



NAME, A STORY

A BIBLE STUDY SERIES ABOUT 5 OBSCURE PEOPLE

PREPARED BY DR. ANDREW CORBETT

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A Series of 5 Bible Studies About Some of the Bible's Most Obscure People

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<http://www.andrewcorbett.net/bible-studies-for-small-groups/>

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Behind every name there is a story. F.W. Boreham opens his autobiography with the statement about every person has a story to tell. In fact, he says, the person whose story is not worth telling has never been born. One of the unique things about the Bible compared with other so-called religious holy books, is that it is a *story*. Not only is there a grand story which undergirds it, there are numerous short stories punctuating it. Some of these short stories have entire biblical books dedicated to them. Others warrant a chapter or two. But these five people, with whom we are about to become more acquainted, receive no more than a one-verse mention. Yet their impact on the world was profound. They, like most true heroes, are the unsung heroes of this world. It is my hope that by considering the lives and works of these people, you may even reconsider your own contribution to our world and decrease your possible desire for fame or even acknowledgement, and come to realise that the One who truly matters always honours those who know it and seek to give Him all the fame and acknowledgement they can.

Andrew Corbett

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What does your name mean? What's the strangest story behind someone's name that you've ever heard?

There are certain things that make human beings *unique*. *Music* is one of those things. Not long after Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden, the Bible tells us that mankind sought to express themselves with *music*.

1. What does Psalm 101:1 tell us about the role of singing, music, and worship?

In a profound way, music is an expression of the Trinity. As the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one yet three in perfect harmony, so music also takes diverse notes to make one harmonious chord.

2. What does Revelation 14:1-2 tell us about how angels sound, and what people do in heaven?

Jubal is described as the inventor and developer of musical instruments. It is said that *necessity is the mother of invention*. Jubal lived at a time when the earth's population was relatively low and geographically very concentrated. Assuming that there are no gaps in the genealogical records of Scripture, he was only a few generations removed from Adam, the first man. Jubal may not have had the best home life. Consider the character of his father, Lamech (Gen. 4:23) and how this could have shaped him.

3. What did Jubal invent or develop according Genesis 4:21?

Coincidentally, archaeologists tell us that the first instrument used by human beings (apart from their voices) was a flute or pipe. Pictured right is a discovery of what is believed to be a piece of the oldest known musical instrument. It is estimated to be around 67,000 years old (<https://www.smashinglists.com/10-earliest-known-musical-instruments/>). It is made from a piece of bone with holes bored into it in precisely the right places for a diatonic scale, according to Canadian musicologist Bob Fink .



Jubal probably experimented with various methods of making music. Experimentation is often the pathway to invention. But he wasn't merely the father of musical instruments, he was also the developer of these instruments.

4. What does Genesis 4:21 say that Jubal was the father of?

This would have necessarily involved *teaching* others to play these instruments. It almost certainly would have resulted in some forms of musical pieces also being developed. From these humble beginnings, music and the instruments used to produce continued to evolve. By the time we come to the Psalms, we see that the various Psalmists had developed music to be played with various instruments (Ps. 150) and sung by choirs. The next time you enjoy your favourite music don't forget to thank God for *Jubal*.

Amen.