

Bible Dictionary

BIBLE DICTIONARY FOR FIRST QUARTER

A'-bra-ham. The son of Terah, first ancestor of the Hebrews, called the father of the faithful and the friend of God.

An'-drew. The name means "Manliness." One of the twelve apostles, and a brother of Simon Peter.

Beth-ab'-ar-a. Identified by Conder with 'Abarah, a ford of the Jordan 14 miles south of the Sea of Galilee. Conder also says that "Bethany," substituted by the Rev. Ver. for Bethabara in John 1 : 28, was the name of a district east of Jordan reached by the ford of Bethabara.

Beth-es'-da. "House of Mercy," a pool having five porches, situated in the north-eastern part of Jerusalem.

Beth'-le-hem. The birthplace and home of David. Here in fulfillment of prophecy Jesus was born (see Mic. 5 : 2).

Beth-sai'-da. A town on the east bank of the Jordan just above its fall into the sea of Galilee.

Ca'-na. A Galilean village situated a few miles north-east of Nazareth, the home of Nathanael, and the scene of our Lord's first recorded miracle.

Ca-per'-na-um. A town on the north-western shore of the sea of Galilee, the home of Jesus after His rejection at Nazareth. Here many of our Lord's miracles were wrought.

Ce'-phas. Aramaic for "rock" or "stone," a name given by Jesus to the apostle Simon. Its Greek equivalent, Peter, is the common name of the apostle.

E-li'-as. That is, Elijah. One of the earliest and greatest of the prophets. The Jews expected his return in person before the coming of the Messiah.

E-sai'-as. Another form for Isaiah.

Gal-il'-ae'-ans. The inhabitants of Gal'-ilee, the most northerly of the three provinces into which the Romans divided Palestine. The fresh water sea so famous in our Lord's ministry, took its name from the province.

He'-brew. The language spoken by the Jews. In our Lord's time this was not genuine Hebrew, but Aramaic, which had taken its place and assumed its name.

Is'-ra-el. A name given to Jacob and his descendants.

Is'-ra-el-ite. A descendant of Israel, and supposed therefore to possess true religious knowledge and to be a faithful follower of the true God.

Ja'-cob. A twin with Esau, son of Jacob and Rebekah.

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

Je'-sus Christ. Jesus was the name given to our Lord by direction of the angel to Joseph (Matt. 1 : 21) and to Mary (Luke 1 : 31). Christ is His official title (see Messias).

Jews. At first, a name given to those belonging to the tribe or kingdom of Judah, then to all of the Hebrew race who returned from the captivity in Babylon, and finally to all the members of that race throughout the world.

John. The Baptist, Son of Zacharias and Elizabeth, and the immediate forerunner of Jesus. To be distinguished from the apostle John, who does not mention his own name in his Gospel.

Jo'-na. The father of Simon Peter.

Jor'-dan. The most important river of Palestine, flowing from the Lebanon Mountains to the Dead Sea.

Jo'-seph. The husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Also the eleventh of Jacob's twelve sons and elder son of Rachel. He was buried at Shechem, the site of which Jacob had gifted to him. Jacob's well was two miles from Shechem.

Le'-vites. The descendants of Levi, son of Jacob. They were charged with the care of the temple.

Mess-i'-as. Messiah, "the anointed one," the Saviour's title. Christ is the Greek form.

Na-than'-a-el. Also called Bartholomew, one of the twelve apostles. He was a native of Cana and was among the first disciples of Jesus.

Naz'-ar-eth. A town of Galilee where Joseph and Mary lived, and the home of Jesus from His childhood until He was about thirty years of age.

Nic-o-de'-mus. A Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin, the great Jewish Council. After a night interview with Jesus he became a secret disciple of our Lord.

Phar'-is-ees. One of the three chief Jewish sects, the other two being the Sadducees and Essenes.

Phil'-ip. One of the twelve apostles, a native of Bethsaida. He belonged to the group of our Lord's earliest disciples.

Rab'-bi. A respectful title among the Jews for a spiritual instructor. It means "doctor," "teacher," or "master."

Sam-ar'-it-ans. The inhabitants of Samaria. Between them and the Jews there was enmity dating from the time of Nehemiah.

Si-lo'-am. A pool situated a little to the south-east of Jerusalem.

Si'-mon Pe'-ter. Always the first named in the lists of the apostles. Simon was his original name, Peter the name given him by Jesus (see Cephas).

Sy'-char. A village of Samaria, now called 'Askar, on the eastern slope of Mount Ebal, a little north of Jacob's well.

Ti-be'-ri-as. A name given to the sea of Galilee from Tiberias, the capital of Herod the ruler of Galilee, built in our Lord's time on the south-western shore.