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Standard BIBLE DICTIONARY



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Standard

BIBLE DICTIONARY



with the popular “How to Say It” Guide featured
in the Standard Lesson Commentary

Standard
PUBLISHING
Bringing The Word to Life™

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Introduction

For more than 50 years the *Standard Lesson Commentary*® has helped Sunday school teachers prepare thorough lessons to help their students gain a working understanding of the Scriptures. One of the popular features of this lesson commentary is a simple pronunciation guide to help teachers correctly pronounce Bible names and other difficult-to-pronounce words. This dictionary has grown out of those lists.

We have taken the “How to Say It” lists and added simple definitions to create a concise Bible dictionary for teachers and students. This is no Bible encyclopedia. The definitions are brief, designed to give the user a working knowledge of who or what the subject is. If the student wishes to know more about these subjects, there are plenty of dictionaries and encyclopedias available. Most, however, do not provide any help with pronunciation. This dictionary helps the teacher correctly pronounce and identify some of the most common names and other words that may come up in a Sunday school class or other Bible study.

This is not an exhaustive list of every word or name to appear in the Bible. It does, however, cite the names most likely to come up in a Sunday school lesson because it comes from actual Sunday school lessons. Nor do the definitions provide an exhaustive list of every Scripture where each word or name appears. The examples are representative only.

Sometimes a word will include a notation of an alternate spelling. Two reasons may account for this. Sometimes the same person may have a name that is spelled in different ways. King Jehoram of Judah is also known as Joram. The two spellings reflect slight differences in the Hebrew original, and so the translations generally try to reflect those differences. This is made more complicated by the fact that there was also

a King Jehoram of Israel, and he, too, was also known as Joram. The second reason comes about because the different manuscripts on which the translations are based sometimes have different readings. Thus, one translation may have “Jehoram” and another “Joram” in the same passage. In 2 Chronicles 22:5, the *King James Version* has, “He walked also after their counsel, and went with *Jehoram* the son of Ahab king of Israel to war against Hazael king of Syria at Ramothgilead: and the Syrians smote *Joram*.” In the same passage the *New International Version*® has, “He also followed their counsel when he went with *Joram* son of Ahab king of Israel to war against Hazael king of Aram at Ramoth Gilead. The Arameans wounded *Joram*.” It can be confusing!

Because of these differences in translations, sometimes a definition or pronunciation in this dictionary will cite a particular Bible version. Usually this will be either the *King James Version* or the *New International Version*®. This is so because the *Standard Lesson Commentary*® is available in two editions, one based on each of these translations. The availability of a growing number of translations makes the production of a Bible dictionary ever more challenging. References to particular Bible versions, however, are merely representative. No attempt has been made to locate every Bible version and to consult the spelling. Usually the *KJV* and *NIV*® are noted, and sometimes some other versions, but never have we tried to list every version, or even every spelling.

This concise *Standard Bible Dictionary* is offered as one more help for teachers who want to present the Word of God. Coupled with the *Standard Lesson Commentary*®, in either the *King James* or *NIV*® edition, it will help the serious Bible teacher to be well prepared for comprehensive Bible teaching. May God bless your efforts to share His Word completely and accurately.

Aa

Aaron \Air-un\

Brother of Moses. First high priest of Israel.

Aaronic \Air-abn-ik\

Related to Aaron, as in “Aaronic priests,” who were priests descended from Aaron.

Ab \Ab\

Fifth month on the Jewish calendar, roughly equivalent to July–August. See CALENDAR CHART.

Abaddon (Hebrew) \Uh-bad-dun\

Place of destruction or angel of destruction. Used as a synonym for death in the Old Testament. In Revelation 9:11 Abaddon (APOLLYON) is the angel of the bottomless pit or Abyss.

Abana \Ab-uh-nuh or Uh-ban-uh\

A river in Damascus.

Abba (Aramaic) \Ab-buh\

An endearing term for “father.”

Abdeel \Ab-dee-el\

The father of Shelemiah, mentioned in Jeremiah 36:26.

Abdon \Ab-dahn\

1. A judge who ruled in Israel for eight years (Judges 12:13-15).
2. Shashak's son; a family from the tribe of Benjamin that lived in Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 8:23-25).
3. Ancestor of King Saul (1 Chronicles 8:30; 9:35, 36).
4. An official that King Josiah sent to the prophetess Huldah (2 Chronicles 34:20-22; called Acbor in 2 Kings 22:12).
5. A town for Levites in the tribal territory of Asher (Joshua 21:30; 1 Chronicles 6:74).

Abednego \Uh-bed-nee-go\

Originally called Azariah, he was one of Daniel's three friends whom God saved from Nebuchadnezzar's furnace (Daniel 1:7; 3:25, 26).

Abel \Ay-buhl\

Second son of Adam and Eve; murdered by his brother Cain (Genesis 4:1-8).

Abel Meholah \Ay-buhl-muh-ho-lah\ (strong accent on ho) (Also spelled Abel-meholah)

Located in the Jordan valley in the tribal territory of Manasseh, it is the place where Elisha was born (1 Kings 19:16).

Abi \A-bye\

Short for Abijah, King Hezekiah's mother (2 Kings 18:2).

Abiah \Uh-bye-uh\ (Also spelled Abijah)

1. The second son of Samuel (1 Samuel 8:2; 1 Chronicles 6:28).
 2. A wife of Hezron, father of Caleb, whom he married after the death of Caleb's mother; she was the mother of Asshur (1 Chronicles 2:24).
 3. A son of Becher, descendant of Benjamin (1 Chronicles 7:8).
- See ABIJAH.

Abiathar \Ah-bye-uh-thar\

1. Son of Ahimelech, he escaped and took refuge with David when Doeg, at Saul's command, murdered the priest's family (1 Samuel 22:20, 22; 23:6, 9; 2 Samuel 8:17).
2. A joint high priest with Zadok during the time of King David (2 Samuel 15:24-29, 35, 36; 17:15; 19:11; 20:25). He conspired with Adonijah in an attempt to make Adonijah king after David (1 Kings 1, 2).

Abib \A-bib\

Pre-exilic name of the first month of the year on the Jewish calendar; changed to Nisan after the exile. Roughly equivalent to March–April. See CALENDAR CHART.

Abiel \Ay-be-el\

1. Saul and Abner's grandfather (1 Samuel 14:51)
2. An Arbathite, one of David's mighty men (1 Chronicles 11:32).

Abiezer \Ah-by-eez-er\

1. A son of Manasseh and grandson of Joseph (Joshua 17:2). Gideon was descended from his clan (Judges 6:11).
2. One of David's mighty men, from Anathoth (1 Chronicles 11:28).

Abiezrite \A-by-eez-rite\ (strong accent on ee)

Related to, or descended from, Abiezer. Warriors descended from Manasseh's tribe (Judges 6:11, 12; 8:2, 32).

Abigail \Ab-ih-gale\

1. Wife of Nabal who married David after Nabal's death (1 Samuel 25:14, 39-42).
2. Wife of Jether (Ithra), and mother of Amasa (1 Chronicles 2:16, 17).

Abihu \Uh-bye-hew\

Son of Aaron. Died when he offered a displeasing sacrifice to God (Leviticus 10:1, 2; Numbers 3:2-4; 26:61; 1 Chronicles 24:1, 2).

Abijah \Uh-*bye*-juh\ (Sometimes spelled Abiah, especially in *KJV*.)

1. One of Samuel's sons who reigned as judge for three years. Became corrupt (1 Samuel 8:2; 1 Chronicles 6:28).
2. Son of Jeroboam I who died as a child in fulfillment of a prophecy by Ahijah (1 Kings 14:1-18).
3. A wife of Judah's grandson Hezron (1 Chronicles 2:24).
4. Hezekiah's mother (2 Chronicles 29:1).
5. The seventh son of Beker from the tribe of Benjamin (1 Chronicles 7:8).
6. Aaronic priest; the eighth ancestral head of the 24 priestly groups that King David established (1 Chronicles 24:10). John the Baptist's father belonged to this group (Luke 1:5).
7. A priest during Nehemiah's time who returned to Babylon with Zerubbabel (Nehemiah 10:7).
8. Son of Rehoboam, second king of Judah (2 Chronicles 12:16-14:1). In 1 Kings 14 and 15 he is typically called Abijam (except in *NIV*). See **KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH CHART**.

See **ABIAH**.

Abijam \Uh-*bye*-jum\

See **ABIJAH**, #8.

Abilene \A-bi-*lee*-neh\ or \Ab-i-*lee*-neh\

A tetrarchy northwest of Damascus, which eventually became part of Syria (Luke 3:1).

Abimelech \Uh-*bim*-eh-lek\

1. King of Gerar (probably a title, as Pharaoh was for the king of Egypt), who took Sarah when Abraham said she was his sister instead of his wife. Abimelech was warned of God in a dream and returned Sarah to Abraham. Abimelech later signed a treaty with Abraham concerning a well at Beersheba (Genesis 20; 21:22-34).
2. King of Gerar who was deceived when Isaac claimed Rebekah, his wife, was his sister (Genesis 26:1-11).
3. Son of Gideon by a concubine; murdered 70 sons of Gideon in an effort to become king in Shechem (Judges 8:31; 9:1-57). See **JUDGES OF ISRAEL CHART**.
4. Philistine king mentioned in the title of Psalm 34.
5. Abiathar's son; a priest during the reign of David (1 Chronicles 18:14-16).

Abinadab \Uh-*bin*-uh-dab\

1. A relative of King Saul. The ark of the covenant was placed in his home when it was returned by the Philistines (1 Samuel 7:1; 2 Samuel 6:3; 1 Chronicles 13:7).
2. King David's brother; a soldier in Saul's army against the Philistines (1 Samuel 16:8; 17:13; 1 Chronicles 2:13).
3. A son of King Saul who died with Saul at Mt. Gilboa (1 Samuel 31:2; 1 Chronicles 8:33; 9:39; 10:2). He is called Ishvi in 1 Samuel 14:49. See **ISHVI**.
4. The husband of a daughter of King Solomon (1 Kings 4:11).

Abinoam \Uh-*bin*-o-am\

Barak's father (Judges 4:6; 5:1).

Abishai \Uh-*bish*-ay-eye\

King David's nephew from his sister; a most loyal and brave commander in King David's army (1 Samuel 26:6-9; 2 Samuel 2:18, 24; 3:20; 10:10, 14; 16:9, 11).

Abishalom \Uh-*bish*-uh-lum\

See **ABSALOM**.

Abraham \Ay-bruh-ham\

The father of Isaac and grandfather of Jacob (Israel). His name means "father of a multitude." The Jews often referred to themselves as children of Abraham (cf. John 8:33, 39). In the New Testament, Christians are referred to as children of Abraham (Romans 4:11, 12).

Abram \Ay-brum\

The name given to Abraham by his parents. It means "exalted father" (Genesis 12:1).

Absalom \Ab-suh-lum\

Third son of King David (2 Samuel 3:2, 3). His name is also spelled Abishalom (1 Kings 15:2, 10).

Accho \Ak-oh\

A major seaport occupied by Israel during the reigns of Saul, David, and Solomon. Centuries later it was renamed Ptolemais, after Ptolemy the king of Egypt who rebuilt it about 100 BC. Paul stopped here on his way to Jerusalem (Acts 21:7).

Achaia \Uh-*kay*-uh\

Southern province of Greece; its capital was Corinth (Acts 18:12, 27; 19:21; Romans 15:26).

Achan \Ay-kan\

Israelite who disobeyed God's orders by taking spoils from Jericho; Achan and his family were stoned in the valley of Achor (Joshua 7).

Acbor \Ak-bor\

See **ABDON**, #4.

Achbor \Ak-bor\

Father to a king of Edom named Baalhanan (also spelled Baal-Hanan) (Genesis 36:38, 39; 1 Chronicles 1:49).

Achish \Ay-kish\

A Philistine king; David fled to him for protection from Saul (1 Samuel 21:10-15).

Achmetha \Ock-mee-thuh\ (Also known as Ecbatana.)

The ancient capital of Media. The decree of Cyrus, which gave permission to the Jews to rebuild the temple, was found in a palace there (Ezra 6:1-3).

acropolis \uh-krop-uh-lus\

A high, fortified part of an ancient Greek city. The Parthenon is located on the Acropolis in Athens.

Acts \Ax\

“Acts of Apostles,” the fifth book of the New Testament, giving details about the history of the church from the time immediately after Christ’s resurrection until Paul’s first imprisonment in Rome. It was written by Luke. See BOOKS OF THE BIBLE CHART.

Adaiah \Add-uh-eye-uh\ or \A-day-yuh\

1. Josiah’s maternal grandfather, from the land of Bozkath (2 Kings 22:1).
2. One of Shimei’s sons from the tribe of Benjamin (1 Chronicles 8:21).
3. A Levite descendant of Gershon (1 Chronicles 6:41-43).
4. Aaronic priest after the exile; a head of family living in Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 9:10-12; Nehemiah 11:12).
5. Maaseiah’s father; helped Jehoiada put Joash on the throne (2 Chronicles 23:1).
6. A son of Bani guilty of marrying a foreign woman (Ezra 10:29).
7. Another man guilty of marrying a foreign woman (Ezra 10:39).
8. A descendant of Judah by Perez; lived in Jerusalem after the exile (Nehemiah 11:4, 5).

Adam (*Hebrew*) \uh-dahm\

The first man created by God. Also the Hebrew word for “man.”

Adamah (*Hebrew*) \Ad-uh-mah\

A walled city that belongs to the tribe of Naphtali (Joshua 19:35, 36).

Adar \Ay-dar\

Twelfth month on the Jewish calendar, roughly equivalent to mid-February to mid-March. See CALENDAR CHART.

Admah \Ad-muh\

A city near Sodom that was destroyed by God. (Deuteronomy 29:23)

Adonai (*Hebrew*) \Ad-owe-nye\

Hebrew word for “lord.”

Adonijah \Ad-o-nye-juh\

King David’s fourth son; though next in line after Absalom, he was passed over in favor of Solomon, who succeeded the throne (1 Kings 1:5–2:27).

Adoniram \Uh-don-ih-ram\

A prominent overseer of labor during the reigns of David, Solomon, and Rehoboam (1 Kings 4:6; 5:14). Also spelled Adoram (2 Samuel 20:24; 1 Kings 12:18) or Hadoram (2 Chronicles 10:18) in some translations.

Adoram \Uh-doe-rum\

See ADONIRAM.

Adramyttium \Ad-ruh-mitt-ee-um\

A port on the western coast of Asia Minor. Paul’s trip to Rome began on a ship from Adramyttium (Acts 27:2).

Adriatic \Ay-dree-at-ic\

A sea that is located between Italy and Greece.

Adullam \A-dull-lum\

A place in the hill country of Judah. The limestone caves there were used as places of refuge. David hid there to escape King Saul (1 Samuel 22:1; 2 Samuel 23:13; 1 Chronicles 11:15).

Aegean \A-jee-un\

A sea that is located between Greece and Asia Minor.

Aeneas \Ee-nee-us\

A paralyzed man who was healed by the apostle Peter (Acts 9:33-35).

Aenon \Ee-nun\

A place west of the Jordan near Salim where there was “much water” and was used by John the Baptist to baptize people (John 3:23).

Agabus \Ag-uh-bus\

A prophet who predicted a famine in Judea (Acts 11:28) and Paul’s arrest in Jerusalem (Acts 21:10, 11).

Agag \Ay-gag\

Title of the king of Amalek; two are mentioned in the Old Testament:

1. King in Balaam’s prophecy (Numbers 24:7).
2. King spared by Saul but killed by Samuel (1 Samuel 15:7-33).

Agagite \Ay-guh-gite\

A title given to Haman as an enemy of the Jews (Esther 3:1, 10; 8:5; 9:24).

agapao (*Greek*) \ah-guh-pah-oh\

One of the Greek verbs for “love.” See AGAPE.

agape (*Greek*) \uh-gah-pay\

Greek word for “love” (the noun). It describes an active, intelligent goodwill toward another without regard to the

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