



The Meaning of the Name Robert in the Bible

The name Robert derives from the Germanic elements hrode, meaning "fame," and bert, meaning "bright." It has Biblical roots as well and is associated with strength and vigor.

The name Robert first appeared in England after the Norman conquest of 1066. It quickly became a very popular name among the Normans. Records from the Domesday book of 1086 show several individuals named Robert. There are a few individuals in the Bible who share the name Robert or a variation of the name.

The first occurrence is in 1 Chronicles 2:11-12, which mentions a son of Caleb named Salmon who took a wife named Rahab. Together they had a son named Boaz. Boaz later married Ruth, and they had a son named Obed. Obed then had a son named Jesse, who was the father of King David. Another son of Jesse prior to David was named Elihu. Elihu is thought to be a variant of the name Robert. So in this lineage, Robert is associated with King David's royal family.

Later in the New Testament, variations of the name Robert appear associated with those of strength, vigor and faith. In Romans 16:21, Paul sends greetings to his relatives including "Rufus, chosen in the Lord," and his mother. Rufus means "red-haired" in Latin and is thought to be a variant of Robert. This suggests Rufus was a believer of notable faith and character. In 2 Timothy 4:14-15, Paul mentions that Alexander the coppersmith did him much harm. He then asks Timothy to beware of him for he strongly opposed their teaching. Some scholars believe Alexander to be a variant of the name Robert. If so, this Robert is depicted as someone opposing the Gospel message, against the normative positive character of the name.

Overall, the name Robert has strong Biblical roots dating back to the lineage of King David. Individuals who shared the name or its variants were often people of faith, strength and prominence. The name holds positive connotations of being -

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