

## Helpful Definitions

**Adonai** - Hebrew for "my Lord." Because of the Rabbinical ban on the pronunciation of the name of God, written as YHVH, or in the Hebrew HVHY, Jews who follow the Rabbinical traditions would use "Adonai" when reading the name of God aloud. Jewish people today also use the terms, "Ha Shem" or "The Name" when referring to God. Either "Yehovah" or Yahweh" are thought to be the correct pronunciation of the name of God.

**Aliyah** - *Aliyah* is the Hebrew word that describes when a Jewish person leaves the country they are living in to move permanently to the land of Israel.

**Biblical Judaism** - God gave Moses the Law, or Torah, at Mount Sinai in approximately 1400 B.C. which initiated biblical Judaism. Biblical Judaism is Scripture only without added oral Rabbinical Law. The destruction of Herod's temple in 70 A.D. saw the end of daily sacrifices as well as biblical Judaism. (See Rabbinical Judaism, and Karaite Jew.)

**Balfour Declaration of 1917** – A formal statement of policy by the British government stating that "His Majesty's government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object..." The issuance of the Balfour Declaration greatly increased the immigration of Jews to Israel especially after World War I. In this context the term Palestine is sometimes sometime used, wrongly, instead of Israel. (See definition of Palestine)

**Completed Jew** - A term used by some gentiles to describe a Jewish person who has accepted Jesus as the Christ or Messiah. The expression is often perceived as derogatory by non-believing Jews, the implication being that they are incomplete, less than a whole person, if they don't accept who Jesus claimed to be. "Messianic Jew" is the preferred term.

**Dead Sea Scrolls** - A collection of writings that were written from approximately 175 B.C. to 68 A.D. The scrolls were placed in caves to protect them from being destroyed during the first Jewish-Roman War. Three Bedouin boys tending their sheep near Qumran, which is on the northwest shore of the Dead Sea, originally discovered the scrolls in 1947. Over the course of nine years archeologists discovered that the scrolls contained every book of the Old Testament except Esther, as well as apocryphal and codes of ethics for the community that lived there. Previously, the oldest complete set of the Old Testament was the "Leningrad Codex" written in approximately 1010 A.D. The Dead Sea Scrolls are widely recognized as the most important archaeological discovery ever made in Israel.

**Diaspora** - Refers to the forced expulsion of a people-group from their native land. The first Jewish Diaspora began with the Jews being taken to Babylon in 586 B.C. The second Diaspora occurred when Hadrian suppressed the Second Jewish Revolt in 135 A.D. Jewish people were either sold into slavery throughout the Roman Empire or fled due to various decrees prohibiting them from living in Judea. Jewish people lived in the "Diaspora" until Israel became a nation again in May of 1948.

**Dome of the Rock** - The golden-domed Islamic shrine, located on the Temple Mount, is often associated with the skyline of Jerusalem. It was built between 687 and 691 A.D. by Muslim leader

Umayyad Caliph Abd al-Malik. Christian and Jewish historians believe that the rock, located at the center of the octagonal building, is the top of Mount Moriah where Abraham was commanded to sacrifice his son Isaac. It is also the site where the Ark of the Covenant rested in the holy of holies in Solomon's temple. Muslims believe that the prophet Muhammad and the angel Gabriel "ascended to heaven" to meet with God and Moses at this site, known as the "Night Journey." Muslims point to this event in their claim that the Dome of the Rock is the third holiest site in Islam.

**Fall of Jerusalem, 70 A.D.** – This was the decisive event in the struggle between the Jews and the oppressive Roman Empire. The Roman army, led by the future Emperor Titus, with Tiberius Julius Alexander as his second-in-command, besieged and conquered the city of Jerusalem, which had been occupied by its Jewish defenders in 66 A.D. The city and its famous temple were destroyed. Temple sacrifices came to a halt, Rabbinical Judaism expanded and Jews were scattered or “dispersed” throughout the world. This scattering is referred to as the Diaspora.

**Gentile** - Jews refer to anyone who is not Jewish, regardless of ethnicity or religious belief, as a gentile. In the Bible, gentiles are sometimes referred to as “nations,” “foreigners,” and “aliens.” The most important translation of the Hebrew word for gentile was *goyim* (singular *goy*), a term with a broad meaning of "peoples" or "nations" which was most commonly used as a generic label for other peoples. Strong's Concordance defines *goy*, or *goyim*, as nations or people of non-Hebrew descent, that is, people who are not descendants of Abraham.

**Hebraic Christian** - A Jewish person who accepts Jesus as his Savior and then chooses to worship and follow the teachings and traditions of the Christian church. Not the same as Messianic Jew.

**Josephus** - Flavius Josephus was a Jewish Historian who lived from 37 A.D. to 100 A.D. His writings provide the most comprehensive account outside of the Bible of life during the first century A.D.

**Karaite Jew** - A Jewish movement characterized by the recognition of the Tanakh, that is our Old Testament, as its religious authority. The Hebrew word *kara* (*qara*) means to “call out” or to “proclaim.” Karaites maintain that all of the commandments handed down by Moses were recorded in the written Torah. As a result, Karaite Jews do not accept as binding the Mishnah, Talmud, or Rabbinic decrees which were added in later.

**May 14, 1948** - The day that is recognized as the formation of the State of Israel. On May 15, five Arab nations attacked the new nation in hopes of eliminating a Jewish homeland. Arabs refer to this day as al-Nakba, "the Catastrophe/Cataclysm."

**Messianic Jew** - A Jewish person who accepts Jesus as the Messiah and believes in both the Old and New Testament as Scripture. A Messianic Jew will often retain all of their religious and cultural background and "graft-in" Jesus as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophesies. As with Christianity, there are several denominations or organizations within Messianic Judaism. The majority of Jewish people completely reject Messianic Jews as being part of Judaism because of their belief in Jesus. (See Nazarene.)

**Nazarene** – Not to be confused with the Old Testament “Nazirite.” The Nazarenes were originally Jewish converts to Yehoshua (Jesus). The Nazarenes fled Jerusalem after it was under siege by Rome. They fled to Pella, Peraea, northeast of Jerusalem, and eventually spread outwards to Berea and Bashanitis where they settled permanently. Even though they had distinguished themselves from the Gentile Christians, and had kept their Jewish practices, they were persecuted by the Jews because of their belief in Jesus. The Nazarene’s became what we now call Messianic Jews.

**Palestine** - The area of land that encompassed the Biblical lands of Israel. The land of Palestine was first named by Roman Emperor Hadrian after he crushed the Second Jewish Revolt, also known as Bar Kochba Revolt; in 135 AD Hadrian renamed Judea Palestine to insult the Jewish population. "Palestine" is a derivative of Philistine. From 135 AD to 1918 AD this part of the Middle East was a province or territory of the current ruling Empire - Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Crusaders, Mamluks, Ottomans and British. Palestine was never a sovereign nation. When Britain took control of this area after World War I, it became the "British Mandate of Palestine" (See Balfour Declaration).

**Rabbinical Judaism** - As a result of the destruction of Herod's Temple and therefore the end of daily animal sacrifices in 70 A.D., a group of Pharisees lead by Yohannon Ben Zakkai met to discuss what was to become of Judaism. It was at that point that mainstream Judaism morphed into a new religion that was focused on good deeds and the study of Torah. This series of meetings became known as the "Council of Yavneh." It was decided that the leadership of Judaism would transfer from the temple priesthood to a new leadership called Rabbi's. Rabbinical Judaism has four main denominations today, Orthodox, Reform, Conservative and Hasidic.

**Replacement Theology** – This is an erroneous doctrine that was started by some of the "church fathers" when the leadership of the church passed from Jews to gentiles. This theology believes that the church has replaced Israel, that is, the Jewish people and land, in the purposes of God. This theology states that the covenants, blessings and promises that were given to Israel have been taken away from the Jews and given to the church and that the Jewish people are to perpetually suffer for their rejection of Jesus, thus helping to explain the historical hatred of the Jews by the organized church.

**Second Temple Period** - Officially 536 B.C. - 70 A.D. More specifically, this phrase is used when referring to the time period when Jesus was alive. The second temple refers to the temple that Herod the Great built/remodeled, after it was rebuilt in 516 B.C. by Ezra/ Nehemiah/Zerubbabel. The first temple is the temple that Solomon built.

**Shabbat** -The Sabbath, the seventh day of the biblical week. The biblical day, a twenty-four hour period that begins at sundown on our Friday and continues to sundown on our Saturday evening, according to Genesis 1:5.

**Shema** – A Hebrew word meaning to hear or to listen with the implication of a positive response of obedience. “The Shema” is the central declaration of Judaism. "Hear, O Israel the Lord your God, the Lord is one. Love your God with all of your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deut. 6:4-5). Jesus called this the most important commandment in Mark 12:29.

**Shofar** - An instrument that is made from the horn of a ram or other kosher animal. The sound it makes is known as the "trumpet." The Shofar was used to call the Israelites to worship, assemblies and feasts, Appointments, to announce the beginning of the new month, to warn, to celebrate, and for sounding the alarm for battle.

**Six Day War** - Also known as the 1967 Arab-Israeli War. President Nasser of Egypt stated what six Arab nations sought to achieve, that "Our basic goal is the destruction of Israel." When diplomatic efforts failed and with the massing of thousands of Arab soldiers on Israel's borders, Israel launched a preemptive strike against the Egyptian Air Force bases in the Sinai, leaving only 12 planes to defend the entire country. With total air superiority, over the next five days, the Israeli forces were able to capture the Sinai, West Bank, Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and the City of Jerusalem. It was nothing short of a miracle.

**Son** – The Hebrew word *ben*, meaning "son," is used for not only a physical offspring but also for "one who bears the likeness of" or "one who is sent from" or "one who represents the Father's (family's) name (character, essence)." By bearing the likeness of both God and man, Yehoshua is both Son of God and Son of Man.

**Son** - Hebrew word *ben* (Strong's #1121) from the root word *banah* (Strong's #1129) meaning "to build, establish or cause to continue." Is used for not only a physical offspring but also for "one who bears the likeness of" or "one who is sent from" or "one who represents the Father's (family's) Name (character, essence)" As in **Exodus 4:22** - *Then say to Pharaoh, 'This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son... and Hosea 11:1* - *When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. By bearing the likeness of both God and man, Yehoshua is both Son of God and Son of Man. Isaiah 9:6* - *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

**Talmud** - Considered the written record of centuries of discussion expounding on what they call the Oral Law of Judaism. It consists of two parts, the *Mishna* (text) and the *Gemara* (commentary). There are two versions of the Talmud: the Babylonian Talmud, dating from the fifth century A.D. and the earlier Palestinian or Jerusalem Talmud from around the third century A.D.

**Tanakh** - The Hebrew Scriptures or, what Christians call the Old Testament. The word *Tanakh* is an acronym (TNK) from the first letters of the three parts of the Hebrew Scriptures: *Torah* (Books of Moses), *Neviim* (Prophets) and *Ketuvim* (Writings). Jesus refers to this order in Luke 24:44. The Hebrew/Jewish Bible (*Tanakh*) is arranged slightly differently than the Christian Old Testament.

**Torah** – The term *Torah* (Hebrew: תּוֹרָה, "teaching" or "instruction", but in most English translations it is translated as from the Greek to the word "Law"). Torah refers to the Five Books of Moses, or what Christians know as the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy and Numbers. The Torah consists of three main sections - civil, moral and sacrificial laws. The Torah was the "constitution" of the new Jewish nation.

**Temple Mount** - A thirty-five acre raised compound in the old city of Jerusalem which was the location of the Jewish Temples, first King Solomon's and then Herod's. Herod the Great started an expansion project in 20 B.C. and finished eighty-three years later in 64 A.D. Today the Dome of the Rock sits on the original location of those temples. During the Six Day War Israel took control of the Temple Mount for the first time in over 1900 years. As a show of good faith and in hope of peace, the Israeli government decided to give management of the site over to an Islamic council, known as the Muslim Waqf, an Islamic Trust. Both Israel and the Palestinian Authority claim sovereignty over the site.

**Type (or typology)** - Typology is a special kind of symbolism. It is also referred to as a "picture," a "shadow," a "copy" or a "type" in scripture, and is defined as a prophetic symbol of something yet to come. More specifically, a type in scripture is a person or thing which foreshadows a person or thing in the future. Scripture itself identifies several Old Testament events as types of Christ's redemption, including the tabernacle, the sacrificial system and the Passover. Therefore, a type or picture is a way to communicate a multifaceted spiritual truth in such a way as to enable our minds to begin to more fully grasp the depth of its actuality.

**Western Wall** - Also known as the "Wailing Wall." This is the holiest place in the world to a Jewish person. The Western Wall is part of the retaining wall that Herod the Great built in order to expand the Temple Mount. When the Old City of Jerusalem was captured during the Six Day War, Jews were able to worship here freely for the first time since 135 A.D. when the Roman Emperor Hadrian expelled the Jews from Judea.

**Yehoshua** - The Savior's (Jesus') name in Hebrew. *Yeshua* means salvation and *Yehovah* is our God's proper name (YHVH); therefore, the name *Yehoshua* means God is Salvation or God Saves. Thus, the statement of the angel to Joseph in Matthew 1:21 takes on deeper meaning as we hear a clear declaration of Deity – *She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Yehoshua (God Saves), because he will save his people from their sins.* In the New Testament, Yehoshua was originally written in the Greek as *Iesous* and transmuted as "Jesus" in the English. (Refer to – **What was Jesus" Real Name, Chart #7**)

**Yehovah** – The proper name for the Creator of the Universe, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The Triune God who desires a personal relationship with His people and told Moses that His name is/was/will always be: "I AM THAT I AM". It is written in Hebrew with the letters represented by YHVH and sometimes pronounced as Yahweh.

**Yeshua** - The shortened version of our Savior's Hebrew name, Yehoshua. The word, as it stands alone, means salvation.

**Yom Kippur War** - Also known as the 1973 Arab–Israeli War, was a war fought by the coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria against Israel from October 6 to 25, 1973.

**Zionism** - A political movement that believes the Jewish people should have a national homeland. It was formally founded in 1897 by Theodore Herzl. Today Zionism reflects a nationalistic pride in the country of Israel that encourages Jews to live in the land.