

battle of Ai. When Joshua discovered Achan's sin, he asked, "Why hast thou troubled us?" and promised that the Lord would trouble Achan that day (Joshua 7:25). The sinner and his family were taken to the Valley of Achor and stoned.

First reference: Joshua 7:1 / Last reference: Joshua 22:20

ACHAR

of times mentioned: 1
of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Troublesome

A variant spelling of Achan, "the troubler of Israel."

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 2:7

ACHAZ

of times mentioned: 2
of MEN by this name: 1

Genealogy of Jesus: Yes (Matthew 1:9)

A descendant of Abraham through Isaac; forebear of Jesus' earthly father, Joseph. Same as Ahaz.

Only reference: Matthew 1:9

ACHBOR

of times mentioned: 7
of MEN by this name: 3

1) Father of a king of Edom, "before there reigned any king over the children of Israel" (Genesis 36:31).

First reference: Genesis 36:38 / Last reference: 1 Chronicles 1:49

2) One of the men who was sent to consult Huldah the prophetess, after Josiah discovered the book of the law.

First reference: 2 Kings 22:12 / Last reference: 2 Kings 22:14

3) The father of Elnathan, who was sent by King Jehoiakim of Judah to bring the prophet Urijah back from Egypt. With the other princes of Judah, the scribe Baruch read Jeremiah's prophecies to him.

First reference: Jeremiah 26:22 / Last reference:
Jeremiah 36:12

ACHIM

of times mentioned: 2
of MEN by this name: 1

Genealogy of Jesus: Yes (Matthew 1:14)

A descendant of Abraham through Isaac; forebear of Jesus' earthly father, Joseph.

Only reference: Matthew 1:14

ACHISH

of times mentioned: 21
of MEN by this name: 2

1) The Philistine king of Gath before whom David, who feared him, pretended madness. Later David sought refuge in Achish's land and received the town of Ziklag from him. Though Achish wanted David to fight with him against Israel, when the king's troops objected, he sent David home.

First reference: 1 Samuel 21:10 / Last reference:
1 Samuel 29:9 / Key references: 1 Samuel 21:10–15; 29:6–7

2) Another king of Gath, in the time of Solomon. Two runaway servants of Shimei came to him.

First reference: 1 Kings 2:39 / Last reference:
1 Kings 2:40

ACHMETHA

of times mentioned: OT 1

A city in Media. In its palace, the Persian king Darius found a record proving that, as the Jews claimed, King Cyrus had ordered Jerusalem's temple to be rebuilt.

Only reference: Ezra 6:2

ACHOR

of times mentioned: OT 5

Meaning: Troubled

A valley near Jericho where justice was meted out to the looter Achan, who had disobeyed God's command

to destroy everything in Jericho. From the city he had taken a beautiful Babylonian robe, 200 shekels of silver, and a 50-shekel-weight wedge of gold. Knowing he was doing wrong, he buried them under his tent.

God had warned that anyone who disobeyed would trouble the camp. The trouble began when the Israelites lost a battle at Ai. Joshua inquired of God what had gone wrong, and the Lord commanded that the people sanctify themselves. Once they had done this, each tribe, then each family in that tribe, was brought before God. Achan was identified as the wrongdoer and stoned in the valley, which was named directly after this incident.

Isaiah prophesied that God would renew Achor, making it "a place for the herds to lie down in, for my people that have sought me" (Isaiah 65:10). Looking ahead, Hosea declared it would be a "door of hope" (Hosea 2:15).

First reference: Joshua 7:24 / Last reference: Hosea 2:15

ACHSA

of times mentioned: 1
of WOMEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Anklet

The daughter of Caleb, descendant of Abraham through Jacob's son Judah. Same as Achsah.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 2:49

ACHSAH

of times mentioned: 4
of WOMEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Anklet

Caleb's daughter, whom he promised in marriage to the man who could capture the city of Kirjathsepher. His brother Othniel captured the city and won Achsah as his wife. Afterward Caleb gave her land that held springs, since the lands of her dowry were dry. Same as Achsa.

First reference: Joshua 15:16 / Last reference:
Judges 1:13

ACHSHAPH

of times mentioned: OT 3

Meaning: Fascination

A Phoenician city whose king joined Jabin, king of Hazor, and other Canaanite rulers in attacking Joshua and the Israelites after they entered the Promised Land. Later, Achshaph was designated as a border landmark of the land given to the tribe of Asher when Joshua cast lots in Shiloh to provide territory for the seven tribes that had yet to receive an inheritance.

First reference: Joshua 11:1 / Last reference: Joshua 19:25

ACHZIB

of times mentioned: OT 4

Meaning: Deceitful

1) A city that became part of the inheritance of the tribe of Judah following the conquest of the Promised Land. Micah's prophecy played on the meaning of its name when he predicted that Achzib would be "a lie to the kings of Israel."

First reference: Joshua 15:44 / Last reference: Micah 1:14

2) A coastal city that became part of Asher's inheritance when Joshua cast lots in Shiloh to provide territory for the seven tribes that had yet to receive their land. The tribe of Asher did not drive the Canaanites out of Achzib as God had commanded them to do.

First reference: Joshua 19:29 / Last reference: Judges 1:31

ADADAH

of times mentioned: OT 1

Meaning: Festival

A southern city that became part of the inheritance of the tribe of Judah following the conquest of the Promised Land.

Only reference: Joshua 15:22

ADAH

of times mentioned: 8

of WOMEN by this name: 2

Meaning: Ornament

1) A wife of Lamech, the first man in scripture to have two wives. Her son was named Jabal.

First reference: Genesis 4:19 / Last reference: Genesis 4:23

2) A wife of Esau, "of the daughters of Canaan." Same as Bashemath (2).

First reference: Genesis 36:2 / Last reference: Genesis 36:16

ADAIAH

of times mentioned: 9

of MEN by this name: 9

Meaning: God has adorned

1) Grandfather of King Josiah of Judah, on his mother's side.

Only reference: 2 Kings 22:1

2) A descendant of Abraham through Jacob's son Levi.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 6:41

3) A descendant of Abraham through Jacob's son Benjamin.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 8:21

4) A Levite who returned to Jerusalem following the Babylonian captivity.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 9:12

5) Forefather of Maaseiah, captain of hundreds for the priest Jehoiada, who crowned Joash king of Judah.

Only reference: 2 Chronicles 23:1

6) An exiled Israelite who married a "strange" (foreign) woman.

Only reference: Ezra 10:29

7) Another exiled Israelite who married a "strange" (foreign) woman.

Only reference: Ezra 10:39

8) Ancestor of a man of the tribe of Judah who was chosen by lot to resettle Jerusalem after returning from the Babylonian Exile.

Only reference: Nehemiah 11:5

9) A Levite who settled in Jerusalem following the Babylonian Exile and worked in the temple.

Only reference: Nehemiah 11:12

ADALIA

of times mentioned: 1

of MEN by this name: 1

One of ten sons of Haman, who was the villain of the story of Esther.

Only reference: Esther 9:8

ADAM

of times mentioned: 30

of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Ruddy

The first man, who was created by God to have dominion over the earth. Adam's first act was to name the animals; then God created Adam's wife, Eve, as "a help meet for him" (Genesis 2:18). God gave this couple the beautiful Garden of Eden to care for. There Satan, in the form of a serpent, tempted Eve. Though God had banned them from eating the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil, under Satan's influence Eve picked it, ate it, and offered it to Adam, who also ate. Aware of their sin, they attempted to avoid God. He banned them from the garden and cursed the earth's ground so Adam would have to work hard to grow food. As a result of their sin, they would die. Following their banishment, the couple had two children, Cain and Abel. When Cain killed his brother, God gave Adam another son, Seth. Adam lived to be 930.

First reference: Genesis 2:19 / Last reference: Jude 1:14 / Key references: Genesis 2:7, 21–23; 3:6

ADAM

of times mentioned: OT 1

Meaning: Ruddy

When Joshua led the Israelites across the Jordan River, the river's water rose up in a heap by this city east of the river.

Only reference: Joshua 3:16

ADAMAH

of times mentioned: OT 1

Meaning: Soil (probably red in color)

A fortified or walled city that became part of the inheritance of Naphtali when Joshua cast lots in Shiloh to provide territory for the seven tribes that had yet to receive their land.

Only reference: Joshua 19:36

ADAMI

of times mentioned: OT 1

Meaning: Earthy

A city that became part of the inheritance of Naphtali when Joshua cast lots in Shiloh to provide territory for the seven tribes that had yet to receive their land.

Only reference: Joshua 19:33

ADBEEL

of times mentioned: 2

of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Disciplined of God

A descendant of Abraham through Ishmael, who was Abraham's son with his surrogate wife, Hagar.

First reference: Genesis 25:13 / Last reference: 1 Chronicles 1:29

ADAR

of times mentioned: OT 1

Meaning: Ample

A city that became part of the inheritance of the tribe of Judah following the conquest of the Promised Land.

Only reference: Joshua 15:3

ADDAN

of times mentioned: OT 1

Meaning: Firm

A Babylonian city where some Jews lived during the Babylonian Exile. At the end of the exile, these people could not prove they were Israelites. Same as Addon.

Only reference: Ezra 2:59

ADDAR

of times mentioned: 1

of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Ample

A descendant of Abraham through Jacob's son Benjamin.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 8:3

ADDI

of times mentioned: 1

of MEN by this name: 1

Genealogy of Jesus: Yes (Luke 3:28)

A descendant of Abraham through Isaac; forebear of Jesus' earthly father, Joseph.

Only reference: Luke 3:28

ADDON

of times mentioned: OT 1

Meaning: Powerful

A Babylonian city where some Jews lived during the Babylonian Exile. At the end of the exile, these people could not prove they were Israelites. Same as Addan.

Only reference: Nehemiah 7:61

ADER

of times mentioned: 1

of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: An arrangement

A descendant of Abraham through Jacob's son Benjamin.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 8:15

ADIEL

of times mentioned: 3

of MEN by this name: 3

Meaning: Ornament of God

1) A descendant of Abraham through Jacob's son Simeon.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 4:36

2) Forefather of a Babylonian exile from the tribe of Levi who resettled Jerusalem.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 9:12

3) Father of King David's treasurer Azmaveth.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 27:25

ADIN

of times mentioned: 4

of MEN by this name: 3

Meaning: Voluptuous

1) Forefather of an exiled family that returned to Judah under Zerubbabel.

First reference: Ezra 2:15 / Last reference: Nehemiah 7:20

2) A Jewish leader who renewed the covenant under Nehemiah.

Only reference: Nehemiah 10:16

3) Forefather of a Jewish exile who returned from Babylon to Judah under Ezra.

Only reference: Ezra 8:6

ADINA

of times mentioned: 1

of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Effeminacy

One of King David's valiant warriors.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 11:42

ADINO

of times mentioned: 1
of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Slender

One of King David's warriors known as the "mighty men."

Only reference: 2 Samuel 23:8

ADITHAIM

of times mentioned: OT 1

Meaning: Double prey

A city that became part of the inheritance of the tribe of Judah following the conquest of the Promised Land.

Only reference: Joshua 15:36

ADLAI

of times mentioned: 1
of MEN by this name: 1

Father of King David's chief shepherd over herds in the valleys.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 27:29

ADMAH

of times mentioned: OT 5

Meaning: Earthy

One of five Canaanite "cities of the plain" at the southern end of the Dead Sea. Admah's king, Shinab, took part in a war coalition with Sodom and Gomorrah and the other cities of the plain against Chedorlaomer, king of Elam, and his Mesopotamian allies. After serving Chedorlaomer for twelve years, the Canaanites rebelled against him. Following their battle against Elam's king and his allies, Abram's nephew, Lot, was captured in Sodom, and Abram had to rescue him. When Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by God, Admah also was ruined.

First reference: Genesis 10:19 / Last reference: Hosea 11:8

ADMATHA

of times mentioned: 1
of MEN by this name: 1

One of seven Persian princes serving under King Ahasuerus.

Only reference: Esther 1:14

ADNA

of times mentioned: 2
of MEN by this name: 2

Meaning: Pleasure

1) An exiled Israelite who married a "strange" (foreign) woman.

Only reference: Ezra 10:30

2) Forefather of a priest who returned to Jerusalem under Zerubbabel.

Only reference: Nehemiah 12:15

ADNAAH

of times mentioned: 2
of MEN by this name: 2

Meaning: Pleasure

1) A captain in David's army.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 12:20

2) A commander in King Jehoshaphat's army.

Only reference: 2 Chronicles 17:14

ADONI-BEZEK

of times mentioned: 3
of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Lord of Bezek

The ruler of a Canaanite city who ran from the army of Judah during its cleansing of the Promised Land. When soldiers caught Adoni-bezek, they cut off his thumbs and big toes, as he had previously done to seventy kings he had conquered. He died in captivity in Jerusalem.

First reference: Judges 1:5 / Last reference: Judges 1:7

ADONIJAHA

of times mentioned: 26
of MEN by this name: 3

Meaning: Worshipper of God

1) A son of King David, born in Hebron. When David was old, Adonijah attempted to take the throne, though David had promised it to Solomon. Nathan the prophet and Bath-sheba, Solomon's mother, reported this to David, who immediately had Solomon anointed king. When Adonijah heard this, he went to the temple and grasped the horns of the altar, in fear of his life. Solomon promised he would not be killed if he showed himself a worthy man. But when Adonijah wanted David's concubine Abishag as his wife, Solomon saw it as another threat to his throne and had Adonijah executed.

First reference: 2 Samuel 3:4 / Last reference:
1 Chronicles 3:2 / Key references: 1 Kings 1:5, 50

2) A Levite sent by King Jehoshaphat to teach the law of the Lord throughout the nation of Judah.

Only reference: 2 Chronicles 17:8

3) A Jewish leader who renewed the covenant under Nehemiah.

Only reference: Nehemiah 10:16

ADONIKAMA

of times mentioned: 3
of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: High

Forefather of a Jewish exile who returned from Babylon to Judah under Zerubbabel.

First reference: Ezra 2:13 / Last reference:
Nehemiah 7:18

ADONIRAMA

of times mentioned: 2
of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Lord of height

King Solomon's official over forced labor for building the temple.

First reference: 1 Kings 4:6 / Last reference:
1 Kings 5:14

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ADONI-ZEDEC

of times mentioned: 2
of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Lord of justice

A pagan king of Jerusalem during Joshua's conquest of the Promised Land, Adoni-zedec allied with four other rulers to attack Gibeon, which had deceptively made a peace treaty with the Israelites. Joshua's soldiers defeated the five armies, and Joshua executed the allied kings.

First reference: Joshua 10:1 / Last reference: Joshua 10:3

ADORAIM

of times mentioned: OT 1

Meaning: Double mound

A city that King Rehoboam built for Judah's defense.

Only reference: Chronicles 11:9

ADORAMA

of times mentioned: 2
of MEN by this name: 2

Meaning: Lord of height

1) King David's official over forced labor.

Only reference: Samuel 20:24

2) An official over forced labor under Judah's king Rehoboam (son of Solomon). Adoram was stoned to death by rebellious Israelites, who seceded to form their own northern kingdom.

Only reference: 1 Kings 12:18

ADRAMMELECH

of times mentioned: 2
of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Splendor of the king

Son of the Assyrian king Sennacherib, who, with his brother Sharezer, killed his father with a sword. After the assassination, Adrammelech fled to Armenia.

First reference: 2 Kings 19:37 / Last reference:
Isaiah 37:38

ADRAMYTTIUM

of times mentioned: NT 1

An Asian seaport northeast of the island of Lesbos. This was a home port of the ship Paul sailed on when he headed for Rome.

Only reference: Acts 27:2

ADRIA

of times mentioned: NT 1

Another name for the Adriatic Sea, which lies west of Greece. Before Paul and his companion Luke suffered shipwreck, the Gospel writer records that they were “driven up and down in Adria” by the wind.

Only reference: Acts 27:27

ADRIEL

of times mentioned: 2

of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Flock of God

The man who married Saul’s daughter Merab, who had been promised to David.

First reference: 1 Samuel 18:19 / Last reference:
2 Samuel 21:8

ADULLAM

of times mentioned: OT 8

1) A city that became part of the inheritance of the tribe of Judah. King Rehoboam fortified Adullam for Judah’s defense. It was one of the cities resettled following the Jews’ return from the Babylonian Exile.

First reference: Joshua 12:15 / Last reference:
Micah 1:15

2) A cave near the city of Adullam. Here David’s family met him after he fled from King Saul. David gathered four hundred discontented men at Adullam and became their captain.

First reference: 1 Samuel 22:1 / Last reference:
1 Chronicles 11:15

ADUMMIM

of times mentioned: OT 2

Meaning: Red spots

A pass between Jericho and Jerusalem that formed part of the border of the tribe of Judah’s territory. Jesus probably had it in mind as the setting for the parable of the Good Samaritan.

First reference: Joshua 15:7 / Last reference: Joshua
18:17–19

AENEAS

of times mentioned: 2

of MEN by this name: 1

A lame man of Lydda healed by the apostle Peter after spending eight years in his sickbed. His healing turned many people to the Lord.

First reference: Acts 9:33 / Last reference: Acts
9:34

AENON

of times mentioned: NT 1

Meaning: Place of springs

A spot near Salim where there was “much water.” Here John the Baptist baptized believers shortly before he was imprisoned.

Only reference: John 3:23

AGABUS

of times mentioned: 2

of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Locust

An early Christian prophet from Jerusalem who made two recorded predictions: that a famine would affect the region of Judea and that the apostle Paul would be bound and delivered “into the hands of the Gentiles” (Acts 21:11).

First reference: Acts 11:28 / Last reference: Acts
21:10

AGAG

of times mentioned: 8
of MEN by this name: 2

Meaning: Flame

1) A king mentioned by Balaam in his prophecy concerning God's blessing on Israel.

Only reference: Numbers 24:7

2) A king of the Amalekites whom King Saul of Israel spared in defiance of God's command. Obeying God, the prophet Samuel killed Agag.

First reference: 1 Samuel 15:8 / Last reference: 1 Samuel 15:33

AGAR

of times mentioned: 2
of WOMEN by this name: 1

Greek form of the name Hagar, used in the New Testament.

First reference: Galatians 4:24 / Last reference: Galatians 4:25

AGEE

of times mentioned: 1
of MEN by this name: 1

Father of one of King David's "mighty men," Shammah.

Only reference: 2 Samuel 23:11

AGRIPPA

of times mentioned: 12
of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Wild horse tamer

Herod Agrippa II, great-grandson of Herod the Great. He became king of the tetrarchy of Philip and Lysanias. Porcius Festus asked for his advice on Paul's legal case, so he heard Paul's testimony, which almost persuaded him to become a Christian. Same as Herod (4).

First reference: Acts 25:13 / Last reference: Acts 26:32 / Key reference: Acts 26:28

AGUR

of times mentioned: 1
of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Gathered

A little-known biblical writer who penned the thirtieth chapter of Proverbs.

Only reference: Proverbs 30:1

AHAB

of times mentioned: 94
of MEN by this name: 2

Meaning: Friend of his father

1) A king of Israel, Ahab did great evil. He married Jezebel, daughter of the king of Zidon, and fell into Baal worship. God sent Israel a drought that only the prophet Elijah could break. The nation suffered for three years, until Elijah returned and challenged Israel to follow God. He proved that God was Lord in a showdown with the prophets of Baal, before killing them and ending the drought.

Ahab coveted the vineyard of his subject Naboth, who refused to sell his inheritance to him. While the king sulked, Jezebel plotted to kill Naboth and get the land. Because Ahab humbled himself before God, the Lord promised to bring evil in his son's life instead of visiting it on Ahab. He was killed in a battle with Syria.

First reference: 1 Kings 16:28 / Last reference: Micah 6:16 / Key reference: 1 Kings 16:29-30

2) A false prophet who claimed God would not deliver Judah into King Nebuchadnezzar's hand.

First reference: Jeremiah 29:21 / Last reference: Jeremiah 29:22

AHARAH

of times mentioned: 1
of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: After his brother

A descendant of Abraham through Jacob's son Benjamin. Aharah was Benjamin's third son.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 8:1

AHARHEL

of times mentioned: 1
of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Sage

A descendant of Abraham through Jacob's son Judah.

Only reference: 1 Chronicles 4:8

AHASAI

of times mentioned: 1
of MEN by this name: 1

Meaning: Seizer

Forefather of an exiled Israelite family.

Only reference: Nehemiah 11:13

AHASBAI

of times mentioned: 1
of MEN by this name: 1

Father of one of King David's "mighty men," Eliphelet.

Only reference: 2 Samuel 23:34

AHASUERUS

of times mentioned: 31
of MEN by this name: 3

1) A Persian king who received accusations against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

Only reference: Ezra 4:6

2) A king of Media and the father of Darius the Mede, who would become king of the Chaldeans.

Only reference: Daniel 9:1

3) A Persian king who reigned over an empire that ran from India to Ethiopia. When his queen Vashti displeased him, Ahasuerus ordered the beautiful women of his kingdom to be gathered at the palace so he could choose a new wife. In this way he met the Jewess Esther, loved her, and made her his queen.

Not knowing that Esther was Jewish, Ahasuerus listened to his counselor, wicked Haman, who

wanted to destroy the Jews. Hearing only Haman's false information, the king gave Haman permission to eradicate what he saw as a dangerous people. When Esther heard this, she came before the king and invited both men to a banquet. That night Ahasuerus discovered the faithfulness of Esther's cousin, Mordecai, who had reported a plot against the king. Ahasuerus commanded Haman to honor this Jew whom the counselor hated and had planned to kill.

On the second day of her banquet, Esther divulged Haman's plot to harm her people. Angered, the king had Haman hanged on the gallows he had built for Mordecai. Esther gave Mordecai Haman's household, and the king made Mordecai a royal advisor. Since his original law could not be changed, Ahasuerus had Mordecai write a new law that allowed the Jews to protect themselves from the attack Haman planned.

First reference: Esther 1:1 / Last reference: Esther 10:3 / Key references: Esther 1:1; 7:5–10

AHAVA

of times mentioned: OT 3

Beside this Babylonian river Ezra gathered his people for three days while he sent a messenger to Iddo, the chief of Casiphia, to get some Levites to accompany them to Jerusalem. After they had gathered the Levites, Ezra proclaimed a fast and made preparations for the journey.

First reference: Ezra 8:15 / Last reference: Ezra 8:31

AHAZ

of times mentioned: 42
of MEN by this name: 2

Meaning: Possessor

1) A king of Judah who became deeply involved in paganism. God sent the kings of Syria and Israel against Judah, in punishment, and Ahaz was unsuccessful in fighting off his enemies. Many people of Judah were captured and carried off. Ahaz sent to Tiglath-pileser, king of Assyria, for help, offering the temple silver and gold and the treasures of his own household to the pagan king as a gift. The Assyrian army responded by attacking Damascus, but was not otherwise helpful. When Ahaz joined the Assyrian king in Damascus, he saw and admired a pagan altar. He had it copied. When he returned