

Imnah

The name Imnah (MT *Yimnā*; LXX *Ιεμνα*; Num 26:12 *ימנא*) may mean “fortune,” as a good omen for the child (Noth: 224, who compares with arab. *jumnatun*); alternatively, a derivation from *y-m-n* “south” has been suggested (Zadok: 78), or a shortened form of *Yimnā-‘ēl* or *yimnā-yāh* “may God/Yah destine” (Dahood: 418).

Bibliography: ■ Dahood, M., “Stichometry and Destiny in Psalm 23,4,” *Bib.* 60 (1979) 410–19. ■ Japhet, S., “The Distribution of the Priestly Gifts According to a Document of the Second Temple Period,” in *Texts, Temples, and Traditions: A Tribute to Menahem Haran* (ed. M. V. Fox et al.; Winona Lake, Ind. 1996) 3–20. ■ Noth, M., *Die israelitischen Personennamen im Rahmen der gemeinsemitischen Namengebung* (BWANT 46; Stuttgart 1926). ■ Zadok, R., *The Pre-Hellenistic Israelite Anthroponymy and Prosopography* (OLA 28; Leuven 1988).

1. Son of Asher

Imnah is listed as the first son of Asher in Gen 46:17; 1 Chr 7:30 and as the ancestor of the Imnites in Num 26:44. Imnah appears as the grandson of Jacob, his nominal grandmother being Leah

(Gen 46:15–17) while his natural grandmother was Leah's maid Zilpah according to Gen 30:12.

2. The Levite

The Levite Imnah is mentioned by the Chronicler as the father of Kore, “keeper of the east gate,” who is in charge of administering offerings and overseeing other Levites during the reign of King Hezekiah (2 Chr 31:14–15). Thus, Kore is presented as a high-ranking official at the temple of Jerusalem. Imnah is one of many Levitical names that the Chronicler introduces, names that are not mentioned in the book of Kings (compare 2 Kgs 18:4–6 and the expanded version in 2 Chr 31). Rather than reflecting the time of Hezekiah, the Chronicler most probably introduced names from actual Levitical families in the Second Temple period (perhaps using an administrative document; Japhet) to attribute to them ancient authority.

Bibliography: ■ Japhet, S., “The Distribution of the Priestly Gifts According to a Document of the Second Temple Period,” in *Texts, Temples, and Traditions: A Tribute to Menahem Haran* (ed. M. V. Fox et al.; Winona Lake, Ind. 1996) 3–20.

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