

Japhia (Person)

1. King of Lachish

Japhia (MT *Yāpiaʿ*, “He let shine” or “tall”) is an Amorite King of Lachish at the time of Joshua (Josh 10:3) who joined a coalition led by Adonizedek of Jerusalem (along with Hoham of Hebron, Piram of Jarmuth, Debir of Eglon) to fight the Gibeonites as a response to the peace treaty formed by Joshua and Gibeon. After the divinely worked defeat the five Amorite kings hid in a cave near Makkedah where they were captured and executed (Josh 10:16–27). Their dead bodies were impaled on stakes until sundown as a public exposure to inspire fear. Afterwards they were thrown into the cave where they hid formerly. Since the kings are anonymous except for Josh 10:3, their names could be a later scholarly invention. LXX renders the name Ιεφθα . Jerome translates *Jafie* with “it is mouth” (*Nom. hebr.* 28.5–6) connected to Hebrew *pi*.

Bibliography: ■ Knauf, E. A., *Josua* (ZBK.AT 6; Zurich 2008). ■ Nelson, R. D., *Joshua* (OTL; Louisville, Ky. 1997). ■ Noth, M., *Die israelitischen Personennamen* (BWANT 3/10; Hildesheim 1980 [= Stuttgart 1928]).

2. A Son of David

Japhia (MT *Yāpiaʿ*; LXX $\text{Ιεφθα/Ιεφθεζ/Ιανουε/Ιανουου}$), a son of David, was born in Jerusalem in addition to six sons born in Hebron from six different wives (1 Chr 3:1–4). Eleven sons were born from wives David explicitly took from Jerusalem (2 Sam 5:13–16), whereas 1 Chr 3:5–8 and 1 Chr 14:4–7

mention thirteen sons born in Jerusalem. Thus, Japhia is counted as the eighth son in 2 Sam 5:15 and the tenth son in the Chronistic lists. According to 1 Chr 3:5 the first four are explicitly sons of Bathshua, daughter of Ammiel – probably Bathsheba –, whereas the remaining are sons of other mothers. The other wives are unprovenanced in the Chronistic tradition. Therefore the mother of Japhia is unknown. Besides these thirteen sons David had numerous unknown sons from other concubines (1 Chr 3:9). None of David's sons bore a Yahwistic name. The Greek tradition of 2 Sam 5:16 adds thirteen further sons duplicating the former list but with many alterations: Japhia is called here *Ιαφαθα* (2 Sam 5:16 LXX). However, 4QSam^a preserves the correct MT spelling. Josephus reads Japhia as *Ιεφαε* (*Ant.* 7.70) like LXX^B (*Ιαφοε*), thus confusing *Pē* with *Nūn*.

Bibliography: ■ Auld, A. G., *I & II Samuel* (OTL; Louisville, Ky. 2011). ■ Japhet, S., *I & II Chronicles* (OTL; London 1993). ■ Klein, R. W., *1 Chronicles* (Hermeneia; Minneapolis, Minn. 2006). ■ Knoppers, G. N., *1 Chronicles 1–9* (AB 12; New York 2004). ■ Stoebe, H. J., *Das zweite Buch Samuelis* (KAT 8/2; Gütersloh 1994).

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