

- Verse 1. PHEBE - "the radiant one," "brilliant like the sun"
- In Greek mythology: one of the daughters of Uranus and Gaia. The feminine form of the masculine names Phoebus, Apollo (the Greek sun god) and Artemis. Because she is mentioned first, it is said she probably carried the Epistle of Romans.
- Verse 3. PRISCILLA - "highly respected ancestry," "a family tree of age-old honor, "ancient," "long ancestry"
- It is the diminutive of Prisca, denoting smallness or endearment. Since Priscilla is usually mentioned before Aquila, which is unusual in Eastern culture, she was probably of a higher and larger family than Aquila, as her name suggests.
- Verse 3. AQUILA - "the eagle" (Hebrew) - "I shall be nourished"
- This is the name of a northern constellation and ties in with Jesus Christ as "the Smitten One Falling." The principle standard of a Roman legion - the office of a standard bearer.
- Verse 5. EPAENETUS - "a general," "to be praised or lauded"
- Verse 6. MARY - (Greek) Maria, "myrrh: precious, living fragrance, incense used in worship of God"
- (Hebrew) Mariam, "bitterness"
(Aramaic) Maryam, "rebellious, contentious, contend, emulate"
(Egyptian) Marie, "beloved"
- Verse 7. ANDRONICUS - "conqueror," "man of victory"
- andro: (Greek) aner = male, vital force, masculine
nike = victory
- Verse 7. JUNIA - "youth"
- Related names - Julia, Junian, Junias
- Verse 8. AMPLIAS - "affectionate greeting," "large, wide"
- Diminutive of Ampliatus. A common Latin slave name. Same root as "amplified". (Latin) From the word ampliatio = deferring the decision of a judge
- Verse 9. URBANE - "freed by imperial decree," "of a city," "refined, suave, courteous and polite"
- (Latin) - a citizen
- Verse 9. STACHYS - "ear of corn," "head of grain standing out from the stalk," "of high honor and standing"
- An uncommon Greek name. From the Greek word histeemi = to stand. Corn, in the East, is inclusive of all grains. Name linked with imperial households.

Verse 10. APELLES - "sunlight," "radiant"

From Apollo, the Green sun god; also the god of prophecy, music and poetry. Apollonian means "harmonious, measured, ordered and balanced in character." This name is also found in imperial households.

Verse 10. ARISTOBULUS - "the best counselor"

(Greek) aristos = a word element meaning "best," "superior." Boule = will, determination, propensity, purpose, design, plan, counsel, advise. Used of the legislative assembly of modern Greece and a legislative, advisory or administrative council in ancient Greek states.

Probably the grandson of Herod the Great.

Verse 11. HERODION - "a leader, guide," "valiant"

"Herod" was a title associated with royalty like "Czar," or "Kaiser". It is the word used for governors, to be chief, to go out in front or to be a governor as of a Roman province.

Verse 11. NARCISSUS - "a flower causing lethargy"

Narcissus was a youth in Greek mythology who pined away for love of his own reflection and was transformed into the flower, narcissus. The root is the Greek word, narke - a condition characterized by a brief attack of deep sleep.

Verse 12. TRYPHENA - "delicate," "dainty, luxurious"

Associated words are (Greek) truphao = to live in pleasure, and truphe = pleasure

Verse 12. TRYPHOSA - "dainty," "luxuriating"

Same root as Tryphena, above. A common name in Caesar's household.

Verse 12. PERSIS - "Persian woman"

It is likely to be from the Latin roots: per = through, and sistere = to cause to stand. This is the root of our word, "persist".

Verse 13. RUFUS - "red," "reddish brown"

Connected with revolution and bloodshed.

Verse 14. ASYNCRITUS - "incomparable, unequalled, unrivaled, not admitting any degree of comparison"

Verse 14. PHELEGON - "burning"

Fire representing God's presence, glory, puranness. Can also mean "burning carried to make food."

The Meaning and Background of the Names
of the Men and Women in Romans 16

- Verse 1. PHEBE - "the radiant one," "brilliant like the sun"
- In Greek mythology: one of the daughters of Uranus and Gaia. The feminine form of the masculine names Phoebus, Apollo (the Greek sun god) and Artemis. Because she is mentioned first, it is said she probably carried the Epistle of Romans.
- Verse 3. PRISCILLA - "highly respected ancestry," "a family tree of age-old honor, "ancient," "long ancestry"
- It is the diminutive of Prisca, denoting smallness or endearment. Since Priscilla is usually mentioned before Aquila, which is unusual in Eastern culture, she was probably of a higher and larger family than Aquila, as her name suggests.
- Verse 3. AQUILA - "the eagle" (Hebrew) - "I shall be nourished"
- This is the name of a northern constellation and ties in with Jesus Christ as "the Smitten One Falling." The principle standard of a Roman legion - the office of a standard bearer.
- Verse 5. EPAENETUS - "a general," "to be praised or lauded"
- Verse 6. MARY - (Greek) Maria, "myrrh: precious, living fragrance, incense used in worship of God"
- (Hebrew) Mariam, "bitterness"
(Aramaic) Maryam, "rebellious, contentious, contend, emulate"
(Egyptian) Marie, "beloved"
- Verse 7. ANDRONICUS - "conqueror," "man of victory"
- andro: (Greek) aner = male, vital force, masculine
nike = victory
- Verse 7. JUNIA - "youth"
- Related names - Julia, Junian, Junias
- Verse 8. AMPLIAS - "affectionate greeting," "large, wide"
- Diminutive of Ampliatus. A common Latin slave name. Same root as "amplified". (Latin) From the word ampliatio = deferring the decision of a judge
- Verse 9. URBANE - "freed by imperial decree," "of a city," "refined, suave, courteous and polite"
- (Latin) - a citizen
- Verse 9. STACHYS - "ear of corn," "head of grain standing out from the stalk," "of high honor and standing"
- An uncommon Greek name. From the Greek word histeemi = to stand. Corn, in the East, is inclusive of all grains. Name linked with imperial households.

Verse 10. APELLES - "sunlight," "radiant"

From Apollo, the Green sun god; also the god of prophecy, music and poetry. Apollonian means "harmonious, measured, ordered and balanced in character." This name is also found in imperial households.

Verse 10. ARISTOBULUS - "the best counselor"

(Greek) aristos = a word element meaning "best," "superior." Boule = will, determination, propensity, purpose, design, plan, counsel, advise. Used of the legislative assembly of modern Greece and a legislative, advisory or administrative council in ancient Greek states.

Probably the grandson of Herod the Great.

Verse 11. HERODION - "a leader, guide," "valiant"

"Herod" was a title associated with royalty like "Czar," or "Kaizer". It is the word used for governors, to be chief, to go out in front or to be a governor as of a Roman province.

Verse 11. NARCISSUS - "a flower causing lethargy"

Narcissus was a youth in Greek mythology who pined away for love of his own reflection and was transformed into the flower, narcissus. The root is the Greek word, narke - a condition characterized by a brief attack of deep sleep.

Verse 12. TRYPHENA = "delicate," "dainty, luxurious"

Associated words are (Greek) truphao = to live in pleasure, and truphe = pleasure

Verse 12. TRYPHOSA = "dainty," "luxuriating"

Same root as Tryphena, above. A common name in Caesar's household.

Verse 12: PERSIS - "Persian woman"

It is likely to be from the Latin roots: per = through, and sistere = to cause to stand. This is the root of our word, "persist".

Verse 13. RUFUS - "red," "reddish brown"

Connected with revolution and bloodshed.

Verse 14. ASYNCRITUS - "incomparable, unequalled, unrivaled, not admitting any degree of comparison"

Verse 14. PHLEGON - "burning"

Fire representing God's presence, glory, puranness. Can also mean "burning carried to make food."

- Verse 14. HERMAS - "heaven's swift messenger, patron of commerce, inventions, eloquence, literature and youth," "interpreter"
- The ending of as connotes the female gender. (Greek) hermeneus = an interpreter of foreign tongues. Hermes (Latin: Mercurius) was the son of Zeus and Maia. One of the more common slave names.
- Verse 14. PATROBAS - "life of my father/family/kindred/country"
- (Greek) patroos = of my father
bios = good life or living
- Verse 14. HERMES - see Hermas; "a bringer of good luck"
- Hermes was the god of good fortune.
- Verse 15. PHILOLOGUS - "a lover of words, learning and literature," "studious"
- Verse 15. JULIA - "soft haired," "downy, hairy"
- Feminine of Julius.
- Verse 15. NEREUS -
- A Greek sea god, a water nymph. Name found usually among freedmen and the lower orders.
- Verse 15. OLYMPAS - "heaven," "the sky," "celestial"
- The name of a mountain on the Macedonian frontier of Thessaly. Homer makes it the seat of the gods, but distinguished from heaven. The common name to several other mountains, each the highest in its own district in Mysia, Heroditus, Laconia and Polybius. In mythology, Olympas is the god of games.
- Verse 21. TIMOTHEUS - "honored of God," "precious," "dear to God"
- (Greek) time = weight, honor, precious, price, sum. The word implies value, costly.
- Verse 21. LUCIUS - "illuminative," "of light"
- Verse 21. JASON - "healing"
- (Hebrew) rapha = one of the redemptive names of God; Jehovah-Rapha - "I am the Lord that healeth thee." Rapha is also translated "giant".
- Verse 21. SOSIPATER - "of a good father"
- From the Greek, sozo = to save, heal, preserve, do well, be whole
pater = father, parent
- Verse 22. TERTIUS - "the third"
- A proper name in the Arcadian dialect.

Verse 23. GAIUS - "earth, land"

A very common name (Latin - Caius). (Greek) gaia = land. In Greek mythology, Gaia was the earth personified as a goddess, the mother of Uranus.

Verse 23. ERASTUS - "beloved, lovely"

Derived from Greek, eran = to love

Verse 23. QUARTUS - "fourth," "considerate, showing mercy, especially the clemency of not killing a defeated enemy."

Bibliography

Barnhart, Clarence L. The American College Dictionary. Canada: Random House of Canada, Ltd.

Blass and Debrunner. A Greek Grammar of the New Testament. University of Chicago, 1961.

Bullinger, E. W. A Critical Lexicon and Concordance to the English and Greek New Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1979.

Deen, Edith. All of the Women of the Bible. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1955.

Douglas, J. D. The New Bible Dictionary. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1962.

Lewis, Charlton T. and Short. Latin Dictionary. Oxford, 1879.

Lidell and Scott. Greek-English Lexicon. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1888.

Lockyer, Herbert. All the Men of the Bible. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1977.

Smith, Payne. Syriac Dictionary. Oxford.

Smith, William. A Dictionary of the Bible, Volume II. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1863.

Strong, James. Strong's Exhaustive Concordance. Tulsa: American Christian College Press, ND.

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary. Springfield, MA: G. & C. Merriam Company, 1977.

Welch, C. H. The Just and the Justifier. London: The Berean Publishing Trust.

Young, Robert. Analytical Concordance to The Holy Bible. Guildford and London: Lutterworth Press, 1975.

The Companion Bible.

The Scofield Reference Bible.