

BIBLE DICTIONARY FOR THIRD QUARTER, 1903

A-bi-gail'. The wife of Nabal, and after his death one of the wives of David. She was a wise and beautiful woman.

A-bi'-shai. A son of **Ze-ru'-iah**, David's sister, who accompanied David to Saul's camp and asked permission to kill the sleeping king.

Ab'-ner. The son of **Ner** and uncle of Saul. He was commander-in-chief of Saul's army and after the death of that monarch, proclaimed **Ish-bosheth** as king.

A'-gag. An Amalekite king spared by Saul and slain by Samuel.

A-hi'-me-lech. The chief priest at Nob, who gave David to eat of the shew-bread which, by the law, belonged to the priests.

A-hi-no'-am. A woman of Jezreel, a town in the hill country of Judah, and one of David's wives.

A-mal'-ek-ites. The descendants of Esau, Gen. 36: 12. They attacked the Israelites soon after the latter had left Egypt (Ex. 17: 8-16) and were doomed to destruction, Deut. 25: 17-19. They suffered a crushing defeat from Saul, and soon after disappear from the Bible history.

Ash'-tar-oth. The plural of Ashtoreth, goddess of the Philistines (the Greek Venus).

Be'-er-she'-ba. A town in the extreme south of Judah, in which the sons of Samuel lived while judges over the Israelites.

Be'-li-al. Ungodliness. "Men of Belial" means ungodly men.

Ben'-ja-min. The youngest son of Jacob and head of one of the tribes.

Beth'-le-hem. A town in the hill country of Judah; the place of Rachel's death and burial; the home of Ruth; the birth-place of David, and afterwards of our Lord.

Beth'-shan. A city at the eastern end of the valley of Jezreel, on whose walls the Philistines fastened the bodies of Saul and his sons.

Da'-vid. The youngest son of Jesse, a Bethlehemite, and the second king of Israel.

E'-gypt. A country watered by the Nile, and in which the Israelites spent four hundred years of slavery.

El-i'-ab, **A-bi'-na-dab**, **Shamm'-ah**. Sons of Jesse and elder brothers of David.

Eph'-ra-im. The younger son of Joseph and ancestor of the tribe bearing the same name, which inhabited the central portion of Palestine.

E'-zel. A stone marking the place of the farewell between David and Jonathan.

Gib'-e-ah. A town of Benjamin, the residence of Saul when he was called to be king, and afterwards his capital.

Gil-bo'-a. A mountain lying to the east of the plain of Esdraelon. On it Saul was defeated by the Philistines and met his death.

Gil'-e-ad. A country on the east side of the Jordan.

Gil'-gal. A town between the Jordan and Jericho, which Samuel visited on his yearly circuit, 1 Sam. 7: 16. Here Agag was hewn in pieces (1 Sam. 15: 33); and here Saul was crowned (1 Sam. 11: 14, 15); and rejected, 1 Sam. 15: 26.

Heb'-ron. A town in Judah which became David's first capital.

Ish-bo'-sheth. One of Saul's younger sons, who reigned for two years in Mahanaim, while David reigned in Hebron.

Is'-ra-el. A name given to the whole body of Jacob's descendants; also the name of the kingdom formed by the tribes which separated from Judah.

Ja'-besh-gil'-e-ad. A town of Gilead rescued by Saul from the hands of the Ammonites, whose inhabitants afterwards showed their gratitude by giving an honorable burial to the bodies of Saul and his sons.

Jes'-se. A descendant of Nahshon, chief of the tribe of Judah in the days of Moses and of Ruth.

Jez'-re-el. A city near the boundary line of the tribe of Issachar, which gave its name to a valley forming part of the great plain of Esdraelon.

Jo'-ab. A younger brother of Abishai. He became head of David's army, 1 Chron. 11: 6.

Jo'-el and **A-bi'-ah**. Sons of Samuel, who were associated with their father as judges over Israel.

Jo'-na-than. Eldest son of King Saul, a brave warrior who died with his father and his brothers **A-bi'-na-dab** and **Melch'-i-shu'-a** on Mount Gilboa.

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

Kish. A member of the Benjamite family of **Ma'-tri** and father of King Saul.

Ma'-han-a'-im. A town on the boundary line between the tribes of Gad and Manasseh and **Ish-bosheth's** capital.

Na'-bal. A sheepmaster dwelling near Mount Carmel, the husband of Abigail.

Phil'-is-tine. A nation of Canaan which was frequently at war with the Israelites until its power was broken by David.

Ra'-mah. The birthplace and residence of Samuel. It may have been situated about nine miles north of Jerusalem, but this is doubtful.

Sam'-u-el. The last of the judges and the earliest of the great Hebrew prophets. He ruled over Israel for thirty years.

Saul. The first king of Israel, anointed by Samuel at God's command, on the demand of the people.