

Descriptive and Explanatory Index

OF PERSONS, PLACES, INSTITUTIONS, MANNERS AND CUSTOMS REFERRED TO IN THE LESSONS.

Agabus.—Lesson V.—A Christian prophet. Nothing concerning him is known except what is stated in Acts 11. 28, and 21. 10, 11.

Barjesus.—Lesson VII.—Jesus—a later form of Joshua—was a common name among the Jews. "Bar" means son. This sorcerer, like most of his kind, had succeeded in duping men of high position and bright intelligence. See Elymas.

Caesar, Claudius.—Lesson V.—"Caesar" was the title of all emperors of Rome after Julius Caesar. Claudius was the fourth Roman emperor. He was a weak and indolent man, and was poisoned by his wife, Agrippina. He issued an edict expelling all Jews from Rome about A.D. 49. During his reign there were four great famines in Judea, Greece, and Rome.

Christians.—Lesson V.—The name, first applied at Antioch, given to believers in Jesus as the Christ. It was not given by the Jews, who called them rather "Galileans," "Nazarenes." The name came from the heathen, who applied it to the followers of Jesus Christ, either in mockery, or from a mere misunderstanding, taking the term, Christ, for a proper name, instead of an official title. In the New Testament, as is well known, it occurs but thrice; once in the historical notice of its origin, and only in two other places as a name used by enemies. It was employed by Agrippa II. in his words to Paul (Acts 26. 28); and it is used by Peter as the name of a charge under which the brethren were likely to be persecuted and impeached (1 Pet. 4. 16).

Cyprus.—Lessons V., VII.—A large island in the Mediterranean, situated in the north-east part of that sea, between Cilicia and Syria. It is about one hundred and forty miles long, and varies from five to fifty miles in breadth. Its ancient inhabitants were plunged in all manner of luxury and debauchery. The principal deity was Venus, who had a celebrated temple at Paphos. The island was extremely fertile, and abounded in wine, oil, honey, wood, copper, agate, and a beautiful species of rock crystal. There were also large forests of cypress trees. Of the cities on the island, Paphos, on the western coast, and Salamis, at the opposite end, are mentioned in the New Testament. The Gospel was preached

there at an early day (Acts 11. 19). Barnabas and Mnason and other eminent Christians were natives of this island (Acts 11. 20; 21. 16). The Apostle Paul and Barnabas made a missionary tour through it, A.D. 44 (Acts 13. 4-13). See also Acts 15. 39; 27. 4.

Cyrene.—Lessons V., VII.—A large city in Libya, a country west of Egypt. So many Cyrenian Jews lived in Jerusalem that they had a synagogue of their own.

"Days of unleavened bread."—Lesson VI.—The passover week, in the spring, when for eight days no leaven was allowed in the houses.

Deputy.—Lesson VII.—The Revised Version translates "proconsul," the correct title of the ruler. Coins have been found in the island of Cyprus bearing this very title applied to its governor.

"Door of the gate."—Lesson VI.—A wicket, a small door in a larger one.

Easter.—Lesson VI.—Instead of "Easter" in this passage read "Passover." Our Easter celebrates the resurrection of Christ, which occurred during passover week.

Elymas.—Lesson VII.—The self-assumed title of the Jewish sorcerer Barjesus, which see.

Greeks.—Lesson V.—Uncircumcised Gentiles, whether natives of Greece, or people of other blood who used the Greek language and followed Greek customs.

Herod.—Lesson VI.—Herod Agrippa I., a grandson of Herod the Great (who slaughtered the infants of Bethlehem); a nephew of Herod the tetrarch (mentioned below); and father of Herod Agrippa II. (who is mentioned in Acts, chapters 25, 26). This Herod was an intimate friend of the Roman emperor, Caligula, who gave him most of his grand-father's dominions.

Herod the tetrarch.—Lesson VII.—The Herod who governed Galilee during the time of our Lord, and who killed John the Baptist.

James.—Lesson VI., verse 2.—The brother of John, and son of Zebedee. He had stood by Jesus at the bedside of the daughter of Jairus, and on the holy mount, and in the agony of the garden; had once wished to call down fire from heaven on those who treated his Lord with incivility; had helped to urge the claim that he might be in the higher