



# CHRIST CONNECTIONS MINISTRY

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Bible Name Dictionary

**Bible Name:** Caleb - Ephratah

**Language:** Hebrew

**Pronunciation:** kaw-labe' ef-raw' -thaw

**Name Type:** Place

**Meaning:** The name 'Caleb - Ephratah' means 'Dog of Fruitfulness'. It is derived from two separate Hebrew names. The first is 'Caleb' meaning 'Dog' (taken from the Hebrew verb 'Keleb' meaning 'to yelp', the Hebrew equivalent of a dog's woof!). The second name is 'Ephratah' meaning 'fruitfulness' (taken from the Hebrew verb 'Parah' meaning 'to bear fruit', 'to be fruitful', or 'to blossom'.) This is a rather strange name for a Jewish location. It was probably named as a memorial for two people of extreme importance (as in the case of Caleb and his wife Ephratah in 2 Chron. 2.19). It is also notable that the nearby town of 'Bethlehem' also went by the name of 'Ephratah' in ancient times. Perhaps it, too, was originally named after 'Ephratah', the wife of 'Caleb'. There is perhaps another possible translation for this name. As noted above, the name 'Ephratah' means 'to bear fruit', which might include 'bearing children' or 'progeny', so perhaps the name 'Caleb - Ephratah', along with 'Bethlehem - Ephratah', was meant to denote 'Caleb's progeny', rather the cities they settled.