

BIBLE GLOSSARY

- Apocrypha: A collection of Jewish texts written after the Old Testament period rejected as authoritative scripture by Protestants but accepted by Roman Catholics and Orthodox Christians.
- Apostle: Meaning, “one sent with a commission,” and used in the Gospels for the Twelve.
- Chalcedonian Definition: Belief that Jesus is true God and true man.
- Covenant: A binding agreement between God and individuals (David) and groups (Israel). There are conditional and unconditional covenants in the Bible.
- Davidic Messiah: Jewish expectation for an end-times king descended from David who would rule with righteousness and justice.
- Docetism: An early heresy that claimed Jesus was not a real human being but only appeared to have a body.
- Eschatology, eschatological: Referring to the end times, God’s time of final salvation.
- Eternal life: Refers not only to immortal life in the future but also to true spiritual life that believers possess in the present.
- Gentile: A person who is not a Jew.
- Gnosticism: A religious movement that claims salvation comes through secret knowledge.
- Gospel: “Good news.” Originally used as a military term announcing victory.
- Jerusalem Temple: The central location for worship. Sacrifices were only to be made in Jerusalem (Deut. 12:5-14).
- Kingdom of God/Heaven: Central theme of Jesus’ teachings, referring to God’s reign and to the consummation of that reign in the end-times (eschatological) kingdom.
- Lamb of God: Title for Jesus indicating his sacrificial death as the Passover lamb and the suffering servant of Isaiah 53.
- Messiah: Meaning the “Anointed One” and translated into Greek as “Christ.”
- Pharisees: A religious/political party that strictly adhered to the law of Moses both written and oral.
- Pseudepigrapha: Jewish writings from the second temple period not included in the Apocrypha.
- Sadducees: A religious/political party made up of the priestly aristocracy. They accepted only the first five books of Moses (the Pentateuch).

- Second Temple Period: Time between the completion of the second temple (516 BC) to its destruction (70 AD).
- Subordination of Christ: While equal to the Father in his divinity, Jesus was subordinate to the Father in his humanity.
- Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke.
- Septuagint (LXX): The Greek translation of the Old Testament.
- Son of Man: A title for Jesus drawn from Daniel 7:13.
- Typology: A comparison or analogy made between an OT person or event that serves as a type of NT person or event. For example, Jesus depicted as a new Moses or David and the feeding miracles of Jesus depicted as a new gift of mana in the wilderness.
- Yahweh: The OT name of God (YHWH) called the tetragrammaton (“four letters”).