

**Which, of the 31
Zechariahs,
Is Which?**

Which, of the 31 Zechariahs, Is Which?

A Way To Easily Identify Each Of The 1,443 Bible
Characters Who Share Their Name With Others

David G. Stephan



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Preface

How This Book Came To Be

Some four years ago I undertook a Bible study of my own which, quite unexpectedly, evolved into this unique “study aid” for Bible readers.

First, a brief background: Having done some Stephan family genealogical work using Broderbund’s *Family Tree Maker*® software program, I thought it would be interesting and educational for me to enter *all* of the genealogical information contained in the Bible into *Family Tree Maker*. As is well known, there is a great deal of this information present in the Scriptures, although much is only an identification of the parent [usually the father] of an individual and/or the offspring. In many other cases, most notably in Matthew 1 and Luke 3, extensive genealogies are provided.

As I proceeded through this project, it became clearer and clearer that there are many Bible characters who share their name with others. We all, of course, already know this from even casual Bible study, *but* we don’t all know that, of all of the characters referred to in the Scriptures, nearly half of them share their name with at least one other character. This, of course, often presents a dilemma in sorting out exactly “who is who” from a genealogical standpoint but, more importantly, “who is who” from a scriptural standpoint.

The first task was to define which character is *actually* which throughout the entire Bible. This is not an easy job since: 1) there may be several characters with the same name, e.g., there are six people named Mary mentioned in the Bible; 2) it is not always clear, from the context, which person is meant, e.g., who is “the other Mary” in Matthew 28:1? 3) the same person often has several different names, e.g., Joshua is also called Hoshea, Oshea, Jehoshua, Jehoshuah, and Jeshua and is even called Jesus in Acts 7:45 and Hebrews 4:8 of the King James Version (KJV); 4) names are very often spelled differently in different Bible versions, e.g., Jecamiah in the KJV, 1 Chron 3:18, is Jekamiah in the New International Version (NIV), Zerubbabel in the New King James Version (NKJV), Matthew 1:12, is Zorobabel in the KJV, and, sometimes, names are spelled differently even in the same version, e.g., Noah, in Genesis 5:29 of the KJV, is spelled Noe in Matthew 24:37 of the KJV; and 5) reference books are not always consistent as to “who is who” [I used, primarily: *The New Unger’s Bible Dictionary*, Moody Press, *Who Was Who in the Bible*, Thomas Nelson Inc., and *New International Encyclopedia of Bible Characters*, Zondervan Publishing House—these three reference books are not always “in sync”].

The second task was to number the individuals in some consistent way that would allow the reader to discriminate, for example, one Zechariah from another. Numbering the characters is not a novel idea [see the three reference books mentioned above], but the characters can be numbered at random, in order of “importance”, or, in the order in which the characters sharing that name are first mentioned in the Scriptures. I selected the latter approach as most logical and the order of first appearance was based on an integrated review of three Bible versions, the KJV, the NKJV and the NIV.

The third task was to develop an Index of Bible Characters which lists all Bible characters and provides sufficient biographical information concerning each one [even those possessing a unique name] to know “who is actually who”.

Finally, for a Bible reader to use this information, every Bible verse that contains a numbered name, i.e., a shared name, was selected and then condensed by pulling out each numbered name plus the two words immediately before and immediately after the name [using the KJV]. This, as will be explained later, allows the Bible reader to determine “who is *really* who” if the person’s name is a shared one.

Admittedly, this book is not “perfect” and I welcome comments and corrections from those who use this book to assist their understanding of the Word of God. I have served both as a Deacon and as an Elder but I make no claim as to being a “Bible scholar” with regard to my preparation of this book. In fact, I am sure that the Index contains information that is *not* universally agreed upon by real Bible scholars! Just look at the different information concerning a considerable number of Bible characters that is provided in the three references I used, e.g., which James is “James the Less”? Note that *Who Was Who* is even internally inconsistent on this question if you check its listings for James₍₃₎ and Alphaeus₍₁₎. My effort has been one of careful analysis of the Scriptures themselves combined with a thorough perusal of the three reference volumes mentioned above. Logic has been my primary tool and, with a Masters Degree and a PhD in chemical engineering from the Ohio State University, I believe myself to be very capable of logical analysis.

On completion of the above effort, I realized that, as a totally unexpected dividend, my numbering system provides a *unique Bible search capability* not now available anywhere else. To explain, if you have an electronic Bible, an e-Bible, it is easy to “search” for specific words in the Bible text. You can find all verses in which that word appears. Thus, for uniquely-named individuals, e.g., Moses, David, or Luke, this search technique allows you to quickly identify every instance in which that person is mentioned in the Scriptures. On the other hand, if a Bible character shares a name with others, a search for the name will locate all mentions of every character sharing that name. To locate individuals who have non-unique names, some sort of “tag” must be attached to each specific individual’s name and the subscript numbering system used in *Which, of the 31 Zechariahs, Is Which?* provides these tags. For example, since nine different Bible characters are named Jeremiah, a search for the prophet, “Jeremiah”, will find all mentions of all nine Jeremiahs. But, a search for Jeremiah₍₆₎ will find *only* the occurrences where the prophet is mentioned and *will exclude all mentions of the other eight Jeremiahs*.

To use this capability, one must have both the Index of Bible Characters contained in this book and an electronic Bible in which all shared-name characters have the appropriate subscript numbers added to their names. Such an e-Bible (KJV) is provided as a free download with the purchase of this book. To obtain your copy via email, please email Redemption Press at info@redemption-press.com or call 1(844) 2REDEEM.

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As a final check on the validity of the “brief biographical information” provided in this book, I enlisted the help of three ordained ministers who were kind enough to review and edit this information for the most significant of the Bible characters. I want to sincerely acknowledge the assistance received from these ministers, Steve D. Henderson, Bruce C. Ross and William J. Wells, in this regard. And I particularly want to express my appreciation to Bruce Ross for his support and encouragement as I began and carried through this project. In addition, I appreciate the review and commentary on the text provided by Dr. I. Atly Jefcoat, by his wife Bette, and by Timothy Lorenzo, Associate Minister of our local congregation.

I also must acknowledge the love, patience and understanding of my wife, Dorothy “George” Stephan, who, unfortunately, has been a “Bible widow” for more hours than you can imagine over the last few years.

David G. Stephan
Cincinnati, Ohio
December, 2004

Why Is This Book Needed?

Because of the large number of people mentioned in the Bible who share the same name (for example, there are five Johns, 13 Josephs and 31 Zechariahs), Bible readers often have difficulty in determining which specific person is meant in various passages. As a matter of fact, there are actually 3237 characters identified in the Scriptures but only 1794 of them have a unique name. Thus, over 1400 share their name with at least one other character. While most Bible characters appear in the Old Testament (over 2,700 individuals are named there), clarifying “which individual is which”, even in the New Testament where fewer than 500 persons are named, can facilitate a better understanding of many verses.

A system has been devised through which the Bible reader can readily determine “who is who” when a name is encountered. The system involves 1) an “Index of Bible Characters” containing *brief biographical information concerning every Bible character* plus 2) *numbering all shared names* in the order in which the specific character referred to is first mentioned in the Scriptures (for convenience, subscripts are used to number the characters). That is, a ₍₁₎ following the name, e.g., Simon₍₁₎, indicates that this is the *first* character named Simon who is mentioned in the Bible; a ₍₄₎ indicates that this is the *fourth* character mentioned who has that same name. As an added piece of information, if the subscript number contains two digits, [e.g., ₍₀₄₎], it means that the Bible refers to 10 or more persons sharing that name.

A simple example of the value of this system involves the names of the twelve apostles. Here is how Luke 6:12-16 would appear in a “Biographical Bible” (NKJV) in which all shared names are numbered using this system.

¹²Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. ¹³And when it was day, He called His disciples to *Himself*; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles: ¹⁴Simon₍₁₎, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James₍₁₎ and John₍₂₎; Philip₍₁₎ and Bartholomew; ¹⁵Matthew and Thomas; James₍₂₎ the *son* of Alphaeus₍₁₎, and Simon₍₂₎ called the Zealot; ¹⁶Judas₍₄₎ the *son* of James₍₄₎, and Judas₍₃₎ Iscariot who also became a traitor.

The Index of Bible Characters provides the reader with the following kinds of information:

1. That Simon₍₁₎, in addition to being called Peter, is also referred to elsewhere in the NKJV, or in other Bible versions, as Simon Peter, Cephas, Simon Bar-Jona and Simeon and that the other apostle named Simon, i.e., Simon the Zealot, is identified as Simon₍₂₎.
2. That the two apostles named James, James₍₁₎ and James₍₂₎, can easily be distinguished from one another in all the other passages in which the name James appears through the subscripts ₍₁₎ and ₍₂₎; that James₍₁₎ and John₍₂₎ were brothers; that James₍₂₎ was also called “James the Less;” and that the last James mentioned, James₍₄₎, was yet another James, not James₍₁₎ nor James₍₂₎ and, while said to be the father of Judas₍₄₎ in both the NKJV and the NIV, was named as the brother of Judas₍₄₎ in the KJV.
3. That John₍₂₎, the apostle, is the author of John’s gospel, John’s epistles, and Revelation, but is not the same person as John₍₅₎, which is another name for Mark.

4. That Philip₍₁₎, the apostle, is not Philip₍₄₎, the evangelist who converted and baptized the Ethiopian eunuch.
5. That Bartholomew is thought by many scholars to also be known as Nathanael, that Matthew is also known as Levi₍₂₎, and that Thomas is also known as Didymus or “the Twin”.
6. That the apostle Judas₍₄₎, son of James₍₄₎, is also called Thaddaeus or Lebbaeus and can be discriminated from Judas₍₃₎ Iscariot (often referred to simply as Judas₍₃₎) by the subscripts ₍₃₎ and ₍₄₎ (and, by the way, that there are seven different people named Judas mentioned in the Bible).

As another example of the unique capability of this system, refer to Table 1, Kings and Prophets During “The Divided Kingdom.” Note that 19 of these individuals share their name with at least one other king or prophet of that period. To discriminate among these “same-name” characters can require considerable effort on the Bible reader’s part and without this effort, “confusions” among these kings and prophets are not at all unlikely.

Table 2 presents the same set of kings and prophets, but utilizes the “Biographical Bible” numbering system. The subscript numbers shown tell which king or prophet is which and also erase any uncertainties concerning the 44(!) other kings and prophets of this period who have the same name as Bible characters found elsewhere in the Scriptures. Use of the system provided in this book gives the Bible reader the following kinds of information:

1. That Jeroboam₍₁₎ became the first king of Israel after the “division” in 926 B.C. while a second Jeroboam, Jeroboam₍₂₎, served later as Israel’s king beginning in 793 B.C.
2. That Ahaziah₍₁₎ was the 9th king of divided Israel (853 to 852 B.C.) and Ahaziah₍₂₎, aka both Azariah₍₁₃₎ and Jehoahaz₍₃₎, served as king of Judah in 841 B.C.
3. That Joram₍₂₎, aka Jehoram₍₂₎, was the 10th king of divided Israel (852 to 841 B.C.) and Jehoram₍₁₎, aka Joram₍₃₎, was the 5th king of Judah (853 to 841 B.C.).
4. That Jehu₍₂₎ was the 11th king of divided Israel (841 to 814 B.C.) but a different Jehu, Jehu₍₁₎, was a prophet under Baasha in Israel (circa 900 B.C.) and under Jehoshaphat₍₃₎ in Judah (circa 870 B.C.).
5. That Jehoahaz₍₁₎ was the 12th king of divided Israel (814 to 798 B.C.), another Jehoahaz₍₃₎, aka Ahaziah₍₂₎ and as Azariah₍₁₃₎, was the 6th king of Judah (841 B.C.) and yet another Jehoahaz, Jehoahaz₍₂₎, aka Shallum₍₀₄₎, was the 17th king of Judah (609 B.C.).
6. That Jehoash₍₂₎ was the 13th king of divided Israel (798 to 793 B.C.) and a different Jehoash, Jehoash₍₁₎, aka Amaziah₍₁₎, was the 9th king of Judah (796 to 792 B.C.)
7. That, among the 31 Zechariahs named in the Scriptures, one, Zechariah₍₀₁₎, was the 15th king of divided Israel (753 to 752 B.C.), another, Zechariah₍₁₄₎ was a prophet in Judah (circa 815 B.C.), and still another, Zechariah₍₁₉₎, was a prophet after the Captivity and was the author of the Book of ZECHARIAH₍₁₉₎.
8. That Shallum₍₀₁₎ was the 16th king of divided Israel (752 B.C.) and Shallum₍₀₄₎, aka Jehoahaz₍₂₎, became the 17th king of Judah in 609 B.C.

Table 1: Kings and Prophets During “The Divided Kingdom”

ISRAEL			JUDAH		
B.C. Date	Kings	Prophets	B.C. Date	Kings	Prophets
			931	Rehoboam-aka Roboam	Shemaiah
926	Jeroboam	Ahijah			
			913	Abijah-aka Abijam & Abia	
			910	Asa	Azariah & Hanani
909	Nadab				
908	Baasha	Jehu			
886	Elah				
885	Zimri				
885	Tibni				
885	Omri				
874	Ahab	Elijah & Micaiah-aka Michaiah	873	Jehoshaphat-aka Josaphat	Jehu , Jahaziel & Eliezer
853	Ahaziah	} Elisha	853	Jehoram -aka Joram	Elijah
852	Joram -aka Jehoram				
841	Jehu		841	Ahaziah -aka Azariah & Jehoahaz	
			841	Athaliah	
			835	Joash	Zechariah & Joel
814	Jehoahaz				
798	Jehoash				
			796	Jehoash aka Amaziah	
793	Jeroboam	Hosea, Amos & Jonah			
			792	Azariah -aka Uzziah	} Isaiah & Micah
753	Zechariah -aka Zachariah				
752	Shallum				
752	Menahem				
			750	Jotham-aka Joatham	
742	Pekahiah				
740	Pekah	Oded			
			735	Ahaz-aka Achaz	
732	Hoshea				
723	<u>Babylonian Captivity</u>				
			715	Hezekiah-aka Ezekias	} Habakkuk, Huldah & Zephaniah
			696	Manasseh-aka Manasses	
			660		
			642	Amon	
			640	Josiah	
			615		
			609	Jehoahaz -aka Shallum	} Uriah-aka Urijah
605		} Ezekiel } Daniel	609	Jehoiakim-aka Eliakim	
			597	Jehoiachin-aka Jeconiah, Coniah & Jeconias	
			597	Zedekiah-aka Mattaniah	
			586	<u>Fall of Jerusalem</u>	
593		} Obadiah			} Jeremiah
585					
570					
537	<u>Return from the Captivity</u>				
circa 520		Zechariah & Haggai			

The 19 kings or prophets who share their names with other kings or prophets during the period of the Divided Kingdom are shown in boldface type.

Table 2: Kings and Prophets During “The Divided Kingdom”
(using the “Biographical Bible” numbering system)

ISRAEL			JUDAH			
B.C. Date	Kings	Prophets	B.C. Date	Kings	Prophets	
926	Jeroboam ₍₁₎	Ahijah ₍₃₎	931	<i>Rehoboam</i> -aka <i>Roboam</i>	Shemaiah ₍₀₁₎	
			913	Abijah ₍₃₎ -aka <i>Abijam</i> & <i>Abia</i> ₍₁₎		
			910	<i>Asa</i> ₍₁₎	Azariah ₍₁₀₎ & Hanani ₍₃₎	
909	Nadab ₍₂₎					
908	<i>Baasha</i>	Jehu ₍₁₎				
886	Elah ₍₃₎					
885	Zimri ₍₃₎					
885	<i>Tibni</i>					
885	Omri ₍₁₎					
874	Ahab ₍₁₎	Elijah ₍₁₎ & Micaiah ₍₁₎ -aka Michaiah ₍₃₎	873	Jehoshaphat ₍₃₎ -aka <i>Josaphat</i>	Jehu ₍₁₎ , Jahaziel ₍₄₎ & Eliezer ₍₀₆₎	
853	Ahaziah ₍₁₎	} Elisha	853	Jehoram ₍₁₎ -aka Joram ₍₃₎	Elijah ₍₁₎	
852	Joram ₍₂₎ -aka Jehoram ₍₂₎					
841	Jehu ₍₂₎			841	Ahaziah ₍₂₎ -aka Azariah ₍₁₃₎ & Jehoahaz ₍₃₎	
				841	<i>Athaliah</i> ₍₁₎	
				835	Joash ₍₃₎	Zechariah ₍₁₄₎ & Joel ₍₁₃₎
814	Jehoahaz ₍₁₎					
798	Jehoash ₍₂₎		796	Jehoash ₍₁₎ aka Amaziah ₍₁₎		
793	Jeroboam ₍₂₎	<i>Hosea</i> , Amos ₍₁₎ & Jonah ₍₁₎	792	Azariah ₍₀₃₎ -aka Uzziah ₍₃₎	} Isaiah & Micah ₍₇₎	
753	Zechariah ₍₀₁₎ -aka Zachariah ₍₁₎					
752	Shallum ₍₀₁₎					
752	<i>Menahem</i>					
			750	Jotham ₍₂₎ -aka <i>Joatham</i>		
742	<i>Pekahiah</i>					
740	<i>Pekah</i>	Oded ₍₂₎				
			735	Ahaz ₍₁₎ -aka <i>Achaz</i>		
732	Hoshea ₍₂₎					
723	<u>Babylonian Captivity</u>					
			715	Hezekiah ₍₁₎ -aka <i>Ezekias</i>	} Habakkuk, Huldah & Zephaniah ₍₄₎	
			696	Manasseh ₍₃₎ -aka Manasses ₍₁₎		
			660			
			642	Amon ₍₂₎		
			640	Josiah ₍₁₎		
			615			
			609	Jehoahaz ₍₂₎ -aka Shallum ₍₀₄₎	} Uriah ₍₅₎ -aka Urijah ₍₂₎	
605		} Daniel ₍₃₎	609	<i>Jehoiakim</i> -aka Eliakim ₍₂₎		
			597	<i>Jehoiachin</i> -aka <i>Jeconiah</i> , <i>Coniah</i> & <i>Jeconias</i>		
			597	Zedekiah ₍₂₎ -aka Mattaniah ₍₀₁₎		
			586	<u>Fall of Jerusalem</u>		
					} Jeremiah ₍₆₎	
593		} Ezekiel				
585						
570						
537	<u>Return from the Captivity</u>					
circa 520		Zechariah ₍₁₉₎ & <i>Haggai</i>				

The kings/prophets who share their name with other kings/prophets during the Divided Kingdom are shown, along with those with the same name, with their subscript numbers and in boldface. The 44 other names that are shared with Bible characters mentioned elsewhere in the Scriptures are shown with their subscript numbers. Unique names (i.e., only one Bible character has that name) are shown in italics.

9. That Azariah₍₁₃₎, aka Ahaziah₍₂₎ and Jehoahaz₍₃₎, (see 5 above) was the 6th king of Judah (841 B.C.), another Azariah₍₀₃₎, aka Uzziah₍₃₎, was the 10th king of Judah (792 to 750 B.C.) while yet another Azariah, Azariah₍₁₀₎, was a prophet under Asa₍₁₎ in Judah (circa 900 B.C.).
10. That Elijah₍₁₎ was a prophet in both Israel and Judah. Even though there are 4 Elijahs mentioned in the Bible, the subscript ₍₁₎ confirms that it was the same Elijah that prophesied in both Israel and Judah.

In addition to individuals who share their names throughout the Scriptures, there are a few titles of people that appear repeatedly in several Books of the Bible, i.e., Pharaoh and Caesar. Which Pharaoh or which Caesar is which, in various verses, is not readily apparent to the reader. Through the use of subscripts and the Index of Bible Characters, these questions are easily answered.