

BIBLE DICTIONARY FOR FIRST QUARTER, 1910

[For additional information in regard to certain of the places, see Geography Lessons.]

A'-bra-ham. The name means "exalted father". He was the first ancestor of the Jewish race. The Jews prided themselves on their descent from Abraham, and grounded upon it their assurance of divine favor in this world and the next.

An'-drew. A fisherman and, with his brother Peter, a native of Bethsaida, John 1 : 44. After the miraculous draught of fishes he, along with Peter, James and John, was called to be a companion of Jesus, and afterwards chosen to be an apostle, Matt. 10 : 2-4.

Ca-per'-na-um. A town on the north-western shore of the Lake of Galilee. At an early period in His ministry Jesus made His home here; so that Capernaum came to be called "His own city", Matt. 9 : 1. In this city many of our Lord's miracles were wrought.

De-cap'-o-lis. "An Association of Ten Cities." A district commencing where the plain of Esdraelon opens into the Jordan valley, and expanding eastward, dominated by ten associated Greek cities.

E-sai'-as. Or Isaiah, the great prophet of Judah in the 8th century, B. C.

Gal'-i-lee. 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.

Gen'-tiles. All nations of the world other than the Jews.

Ger'-ge-senes. The people of Gergesa, a village on the eastern shore of the Lake of Galilee, perhaps on the site of the modern ruins of Kersa, 5 miles from the entrance of the Jordan into the Lake.

I'-saac. The son of Abraham and Sarah.

Is'-ra-el. A name given to Jacob and his descendants (see Gen. 32 : 28).

Ja'-cob. The son of Isaac and Rebekah.

James and John. Two brothers, sons of Zebedee, who were called, along with Peter and Andrew, to be followers of Jesus, and who also became apostles.

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

Je'-sus. The name given to our Lord by direction of the angel to Joseph (Matt. 1 : 21) and to Mary, Luke 1 : 31. It means "Saviour", and expressed His special office.

John the Bap'-tist. Son of Zacharias and Elisabeth; the immediate forerunner of Jesus. Having rebuked Herod for marrying his brother's wife, he was put to death through a plot laid by Herodias.

Jor'-dan. The most important river in Palestine, flowing from the Lebanon Moun-

tains to the Dead Sea. It was in this river that Jesus, at about thirty years of age, was baptized by John.

Ju-dæ'-a. The southernmost division of Palestine under the Roman government, the middle one being Samaria.

Matth'-ew. A publican or tax-gatherer at Capernaum, who became one of Jesus' apostles and the author of the First Gospel. "When called to be a disciple, he was sitting at a toll-house, his place of business. Along the north end of the Sea of Galilee there was a road leading from Damascus to Acre on the Mediterranean, and on that road a customs house marked the boundaries between the territories of Philip the tetrarch and Herod Antipas. Matthew's occupation was the examination of goods which passed along the road, and the levying of the tax." The work of a publican excited the scorn of the Jews, and the Pharisees counted him unclean.

Mo'-ses. The great Jewish leader and lawgiver. No name save that of Abraham, their ancestor, was held in greater reverence by the Jews, than that of Moses.

Naz'-a-reth. 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.

Neph'-tha-lim. Or Naphtali, the tribe descended from Jacob's sixth son. Their territory lay in northern Galilee.

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

Ra'-ca. A word of contempt, meaning "empty" and so "worthless".

Sad'-du-cees. A Jewish sect that denied the immortality of the soul and hence also the resurrection.

Sa'-tan. "The adversary", so called because he is hostile to all goodness and the chief opponent of God and man.

Si'-mon Pe'-ter. Peter is the Greek form of the Aramaic surname Cephas, meaning "a rock", which Christ bestowed on Simon, brother of Andrew, and one of the twelve apostles. He was a native of Bethsaida (John 1 : 44), and afterwards lived with his family at Capernaum, Matt. 8 : 14; Luke 4 : 38.

Sol'-o-mon. The son of David and third king of Israel. He reigned forty years. He was famed for his wisdom and the splendor of his court.

Syr'-i-a. A Roman province, including the territory west of the Euphrates from the Taurus Mountains to Egypt. This province was erected in B. C. 64, with a governor resident at Antioch.

Za-bu'-lon. Or Zebulun, the tribe descended from Jacob's tenth son. Their territory was on the sea coast.

Zeb'-e-dee. The father of the apostles James and John.