

## A Glossary of Biblical Terms

Please read the following terminologies. They help you to easily understand the Bible.

<b>Abraham</b>	The father of the Jewish nation. He and his group left Ur and started a new life in Canaan.
<b>Advent</b>	The second coming of Christ
<b>Acts of Apostles</b>	The second of the books in the bible written by Paul.
<b>Apostles</b>	The first 12 followers of Christ
<b>Altar</b>	The place of sacrifice in church or the bread and wine is placed. It represents the last supper.
<b>Amen</b>	The final word of a prayer; means "so be it".
<b>Annunciation</b>	When the angel Gabriel told Mary that she was pregnant with Jesus.
<b>Angel</b>	A heavenly being. A messenger of God.
<b>Apocrypha</b>	A section of the Bible not accepted by all Christians.
<b>Apostles' creed</b>	The oldest statement of belief in the church, based on the teachings of the Apostles (Tselote Haimanot).
<b>Aramaic</b>	One of the languages used by people in Jesus' time, probably the language that Jesus and the disciples would have spoken to each other.
<b>Archbishop</b>	The highest hierarchy of Ordination or a clergyman who is responsible for a group of diocese.
<b>Ascension</b>	When Jesus went back to heaven, 40 days after the resurrection.
<b>Atheist</b>	Someone who does not believe there is a God.
<b>Atonement</b>	Making amends for your sins or wrong deeds. Trying to put things right.
<b>B</b>	
<b>Baptism</b>	The entry rite into the Christian church, which can take place as a baby or as an adult.
<b>Beatitudes</b>	A section of writing from the New Testament, each of which starts with "Blessed are the ...." (Matthew 5).
<b>Bethlehem</b>	A small town in the north of Palestine where Jesus was born.
<b>Bible</b>	The Holy Book of the Christians, contains the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament), the New Testament and the Apocrypha
<b>Bishop</b>	A senior minister, usually in charge of an area or diocese.
<b>Blasphemy</b>	Words that are spoken against God.
<b>Blessed</b>	Rewarded by God.
<b>C</b>	
<b>Canonization</b>	When the Holy Synod decides a Christian to be a saint.
<b>Celibate</b>	In many Christian sects the priest or bishop is not allowed to be married or have sex.
<b>Chastity</b>	The state of being sexually pure.
<b>Christening</b>	Another word for Baptism.
<b>Christian(s)</b>	Those who follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.
<b>Christianity</b>	The faith of the Christians.
<b>Christmas</b>	The festival which celebrates the birth of Jesus.
<b>Clergy</b>	Those people who are ordained to serve God in the church. The three hierarchy of clergy are deacons, priests and bishops.
<b>Commandments</b>	Rules given by God. The most famous are the 10 commandments given to Moses.
<b>Communion</b>	The most important of the Christian services. It acts out the events of the last supper which Jesus had with his disciples.
<b>Confession</b>	Words you speak to the priest about your sins, asking God for forgiveness.
<b>Confirmation</b>	When people who were baptised are anointed with Holy Oil called Myron.
<b>Conscience</b>	Our internal 'voice' which tells us right from wrong, some people believe that this is the voice of God within us.
<b>Consecration</b>	When the bread and wine are turned into the body and blood of Jesus Christ.
<b>Contemplation</b>	Thinking about God, time spent in prayer and meditation.
<b>Covenant</b>	An agreement between an individual or people and God.
<b>Creation</b>	When God made the world.
<b>Creed</b>	A statement of religious beliefs agreed by the church to be true. There are 2 main creeds in the Christian church: the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed.
<b>Cross</b>	The most important Christian symbol.
<b>Crucifixion</b>	When Jesus was put to death on a cross. A form of capital punishment.

<b>D</b>	
<b>Denomination</b>	A group within the Christian church. Example: Orthodox, Catholic, or Protestant.
<b>Devil</b>	The fallen angel named Satan, or Lucifer.
<b>Diocese</b>	A sub division of the church consisting of a number of parishes, the priest in charge is usually a bishop.
<b>Disciple</b>	A person who follows the teachings of Jesus.
<b>E</b>	
<b>Easter</b>	The major festival in the Christian church which celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.
<b>(Eastern) Orthodox</b>	The Christian churches found mainly in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. (e.g. Russian Orthodox, Greek Orthodox). One of the three main denominations along with Roman Catholic and Protestant.
<b>Epistle</b>	A letter. Part of the New Testament written by the Apostles.
<b>Eucharist</b>	Another name of Holy Communion which comes from the Greek word meaning "Thanksgiving".
<b>Euthanasia</b>	The ending of life, by medical means, when there is no hope of recovery.
<b>Evil</b>	Things that are not of God.
<b>F</b>	
<b>Faith</b>	A belief in God.
<b>Festival</b>	A special occasion during the church year.
<b>Fetus</b>	The developing baby while it is in the womb.
<b>G</b>	
<b>Garden of Eden</b>	The original home of Adam and Eve before the fall.
<b>Gethsemane</b>	A garden where Jesus prayed before being arrested.
<b>God</b>	The supreme being, who created the world.
<b>Godparents</b>	When a baby is baptized Godparents promise to bring the baby up as a Christian.
<b>Golden Rule</b>	Quoted by Jesus as 'Love your neighbor as yourself' (Mark 12:31).
<b>Good Friday</b>	The day on which Jesus was crucified.
<b>Gospel</b>	The part of the New Testament about the life of Jesus. Gospel means 'good news'.
<b>Grace</b>	The loving help that God gives to all human beings, an undeserved gift.
<b>H</b>	
<b>Heaven</b>	The place where God lives and where Christians go after their death.
<b>Hebrew</b>	The first person to be called Hebrew was Abraham, and then his descendants. Hebrew is one of the Semitic languages spoken by Israelites.
<b>Holy</b>	Special to God and the saints.
<b>Holy Communion</b>	Another name for the Eucharist.
<b>Holy matrimony</b>	Another term for Christian marriage.
<b>Holy Spirit</b>	One of the three persons of the Holy Trinity.
<b>I</b>	
<b>Infanticide</b>	The killing or murder of a small child (Infant).
<b>Intercession</b>	The saints intercede and pray to God on behalf of sinners.
<b>Incense</b>	aromatic biotic material which releases fragrant smoke when burned.
<b>Idol; Idolatry</b>	An idol is an image, a representation of anything, real or imagined, that people may use in worship.
<b>Incarnation</b>	When Jesus became human by being born to the Holy Virgin Mary
<b>J</b>	
<b>Jesus Christ</b>	The Son of the Living God and founder of the Christian faith. Born in Nazareth and killed by crucifixion at the age of about 33.
<b>Jews</b>	The people of Abraham. Jesus was a Jew.
<b>Joseph</b>	There are three Josephs in the Bible.

<b>K</b>	
<b>Kingdom of God</b>	The new kingdom to be ruled over by God. Christians are striving to inherit the Kingdom of God.
<b>L</b>	
<b>Last supper</b>	The last meal that Jesus had before the crucifixion. At this meal Jesus gave a special meaning to the bread and the wine, which is remembered at the Eucharist.
<b>Lent</b>	The 40 days Jesus fasted and spent in the wilderness.
<b>Leaven</b>	A substance added to dough or to liquids to cause fermentation.
<b>Leprosy; Leper</b>	A serious skin disease. In the Scriptures, leprosy is not restricted to the disease known by that name today, for it could affect not only humans but also clothing and houses.
<b>Lord's Supper</b>	Another name for the Eucharist.
<b>Lord's Prayer</b>	The prayer that Jesus gave to his disciples. (Abatachin Hoy).
<b>M</b>	
<b>Mary</b>	The mother of Jesus, sometimes called the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary is very important in the Orthodox and the Roman Catholic churches. There are about 8 Mary's in the Bible.
<b>Messiah</b>	Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah which means 'King' or 'Saviour' or 'Anointed One'.
<b>Miracle</b>	An event that cannot be explained by normal or scientific means.
<b>Manna</b>	The main food of the Israelites during their 40 years in the wilderness.
<b>Mediator</b>	One who intercedes between two parties in order to reconcile them. Moses and Jesus are the mediators of the Law covenant and the new covenant respectively. <a href="#">Ga 3:19</a> ; <a href="#">1Ti 2:5</a> .
<b>Myrrh</b>	An aromatic gum resin obtained from a variety of thorny shrubs or small trees of the genus <i>Commiphora</i> . Myrrh was one of the ingredients of the holy anointing oil.
<b>Monotheism</b>	Belief in one God - The Christians, Jews and Muslims
<b>N</b>	
<b>New Testament</b>	Part of the Bible together with the Hebrew Scripture. The New Testament contains the Gospels, the acts of the Apostles, Epistles and the book of Revelation.
<b>Nazirite</b>	A word taken from the Hebrew for "One Singled Out," "Dedicated One."
<b>Nazarene</b>	A name for Jesus, as one from the town of Nazareth. It is probably related to the Hebrew word used at Isaiah 11:1 for "sprout."
<b>Nisan</b>	After the Babylonian exile, the new name for Abib, the first month of the Jewish sacred calendar and the seventh month of the secular calendar.
<b>O</b>	
<b>Old Testament</b>	Another name for the Hebrew Scripture, part of the Bible.
<b>Orthodox Church</b>	"true", "straight"
<b>P</b>	
<b>Palestine</b>	The part of the Eastern Mediterranean where Jesus lived, part of modern day Israel.
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	The day that Christians remember the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.
<b>Patriarch</b>	Leader and the Head of the Church the Orthodox churches.
<b>Paul</b> (Saint)	A Jew who was converted to Christianity and who took the gospel to the Gentiles. Wrote many of the epistles.
<b>Pentecost</b>	The festival when the disciples received the Holy Spirit. Often thought of as the birth of the church.
<b>Peter</b> (Saint)	The apostle who denied Jesus and who Jesus called 'the rock on which the church was built'; Peter was the first bishop of Rome.
<b>Pharisee</b>	Religious leaders of the Jews at the time of Jesus.
<b>Polytheism</b>	Belief in many Gods.
<b>Pope</b>	The leader of the Roman Catholic church, lives in Vatican City.
<b>Prayer</b>	Talking to God.
<b>Preacher</b>	A person who delivers a sermon.
<b>Priest</b>	A clergyperson who may celebrate the Eucharist, give blessings and forgive sins.
<b>Protestant</b>	A form of Christianity after the Reformation.
<b>Purgatory</b>	The place between earth and Heaven, "Heaven's waiting room."
<b>R</b>	

<b>Reconciliation</b>	To get closer to God through the forgiveness of your sins.
<b>Reformation</b>	When the Western church split into the Catholic and Protestant denominations in the 16th century.
<b>Repentance</b>	To be sorry for the sins that you have committed.
<b>Resurrection</b>	When Jesus came back from the dead three days after he had been crucified.
<b>Revelation</b>	A message from God.

**S**

<b>Sabbath</b>	The Jewish holy day, from sunset on Friday to sunset on Saturday. Also used by some Christian denominations for Sunday.
<b>Sacrament</b>	An outward sign of something special and holy. The Roman Catholics, Orthodox and the Anglicans believe in 7 sacraments. Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Holy Orders, forgiveness of sins, Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Matrimony or Marriage.
<b>Sacred</b>	Something which is holy or devoted to God.
<b>Samaritan</b>	A group of people who lived in Samaria at the time of Jesus, considered by the Jews to be inferior.
<b>Satan</b>	Another name for the Devil.
<b>Saviour</b>	Another title for Jesus. Used to show belief that he rescued people from their sins by dying on the cross.
<b>Secular</b>	Anything that is not religious.
<b>Sermon</b>	A talk given in church on a spiritual or moral theme.
<b>Sin</b>	Doing something wrong that separates you from God.
<b>Sunday</b>	The Christian holy day; day of rest.
<b>Synoptic</b>	A Greek word which means "to look at together". The synoptic gospels are Matthew, Mark and Luke.

**T**

<b>Temptation</b>	Being persuaded to do evil or to sin.
<b>Ten Commandments</b>	The rules given to Moses by God on Mount Sinai.
<b>Theist</b>	Someone who does believe God exists.
<b>Transubstantiation</b>	A belief that the wine and the bread at the Eucharist actually turn into the body and blood of Jesus. Esp. in the Roman Catholic and the Ethiopian Orthodox churches.
<b>Trinity</b>	The one God in the three parts; God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**V**

<b>Virgin Birth</b>	The belief that the Holy Virgin Mary was a virgin when she gave birth to Jesus.
<b>Virgin Mary</b>	Another name for Mary.
<b>Vision</b>	A dream like experience of God.
<b>Vows</b>	Promises made in the sight of God.

**W**

<b>Worship</b>	The act of prayer or actions dedicated to praising God.
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