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baby names

*Thousands of Names
and Their Meanings*

Nick HARRISON & Steve MILLER


WHITAKER
HOUSE

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BABY NAMES:
Thousands of Names and Their Meanings

ISBN: 978-1-60374-504-8

Printed in the United States of America

© 2007, 2012 by Nick Harrison and Steve Miller

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1030 Hunt Valley Circle
New Kensington, PA 15068
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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data (Pending):

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12  20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12

Dedication

To the people in our lives whose names mean the most to us:



*Henry, Patricia, Raymond, Joan, Beverly (of course!),
Rachel, Rebecca, Bethany, Winston, Michael, Sean, Joshua,
Matthew, Emma, and Abbi*

—Nick Harrison

*My wife, Becky; our three sons, Keith, Nathan, and Ryan;
my mother, Betty; and my in-laws, Marty and Pat*

—Steve Miller

Acknowledgments

Thanks to my family, as always.

—Nick Harrison

With special appreciation to Priscilla Cameron of the Eugene Bible College library. Thank you for your help with the resources needed to research the information given in this book.

—Steve Miller

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Before You Begin

One of the first important duties parents face is choosing a name for their baby. Not only does the child usually carry his or her given name throughout life, but, also, studies show that names can have an effect on the child's personality and how others perceive him or her.

For Christians, the selection of a name has yet another dimension. In the Bible, we find that God places a high priority on names. There are, for example, many men and women whose names were actually chosen by God, and the meanings of those names carried special significance.

In the very first pages of the Bible, we meet Adam ("made from the earth") and Eve ("life-giver"), both of whose names were significant. In Adam's case, his name tells us of his origin; in Eve's case, we learn about her role in history as the mother of all humankind.

Consider, also, the best-known patriarch of the Bible: Abraham. At first his name was Abram, which means "the father is exalted." But God later entered into a covenant (an agreement) with Abram, part of which included a name change consistent with his future. God gave him the name Abraham, which means "the father of a multitude"—a reflection of God's destiny for this great man of faith. The covenant also included a name change for Sarai, Abraham's wife, who now became Sarah, "a princess."

Another great patriarch of the Bible, Jacob, was born just after his fraternal twin, Esau. Jacob's name means "one who supplants another." This name expresses what happened as Jacob followed Esau out of the womb and as they grew up. Later in his life, after Jacob wrestled with an angel in an effort to receive a blessing, his name became Israel, which means "he shall

become a prince of God.” Again, God’s plan for the man was evident in the name given to him.

In the New Testament, the disciple known as Simon was given the new name Peter by Christ, because Peter means “rock,” and Peter’s role in history was to be a solid support for the new Christian faith.

In addition to being intentional about the names of many characters in the Bible, God was careful concerning the revelation of His own name. When God commanded Moses to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt, do you remember His answer to Moses’ question?

Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation.” (Exodus 3:13–15)

God was very protective of His name. He revealed in other places in the Old Testament that He was to be known as Jehovah-Jireh (“the Lord will provide”), Jehovah-Nissi (“the Lord our banner”), Jehovah-Shalom (“the Lord is peace”), Jehovah-Shammah (“the Lord who is present”), and Jehovah-Tsidkenu (“the Lord our righteousness”).

Consider, also, the importance God put on the name of His Son, Jesus Christ. Before Jesus was born, His name was prophesied to be “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

In the New Testament, it was revealed to the apostle Paul that God had given Jesus Christ “the name that is above every name,” and that “at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth” (Philippians 2:9–10).

Further, consider the power that God invested in the name of Jesus Christ. We’re told by Jesus, “I will do whatever you ask in my **name**, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father” (John 14:13, emphasis added). We’re also told that the purpose for John’s gospel was that “by believing you may have life

in his name” (John 20:31, emphasis added).

When Peter and John met the lame man at the Gate Beautiful, they prayed for him in the name of Christ, and he was healed. When Paul delivered a slave girl from a demon in Acts 16:18, he did so in the name of the Lord Jesus.

We’re told that there’s no other name under heaven than that of Jesus Christ by which men can be saved. (See Acts 4:12.) And Jesus said that those of us who are believers should rejoice because our names are written in heaven. (See Luke 10:20.)

Finally, in Revelation, the last book of the Bible, we’re told that, one day, we shall all receive a new name—a name that God Himself chooses for each of us. (See Revelation 3:12.) That’s pretty special, isn’t it?

As you read through the following pages, we think you’ll enjoy discovering the meanings of the many names offered. If you’re awaiting the birth of a new baby or a phone call telling you that you’ve been chosen to adopt—congratulations! May the many blessings that babies bring to parents be yours in abundance. And may God direct you in this important decision of naming your child!

Practical Suggestions for Choosing Your Baby's Name

When you choose a name for your new baby, there are a number of things you'll want to consider:

Prayer. First, as a Christian, you have the advantage of prayer in selecting a name. Be sure to submit this important choice to God, as well, as you pray for your baby's health, delivery, and similar concerns.

Heritage. Consider honoring your family's heritage by selecting a grandparent or other ancestor's name. A good choice for a middle name, or sometimes even a first name, is often the mother's maiden name. Some parents have created an interesting name for their baby that is taken from their own names. For instance, a father named Ray and a mother named Jean gave their daughter the created name RaeJean.

Character. If you choose a name with a meaning you hope is eventually evidenced in the child's character, be sure to occasionally remind the growing child of the significance of the name and that it was chosen with great love and care. Don't force your child, however, to assume an attribute or identity that's not truly his or hers. God will mold a child's character His way. Guide, but don't force.

Role Models. Many of the names in this book include references to noted Christians with the same name. Consider honoring the memory of a great Christian man or woman—and, at the same time, providing your child with an excellent role model—by selecting that person's name for your child. For instance, a boy might be named Wesley after John Wesley, or a girl might be named Florence after the noted Christian nurse Florence Nightingale.

As your children grow, they can be told the stories of their namesakes.

They can even be given books with the stories of the heroes or heroines after which they are named. A boy named David might be told not only of King David in the Bible, but also such exemplary Christians as David Brainerd, David Livingstone, and David Wilkerson. To call your attention to these possibilities, we've noted some well-known Christian leaders in special sidebars throughout the book.

Dishonorable Names. We suggest you don't choose a name that is honoring to false gods or evil men and women from past generations. For example, the name Judas is discouraged, as are names from pagan religions, such as Malini, which, although melodic, is also the name of the Hindu god of the earth. We have not included such names in this guide, except when they are also biblical names. We have, however, made a special effort to select names that *do* have special meaning to Christian believers.

Difficult Spellings. Beware of choosing names with unusual spellings. Such names can be creative and unique, but realize that, for many years, the child will be correcting teachers, friends, and even relatives who may inadvertently spell the name the more traditional way.

Finding Balance. Remember that your child will carry the name you choose throughout his or her life. Sometimes, parents who want to mark their children as different do so by picking names that eventually become troublesome or embarrassing. Think carefully before you give your child an awkward or cumbersome name.

An unattractive name—one that may be considered “weird”—can become a source of stigma or ridicule. On the other hand, having a name that's abundantly popular may cause a child to feel less special than his or her peers who have more distinctive and attractive names. Try to find the balance between popularity and uniqueness when choosing a name.

Initials. Keep your child's initials in mind as you consider various names. A child is liable to experience teasing when it's discovered that his or her initials are ICK, DOG, or some other undesirable acronym.

Sound. After you've narrowed your choices to a few favorites, say the first, middle, and last names together out loud several times and listen to how they sound. Do the first and middle names fit with your last name? If not, is there a similar name that will work better? Several years ago, a friend of mine mentioned that she had always dreamed of having a son named

Nick, but when she married a man with the last name of Knack, she knew she had to forever abandon that dream.

“Prayer verse.” Once you’ve chosen a name, you might want to consider searching the Bible for a relevant “prayer verse” based on a Bible passage that corresponds to the name’s meaning. For example, the name Melinda means “gentle one.” An appropriate prayer verse might be Philippians 4:5, which says, *“Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.”*

Tips for Creating a Unique Name

One increasingly popular trend among parents today is that of creating a name especially suited for their child. A name is the first gift—and one of the most important gifts—you give to your child. You may want to gift your newborn with a name that sets him or her apart as a unique individual, one that provides a special sense of identity. The following are a number of ways to create a new name.

Alter the Spelling of an Existing Name

The vast majority of names today already have a wide range of spelling variations, so this method doesn’t guarantee your child will end up with a truly one-of-a-kind name. However, some spelling variations are used so rarely that your son or daughter will still possess an unusual or distinct name if you choose this option. For example...

- Instead of Danielle, you can use a name such as Ranielle by changing the first letter to another letter that works well with the rest of the name.
- Instead of Susan, you can use Suzahn by altering the spelling according to sounds or phonetic elements within the name.
- You can also shorten the syllables of a name, as Deborah has been altered to create Debra, or lengthen the syllables of a name, such as adding to Rosa to create Rohsah.

Combine Two Existing Names to Make a New One

As we mentioned earlier, we know of a father and mother named Ray and Jean who combined their names and called their daughter RaeJean. Another possibility is to take two names that don't usually appear in combined form and put them together, such as Ray and Anne to create Rayanne. Or, you could use Ron and Ellen to create Ronel or Ronelle.

Use a Proper Noun (or a Variation of It) as a Name

The abbreviated form of Texas, which is Tex, is often used as a name or nickname. Boys have been named Tennessee, and girls Montana. Willow (a tree) and Dahlia (a flower) have also been used. What can you come up with?

Turn a Common Noun into a Name

For example, the English word *ocean* has become the girls' name Oceana, and the Spanish word *niña*, which means "girl," has become the name Nina, Ninetta, or Ninette.



Of course, as we've already pointed out, before you finalize your child's name, you'll want to ensure that it won't make him or her vulnerable to ridicule. Ask yourself: Does this name lend itself to inadvertent negative associations? Does it look or sound too similar to other names or words that might subject my child to teasing? And, do the initials say or spell something that is potentially embarrassing?

How to Use This Book

In creating *Baby Names*, our goal was not to list every conceivable name in existence. Rather, we wanted to equip you, the new parent, with the resources we believe will help you choose the ideal name for your baby.

For that reason, we have deliberately selected what we think are the “cream of the crop” names, with their most popular and reasonable variations and diminutives. Thus, you will find a wide selection of the best names, without some of the more outlandish spellings and variations of those names. And for those who are less traditionally inclined, we have included suggestions for creating your own unique name in the “Tips for Creating a Unique Name” segment in the previous section.

Also, in our research, we discovered that different sources often give varying meanings and origins for the same name. So, in our effort to create the best possible baby name resource, we’ve sifted through the many options for these disputable points and have offered what we believe to be the most commonly agreed-upon origins and meanings.

Reading the Entries

Each entry in the book begins with a name that appears in boldface text. This main entry is then followed by the origin and meaning of the name, as well as its variations and diminutives. Below is a sample entry, with the various elements of the entry explained:

ASTERISK INDICATES A BIBLICAL NAME

ENTRY	ORIGIN	MEANING	
* Ruth : Hebrew, “friend, companion”			
Ruthe, Ruthelle, Ruthi, Ruthie, Ruthina, Ruthine			← DIMINUTIVES AND VARIATIONS
Ruth was a loyal daughter-in-law who moved to Israel with her moth- er-in-law, Naomi. Eventually, she became the wife of Boaz and the great-grandmother of David. Their story is told in the book of Ruth.			← BIBLE CHARACTER

RUTH BELL GRAHAM (1920–2007)

was born in Quinjiang, China, the
daughter of medical missionaries.
She was the wife of evangelist
Billy Graham and the mother
of five children.

← NOTABLE
CHRISTIAN WHO
BEARS THIS NAME

Variations

For simplicity’s sake, we use the word *variation* to mean an alternate spelling, a common tweaking, or a foreign version of a name. For example, the name Katherine has *variations* that include Kathryn, Catherine, and even Caitlin. It also has *diminutives* such as Kathy, Kate, and Kay. Some names also have variations for the opposite gender. For instance, Charles has variations that include Charlton, Carlos (Spanish), and the feminine name Charlene. The diminutives for Charles are such names as Charlie, Chuck, Chip, and Chaz.

If the main entry name has any diminutives or variations (or other forms), those will appear on subsequent lines. As previously stated, we have not attempted to list every possible spelling variation. Rather, we

have focused on what are, in general, the more common spellings. With this information, you can go the extra step, if you wish, to create a more unusual form of a name.

Cross-Referencing the Entries

If you see an entry that reads like the following:

Patty: diminutive of Patricia

you will want to go to the main entry Patricia in order to find out the origin, meaning, and various forms of the name Patty.

If you don't find a name you're looking for, consider that it might be a variation or diminutive of another name. Thus, you may find it listed with the name from which it originated.

Finding Bible Names

Another feature we've included in the book is a significant number of the best names found in Scripture. In most instances, we also point you to the references in the Bible where those names are found.

All the Bible names are preceded by an asterisk. In some cases, you will also find, at the end of a Bible name entry, details about the individual who bore that name.

We did not include every name found in the Bible. Many of these names are simply too unusual; or, they have histories or meanings connected to them that may make them less desirable as names for your baby. If, however, you wish to look up every Bible name, there are several resources at your disposal. See "Selected Sources for Bible Names" at the end of this book for some ideas.

Noted Christians

We've also added some short biographical sketches of Christians who bore certain names. Many parents like to honor the memory of a noted Christian by naming their child after that hero of the faith.

Finally, throughout the book, we've provided what we believe are some entertaining insights regarding names.

So, go ahead and start your search for the perfect name for your baby...and have fun!

The Twenty Most Popular Boys' and Girls' Names

These lists are from the United States Social Security Administration. Its “baby name” site is extremely interesting. The popularity of names is accessible by year, by decade, or even by state. Check it out at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/babynames/>.

Top Twenty Boys' and Girls' Names in the 2000s

Rank	Boys' names	Girls' names
1	Jacob	Emily
2	Michael	Madison
3	Joshua	Emma
4	Matthew	Olivia
5	Daniel	Hannah
6	Christopher	Abigail
7	Andrew	Isabella
8	Ethan	Samantha
9	Joseph	Elizabeth
10	William	Ashley

Rank	Boys' names	Girls' names
11	Anthony	Alexis
12	David	Sarah
13	Alexander	Sophia
14	Nicholas	Alyssa
15	Ryan	Grace
16	Tyler	Ava
17	James	Taylor
18	John	Brianna
19	Jonathan	Lauren
20	Noah	Chloe



Girls' Names
A-Z

A

Abella: A feminine variation of Abel, “breath of life”
Abela, Abelia, Abelle

***Abia:** Hebrew, “God is my father”
Abi, Abby, Abiah, Bia
An ancestor of the Lord Jesus Christ.
(See 1 Chronicles 2:24.)

***Abigail:** Hebrew, “source of the father’s joy”
Abbe, Abbie, Abby, Abbygaile, Abbygale, Abbygayle, Gail, Gale, Galia, Galya, Gayle.
In the Bible, Abigail gained favor in King David’s sight while imploring the king to spare her family after her husband Nabal’s foolishness. Later, after Nabal’s death, Abigail, described as “an intelligent and beautiful woman,” became one of David’s wives.
(See 1 Samuel 25.)

***Abihail:** Hebrew, “source of strength”

Abby, Abi

Can be both masculine and feminine. Queen Esther’s father was named Abihail, as were three women in the Bible.

***Abijah:** Hebrew, “God is my father”
Abby, Abi
Abijah is mentioned in 2 Kings 18:2 and 2 Chronicles 29:1.

Abra: Hebrew, “mother of a multitude”—a feminine variation of Abraham
Abi, Abby, Abrah

Abriana: Italian, feminine variation of Abraham, “father of a multitude”
Abby, Abrianna, Abrielle, Ana, Anna, Bree

Acacia: Greek, “honored one”
Cacia, Cacie, Casey, Cass, Cassia, Cassie, Cayce
Wood from the acacia tree was used in the construction of the ark of the covenant and the tabernacle in the wilderness.

***Achsah:** Hebrew, “breaking the veil”

Achsah was the daughter of the Old Testament hero Caleb. (See Joshua 15:16–17; Judges 1:12–13; 1 Chronicles 4:15.)

Ada: Old English, “prosperous”—in some cases, a diminutive of Adelaide

Adda, Addiah, Addie, Addy, Adi

***Adah:** Hebrew, “adorned by God”

Adda, Addy, Adiah

Two Adahs are mentioned in the Bible. (See Genesis 4:19–23; 36:2, 4, 10, 12, 16.)

Adail: German, “she who is noble”

Ada, Adale, Adalia, Addy, Dale

Adair: Greek, “she who is beautiful”

Adara, Adare

Adama: Hebrew, “made of the earth”—a feminine variation of Adam

Ada, Adamma, Addy

Adelaide: Old German, “she who is noble”

Addie, Addy, Adela, Adele, Adella, Adelle, Adelina, Adeline, Addey, Adellia, Della

Adelpha: Greek, “sisterly”

Addie, Adelle, Adelfia, Dell, Della

Adia: Swahili, “she is a gift from God”

Addiah, Addie, Addy, Adiah, Ady

Adina: Hebrew, “she who is delicate”

Addy, Adeana, Adeena, Adene, Adina, Adine, Deana, Dena, Dina

Adna: Hebrew, “she who is delightful”

Addie, Addy, Ady

Adnah: Hebrew, “eternal rest”

Addie, Addy, Ady

Adora: Latin, “she who is adored”

Addie, Addy, Adoria, Ady, Dora, Dorrie, Dory

Adrian: Greek, “she who is rich”

Addy, Adria, Adriah, Adriana, Adrienne, Anna, Dree

Afra: Hebrew, “doe-like”

Affra, Affrey, Aphra

Afton: Old English, from the town of Afton, England

Aftyn

Agate: Old English, “precious stone”

Aggie, Aggy

Agatha: Greek, “she who is kind”

Agace, Agacia, Agathe, Aggie, Aggy

Agnes: Greek, “she who is pure”

Aggie, Aggy, Agna, Agnella, Agnelle, Agness

Ahava: Hebrew, “essence”

Ahiva, Ahuda

***Ahlai:** Hebrew, “she who beseeches”

(See 1 Chronicles 2:31, 34; 1 Chronicles 11:41.)

Ahn: Asian/Vietnamese, “she who is peaceful”

Aida: Latin, “she who helps”

Aidan (also Gaelic, “fiery one”)

Aileen: Scottish/Irish variation of the name Helen, “light”

Ailene, Alena, Alene, Alina, Aline, Ally, Alyna, Lena, Lina

Aimee: See Amy

Ainsley: Scottish, “meadow”

Ainslee, Ainsleigh, Ansley

Alana: Irish, “fair one”—also a feminine variation of Alan

Alaina, Alaine, Alainna, Alena, Ally, Laine, Lana, Laney, Lena

Alarice: Old German, “ruler”—a feminine variation of Alaric

Alaricia, Alarise, Alerica, Ally

Alba: Latin, from the Italian city of the same name

Albina, Albine, Alva

Alberta: Old German, “she who is brilliant”—also a feminine form of Albert

Albertina, Albertine, Ally, Berta, Bertie; also Elberta, Elbertina, Elbertine

Alcina: Greek, “strength of mind”

Alceena, Alcine, Alcy, Ally, Alsina, Alsine, Alsyna

Alda: Old German, “she who is prosperous”

Aldea, Aldina, Aldis, Aldona, Aldys

Aldora: Old German, “gift”

Aldara, Ally, Dora, Dorrie; also Eldora, thus Ella, Ellie

Alea: Arabic, “exalted one”

Aleah, Alia, Ally, Leah, Lia

Aleda: Latin, “winged one”

Alida, Alleda, Ally, Leda

Alena: A Russian variation of Helen, “light”

Aleen, Aleena, Alina, Aline

Aleta: Greek, “she who is true”

Aletha, Alethea, Aletta, Leta,
Letha, Letta, Lettie, Thea

Alexandra: Greek, a feminine variation of Alexander, “he who defends”

Alandra, Alex, Alexa,
Alexandria, Alexia, Alexina,
Alexine, Alexis, Ally, Landra,
Lanny, Lex, Lexa, Lexandra,
Lexie, Xandra—many additional variations and diminutives can be created from the name Alexandra

Alfreda: Old English, “she who is wise”—a feminine variation of Alfred

Alfie, Ally, Elfreda, Freda

Alice: Greek, “she who tells the truth”—also considered by many to be a variation of Adelaide

Alecia, Alicia, Alisa, Alisha,
Alison, Allison, Ally, Allysa,
Alycia, Alysa, Alyssa, Lecia,
Lysa—many additional variations and diminutives can be created from the name Alice

Aliya: Hebrew, “one who ascends”

Aleeya, Aliah, Ally

Allegra: Latin, “she who is full of cheer”

Alegra, Alegria, Allegría, Allie,
Legra

Allison: A variation of Alice, “she who tells the truth”

Alcy, Alison, Alli, Ally, Allyson

Alma: Latin, “soul”

Almah

Almeta: Latin, “she who reaches for the goal”

Almeda, Elmeda, Elmeta,
Meta

Almira: Arabic, “royal one,” or a variation of Elmira

Almera, Almyra, Mira, Mirra,
Mirrah

Aloysia: Old German, “heroine of war”—also a feminine variation of Aloysius

Ally, Aloys, Aloyse

Alta: Spanish, “high”

Althea: Greek, “healer”

Ally, Altheda, Altheya, Althia,
Thea

Alva: Spanish, “she who is a fair one”

Albeena, Albena, Albina

Alvina: Old English, “she who is friendly”

Ally, Alveena, Alvine, Alvinia, Vina

Amalia: Hebrew, “the work of God”

Mahlia, Malia, Malie

AMANDA SMITH
(1837–1915)

was born into slavery and, after her conversion as a young woman, became a noted evangelist.

Amanda: Latin, “easy to love”

Amandah, Manda, Mandi, Mandy

Amara: Greek, “she who is beautiful”

Amaris: Hebrew, “promised of God”

Amariah, Maris

Amber: French, from the color amber

Amberlee, Amberleigh, Amberly, Amberlyn, Ambi, Ambur

Amelia: Latin, “she who is ambitious”

Amalia, Amelie, Amylia—this name easily lends itself to many creative variations. Emma and Emily are both considered variants of Amelia.

Amina: Arabic, “she who is worthy of trust”

Amy, Mina

Amity: Latin, “she who is friendly”

Amy: Latin, “she who is beloved”—from the same root as the word *amor*

Aimee, Ami, Ammie, Ammy

AMY CARMICHAEL
(1867–1951)

was a determined missionary to the poor of India, with a focus on temple prostitutes.

In 1926, she began her Dohnavur Fellowship. She was the author of many popular books, including the classic *If*.

An: Chinese, “she who is peaceful”

Anabel: Latin, “she who is lovable”

Anabella, Annabell, Annabella, Annabelle

***Anah:** Hebrew, “she who sings”
(See Genesis 36:2, 18, 25.)

***Anah:** Hebrew, “God has answered”
(See Genesis 36:2, 18, 25.)

Anastasia: Greek, “resurrection”
Ana, Anastacia, Anastasha,
Stacey, Stacia, Stacie, Stasha

Andrea: Greek, “she who is full of courage”—also a feminine variation of Andrew

Andee, Andi, Andra, Andrah,
Andrana, Andreanna, Andri,
Andriah, Andriana, Andrina

Angela: Old English, “heavenly being”—literally “angel”
Angel, Angelica, Angelina,
Angeline, Angelique (French),
Angelita, Angella, Angie

Ani: Hawaiian, “she who is beautiful”

Anika: Slovak form of Ann, “she who is full of grace”
Anaka, Annika, Anouska

Anita: Spanish, “she who is full of grace”—a variation of Ann
Aneeta, Anitra, Nita

Ann: English, “she who is full of grace,” from Hannah

Ana, Anele, Anna, Anne, Annelle, Annette (French), Annora, Anora. Many variations and name combinations can be created using the name Ann. It works well in combination with other proper names (Mary Ann, Bobbi Ann, Sue Ann, Ann Marie, etc.).

ANN JUDSON
(1789–1826)

was the first female American missionary to the Far East. She and her husband, Adoniram, translated the Bible into Burmese, undergoing much suffering and trial along the way.

***Anna:** A variation of Ann, “she who is full of grace,” from Hannah

Ana, Annah, Annette (French), Anya (Russian). Many variations of this name occur in combination with other popular names. Examples include Annabelle, Annalisa, Annalysa.

Anna (the New Testament form of Hannah) was a widow,

- a prayer warrior, and one of the first messengers of the good news of the Savior's birth. (See Luke 2:36–38.)
- Anthea:** Greek, "flower"
Anthia, Thea, Thia
- Antoinette:** French, "she who is praiseworthy"—a feminine variation of Anthony
Antonia (Italian), Antonietta, Netta, Netty, Toni, Tonia
- April:** Latin, "open"—from the month of April, the seasonal "opening" to spring
Aprila, Aprilette, Aprilina, Avril
- Ara:** Latin, "altar"
Arah, Ari, Aria, Arah
- Arabella:** Arabic, "ornate altar"
Arabelle, Arbelina, Arbeline, Arbella, Arbelle, Bella, Belle
- Ardelle:** Latin, "enthusiastic"
Arda, Ardeen, Ardella, Ardina, Ardine, Dell, Della
- Ardis:** Latin, "she who is eager"
Arda, Ardah, Ardie, Ardra, Ardrah, Ardy
- Ardith:** Hebrew, "field of flowers"—also a feminine variation of Arden
Ardath, Ardys, Ardyth, Aridatha
- Areta:** Greek, "she who is virtuous"
Aretha, Retha
- Ariadne:** Greek, "divine"
Aria, Ariadna
- Ariana:** Welsh, "as valuable as fine silver"
Ariane, Arianna, Arianne
- Ariel:** Hebrew, "lion of God"—can also be a male name
Ari, Ariella, Arielle, Ella
- Arlene:** Celtic, "promise"
Arla, Arlana, Arleen, Arlie, Arlinda, Lana
- Arva:** Latin, "pasture"
Arvilla
- Ashira:** Hebrew, "rich"
Ashyra
- Ashley:** Old English, "from the ash tree"
Ashlee, Ashleigh, Ashly
- Astra:** Greek, "star"
- Astrid:** Old German, "she who has strength from God"

Athalia: Hebrew, “our God is exalted”

Athalie, Thalia, Thalie

Athena: Greek, “she who is wise”

Athene, Thena

Aubrey: Old German, “she who is noble”

Aubree, Bree

Audrey: Old German, “she who is noble”—a variation of

Etheldreda

Audie, Audra, Audree,

Audreena, Audrina, Audrine

Augusta: Latin, “full of majesty”—a feminine variation of Augustus

Augie, Augustina, Austina,

Austine, Gussie

Aurea: Latin, “golden”

Aura, Aurel, Aurelia, Auria,

Aurie, Oralia, Oralie

Aurora: Latin, “dawn”

Aurore, Rora, Rori, Rory

Austa: Latin, a feminine variation of Austin, “majestic”

Austina, Austine

Autumn: Latin, from the season

Ava: Latin, “bird”

Avis, Aya, Ayla

Aviva: Hebrew, “youth”

Avi, Viv, Viva

Ayanna: Swahili, “she who is as beautiful as a flower’s blossom”

Azaria: Hebrew, “she who hears the Lord”—usually a male name

Azariah, Azzie

Aziza: Arabic/Swahili, “she who is beloved”

Azzie, Azziza, Azzy

B

Babette: French, “she who is foreign”—generally accepted as one of many diminutives for Barbara

Babbie, Babbs, Babe, Babetta, Etta

Bailey: Old English, “bailiff”

Baily, Bay, Bayley

Bambi: from the Disney film of the same name; or possibly from the Italian word for small child, *bambino*

Bambee, Bambie, Bamby

Barbara: Greek, “she who is foreign”—from the same root as the word *barbarian*