

BIBLE DICTIONARY FOR FIRST QUARTER, 1907

A-bel. Second son of Adam; by calling a shepherd. He was a righteous man (Matt. 23 : 35 ; 1 John 3 : 12), and is one of the heroes of faith mentioned in Hebrews, ch. 11.

A-bim'e-lech. The personal name, or official title, of a king of Gerar, in whose country Isaac dwelt for some time, because of a famine.

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

A'-bram. The name at first borne by Abraham.

Am'-o-rites. One of the tribes which inhabited Canaan before its conquest by the Hebrews (see Gen. 15 : 21). This tribe became so powerful, that its name was used for the inhabitants of Canaan generally.

Ar'-a-rat. A region corresponding roughly to modern Armenia, between the Caspian and the Black Seas. 'It was on one of the mountains of this region, that the ark rested.

Beer-she'-ba. A town in the extreme south of Judah. It was the southern limit of Palestine, as Dan was the northern, so that the proverbial expression, "from Dan to Beer-sheba," signifies, from the extreme north to the extreme south of the Holy Land.

Beth-el. A place on the site of the modern Beitin, about ten miles north of Jerusalem, on a slight elevation, a little east of the well-worn track from Jerusalem to Shechem and the north.

Cain. The first-born son of Adam and Eve. After the murder of Abel, he settled in the land of Nod, eastward of Eden, and became the ancestor of a race which made considerable advance in civilization (see Gen. 4 : 16-22).

Ca'-na-an. The name means lowland, and was at first given to the low-lying coast line of Palestine, but afterwards to all the lands west of the Jordan.

Ca'-na-an-ite. An inhabitant of Canaan.

Chal'-dees. A tribe whose early home was in lower Babylonia. Advancing inland, they at last became the ruling class in Babylonia.

E'-gypt. That part of Africa watered by the Nile, from the Mediterranean Sea to the first cataract.

E'-sau. Son of Isaac and Rebekah, and brother of Jacob. He took up his abode in Seir, to the south of Judah, and became the father of the Edomites.

E'-sek. Contention. The name of a well dug by Isaac in the valley of Gerar, which the Philistine herdmen claimed, Gen. 26 : 20.

Ge'-rar. An ancient city, early occupied by the Philistines. Most identify it with ruins 6 miles south of Gaza. But some think that it was 50 miles further south, in the immediate vicinity of Kadesh.

Go-mor'-rah. One of the "cities of the plain" (Gen. 13 : 12) destroyed in the days of Abraham, Gen. 19 : 24, 25.

Ha'-i. The modern Haiyân, 2½ miles east of Bethel.

Har'-an. A busy commercial city of Mesopotamia, 240 miles northwest of Nineveh, and 280 miles northeast of Damascus. Here Terah, Abraham's father, died.

I'-saac. The son of Abraham and Sarah. The name signifies, He laugheth, or The laughing one.

Ja'-cob. "Supplanter," son of Isaac and Rebekah, brother of Esau, and father of the twelve patriarchs. He supplanted his brother Esau and gained possession of the birth-right and his father's blessing.

Plain of Jor'-dan. A basin beginning 25 miles north of the Dead Sea, and apparently including the Dead Sea itself and the small plain at its southern end.

La'-ban. Rebekah's brother, to whose home in Haran Jacob fled to escape from Esau.

Lot. The son of Haran (Gen. 11 : 31) and, consequently, nephew to Abraham. He became a resident of Sodom and, when that city was destroyed, he, with his two daughters, was saved in answer to Abraham's prayer.

Mo'-reh. An oak tree and grove near Shechem, beside which Abraham encamped on his first arrival in Canaan.

No'-ah. Son of Lamech, a descendant of Seth. Under God's direction, he built the ark before the flood, from which, with his family, he was saved in the ark.

Pe-riz'-zite. A people of central Palestine ; some think that they were not a separate tribe, but simply the country folk among the Canaanites, as distinguished from the town-dwellers.

Phil'-is-tines. The ancient inhabitants of the southwest corner of Palestine.

Re-bek'-ah. The daughter of Bethuel, and the wife of Isaac (see Gen. 25 : 20).

Re'-ho-both. A well dug by Isaac in Gerar, Gen. 26 : 22.

Sar'-ah. The wife of Abraham, married to him in Ur of the Chaldees (see Gen. 11 : 28-31). Her name at first was Sarai.

Si'-chem. Shechem, a place near which Abraham camped, Gen. 12 : 6. It was afterwards an important town, and was just 30 miles north of Jerusalem.

Sit'-nah. A well dug by Isaac in the valley of Gerar, Gen. 26 : 21.

Sod'-om. One of the cities of the plain destroyed in the days of Abraham.

Ur. An important ancient city, whose ruins are now 6 miles south of the Euphrates, on its right bank, and 125 miles from its present mouth.

Zo'-ar. One of the cities of the plain, and apparently the smallest of them (ch. 19 : 20-22), to which Lot escaped when Sodom was destroyed.