

## Glossary of Christian terms

- **Advent** - a season observed in many Western Christian churches, a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas.
  - **Amen** – ‘so be it’, used as a concluding word or response to prayers.
  - **Anointing** - ritual act of pouring aromatic oil over a person's head or entire body.
  - **Antichrist** - in Christian eschatology, the Antichrist is someone who will oppose Christ and substitute himself in Christ's place.
  - **Apocalypse** - any prophetic revelation or so-called **End Time** scenario, or to the end of the world in general.
  - **Apostle** - "someone sent out", e.g. with a message or as a delegate, according to the Synoptic Gospels and Christian tradition. Disciples whom Jesus of Nazareth had chosen, named, and trained in order to send them on a specific mission.
  - **Aramaic** - believed to be the primary language of Jesus.
  - **Atonement** - a doctrine found within both Christianity and Judaism. It describes how sin can be forgiven by God. In Christian theology the atonement refers to the forgiving or pardoning of sin through the crucifixion of Jesus Christ which made possible the reconciliation between God and man.
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- **Baptism** - rite of admission and adoption, almost invariably with the use of water, into Christianity.
  - **Bible** - a collection of writings by early Christians, believed to be mostly Jewish disciples of Christ, written in first-century Koine Greek.
  - **Body of Christ** - A reference to (a) the Christian church as a whole, worldwide, and/or (b) a name for the bread used in Communion/Eucharist to represent the physical body of Jesus sacrificed on the cross.
  - **Christ** - the English term for the Greek word (*Christós*), which literally means "*The Anointed One*." The Hebrew word for Christ (*Mašiah*, usually transliterated *Messiah*).
  - **Christendom** - In a cultural sense, it refers to the religion itself, or to the worldwide community of Christians, adherents of Christianity, or refers collectively to Christian majority countries.

- **Consecrate** - To set something—or someone—apart for God, solely devoted to use by/for God, thereby making it "holy."
- **Covenant** – a binding agreement with God.
- **Creed** – a formal statement of the essential articles of Christian belief.
- **Eschatology** – theology concerned with the end of the world.
- **Eucharist** - also known as Communion, and the Lord's Supper.
- **Exegesis** – explaining Scripture in its original context.
- **Faith** – trust in God, and in His acts and promises.
- **God** - most commonly refers to the deity worshipped by followers of monotheistic religions, whom they believe to be the creator and overseer of the universe.<sup>[6]</sup>
- **Godhead** – the state of being divine.
- **Gospel** - from the Old English for 'good news,' this refers to the good news concerning Jesus Christ. It can also refer to any one of the four canonical gospels, named for their traditional authors.
- **Grace** – the free and unmerited favour of God shown towards mankind.
- **Hermeneutics** – explaining Scripture and its application to current life.
- **Holy Rood** – the Cross on which Christ was crucified.
- **Holy Spirit** – the third person of the Trinity.
- **Hosanna** – a cry of praise to God. From Hebrew, 'Save now, we pray.'
- **Idolatry** – the worship of idols in place of God.
- **Incarnation** - in traditional Christianity is the belief that the second person of the Trinity, also known as God the Son or the Logos (Word), "became flesh" by being conceived in the womb of Mary.
- **Judeo-Christian** - a term used by many Christians since the 1950s to encompass perceived common ethical values based on Christianity and Judaism.

- **Koine Greek** - Greek of the New Testament and Septuagint.
- **Last Judgment** – after the resurrection of the dead, at the end of the world, God will decree the final destinies of all people according to the good and evil in their earthly lives.
- **Last Supper** – the meal eaten by Christ with His disciples the night before His Crucifixion, during which he instituted the Eucharist.
- **Logos** - (Greek: *logos*, that is, "word", "discourse" or "reason" i.e. rationality or reasoning) is a name or title of Jesus Christ.
- **Lord's Prayer** – the prayer taught by Jesus to His disciples.
- **Messiah** – Jesus Christ, the Redeemer and bringer of Salvation.
- **Mosaic covenant** – (named after Moses). The covenant (agreement), between God and the Israelites – see Old Testament.
- **New Covenant** - is used in the Bible (both in the Hebrew Bible and the Greek New Testament) to refer to an epochal relationship of restoration and peace following a period of trial and judgment. It is "a bond in blood sovereignly administered by God."
- **New Jerusalem** – the final abode of souls redeemed by Christ.
- **New Testament** (sometimes called the "new covenant") - translation of the Greek. Western Christianity so names its Greek scriptures to distinguish them from the Hebrew scriptures ("Old Testament"). It consists of "Gospels," Epistles, and the Apocalypse (Revelation).
- **Nicene Creed** – the Creed adopted in the city of Nicaea by the 1<sup>st</sup> Council of Nicaea in A.D 325.
- **Old Testament** - name used by Western Christians for the Hebrew scriptures to distinguish them from the Greek scriptures, which they call the "New Testament".
- **Paraclete** – means advocate or helper. In Christianity refers most commonly to the Holy Spirit.
- **Parousia** - advent or appearance of the Messiah and the Messianic Age.
- **The Passion** – dependent on views, it may include events from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem up to His Resurrection.
- **Pentateuch** - the first five books of the Bible.

- **Pentecost** – commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Christ. Celebrated the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday from Easter Sunday.
- **Pharisees** - The Pharisees were at various times a political party, a social movement, and a school of thought in the Holy Land during the time of Second Temple Judaism (536 BCE–70 AD). After the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 AD, Pharisaic beliefs became the foundational, liturgical and ritualistic basis for Rabbinic Judaism.
- **Predestination** - in theology, is the doctrine that all events have been willed by God, usually with reference to the eventual fate of the individual soul.
- **Propitiation** - is the act of appeasing or making well-disposed a deity, thus incurring divine favour or avoiding divine retribution.
- **Rapture** - the belief that either before, or simultaneously with, the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to earth, believers who have died will be raised and believers who are still alive and remain shall be caught up together with the resurrected dead believers in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.
- **Redemption** – the action of saving or being saved from sin, error, or evil. Christ redeemed us on the Cross.
- **Resurrection** – coming back to life after death. The death and resurrection of Jesus is the central focus of Christianity.
- **Righteousness** – the quality of being morally correct and justifiable. Leading a life pleasing to God.
- **Sacrament** – in the Christian Church, a ceremony that imparts divine grace, e.g. Baptism or the Eucharist.
- **Salvation** – the saving of the soul from sin and its consequences. Only possible through Christ, whose death on the Cross was the once-for-all sacrifice that atoned for the sin of humanity.
- **Sanctification** – the action of making or declaring something holy, e.g. the sanctification of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ.
- **Satan** – is the prince of evil spirits and adversary of God. Commonly understood as an angel cast out of heaven.
- **Second Coming** – (2<sup>nd</sup> Advent or Parousia), is our belief in the return of Jesus. Usually associate with ‘Eschatology’ (End Time).

- **Septuagint** – the Greek Old Testament is the earliest extant Koine Greek translation of books from the Hebrew Bible. Latin: *septuaginta*, ‘seventy’.
- **Sin** – an immoral act considered to be a transgression against divine law.
  - **Original sin** – the doctrine that humans inherit a tainted nature and a proclivity to sin through the fact of birth.
  - **Eternal sin** – sins which will not be forgiven by God, e.g. blasphemy against the Holy Spirit ( see passages in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke).
- **Ten Commandments** – laws handed down to Moses by God on Mt. Sinai. Biblical principles relating to worship and ethics.
- **Transfiguration** – a complete change of form or appearance into a more beautiful or spiritual state. In Christian teaching a pivotal moment. Jesus is transfigured on the mountain: the meeting place of the temporal and the eternal, with Jesus as the connecting point.
- **Transubstantiation** – the change by which the substance (though not the appearance) of the bread and wine in the Eucharist becomes Christ’s real presence – his body and blood. The Church of England does not subscribe to transubstantiation (see ‘39 Articles’), but does affirm the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. A complex subject, worthy of additional research.
- **Trinity** - used as a synonym for God, in order to call attention to the three distinct persons which share the single divine nature or essence. They are traditionally referred to as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- **Via Dolorosa** – (Latin for “Sorrowful Way”). The route through the Old City of Jerusalem that Jesus walked on His way to Crucifixion.
- **Yeshua** - a common name among Jews of the Second Temple Period, and known to be the name used for Jesus by Messianic Jews and Hebrew Christians.