

**DESCRIPTIONS OF CANAAN,
BEING AN ACCOUNT OF THE
MOUNTAINS, RIVERS, AND
TOWNS OF THE HOLY LAND**

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Descriptions of Canaan, Being an Account of the Mountains, Rivers, and Towns of the Holy Land by Charles P. Wilbraham

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CHARLES P. WILBRAHAM

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BY THE

REV. CHARLES P. WILBRAHAM,

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INTRODUCTION.

THIS work is especially intended to convey to young persons distinct impressions of that sacred land which was hallowed by the presence of the Saviour. It is suggested, that, after the book has been carefully read over, the questions contained in the Supplement should be asked of the learner, who might be expected to give, not the exact words, but the *substance* of the reply. It is hoped that by this method, combined with a careful looking-out of the texts quoted, and with continual reference to the map, a considerable knowledge of Palestine may be acquired. The work is the result of a personal survey of most of the places therein named, and one of its objects is to point out the remarkable testimony which the existing state of the Holy Land offers to the accuracy of the sacred Scriptures. It must be ever borne in mind that our hope of salvation rests on certain facts, and that

these facts had their scenes of action, and these scenes of action were laid in the land of Canaan, of which some "descriptions" are here set forth. The paragraphs are numbered to assist in the reference to the accompanying questions.

C. P. W.

CHAPTER I.

1. THE Holy Land, which is called in the Bible the Land of Promise, the Land of Canaan, and Palestine, is a small country in the western part of Asia. Though in size not exceeding the county of York, it has been chosen of God as the scene of the most hallowed and marvellous events in the history of the world, and it is probable, that before the end, its destinies will again be remarkable.

2. The Land of Canaan is represented in the Bible as a type of heavenly rest. The Israelite (typical of the Christian) passed from Egypt (the corrupt state by nature) through the Red sea ("figuring thereby holy Baptism") into the wilderness (the world), among the fiery serpents (i. e. the snares of the devil), across the Jordan (signifying death), into Canaan (that is, heaven), led by the true Joshua

(which name, being interpreted, is "the Saviour"). As the shadow of better things to come, this land acquires a peculiar interest.

3. The boundaries of Canaan are as follows :

North : Syria and Mount Lebanon.

West : the Mediterranean Sea.

South : Arabia and the Desert of Sinai.

East : the Jordan and the Great Desert.

4. We purpose to treat our subject in the five following divisions, commencing from the South.

1. Judæa, in the south.

2. Samaria, in the centre.

3. Galilee, in the north.

4. The region beyond Jordan, to the east.

5. The out-lying countries named in the Bible.

JUDÆA.

5. JUDÆA was the most important part of the Land of Canaan ; it contains Jerusalem, the capital of the Jewish race, and the site of their temple, and it was also the very cradle of Christianity, the scene of our redemption. On its sacred soil the Saviour was born and died,

and from it He ascended to the right hand of God.

6. In the earliest records we find Canaan in the possession of seven idolatrous nations (types of deadly sins), who were extirpated by the people of God under Joshua. The Jebusites were the peculiar nation which inhabited Jerusalem so late even as the days of David; they dwelt along with the Israelites for many generations^a, but appear to have been driven from Zion by King David, about 1050 years B.C.^b Araunah, who made a noble offer of oxen, &c. for a sacrifice, was a Jebusite^c. The Hittites, Amorites, and Perizzites, were among the former possessors of Canaan^d.

7. Our first acquaintance with the fertility of Judæa is derived from the report of the twelve spies, sent by Moses to examine the land. Even the ten faithless spies were compelled to concur with Joshua and Caleb in describing Canaan as "a land flowing with milk and honey." Judæa is still remarkable for these productions, as also for its grapes, a cluster of which were carried away by the spies as a sample of the fruits of the land^e.

^a Josh. xv. 63.

^b 2 Sam. v. 7, 8.

^c 2 Sam. xxiv. 16. ^d Exod. iii. 8. ^e Numb. xiii. 23.