

BIBLE DICTIONARY FOR FOURTH QUARTER, 1905.

A-ha'-va. A place nine days' journey distant from Babylon (Ezra 7 : 9; 8 : 15, 31), giving its name to a river or canal on which Ezra assembled the people who proposed to go to Jerusalem with him, Ezra 7 : 28; 8 : 31.

Am'-mon-ites. A tribe dwelling east of the Jordan who opposed the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem in the days of Nehemiah.

A'-ra'-bi-ans. Natives of Arabia, the most westerly of the three great peninsulas in southern Asia. Some of them joined the Ammonites in their opposition to Nehemiah.

Ash'-do-dites. Inhabitants of Ashdod, one of the chief cities of the Philistines.

As'-sur. The same as Assyria, a country on the river Tigris. For 700 years after 1300 B.C. it was the leading power in the East.

Bab'-y-lon. The capital of the Babylonian empire, a city on the river Euphrates, 500 miles east of Jerus. lem.

Bel-shaz'-zar. The son of Nabonidus who usurped the throne of Babylon. Belshazzar was slain on the night that Babylon was captured by the Medes and Persians, Dan. 5 : 1-31.

Chal-de'-ans. A people dwelling originally on the shores of the Persian Gulf, who conquered Babylonian, and afterwards gave their name to the whole of that country.

Cy'-rus. King of the Persian Empire from B.C. 558 to 529. Having become ruler of Babylon by conquest, he allowed the captive Jews to return to their own land.

Dan'-iel. A Jewish youth carried captive to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar. He rose to one of the highest positions in that kingdom.

Da'-ri-us. Called Hystaspes. He became king of the Persian empire in 522 B.C.

E'-sar-had'-don. Son of Sennacherib who became king of Assyria about 680 B.C. He was eminent as a general and a political ruler.

Es'-ther. A beautiful Jewish maiden brought up in Susa (Shushan) by her cousin Mordecai. She became the wife of Ahasuerus the Persian king and saved her people from a plot to destroy them (see Mordecai).

Ez'-ra. A Jewish priest, who in 458 B.C. led 1,500 of his countrymen back to Jerusalem from their captivity in Babylon.

Hash-a-bi'-ah. One of the twelve Levites who, along with twelve priests, acted as guardians of the treasure which was being conveyed to Jerusalem by Ezra (see Ezra 8 : 19, 24, etc.). Another of these Levites was Sherebiah.

Ha'-tach. An officer of King Ahasuerus who was appointed to attend Esther (see Esth. 4 : 5, 10).

Jer-e-mi'-ah. A great prophet, who prophesied for about forty-one years, in the reigns

of Josiah, Jehoiakim and Zedekiah, kings of Judah.

Jesh'-u-a. Or Joshua, the great military leader who succeeded Moses as the ruler of God's people.

Jor'-dan. The most important river in Palestine, flowing through the land from north to south.

Ju'-dah. The name of the southern kingdom of the two into which Solomon's kingdom was divided, and after the exile a part of a province of the Persian empire.

Medes. A nation belonging to Asia, south of the Caspian Sea, who took part with the Persians in the capture of Babylon.

Mid'-i-an. A region east of the Jordan, whose army was routed by Gideon, Judg., ch. 7.

Mith'-re-dath. Treasurer under Cyrus, king of Persia, through whom the sacred vessels were restored to the Jews, Ezra 1 : 8.

Mor-de-ca'-i. A Jew dwelling in Susa (Shushan), who discovered a plot devised by Haman, the king's favorite, against all the Jews in the Persian empire. He made his discovery known to Esther, the queen, by whom it was defeated. Haman was hanged on the gallows he had erected for Mordecai, and Mordecai became the second man in the kingdom.

Naph'-ta-li. The tribe descended from Jacob's sixth son. Their territory was in northern Palestine.

Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar. The king of Babylon who carried the people of Judah captive to Babylon in 587 B.C.

Ne-hem-i'-ah. A Jew of the captivity who was cupbearer to the king of Persia, and who was appointed governor of Judah. Under him the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt and a political and religious reform effected.

Nun. The father of Joshua.

Per'-sia. A country in western Asia whose king, Cyrus, conquered Babylon in 538 B.C.

Per'-sians. The inhabitants of Persia.

San-bal'-lat. One of the leaders in the opposition to the building of the walls of Jerusalem under Jeremiah. Associated with him was Tobiah.

Sher-e-bi'-ah. See Hashabiah.

Shesh-baz'-zar. The Babylonian name of Zerubbabel, a prince of Judah, who in 538 B.C. returned to Jerusalem and laid the foundations of the temple.

Shu'-shan. Or Susa, a city and royal residence in the Persian empire.

To-bi'-ah. See Sanballat.

Ze-bu'-lun. The tribe descended from the tenth son of Jacob. The territory assigned to them was in the northern part of Palestine.

Ze-rub'-ba-bel. See Sheshbazzar.