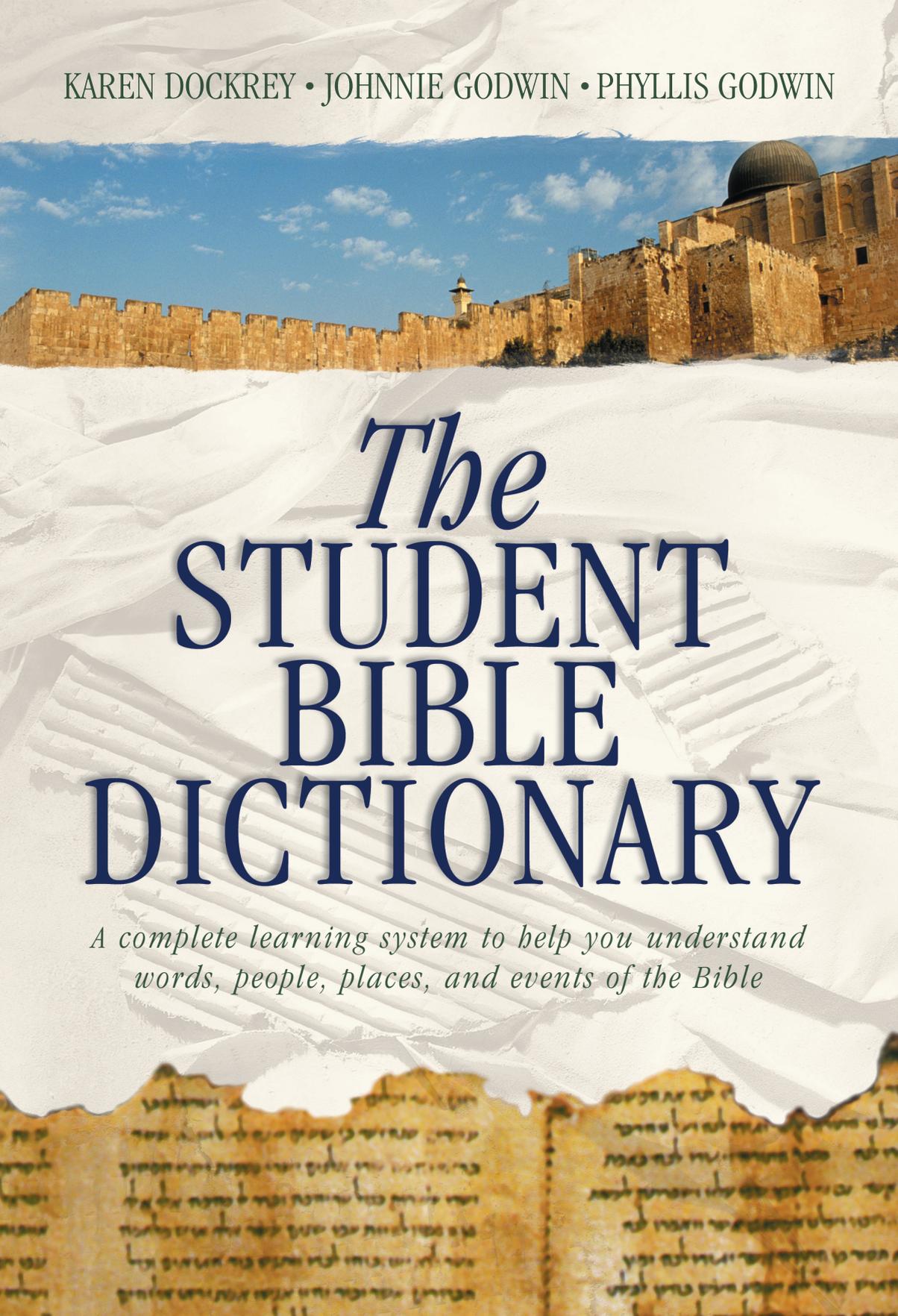


KAREN DOCKREY • JOHNNIE GODWIN • PHYLLIS GODWIN



The STUDENT BIBLE DICTIONARY

*A complete learning system to help you understand
words, people, places, and events of the Bible*



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A

AARON (AIRn). Older brother of and early spokesman for Moses (Ex. 4:14-16). Became Israel's first high priest. The Aaronic priesthood (priests of the tribe of Levi) was named for him (Ex. 28:1; 29; Lev. 8; Num. 18). See **HIGH PRIEST**.

▼ *Early spokesman for Moses who helped him in battle (Ex. 17:9-12), but also made an idol (Ex. 32) and criticized Moses for his choice of a wife (Num. 12:1-2). Parents were Amram and Jochebed; sister was Miriam (Num. 26:59). Aaron lived until age 123 and died without entering the Promised Land because of his lack of faith in God (Num. 20:12).*

AARON'S ROD. Walking stick used by Aaron to carry out God's commands. The rod played a part in several miracles that resulted in Pharaoh's letting the Jewish slaves go. It became a serpent that swallowed the serpents from the rods of the Egyptian magicians (Ex. 7:8-13) and was used to bring about the first three plagues (Ex. 7:19-21; 8:5-7,16-19).

Later in Aaron's life, the rod sprouted, budded, and blossomed to signal Aaron as God's choice for the head of a priesthood (Num. 17:1-11). It was displayed before (and later in) the ark of the covenant as a warning to those who rebelled against the Lord (Heb. 9:4; Num. 17:10).

AB. Fifth Hebrew month (Num. 33:38). Matches part of our July and August. See the **date chart** following **TIME**.

ABASE. To humble oneself or be humbled; to get the right view of oneself by choice or by force (Dan. 4:37; 2 Cor. 11:7; Phil. 4:12).

ABATE. Decrease or withdraw (Gen. 8:8; Lev. 27:18).

ABBA. *Father* in Aramaic; much like our word *Daddy*. All three NT references are to God (Mark 14:36; Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6). Shows that God is a loving, approachable Father.

ABEDNEGO (uh BED nih go). New name given to Azariah, friend of Daniel (Dan. 1:6-7). Abednego survived the fiery furnace along with Shadrach and Meshach (Dan. 3:16-30).

ABEL (AY bel). Second son of Adam and Eve. A shepherd who pleased God with his worship. His brother Cain's sacrifice did not please God, and so Cain murdered Abel (Gen. 4:2-8; Heb. 11:4; 1 John 3:12).

ABHOR. Hate, repel, reject, shrink from in horror (Deut. 7:26; Rom. 12:9).

ABIATHAR (uh BIGH uh thar). A high priest during David's time. Served after his father Ahimelech but was later thrown out of the priestly office by Solomon because Abiathar favored Adonijah over Solomon (see 1 Sam. 22:20-22; 23:6,9; 1 Kings 1:24-25; 2:26-27).

ABIDE. Remain, live, continue, persist (1 Sam. 1:22; John 15:4; Phil. 1:25). Forbear (Jer. 10:10).

ABIGAIL (AB ih gayl). Beautiful, wise, and poised wife of David, who married him after her first husband, Nabal, died (1 Sam. 25). Another Abigail was a sister of David who married Jether and became the mother of Amasa (1 Chron. 2:16-17).

ABIHU (uh BIGH hyoo). The second son of Aaron and a priest (Ex. 6:23; 28:1). Went with Moses, Aaron, and others toward Mount Sinai to worship God (Ex. 24:1,9). Later he died a fiery death with his brother Nadab after they had displeased God (Lev. 10:1-2; Num. 3:4).

ABIMELECH (uh BIM eh lek). A son of Jerubbaal (Gideon) who became king after killing his brothers (except Jotham who escaped). Abimelech ruled Israel for three years until he attacked Thebez where his skull was crushed by a stone in battle (Judg. 8:29—9:57). Also a line of kings (Gen. 20—21; 26:1).

ABLUTIONS. Ceremonial washings for the purpose of religious purity (Heb. 6:2; 9:10, RSV).

ABNER (AB nur). Saul's cousin and commander of Saul's army. Later served under Saul's son Ishbosheth and favored David. David's commander, Joab, was suspicious of Abner and murdered him (1 Sam. 14:50-2 Sam. 3:30).

ABODE. Home, place to stay (John 14:23). Also, past tense of *abide* (Num. 9:17).

ABOLISH. Put to an end (2 Tim. 1:10); remove (Heb. 10:9, RSV).

ABOMINABLE. See **ABOMINATION.**

ABOMINATION. A horrible foul thing to God or man. The adjective *abominable* describes something hateful, loathsome, putrid, sickening, awful, disgusting, evil (Matt. 24:15; Gen. 43:32). Abominations are connected with idolatry (Rev. 17:4-5; 21:27), disrespect for God (Ezek. 7:3-4), ceremonial uncleanness (Lev. 7:21), and sexual sins (Rev. 17:4-5).

ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION.

An indescribably evil, horrible, detestable thing to occur in the last days (see Dan. 9:27; 11:31; 12:11; Matt. 24:15; Mark 13:14). Scholars differ on whether the term refers to a person called the Antichrist (see 1 John 2:18-22) or a profane symbol, event, or act.

▼ *The evil represented by this abomination always wants to make a desert of one's spiritual life. To keep this from happening, recognize the danger of evil and run or resist in the power of God (Matt. 24:15-16; 1 Cor. 10:13).*

ABOUND. Overflow, increase, grow have abundance (1 Thess. 3:12; Prov. 28:20).

ABRAHAM (AY bruh ham). The first Hebrew (Gen. 14:13). God promised the childless Abraham that he would make him the father of a great nation. God was faithful to his promise (Gen. 12:1-2) and gave the almost one hundred year-old Abraham and his ninety-year-old wife Sarah a baby named Isaac (Gen. 17:1-8). During the many years between the promise and the baby of promise, Abraham and Sarah got tired of waiting on God, so Abraham fathered Ishmael by the handmaid Hagar and gave birth to another nation.

Despite Abraham's weakness, God's promise unfolded like a drama. Read Genesis 11:26-25:11 for the full story of Abraham and his faith in God. (Compare Heb. 11:8-12).

The name Abraham is the longer form of Abram and means *exalted father* or *father of a multitude* (Gen. 17:1-8). He lived in Ur, Haran, Egypt, and Canaan. He died at age 175 and was buried in a cave at Hebron (Gen. 13:18; 25:7-10).

▼ *Abraham's experience teaches us that God's calling is worth responding to, and His promises are worth working toward and waiting on.*



ABRAHAM'S BOSOM. Term that described blessing after death (Luke 16:22-23).

ABRAM. See **ABRAHAM.**

ABSALOM (AB suh luhm). Third son of David (2 Sam. 3:2-5). Absalom means *father in peace*, but his name did not fit his personality. He arranged his half brother Amnon's murder (2 Sam. 13) and rebelled against his father, King David, to make himself king (2 Sam. 15). Absalom was murdered against his father's wishes and much to his father's sadness (2 Sam. 18:5-17,31-33).

ABSTAIN. Avoid or keep away from. Examples of acts to abstain from include idols, sex outside marriage, and evil in general (Acts 15:20; 1 Thess. 5:22).

ABUNDANCE. A multitude, plenty, fullness, more than enough (Deut. 28:47; Rom. 5:17). The true abundant life is not made up of money or possessions but of such riches as commitment to God, love, joy, peace, and friendship (John 10:10; Luke 12:15).

ABUSE. Mistreat, misuse, damage physically or emotionally (1 Chron. 10:4; Prov. 22:10, RSV; Heb. 10:33; 1 Cor. 9:18).

● *Could it be that what we say to or about each other is the most frequent abuse that occurs? Also, how might we abuse blessings by misusing them?*

ABYSS. Literally, *the deep* or *bottomless pit* (compare KJV and RSV Rev. 9:1-2,11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1). Place of torment for demons (Luke 8:31, RSV); place of the dead (Rom. 10:7, RSV).

ACACIA (uh KAY shuh). Large tree whose hard wood was excellent for making furniture. Used to make the ark of the covenant and other wooden objects for

the tabernacle (RSV: Deut. 10:3; Ex. 25:27; 30; 37-38). Same as shittim wood from the shittah tree (KJV).



Acacia tree growing in the Sinai desert.

ACCEPTABLE. Pleasing, receivable, welcome, adequate (Ps. 51:17, RSV; Isa. 61:2; Eph. 5:8-11; Heb. 11:4, RSV).

ACCESS. Ability to come into the presence. Qualified to approach. Most often used of the Christian's access to God. Accepting Jesus Christ, who died for us, is the sole requirement for access to God. Jesus' death has removed all barriers between God and people. Jesus enables believers to draw near with confidence to God (Rom. 5:2; Eph. 2:18, 3:12).

● *Ponder about people you feel comfortable approaching and people you do not. What makes the difference? What about God makes it easy/hard to approach Him?*

ACCOMPLISH. Fulfill, complete, succeed in doing, express (Isa. 55:11; Jer. 44:25; Ezek. 20:8; Luke 2:22; John 19:28).

ACCORD. Like-mindedness, harmony, unity, singleness of purpose, agreement. Can be with good or evil (Acts 2:46, 7:57; 15:25).

ACCOUNT. Reckon, calculate, consider, let your mind dwell on, give reasons for; accept responsibility for (Matt. 12:36;

LIFE OF ABRAHAM		
EVENT	OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGE	NEW TESTAMENT REFERENCE
The birth of Abram	Gen 11:26	
God's call of Abram	Gen 12:1-3	Heb 11:8
The entry into Canaan	Gen 12:4-9	
Abram in Egypt	Gen 12:10-20	
Lot separates from Abram	Gen 13:1-18	
Abram rescues Lot	Gen 14:1-17	
Abram pays tithes to Melchizedek	Gen 14:18-24	Heb 7:1-10
God's covenant with Abraham	Gen 15:1-21	Rom 4:1-25 Gal 3:6-25 Heb 6:13-20
The birth of Ishmael	Gen 16:1-16	
Abraham promised a son by Sarah	Gen 17:1-27	Rom 4:18-25 Heb 11:11-12
Abraham intercedes for Sodom	Gen 18:16-33	
Lot saved and Sodom destroyed	Gen 19:1-38	
The birth of Isaac	Gen 21:1-7	
Hagar and Ishmael sent away	Gen 21:8-21	Gal 4:21-31
Abraham challenged to offer Isaac as sacrifice	Gen 22:1-19	Heb 11:17-19 Jas 2:20-24
The death of Sarah	Gen 23:1-20	
The death of Abraham	Gen 25:1-11	

Luke 16:2; Rom. 14:12). When something is accounted, it is credited to or recognized as belonging to someone (Gal. 3:6; Luke 22:24). Also, an account is a detailed record, count, or credit (Deut. 2:11; Ps. 144:3).

● *God knows all about every person and holds us accountable. How do you think this should affect your thoughts and actions?*

ACCURSED. Under a curse, set aside for condemnation or destruction (Rom. 9:3; Gal. 1:8-9; 1 Cor. 12:3; Josh. 6:17).

ACCUSE. Charge, credit with undesirable action (Prov. 30:10; Acts 25:11; Luke 11:54). Accusation can be true or false (John 8:6; Luke 3:14). Satan is sometimes called the accuser (Rev. 12:10).

ACHAIA (uh KAY yuh). A Roman province in the southern portion of

Greece. Corinth was its capital (2 Cor. 1:1; Acts 19:21; Rom. 15:26).

ACHAN (AY kuhn), also called **ACHAR**. Israelite who stole items dedicated to God from the city of Jericho after its destruction. He hid what he stole and his sin threatened the security of the entire Israelite community. The Israelites put him to death in the valley of Achor after his sin was discovered (Josh. 7:1-26).

ACKNOWLEDGE. Admit, recognize, give attention to, agree with, accept, respond to. Opposite of *ignore*. When a person acknowledges transgressions or wrongs, that confession opens the door to repentance and change. To acknowledge God is to agree with Him in attitude and to respond to Him in action (Jer. 24:5; Deut. 21:17; Ps. 51:3; 1 Cor. 14:37).

● *Can you think of one wrong in your*

life? How would acknowledging it free you from its burden?

ACTS, BOOK OF. New Testament book written by Luke as continuation of the Gospel of Luke. Acts traces the birth and growth of the Christian church. Acts shows how the early church carried out Jesus Christ's command to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:18-20). Peter, a disciple, and Paul, a powerful convert to Christianity, served as significant leaders in the growth of the Christian church. Acts tells about the unique coming of the Holy Spirit upon Christians and His work in the growth of the church.

The first half of Acts focuses on the Jerusalem church, and the last half tells about efforts of Paul and other missionaries to spread Christianity to surrounding areas such as Samaria, Damascus, Antioch, Cyprus, Asia Minor, Europe, and Rome. The Book of Acts ends with an unhindered sharing of the gospel (Acts 28:31). Acts is the first book of church history and colorfully depicts both the joys and growing pains of the first century church.

▼ *Acts' teachings for today include examples of (1) how to present the gospel (Acts 2:14-21), (2) demonstrations of refusal to let physical, economic, or social barriers prevent us from sharing the message of Christ (Acts 10-11), and (3) encouragement to keep on obeying God even in the worst of persecution (Acts 5:27-32).*

A.D. Latin abbreviation for *Anno Domini* meaning in the year of our Lord. Popularly, "after death"-the time since Jesus Christ's death.

Jews use C. E. for common era.

ADAM (AD duhm). First man. God created Adam in His image (Gen. 1:27; 2:7). Adam (and Eve) chose to mar God's image by disobeying Him. This

sin plunged the human race into sin (Gen. 3; Rom. 5:12-21). Jesus Christ, the second Adam, came to deliver us from sin and transform us into His perfect image (1 Cor. 15:45,49; Rom. 8:29). See **EVE**.

▼ *Self-image improves as one moves toward the God-image of creation. What kind of an image do you have of yourself?*

ADAR (AD ahr). Twelfth Hebrew month. Corresponds to our mid-February to mid-March (Esther 3:7). See **Calendar Chart** pages 228 & 229.

ADDER. Snake (Gen. 49:17; Prov. 23:32). See **SERPENT**.

ADHERE. Attach, stick, be loyal (2 Kings 17:34, NIV).

ADJURE. Plead, beg, command, appeal in the most persuasive manner. Cause to take an oath. The goal of those who adjure is to make sure the information given is correct (1 Kings 22:16; Matt. 26:63; Mark 5:7; Acts 19:13).

ADMONISH. Recommend, suggest, show, encourage to do right, warn, advise, counsel, correct or praise to motivate obedience to God. Those who admonish are usually more mature believers. Those who admonish are always to be motivated and guided by Jesus Christ (Rom. 15:14; Col. 3:16; 1 Thess. 5:12; 2 Thess. 3:15).

● *What has admonished you to obey God? With what words might you admonish a fellow believer?*

ADONIJAH (ad oh NIGH juh). Name meaning *My Lord is Yaweh*. 1. Fourth son of David who tried without success to take over his throne. When Solomon inherited the throne after his father Adam and Eve being banished from the garden of Eden.▶



David's death, he had Adonijah killed (2 Sam. 3:4; 1 Kings 1:5—2:25). 2. A Levite sent by Jehosaphat to teach about God in the cities of Judah (2 Chron. 17:8-9). 3. One of Nehemiah's chiefs who sealed the covenant (Neh. 10:16).

ADOPT. 1. Choose to become a parent of a child you did not bear. Legally make a child of other parents your child (Esther 2:15, RSV). Every person who trusts God becomes a child of God by adoption and inherits His resources (Rom. 8:15,23; Gal. 4:5; Eph. 1:5). 2. Choose an action or item as your own (NIV: Job 15:5; Ps. 106:35).

● *How does God's adoption of you demonstrate His love for you?*

■ **ADULTERY.** Voluntary sexual intercourse of a married person with someone besides his mate (Heb. 13:4). Spiritual adultery occurs when believers turn their love from God to someone or something else (Jer. 3:9; Ezek. 23:37). Both sexual and spiritual adultery are forbidden in the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:3,14).

Jesus explained that looking lustfully at someone is an act of adultery (Matt. 5:27-30).

Adultery also is the generic term for many sexual sins including incest and fornication (sex before marriage).

▼ *Adultery continues to be one of the more enticing sins. Many feel that saving sex for marriage is out of date, obsolete, but the Bible explains that sex outside of marriage is wrong. Why? It distorts God's design for marriage and sexual happiness. God designed sex to be best when it is an expression of unique love between husband and wife in marriage.*

ADVERSARY. 1. Enemy. One who is against a person or thing. May be a personal enemy, a national enemy, or a spiritual enemy (Num. 22:22; Matt. 5:25;

Esther 7:6; 1 Sam. 1:6; 1 Kings 5:4; 1 Pet. 5:8; 1 Tim. 5:14). 2. Satan. A literal translation of the Hebrew *Satan* (1 Pet. 5:8). See **SATAN**.

▼ *God is His people's protector against their adversaries (Ex. 23:22; Luke 18:3).*

ADVERSITY. Trouble, hard times (2 Sam. 4:9; Prov. 17:17; Prov. 24:10).

● *Name a way God has helped or could help you through adversity.*

ADVOCATE. One called alongside to help (1 John 2:1). Helper, comforter, intercessor—one who takes our side, speaks on our behalf, pleads our case. In the NT both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are our advocates (1 John 2:1; John 14:16,26; 15:26; 16:7). In the Gospel of John, *comforter* translates the same Greek word that *advocate* translates in 1 John 2:1.

● *How does it feel to have someone on your side? What thoughts and feelings do you have about knowing Jesus is on your side?*

AFFECTION. Feeling, passion, or thought. The KJV setting determines whether it is good or bad (Rom. 12:10; Rom. 1:26). Colossians 3:2 focuses on thought.

AFFLICTION. State or cause of pain, distress, grief, or misery. Generally, these English definitions can serve for the Bible use of *affliction*, but the OT Hebrew and the NT Greek shades of meaning are worth noting:

1. The OT Hebrew word usually means oppressed or humbled—a sense of helplessness or defenselessness. If the affliction is perceived as coming from God, it is a punishment for sin that comes to bless people by leading them to turn back to God (2 Kings 15:5; Ps. 119:71). However, Isaiah also used the word to refer to the forthcoming affliction of Christ for our sins (Isa. 53:4,7).

2. The NT Greek word literally means pressure but also carries the thought of oppression or tribulation. The idea is most often that the distress comes upon a person from someone else because he or she follows Christ and not because of personal sin (Col. 1:24).

● *Where does most of your misery come from? From within as you choose your will instead of God's? or from without as others pressure you because of your choice to follow Christ as Lord and Savior? In either case, the way to deal with affliction is to turn to God for relief or strength to endure for His glory.*

AGABUS (AG uh buhs). New Testament prophet from Jerusalem who foretold a great famine and the imprisonment of Paul (Acts 11:28; 21:10-11).

AGAPE. A Greek word for self-giving love. See **LOVE**.

AGE. Period of time. Can be past or future and is often unlimited. *Ages* often means eternity or immeasurable time. God is the King of all ages (NIV: Col. 1:26; Rom. 16:25; Joel 2:2; Rev. 15:3; Isa. 45:17; RSV: 1 Tim. 1:17).

AGRIPPA (uh GRIP uh). Herod Agrippa I was known in the NT as Herod (Acts 12:1-23). Herod Agrippa II (in NT, just Agrippa) was the Jewish king who listened to Paul's legal defense and found him innocent. Agrippa said Paul almost persuaded him to become a Christian (Acts 25:13-26:32). Paul was on trial because jealous Jews had him arrested for preaching what they considered heresy (Acts 21-23).

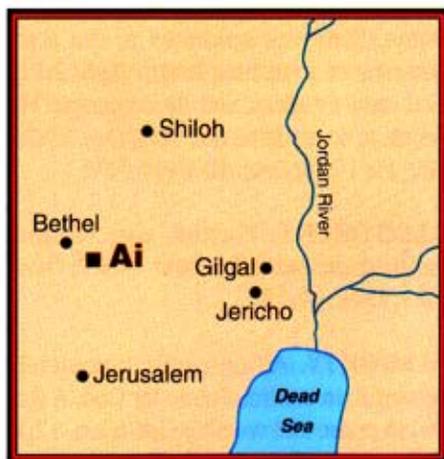
AHAB (AY hab). Powerful but evil king who reigned over Israel for twenty-two years. Heavily influenced by his Baal worshiping wife Jezebel. Failed to stand up for justice and true worship even though

God's prophets warned him (1 Kings 16:28—22:40). See **JEZEBEL** and the **King Chart** page 141. Another Ahab was false prophet (Jer. 29:20-21).

AHASUERUS (uh haz you EE russ). A king of Persia. Mentioned in three OT books (Ezra 4:6; Dan. 9:1; Esther 1:1, 10:3). In the Book of Esther, he chose Esther as his new queen. In the Book of Daniel, he was the father of Darius the Mede.

AHAZ (AY haz). Twelfth king of Judah. He was very wicked and promoted idolatry (2 Kings 16; 2 Chron. 28). See **King Chart** page 141.

AHAZIAH (ay huh ZIGH uh). 1. Eighth king of Israel. Son and successor of Ahab. Like his mother Jezebel, he trusted pagan gods rather than the true God (1 Kings 22:51-53; 2 Kings 1:2-3). 2. Sixth king of Judah who practiced idolatry (2 Kings 8:24). See **King Chart** page 141.



AI (AY igh). Small city east of Bethel that Joshua conquered after he and his men conquered Jericho. Achan's sin led to an initial setback. Then God said He had given Ai, its people, and its king over to Joshua. Ai's destruction demonstrated God's power (Josh. 7:2-5, 8:1-29, 10:1-2).

ALABASTER. Smooth cream colored stone used to make containers for perfume and ointment. The alabaster box in the Bible was a flask with a long, thin neck that was broken to release the contents (Matt. 26:7; Mark 14:3; Luke 7:37).

ALAS. Oh no! Pay attention! An expression of sorrow, fear, complaint, grief, or warning. (Josh. 7:7; Judg. 6:22; 1 Kings 13:30; Jer. 30:7; Rev. 18:10).

ALEXANDER (al eg ZAN dur). 1. Member of high priestly family (Acts 4:6). 2. Jewish speaker (Acts 19:33). 3. False teacher (1 Tim. 1:20). 4. Enemy of Paul (2 Tim. 4:14). 5. Alexander the Great probably the king described in Daniel 8.

ALLELUIA. Praise God! Same as *Hallelujah*. Invitation to praise God. A part of many Psalms and an element of worship in Revelation (Ps. 104:35; 105:45; Rev. 19:1,3-4,6).

ALIEN. Stranger, traveler, person away from home. Someone unknown to the area. Someone or something foreign (Eph. 2:12). God cares for aliens, and He encourages His people to do the same (Ex. 18:3; Gen. 21:23, NIV; Job 19:15; Deut. 10:18-19, NIV).

ALLOTMENT. Portion, part of land, assigned amount (NIV: Deut. 14:27; Deut. 18:1; Ezek. 48:13).

ALMIGHTY. All powerful, completely powerful, in control. Name for God. A reason to praise and worship God (Gen. 17:1; 2 Cor. 6:18; Rev. 11:17). See **Names of God Chart** page 103.

● *The Almighty God wants a close relationship with every person. How does His "almightiness" affect the way you relate to Him?*

ALMS. 1. Offering, portion of one's possessions given to the poor (Acts 3:2-3). For

an OT application, see Leviticus 19:9. 2. Kind act. Act of compassion motivated by wanting to please God (Acts 9:36). Guidelines for almsgiving include give privately, give so only God can see, and give from what you have (Matt. 6:1-4; Luke 11:41).

ALPHA AND OMEGA (AL fuh) (oh MEG uh). First and last letters of the Greek alphabet. A name for Christ. Means *beginning and end* or *first and last*. Jesus is both first and last in time and in importance. Used by Christ of Himself in the Book of Revelation (1:8,11; 21:6; 22:13).



Alpha and Omega.

ALPHEUS (al FEE uhs). 1. Father of James the apostle (Matt. 10:3; Acts 1:13). 2. Father of Levi the tax collector (Mark 2:14).

ALTAR. Place of worship. Place where animal sacrifices were slaughtered and presented to God (Gen. 8:20; Ex. 29:10-14). Also a place to burn incense for God (Ex. 30:1). Altars in the Bible ranged from piles of stones to intricately constructed structures (Josh. 8:30-31; Ex. 27:1-8).

Old Testament blood sacrifices pictured repentance and forgiveness. After the death and resurrection of Jesus, animal sacrifices were no longer needed. God welcomes a different type of offering at the altar: praise, confession, and good actions (Heb. 13:15-16). See **SACRIFICE**.

AMALEK (AM uh lek). Descendant of Esau (twin of Jacob). His descendants,