

## Capitalization and Spelling Glossary<sup>1</sup>

AD (Latin abbreviation for “in the year of our Lord”) goes before the date (AD 2014)

Age (archeological periods such as Bronze Age, Iron Age)

age (apostolic, church, classical, etc.)

Almighty God

amillennial(ism),

amillenarian

ancient Near East, the

ancient Near Eastern (adj.)

antichrist, the

anti-Christian

Apocrypha, the (but: apocryphal)

apostle(s) (the twelve apostles, but the Twelve)

apostolic

archaeology

ark (any reference)

ascension, the

Ascension Day (as liturgical day)

atonement, the

Atonement, Day of (Yom Kippur)

BC (English abbreviation for “before Christ”) goes after the date (586 BC)

Beatitudes, the

Beloved Disciple (as title)

Bible

biblical (but Biblical Hebrew)

black theology

body of Christ (= the church)

Book of books (Bible)

book of Genesis (etc.)

book of the Bible, a

Book of the Twelve

book of the law (covenant, life)

Bread of Life

bride of Christ

bridegroom, the (= Christ)

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<sup>1</sup> For additional details, see section 4.3.6 in *The SBL Handbook of Style: For Biblical Studies and Related Disciplines*, 2nd ed. (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014), 37-52.

Calvary  
captivity, the (the Babylonian captivity))  
catholic (meaning universal)  
Catholic (when part of the name of a particular church or denomination, as in Catholicism)  
chapter (general term)  
Chapter 6 (specific chapter) charismatic  
chiasm, chiasmus  
chief priest(s)  
children of Israel  
Christ Child  
Christian (noun and adj.) (as in Christian education but: Department of Christian Education)  
Christlike  
christological (adj.)  
Christological (noun)  
Christology  
Christ's kingdom  
church (both universal and local)  
church father(s)  
commandments (the, first commandment, etc. but capitalize only when referring to the whole Decalogue: Ten Commandments)  
communion (the ordinance)  
communists, communism (when referring to the political system)  
covenant (Abrahamic, Mosaic, old, new)  
creation, the  
Creation Epic. (i.e. Babylonian Story of Creation = Enuma Elish)  
Creator, the  
cross (the wooden object or synecdoche for the entire event)  
crucifixion, the  
curriculum (plural: curricula, not: curriculums)

Davidic covenant  
Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)  
day of Pentecost  
day of the Lord  
Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS) (but a Dead Sea scroll)  
Decalogue (Ten Commandments)  
Department of Historical Theology (but: the Historical Theology department)  
deity pronouns are uppercase (i.e. He, Him, His)  
deity titles are capitalized (i.e. the Good Shephard, God Most High)  
Deuteronomic  
devil

disciple(s) (but: the Twelve)  
dynasty (David, etc.: but Dynasty (Egyptian) as in the Eighteenth Dynasty)

Easter  
empire, the  
Empire, Neo-Babylonian, Roman, etc.  
Epistle (when used in connection with the biblical letters, as in the Epistle to the Galatians, the Epistles, the Epistles of Paul, the Pauline Epistles)  
eternal God  
etiology (not aetiology)  
Eucharist  
eucharistic  
evangelist (gospel writer, proclaimer of good news)  
Evangelist (as part of a title: John the Evangelist)  
exile, the (biblical event)  
exodus, the (biblical event)  
extrabiblical

fall (of humanity)  
Father, the (referring to God)  
fathers, the (referring to the church fathers)  
Feast of Tabernacles  
flood, the (biblical event)  
Fourth Gospel (=John)  
fundamentalism, fundamentalist

garden of Eden  
Gentile  
gnostic (noun and adj.)  
Gnosticism  
Godhead  
godless  
godly  
God-Man  
gods (plural)  
God's Word  
Golden Rule, the  
Good Shepherd, the  
gospel (when referring to the evangelical message)  
Gospel (one of the first four New Testament books)  
Gospels (the division of the canon)  
Greek (noun and adj.)  
Great Commission, the

great white throne judgment, the

handbook

*hapax legomenon* (pl. *hapax legomena*)

He, His, Him (pronouns when referring to God or Jesus)

hell

Hellenistic (but hellenize)

High Priest (for Jesus, otherwise lowercase)

Holy Land

holy of holies Holy One (God)

Holy Ghost, Holy Spirit

Incarnation, the

the intertestamental period

Jehovah (but: Yahweh is preferred)

judgment seat of Christ

King of kings

kingdom, the

kingdom of God/heaven

Koine Greek

land of Israel

Lamb of God, the

Last Supper, the

Law, the (= Pentateuch; lowercase for any other reason)

law (Mosaic, Jewish, of Moses, of Israel)

liberation theology

Lord, the

Lord of Hosts

Lord of lords

Lord's Day (= Sunday)

Lord's Prayer (specific prayer taught by Jesus)

Lord's Supper

Lord's Table

lordship

major judges

Major Prophets

Majority Text

Markan (not Marcan)

marriage supper of the Lamb

Masoretic (pronunciation, vocalization, etc.)  
Masoretic Text (when used as a singular proper noun)  
Master, the (Jesus)  
Mediator (Christ)  
mercy seat  
Messiah (in Christian contexts, as referenced to Jesus Christ)  
messianic (age, prophecy, etc.)  
Middle Assyrian Laws  
Middle Assyrian period  
midrash (pl. midrashim)  
midrashic (adj.)  
millenarianism  
millennial  
millennium  
Mosaic covenant  
Mosaic law  
Most High (name of God)

Neo-Babylonian  
neo-orthodoxy  
Neoplatonism  
new covenant  
new heaven and new earth  
new Jerusalem  
New Testament (noun and adj.)  
New World (as opposed to Old World)  
Nicaea, Council of  
Nicene fathers  
Noah's ark  
non-Christian (but unchristian)  
Northern Kingdom, the (Israel)

old covenant  
Old Testament  
only begotten Son/of the Father  
Orthodox (Judaism; Eastern Orthodox)  
orthodoxy

parable of the prodigal son (and other parables)  
paradise  
Passover (noun and adj.)  
patriarchs, the

patristic(s)  
per se  
percent (spelled out in text; % in parentheses)  
pericope (pl. pericopes)  
period (Roman, Chalcolithic, etc.)  
Persian Empire  
person of Christ  
persons of the Trinity (but Third Person of the Trinity, as a title)  
postexilic  
postmillennial(ism)post-Nicene  
premillennial(ism)  
Priestly (=P; source, redaction, code, document)  
Prince of Peace  
promised land  
prophet (the prophet Amos, etc.)  
Prophets (Hebrew division of the Old Testament)  
Protestant(ism)  
Proto-Semitic  
proto-Mark, proto-Luke, proto-Matthew  
Psalm (specific song or chapter in the Psalms—Psalm 1)  
psalm(s) (general reference: this psalm)  
psalmist, the (the psalmist David)  
psalter, the

Qur'an (not Koran)  
Qoheleth (not Qohelet)

rabbi  
rabbinical  
rapture  
reader-response criticism  
Redeemer, the  
Reformation, the  
Reformers, the  
registration  
resurrection, the  
Roman Empire

Sabbath , the (noun and adj.)  
Sadducees  
Sanhedrin, the  
Satan  
satanic  
salvation history  
Savior, the (referring to Jesus)  
scribe  
scriptural  
Scripture(s) (when referencing the Bible, otherwise scripture)  
second coming  
Second Temple (period, literature, etc.)  
Septuagint  
Semitic  
Sermon on the Mount  
servant of the Lord  
Shekinah  
Shema, the  
Sin-bearer (Christ)  
*Sitz im Leben* (not *Sitz-im-Leben*)  
son of man; except Son of Man as christological title  
sonship  
Song of the Sea  
Southern Kingdom (Judah)  
Spirit, the (as shorthand for the Holy Spirit)  
stoic (an attitude)  
Stoic(s) (member of the philosophy begun by Zeno)  
suffering servant (in Isa. 53)  
Sunday school  
synoptic (adj.)  
Synoptic Gospels, the  
Synoptic problem, the  
systematic theology (unless used as a proper noun such as for a course, Systematic Theology)

tabernacle  
Table of Nations (= Gen. 10)  
Talmud  
targum, a (pl. targumim)  
temple, the  
Ten Commandments, the (but: the first commandment)  
*Tendenz*  
textual criticism (noun), textual-critical or text-critical (adj.)

theological  
third world (preference: two-thirds world)  
torah (general term for instruction) (but transliterated *tôrâ*)  
Torah (division of the canon)transfiguration, the  
tribulation, the  
Trinitarian (adj.)  
Trinity, the (when referring to God)  
triune  
TV (not T.V.)  
Twelve, the (referring to the apostles)

unbiblical  
unchristian (but: un-Christlike, non-Christian)  
united kingdom/monarchy

West Semitic  
white (Caucasian)  
wise men (biblical)  
wisdom (literature, movement, quality, tradition)  
Wisdom (personified)  
Word, the (= Jesus)  
word of God

Yahweh or YHWH (not Jahweh)  
Yahwist (Not Jahwist) source