

BIBLE DICTIONARY FOR FIRST QUARTER, 1912

[For additional information in regard to certain of the places, see Geography Lessons.]

A-bi'-a. Or Abijah (Rev. Ver.), meaning "Jehovah is my Father", the head of the 8th of the 24 courses of priests as arranged by David, 1 Chron. 24 : 3 ; 2 Chron. 8 : 14.

Ab-i-le'-ne. A district on the eastern slope of the Lebanon range.

A'-bra-ham. Meaning "Exalted Father", the first ancestor of the Jewish race.

Al-phæ'-us. 1. The father of James the Less, Mark 15 : 40. 2. The father of Matthew. Some identify these two, thus making James and Matthew brothers.

An'-drew. An apostle, brother of Peter.

An'-na. The same name as Hannah, meaning "Grace",—a prophetess more than a hundred years old who was in the temple when the infant Jesus was presented by His parents.

An'-nas. "Merciful." High priest from A.D. 6 or 7 to A.D. 15, who retained power after he had lost office.

A'-ser. Or Asher (Rev. Ver.). The name of Jacob's eighth son and of the tribe descended from him.

Beth'-le-hem. "House of Bread." The birthplace of Jesus, a small town about six miles south of Jerusalem.

Cai'-a-phas. Son-in-law of Annas and his successor in the high priesthood.

Ca-per'-na-um. A town on the north-western shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Christ. "The Anointed One", a title corresponding to the Hebrew "Messiah". It is our Lord's official title, as Jesus is His personal name.

E-lis'-a-beth. The wife of Zacharias and the mother of John the Baptist.

E-sai'-as. Or Isaiah. The great prophet of Judah in the 8th century B.C.

Ga'-bri-el. "Man of God." The angel who foretold the birth of John the Baptist to Zacharias and of Jesus to Mary.

Her'-od. 1. Herod the Great, the first of the seven Herods mentioned in the New Testament. He was made king of Judea by the Romans in A.D. 37, and reigned till B.C. 4. 2. Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great, who, after his father's death, ruled over Galilee and Perea, with the title of tetrarch.

Is'-ra-el. A name given to Jacob and his descendants (see Gen. 32 : 28).

I-tu-ræ'-a. The region north of Palestine which, along with Trachonitis, formed the dominions of Philip, a son of Herod the Great.

James and John. Two brothers, sons of Zebedee, who were called, at the same time as Peter and Andrew, to be followers of Jesus, and who also became apostles.

Je'-ru'-sa-lem. The sacred city and well known capital of the Jews.

Je'-sus. The name given to our Lord by direction of the angel to Joseph (Matt. 1 : 21) and to Mary, Luke 1 : 31. It means "Saviour", and expresses His special office.

John. The Baptist, son of Zacharias and Elizabeth, and the immediate forerunner of Jesus.

Jo'-seph. The husband of Mary the mother of Jesus.

Ju'-da. Or Judah, the territory inhabited by the tribe descended from the fourth son of Jacob.

Ju'-dæ'-a. The southernmost province of Palestine under the Roman government, the middle one being Samaria and the northern Galilee.

Le'-vi. The original name of the apostle Matthew.

Ly'-sa'-ni-as. The ruler of Abilene (which see) at the beginning of John the Baptist's ministry (see Luke 3 : 1).

Mar'-y. The mother of Jesus. She was a resident of Nazareth, where the Saviour's birth was announced to her, Luke 1 : 26.

Naz'-a-reth. A town of Galilee in which Joseph and Mary lived, and the home of Jesus from His childhood until He was about thirty years of age.

Pha-nu'-el. The mother of Anna, Luke 2 : 36.

Phar'-i-sees. A Jewish sect who held strictly not only to the law of Moses, but also to the interpretation of that law given by the scribes or rabbis.

Phil'-ip. A son of Herod the Great and half-brother of Herod Antipas.

Pon'-tius Pi'-late. The Roman governor who, after the death of Archelaus, son and one of the successors of Herod the Great in B.C. 6, had ruled over Judea, with headquarters at Cæsarea.

Sa'-tan. "The adversary", so named because he is hostile to all goodness and the chief opponent of God and man.

Sav'-iour. The title given to our Lord by the angel who announced His birth to the shepherds, as they watched their flocks near Bethlehem (see Luke 2 : 11).

Sim'-e-on. The "just and devout" man who took the infant Jesus in his arms and blessed Him on the occasion of the presentation in the temple (see Luke 2 : 26-34).

Si'-mon. The chief of the twelve apostles to whom our Lord gave the surname of Peter.

Ti-be'-ri-us Cæ'-sar. The second Roman emperor, who succeeded Augustus in A.D. 14, and reigned till A.D. 37.

Trach-o-ni'-tis. See Ituræa.

Zach-a-ri'-as. A Jewish priest, father of John the Baptist.

Zeb'-e-dee. The father of the apostles James and John.