

Bible Dictionary for Fourth Quarter 1900

Ab'-ra-ham The patriarch from whom the people of Israel were descended.

Bar-ti-mæ'-us The blind beggar of Jericho healed by Jesus. His father was Timæus. "Bar" means "son of."

Beth'-le-hem The city of David, foretold in prophecy as the birth-place of the Messiah. Situated in the hill country of Judæa, it was a town of shepherds.

Gal'-ilee The northern province of Palestine, about the size of Prince Edward Island, with a population of between one and three millions, who were engaged in farming, fishing and mercantile business. The people were much more frank and open, but also less learned, than those of Judæa.

Greek The language of the educated classes and of commerce in the cities of Syria and Asia Minor, as well as in Greece. A "Greek" would be a Gentile who spoke Greek.

Ha'-des The abode of the dead. Originally good and bad were supposed to dwell there in a shadowy existence; but in the time of our Lord the Jews had come to regard it as a place of punishment.

Her'-od The name given to the royal family that had rule in Palestine during the life of Christ and His apostles. The Herod of these lessons is Antipas, tetrarch of Galilee and Perea under the Romans; son of Herod the Great.

Jer'-i-cho A city of great age in the rich valley of the Jordan, from which a busy public road led up through the mountains to Jerusalem. It was on the caravan route to Arabia and Egypt.

Je-ru'-sa-lem Originally a Jebusite stronghold. David made it his capital. Solomon built the Temple there. There our Lord was crucified. Jerusalem has been destroyed either wholly or partially seventeen times. It is the chief city of Palestine still, but squalid under Mohammedan rule.

John Son of Zebedee and younger brother of James; also John the Baptist.

Jo'-seph The husband of Mary and thought by his contemporaries to be the father of Jesus.

Ju-dæ'a Southern province of Palestine, with Jerusalem as capital. A mountainous country, inhabited in the uplands by shepherds. Its towns, and especially Jerusalem, were filled with scholars and teachers, but it was not, like Galilee, of commercial importance.

Laz'-a-rus A common name in Palestine. There are two men so called in the

gospels, one the brother of Mary and Martha raised by Jesus from the dead, the other the Lazarus of the parable. (Lesson VI.)

Le'-vites In the time of Christ Lord an inferior order of priests, who had duties in the Temple services.

Mam'-mon A Syrian word meaning money. Personified, it denotes the god or evil spirit that was brought to use money as its instrument.

Ma'-ry The mother of Jesus; also Mary the wife of Cleophas, Mary the sister of Lazarus, Mary Magdalene.

Mo'-ses The great deliverer and law-giver of Israel; died on Mt. Nebo.

Naz'-a-reth The home of Jesus, from which He was called "Jesus of Nazareth." A town of several thousands, beautifully situated among the hills in the south of Galilee and lying on a much-travelled trade road.

Pe'-ter Son of Jonah and brother of Andrew. The apostle of impulse and hope. The first to confess and the first to deny his Lord.

Phar'-i-sees Separatists. A Jewish sect zealous for outward forms, but bigoted and often of unholy lives.

Pub-li-cans A class of men hated by the Jews because they had purchased from the Romans the right to tax the inhabitants of Galilee or Judæa.

Rab'-bi Hebrew word meaning "teacher"; used as a title of respect.

Sa-mar'-i-tan An inhabitant of Samaria, the province between Galilee and Judæa. The Samaritans were half-pagan and half-Jewish, and their cities had been much under the influence of Greek and Roman invaders. A rich and prosperous country, but with an inferior class of people, who were despised by the Jews. They accepted only the Pentateuch, and built a rival temple at Gerizim.

Scribes A class of learned men, usually belonging to the Pharisees; authorities on the law.

Sinners A term used in contempt by the Pharisees of all who did not keep the Jewish law according to their traditions and precepts. Often they were guilty of vices, but not always.

Son of Da'-vid A title of the Messiah, who was to be a direct descendant in the royal line of David. No one ever denied during the life-time of Jesus, that our Lord had David as His ancestor.

Son of man The favorite title used by Jesus of Himself to denote that He was the Head of the Kingdom of Humanity.

Zacchæus A rich publican of Jericho who gave up his former evil life to become a disciple of Jesus.