

a "free city," enjoying many privileges akin to those of Frankfort, Hamburg, Lubeck and Bremen during the Middle Ages. Here, shortly after the birth of the Redeemer of mankind in Bethlehem, was born the child who was to become the most illustrious man the world has ever seen—the man who, by his spoken and written word, was more than any other to mould the mind of Christendom to the end of time. His father was



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probably a well-to-do Cilician merchant. His mother was doubtless—as the mothers of great men always are—a woman of large heart and brain. His name means "the desired," or "prayed for." He was probably the first-born, given in answer to earnest prayer. He had at least one sister (Acts xxiii. 16). He was trained up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord—a Pharisee of the Pharisees—the strictest of all the sects of the Jews. He was trained up, too, after the wise Jewish