

EfM
EDUCATION for MINISTRY
ST. FRANCIS-IN-THE-VALLEY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VOCABULARY

(Main sources: EFM Years 1-4; *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*; *An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church*; *The American Heritage Dictionary*)

Aaronic blessing – “The Lord bless you and keep you”

Abba – Aramaic for “Father”. A more intimate form of the word “Father”, used by Jesus in addressing God in the Lord’s Prayer. (27B) To call God *Abba* is the sign of trust and love, according to Paul.

abbot – The superior of a monastery.

accolade – The ceremonial bestowal of knighthood, made akin to a sacrament by the church in the 13th century.

aeskesis –An Eastern training of the Christian spirit which creates the state of openness to God and which leaves a rapturous experience of God.

aesthetic – (As used by Kierkegaard in its root meaning) pertaining to feeling, responding to life on the immediate sensual level, seeing pleasure and avoiding pain.

(aesthetics) – The study of beauty, ugliness, the sublime.

affective domain – That part of the human being that pertains to affection or emotion.

agape – The love of God or Christ; also, Christian love.

aggiornamento – A term (in Italian meaning “renewal”) and closely associated with Pope John XXIII and Vatican II, it denotes a fresh presentation of the faith, together with a recognition of the wide natural rights of human being and support of freedom of worship and the welfare state.

akedia – (Pronounced ah-kay-DEE-ah) Apathy, boredom, listlessness, the inability to train the soul because one no longer cares, usually called “accidie” (AX-i-dee) in English.

Alexandrian theology – The streams of thought that issued from Clement of Alexandria, Origen, and Athanasius, forming a distinctly Greek Christian tradition.

alienation – A state of affairs that exists when one is alien, foreign, a stranger in regard to others, canceling out the communion or companionship which overcomes loneliness..

allegory – A narrative in which the agents, action and sometimes the setting not only make sense in themselves but also signify another correlated structure of ideas. A form of writing that expresses some deeper sense of reality than is superficially apparent.

amanuensis – Secretary or scribe, trained in writing letters.

Amarna letters – Dating from the 14th century BCE and found in the archives of Pharaoh Akh-en-Aton, they were sent by semi-independent city-kings in Canaan to their overlord, the pharaoh asking for his help in putting down destructive raids by a (semi-)nomadic group living on the fringes of civilization.

amen –Greek for “truly” or “I believe or concur”.

am ha-arets – Peasants (literally “people of the land,”) generally applied to Galileans, with the implication that they were ignorant in religion as well as in other ways.

amphictyony – A confederation of twelve tribes for the maintenance of a central shrine, each tribe taking its turn for every month of the year. (There seems to be a twelve-tribe pattern in the case of several ancient peoples beside Israel.)

Anabaptists – Various radical groups of the Reformation of the 16th century that insisted that only adult baptism was valid and held that true Christians should not bear arms, use force, or hold government office. They looked to the Scriptures as the sole authority for Christian life. Strongly persecuted (and many put to death) for their beliefs, some groups practiced communal living and one group, polygamy, for awhile.

analogy – In a theological analogy, one can say that God is like something in actual human experience, but God is not *just* like it; an analogy both affirms and denies.

analogy of being – A form of reasoning in which one thing is inferred to be similar to another thing in a certain respect on the basis of the known similarity in other respects. (Thomas Aquinas said that the created order bears the image of God, and between God and his world there is an ‘analogy of being’. God and nature are not the same, but they are like each other.)

analytical knowledge – Kant’s phrase for the kind of knowledge which searches deeply for the implications of the ideas that the mind possesses.

anamnesis – Greek word for “remembrance.” (See “remembrance.”)

anathema – A formal declaration of complete separation from the Body of the faithful. Anathemas were pronounced in medieval times against all who broke into churches and any who molested the poor, the clergy, and the merchants.

anchorites – (From the Greek meaning “to withdraw”) Men who withdrew from normal life and went into the desert, the earliest being hermits. Communities of hermits were called eremetical communities.

anthropomorphism – Using human characteristics to describe that which is not human (as in God).

Antichrist – Not a beast from the pit, but false teachers who lead people astray from the true Christ, associated with the “last days.”

antipope – A person claiming to be pope in opposition to the one lawfully elected or accepted as pope by the church. (During the Great Schism, one pope was in Rome and one in Avignon, the latter one generally being considered the antipope.)

apartheid – An official policy of racial segregation once promulgated in the Republic of South Africa and not totally done away with.

Apatheia – Greek for “not suffering”, detachment, a condition when one is no longer controlled or seriously influenced by the common human passions, used by Clement of Alexandria in his understanding of Christian perfection. Clement said it is a state of abundance, rather than of lack. “Fulfillment” may be the best translation. It was to be achieved by continuous meditation on scripture and by constant warfare against the demons.

apocalypse – A special revelation by God concerning future events; generally written in times of persecution, it reveals the final events that will occur when the kingdom of God is about to be established with the coming of YHWH or his Messiah. In apocalyptic writing strange symbols are used, both to convey a sense of mystery and to prevent oppressors from understanding their message. (See 25A, p. 449; 27A, p. 486; 32A, p. 599)

apocalyptic – From the Greek word meaning “to uncover” or “to reveal.” Pertaining to prophetic disclosure.

Apocrypha – Meaning “hidden things”, the Biblical Books received by the early Church as part of the Greek version of the Old Testament, but not included in the Hebrew Bible.

apodictic (apodeictic) law – A law expressed in a short direct commandment.

Apollinarianism – A movement declared heretical in the 4th century CE which denied the proper humanity of Christ.

Apollinarius – Bishop of Laodicea in Syria who said that Christ is just one divine person who took only a human body and animal soul, but not a human “rational” soul.”

Apology – An explanation of a philosophical position.

apophatic – The “emptying” kind of piety practiced by Eastern monks where the mind climbs from the distractions of the world to a silent wordless vision of God. The knowledge of God that comes to the emptied soul is knowledge without content; it is a presence, not a vision.

apostasy – “Turning aside” or abandoning YHWH.

apostle – Personal representative or agent.

apostolate – The duties, office, or mission of an apostle.

Apostolic Fathers – Christian leaders who developed the church’s agenda during the first few centuries of its life. Their writings are held in high esteem, often second in authority only to Scripture.

apostolic succession – The method whereby the ministry of the Christian Church is held to be derived from the apostles by a continuous succession of bishops through the laying on of hands from the time of the apostles until now.

“apotropaic” rites – Rites which give protection, usually from some kind of demon or evil spirit.

a priori – Deductive; from cause to effect; prior to, and furnishing the basis of experience; innate, or based upon innate ideas.

Aramaic – A Semitic language similar to Hebrew that became the language used throughout the ancient Near East for diplomatic and business transactions. (By the time of Jesus, Aramaic was the language spoken by the Jews, and Hebrew was, in a sense, a “dead” language.)

Arameans – The Semitic peoples from the Tigris-Euphrates basin from whom Abraham came, but who, in later centuries, would make war against the northern kingdom of Israel.

archbishop – The title given to important western bishops.

archetype – An original model or type after which other similar things are patterned; a prototype.

Arianism – The doctrines of Arius, an Aristotelian theological worldview declared heretical, denying that Jesus was of the same substance as God and holding instead that he was only the highest of created beings.

Ark of the Covenant – A portable box which may have contained the tablets of the law, symbolizing Yahweh’s presence with the Israelites.

Arminianism – Opposition to Calvin’s determinism (predestination). The founder of this view was Jacob Arminius, a Dutch Reformed theologian who produced a more liberal school of theology. His views exercised considerable influence on the formation of modern Dutch and European Protestant theology. John Wesley held an Arminian position.

ascetical theology – The discipline of the spiritual pilgrimage.

asceticism – The discipline of strict self-control at all levels of body, feeling, thought, and imagination. It is intended to foster love and charity.

ascetics – Following and worshiping God in our individual lives.

asyndeton – Perhaps a Semitism that Mark uses in his Gospel, unusual in classical Greek, of omitting the Greek part of speech known as a “particle” from the beginning of his sentences. (No way to show this in English.)

Athanasius – 4th century bishop of Alexandria who opposed the powerful Arianizing party and was frequently deposed and exiled both by the emperors Constantine II and Constantius

Atonement – In Christian theology, man’s reconciliation with God through the sacrificial death of Christ.

attrition – Sorrow for sin arising from fear of what it would bring in punishment (as opposed to “contrition”). The scholastic theologians defined it as an imperfect sorrow; yet it was still sufficient to win forgiveness.

Aufklärung – The German enlightenment where its own form of Deism appeared.

Augsburg Confession (25C, 32C) – A statement, both moderate and conservative, of what the Lutheran princes and cities believed at the time of the Reformation. It is still the official standard of Lutheran faith.

auricular confession – Confession heard by the priest alone.

Autocephalous Churches of the Orthodox East – The fourteen different Eastern Orthodox churches which are self-governing national churches, all of whom form one communion. They have retained the theology, liturgical practices, and spiritual discipline of the ‘imperial church’ era virtually intact.

autonomous – Independent (not needing God).

Baals – Fertility gods worshiped by the Canaanites, an agricultural people. For centuries the Israelites were tempted to worship the Baals instead of Yahweh.

“Babylonian Captivity” – Used metaphorically by Petrarch and others to refer to the exile of the Popes at Avignon from 1309 – 1377.

Baha’i – A religion founded in 1863 in Iran and emphasizing the spiritual unity of all mankind. They stress a religion based on humanitarianism, pacifism, and universalism.

The ban – In Anabaptist belief, expulsion from the church and the shunning of any who refused to repent after being admonished by the congregation three times. This meant that they were truly lost and that their doom was sealed for all eternity.

basileia – Greek word for “kingdom”, behind which lie the Aramaic and Hebrew words meaning “reign,” “dominion,” or “sovereignty.”

Basil of Caesarea – Energetic and able bishop who helped to clarify how we think and speak of God.

bat qol – The heavenly voice (literally “daughter of a voice”); At Jesus’ baptism and the Transfiguration, the voice declared him to be God’s beloved son.

Beguines – Small groups of women who sought to live by the gospel of Christ. They formed semi-monastic communities engaged in works of charity and regular prayer, but took no formal vow. They were condemned as heretical at a church council in 1311 but eventually given respect and recognized.

beit ha-midrash – Hebrew school of interpretation.

benefice – In Roman law, a small landowner could deed his land to someone wealthier and retain the right to use and enjoy a portion of it. The land he retained for his own use was his benefice. Royal benefices were given immunity from the reach of royal law.

bishop – In the Church hierarchy of Ignatius of Antioch, a bishop presided over a single congregation with presbyters and deacons under him. As membership of the church grew, the bishop was in charge of a geographical area.

blasphemy – A contemptuous or profane act, utterance, or writing concerning God.

book of life – A scroll on which God has written the names of the faithful, mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures (Exod. 32:32; Ps. 69:28).

bourgeoisie – The new merchant (middle) class in the 19th century.

breviary – The liturgical book containing the Psalms, hymns, lessons, prayers, etc., to be recited in the Divine Office of the Roman Catholic Church.

broad church – A mid-nineteenth century term to describe an approach to the doctrine and worship of the Church of England which was more tolerant and liberal than the views of the existing low church and high church parties.

Buddhism – A religion that believes suffering is inseparable from existence, but inward extinction of the self and of the senses culminates in a state of illumination beyond both suffering and existence. (6th cent. BCE)

bull (papal bull) – A papal letter of a more serious and weighty kind.

Byzantium – Former Greek-speaking city near which, in 330 CE, Constantine built his new capital city of Constantinople.

Cabala – Jewish mystical writings; an occult theosophy of rabbinical origin, widely transmitted in medieval Europe, based on an esoteric interpretation of the Hebrew Scriptures.

Caesaropapism – Imperial control of the church.

Calvin's Catechism – A brief confession of faith, written by John Calvin, required to be taken publicly by all citizens of Geneva. (See "Geneva Catechism".)

canon law – The body of ecclesiastical rules or laws imposed by authority in matters of faith, morals, and discipline.

canon of scripture – Authoritative list of books regarded as sacred; the source of revelation and the basis of faith.

canonical hours – Prayers made at the third, sixth, and ninth hours. Perhaps the origin of the offices of *matins*, *terce*, *sext*, *none* and *vespers*. Two other hours, *prime* and *compline*, seem to have begun in monastic communities.

Cappadocian Fathers – The three brilliant leaders of philosophical Christian orthodoxy in the later 4th century, all Cappadocians by birth, namely *St. Basil the Great*, Bishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia, *St. Gregory*, Bishop of *Nazianzus*, and *St. Gregory*, Bishop of *Nyssa*. They were the chief influence which led to the final defeat of Arianism at the Council of Constantinople of 381, helping to lay the foundations for the final formation of trinitarian doctrine at the Council of Chalcedon in 451.

Cardinal – Principal. (In Rome, since before Constantine's time, each district had a principal church, where baptisms were performed. The presbyter in charge was called a 'cardinal presbyter'. By the 8th century, incumbents of the bishoprics in Rome were referred to as 'cardinal bishops'. These were the clergy whose influence swayed the election of popes, and they were all Romans.)

Caroline Divines – Those Anglican divines (clergy) of the 17th century who stressed the Catholic elements in the Anglican heritage.

Carolinian – Of or relating to Charlemagne and his times.

catechumenate – Training and instruction preparatory to baptism, originally over a period up to three years.

categorical imperative – Kant's phrase for the sense of duty one feels, the realization that "ought" is built into the structure of human reason.

the Cathari – A medieval heretical sect in southern France who rejected the flesh and material creation as evil. Their doctrine was strongly dualist.

catholic – Universal.

catholic epistles – The letters of James, Jude, and 1 and 2 Peter, intended for the entire Christian church; more often now called the "general letters."

Catholic Reformation – The revival of the Roman Catholic Church in Europe, from about the middle of the 16th century to the period of the Thirty Years War (ending 1648) that stirred up the church against the abuses of the Renaissance age. (Also called the "Counter Reformation".)

casuistic law – Instructions as to what to do under certain circumstances.

causality – An agency or force which causes something to happen.

Celts – (Pronounced either "selts" or "kelts".) An ancient ethnic group who migrated from Asia Minor through central Europe and Gaul to Britain.

cenobitic communities – Anchorites who shared life together, working and praying as a body.

chantry – An endowment to say Masses and prayers for a founder, or for those designated by the founder, and by extension, the chapel where the Masses were said.

charismatic – Having spiritual gifts.

charismatic gifts (*charismata*) – Wisdom, knowledge, faith, ability to heal, do miracles, prophesy, interpret – all gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Charismatic Renewal – A Pentecostal movement that began appearing in mainline churches, including the Roman Catholic Church, beginning in the 1950s. Charismatics believe that spiritual gifts associated with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, including the gift of tongues, can be experienced at a deep level through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

chasidim – The "pious ones" or "godly ones", sometimes translated as "saints". Jews who held fast to the old ways of Judaism, keeping the commandments of Torah and preserving the old customs. Helped to influence the success of the Maccabean revolution. (P. 653) (Polish Jewish mystics who rebelled against formalistic Judaism and ritual in the 18th century and who brought back ritual dance into the synagogue. Both dance and music had been banned after the fall of the Temple in 70 CE.)

cherem – Part of the concept of "holy war," it refers to the designation of people and property as "devoted to YHWH" and therefore subject to confiscation and destruction.

cherubim – Plural of *cherub*, winged creatures, frequently lion-like. In ancient mythology they were the protectors of the gods. In the Temple in Jerusalem, they were placed in the “holy of holies” with their wings touching across the top of the “ark”.

chesed – Means such things as *loyalty, trust, truthfulness to one’s own nature, concern and love without sentimentality*. To say that *chesed* is love without sentimentality is not to say that it is love without tenderness. The New Testament words for *grace* and *agape* carry some of this meaning. (Translated as *lovingkindness* in King James and *steadfast love* in RSV.)

chiliasm – (From the Greek *chilioi*, “one thousand”) The belief that an earthly kingdom of Christ would follow his second advent and last for a thousand years. Also called “millennarianism.”

chi rho – In Greek, “X” “P”, the first two letters for “Christ.”

Christendom – The Christian world.

christology – The study of the Person of Christ, and in particular of the union in Him of the Divine and human natures.

Christos – Greek word meaning “anointed,” equivalent to the Hebrew “Messiah.”

circumlocutions – Words used to get around direct speech, such as “my lord” for YHWH, which grew increasingly common in later Israel.

cities of refuge – Cities where people could be safe from the threat of blood killing.

colophon – A paragraph often found at the end of a manuscript giving information about authorship, etc.

common lectionary – The Roman Catholic three-year lectionary from Vatican II, modified by an ecumenical committee to be used in various churches in North America, including the Episcopal Church.

Commonwealth – That period in England (1649-1659), after a civil war, when King Charles I was removed from the throne and beheaded, where England was under Puritan rule by Oliver Cromwell.

communicatio idiomatum – The interchange of properties between divinity and humanity which makes humanity immortal and allows the impassible God to die.

compenetration – The state of sober inebriation, described by Gregory of Nyssa, where the soul and God emigrate into one another. The soul ‘knows’ God and ‘experiences’ him, but in a paradoxical manner, not a reality like objective reality.

conciliar theory – A movement during the Middle Ages when popes were demanding more authority, and the possibility of their being heretical were real, which held that only a general council “composed of all Christians or of the weightier part of them”, could assist the church in dealing with the matters that cried out for reform.

concupiscence – (Pronounced ‘con-CU-pi-cents’) The word, chosen by Augustine of Hippo, that names the primary characteristic of original sin as the tendency to seek the lesser goods of this world over the supreme good, which is God.

Confessing Church of Germany – The group of German Evangelical Christians most actively opposed to the ‘German Christian’ Church Movement sponsored by the Nazis between 1933 and 1945 and heavily persecuted by the Nazis.

confession – A declaration of religious belief.

Confucianism – Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of the Chinese philosopher Confucius, his teachings, or his followers; not an organized religion, but rather a worldview, a social ethic, a political ideology, a scholarly tradition, and a way of life, an all-encompassing humanism.

conscientization (26D) – A word coined by Latin American liberation theologians meaning the action of the underclass in drawing attention to the dominant class of the injustice and oppression they have imposed on the underclass; a consciousness-raising program to awaken the oppressed masses and those who dominate them to their role in liberation.

consistent Calvinists (34C) – Those Congregationalists in the early 19th century who tried to maintain the revivalistic version of Calvinism, vigorously preaching in the new style and expounding strict Calvinist doctrine. (See “old Calvinists”.)

consistent eschatology – The view that the Kingdom of God will be established in the near future.

consistory – A governing body in Geneva during John Calvin’s time there, made up of twelve elders from the councils and all the ministers, it was the heart of Calvin’s disciplinary system. Its task was to help bring the community into line with the reform.

consubstantiality – Being of one and the same substance. Used by the Nicean Party to describe God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

contingent – In Logic, possessing a truth value derived from facts apart from the proposition itself (used by Thomas Aquinas when developing his proofs for the existence of God).

contingent being – The entire universe of phenomena. (That which appears real to the senses, regardless of whether its underlying existence is proved or its nature understood.)

contrition – A godly sorrow for sin. The scholastic theologians defined it as the sorrow of the head which has its grounds in the love of God.

Coptic Church – The Christian church of Egypt, adhering to the Monophysite doctrine of Christ having only one nature, and that divine.

corban – See “qorban.”

corporate guilt – The belief that the whole community stands guilty for the offenses of one of its members.

cosmogony – The astro-physical study of the evolution of the universe.

cosmology - A branch of philosophy dealing with the origin, processes and structures of the universe.

coterminous – Contiguous; contained in the same boundaries.

Council of Jamnia – A group of rabbis who determined (after the fall of Jerusalem) the Canon of the Hebrew Bible (24 books, counted and arranged differently from our Old Testament).

Counter Reformation – (See “Catholic Reformation.”)

covenant – An agreement or pact between two parties (in this case, God and Noah – and with all humanity).

creation *ex nihilo* – God created everything from nothingness.

creed – A formal statement, concise and authorized, of important points in Christian doctrine.

criterion of consistency – Scholars determine what is historical in the gospels by noting that the broad outline of the gospel accounts of Jesus’ ministry and his ministerial style show remarkable consistency.

criterion of distinctiveness (criterion of dissimilarity) – The tool which scholars use to determine what Jesus may have actually said. If a statement said to have been made by Jesus has no parallel either in first-century Judaism or of what we know the ancient world or of the interests of the early church, then such a saying is likely to have been actually said by Jesus.

critical realism – A way to use the strengths of both modernist and postmodernist approaches to reality, acknowledging with positivists the reality of the thing known as other than the knower (realism) and recognizing that the only way to knowledge is through dialogue and critical reflection by the knower on the thing to be known and the means of knowing (critical), admitting with postmodernists that all claims to knowledge are provisional.

The Crusades – Military expeditions undertaken by European Christians in the 11th – 13th centuries to recover the Holy Land and its sacred sites for Christianity from the Moslems.

crypto- – Secret, hidden.

cult – A particular system of religious worship.

cultic worship – Any form of religious worship.

curia – The Papal court and its functionaries, especially those through whom the government of the Roman Catholic Church is administered.

Cynicism – The ancient philosophy (found both in Greece and Rome) that taught that happiness is found only in temperance, justice, and piety. Self-control is the only means of achieving virtue.

Cyril of Alexandria - A strong bishop, having Alexandrian convictions, devoted to the belief that in Christ, God had consummated an everlasting union with our mortal nature. He was violently jealous over Antioch’s theological pretensions. Had Nestorius banished.

Day of Atonement – The annual Jewish fast day, commonly called “Yom Kippur”, which purpose is the cleansing of sanctuary, priesthood, and people from sin and the re-establishment of good relations between God and His chosen ones. (Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church)

D document – Refers to “new Law” (probably the book of Deuteronomy, Greek for “second law”). The work of this writer is also scattered throughout Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers. Probably a recension.

Dead Sea Scrolls – The name popularly given to the remains of a once considerable collection of Hebrew and Aramaic manuscripts, discovered in caves in the neighborhood of Qumran in 1947 and the years following. Nearly all the books of the canonical Hebrew Bible are represented together with many apocryphal and other writings. No one manuscript has been preserved without damage, and of the great majority there survive only tiny fragments.

The Decades – A collection of Swiss reformer Heinrich Bullinger’s sermons on the doctrine of the church which were required reading for the English clergy during the reign of Elizabeth I.

Decalogue – The Ten Commandments.

deductive reasoning – Reasoning that begins with a self-evident principle (first principle) and then proceeds logically to a specific inference. (A mathematical way to think; subjective proof – “It stands to reason.”) First used by medieval scholastics.

Definition of Chalcedon – The statement of doctrine where orthodox Christology was finally declared in 451. This definition has remained the standard of orthodoxy in both eastern and western traditions to the present.

Deism – The belief (popular in the 18th century), based solely on reason, in the existence of God as the creator of the universe who after setting it in motion abandoned it, assumed no control over life, exerted no influence on natural phenomena, and gave no supernatural revelation. Deists apply rationalism to religion.

Demiurge – The name given by Plato to designate the deity who fashions the material world.

determinism – The philosophical doctrine which holds that the entire universe, including all human activity, is subject to a rigid law of cause and effect which leaves no room for the exercise of free will. The belief that everything that happens in the universe is fixed in advance.

Deus ex machina – An unexpected, artificial, or improbable character suddenly introduced in a play or story to resolve a situation.

Deuteronomic reform (24A, 28A, 5C) – Carried out under King Josiah, it established Jerusalem as the sole center for the cult to YHWH.

diakonia – A Greek word for “ministry”.

diakonos – Deacon or minister. In Greek usage outside the New Testament, it or its cognates are often used in connection with service to the state or to a god and have the basic sense of “work performed on behalf of or for the sake of another” or a go-between. The deacon was intended to meet the outward needs of the church.

dialectic – An argumentative exchange involving contradiction or a technique or method connected with such exchanges.

diaspora – (Dispersion) Jews scattered abroad – living outside of their homeland, Palestine, many in Alexandria.

Diatessaron – Compiled by Tatian, an editing of the four Gospels into a single narrative with many of the difficulties and contradictions ironed out. Very popular in Syria for a time.

diatribe style – Written like a dialogue, with question followed by answer.

Didache (DID uh kee) (7B) – The pattern of instruction in the New Testament. (*Kerygma* – proclamation – always comes before *didache*.) Greek word for “teaching.”

Didache – The earliest example found of a manual of instructions for the conduct of congregational life, probably composed in its present form early in the second century. Such manuals are called Church Orders.

diet – A formal deliberative assembly of princes or other high personages.

disestablishment – The act of depriving of official government support.

dispensation – Licenses granted by ecclesiastical authority to do some act otherwise canonically illegal, or for the remittance of a penalty for breaking such a rule.

ditheism – Two Gods.

The Divine Economy – God’s governance of the universe through the three persons of the Trinity. The Economic Trinity.

Divine Office – The daily service of the Roman Catholic breviary, Morning or Evening Prayer of the Anglican Church, the service of Holy Communion, prayers or rites for any special purpose, such as the offices for the dead.

Docetism – In the early Church, a tendency which considered the humanity and sufferings of the earthly Christ as apparent rather than real. Jesus only *seemed* to be human.

doctrinal statements – Beliefs that are taught to the faithful that describe the basic assumptions of a faith.

documentary hypothesis – The theory that separates four different possible sources which underlie the formation of the first five books of the Old Testament (Pentateuch).

dogmata (dogma) – The church’s essential ‘thoughts’. (19C) In its ancient setting dogma meant a teaching whose truth had been tested in the crucible of religious experience. To many people it has come to mean a teaching to be accepted without a question, subject to no testing at all.

Donatism – A movement of moral rigorists, mainly Berber peasants in North Africa, who protested the election of a bishop for Carthage on the grounds that the man had been ordained by a bishop who had apostasized (denied Christianity) during the last great persecution of Christians under the Roman Empire. Donatists declared that the apostasizing bishop’s hands were “soiled” and so the new bishop’s ordination was not valid. A council of bishops declared the sacramental act was worthy, even when conducted by an unworthy priest or bishop.

doxology – An expression of praise to God.

Druze (or Druse) – A sect in Syria Lebanon, and Israel whose primarily Moslem religion contains some elements of Christianity.

dualism – Two aspects of the world: The material (often thought of as less good; sometimes evil) and the nonmaterial (spiritual). The belief that the universe consists of two different things (mind and matter).

Dunkers Originating in Germany in 1708, they have been called the Church of the Brethren since 1908. They reject infant baptism, insist on baptism by total immersion, are opposed to military service and the taking of legal oaths.

duty – The action of putting what is due someone or some thing ahead of one’s own desires.

Dynamic Monarchianism – A belief that maintained that Jesus was truly indwelt by ‘the divine’, but not by God himself. It was God’s power that was in Christ. This made it possible to maintain that there was only one God.

ebionism – A belief that emphasized that Jesus was a human being and denied his divinity.

ecclesia - A Latin transliteration of the Greek *ekklesia*, meaning “to call out” or “summon”, and in biblical usage it meant the assembly called by God, the church.

ecclesial – Involving the Church.

ecclesiastical - Of or pertaining to the Church

Economic Trinity (11C) – The threefold manifestation of God thin the created universe. (See the “Divine Economy”.)

ecumenical – Worldwide.

ecumenical councils – The gatherings of bishops which formulated Christian doctrine into credal statements that have shaped Christianity.

ecumenical movement – A movement that searches for the reunion of Christianity, transcending differences of creed, ritual and polity.

edict of Milan – In 312 the decree from Constantine that brought an end to the persecutions of Christians in the Roman Empire and signaled the beginnings of the Imperial Church.

ekklesia - See **ecclesia**.

elder – A respected older member of the Christian community whose work could include teaching and preaching.

Elizabethan settlement – The slow, painful sorting out, upon succession to the throne by Elizabeth I, of what would constitute the Church, the Anglican synthesis or *via media*, that would include both Catholics and Protestants.

‘elohim – Hebrew for “the gods”, translated as the one God of Israel (as in “E” document, **Elohist**, “E” writer)

El Shaddai – “God Almighty”, the older name for God used by the patriarchs. (26B) The All-Sufficient.

emanation – A Neoplatonic notion that the universe, streams forth from the One who neither wills nor knows of it, but simply emits its existence, as the sun emits light. The universe is composed of a series of beings, all emanating from the One, each becoming less real the farther it gets from the source, with the world at the farthest extreme from the One. Matter is barely real at all. Outside the material world is the utter chaos of non-being, hostile to the rational character that emanates from the One. The route the human soul must take for salvation is an ascent through the various levels of being, culminating in union with the One.

empiricism – The view that experience, especially of the senses, is the only source of knowledge.

enabling act – An act of the British Parliament in 1786 permitting English bishops to consecrate American bishops without the requirement of subjection to the crown.

Encratites – A title applied to several groups of early Christians who carried their ascetic practice and doctrine to extremes which were in most cases considered heretical. They commonly rejected the use of wine and flesh-meat, and often also of marriage.

encyclical – A letter intended for general or wide circulation.

endogamy – Marriage within only one particular group. After the Exile, a state policy.

The Enlightenment – A philosophical movement of the 18th century, concerned with the critical examination of previously accepted doctrines and institutions from the point of view of rationalism (using reason).

enthusiasm – This term was widely used in the 18th century for extravagance in religious devotion.

epecstasy – What Gregory of Nyssa called his belief that humankind has a ‘tendency for God’. It is the characteristic of the soul that provides the point of contact by which God finds a place in our lives, the image of God in humankind to which God can adhere. It is not equivalent to “mind”, but to goodness, virtue.

ephod - Confusion as to meaning; possibly means a loincloth, an apron, or even a box. May have been used for divination. (See 19A, P. 316).

Epicureanism – A Greek philosophy that taught that our purpose in life can be only to follow as best we may our natural instincts and impulses as they arise. Pain is to be avoided and pleasure sought. Ultimately, the only real pleasure comes from acting virtuously and avoiding the pains of conscience. It never enjoyed much success.

Episcopacy – System of church government by bishops.

episcopal polity – Church government by bishops.

episcopos – See **episkopoi**.

episkopoi – Bishops or overseers (used in *koine* Greek to refer to an “overseer” or “superintendent,”) these were the early officers of the church, not used with the significance that the Christian church uses “bishop” now.

epistemology – The study or theory of the origin, nature, methods, and limits of knowledge; the study of belief, truth, knowledge, and rationality.

eremetical communities – (See “anchorites.”)

eros – Love that seeks fulfillment for oneself which, when corrupted, can give way to passion and seek fleshly pleasure. Gregory of Nyssa taught that *eros* could lead to either a marriage of the flesh or marriage of the Spirit where one is united to God.

eschatology – The study of last things. The imminence of the end time and the catastrophic breaking in of the Kingdom of God. (See “consistent eschatology” and “realized eschatology.”)

eschaton – The final age of world history – A time of the reign of God. (10B) The last things.

Essenes – A separatist religious party within Judaism that may have sprung from the “quietist” wing (Those attempting to hold fast to the ways of pacifism and the devout life) of the chasidim.

ethics – The principles which we use when we act. The study of good and evil, right and wrong, rules and virtues, character and vice, success and happiness.

ethos – The disposition, character, or fundamental values peculiar to a specific people, culture, or movement.

etiological legend – A story that explains the origins of a thing, a place, a custom, or almost anything else.

etymological legend – A story that explains how a word came about.

eucharistia – Greek for “thanksgivings.” Our word “Eucharist” comes from this.

eudaemonistic – Pertaining to a system of ethics in which the measure of an act is its ability to produce happiness. Hellenistic Greece sought the good life, defined as the life which brings happiness – totally opposite what Judaism taught.

exegesis – Critical analysis; the act of explaining a biblical text.

existentialism – A philosophy that emphasizes the uniqueness and isolation of the individual experience in a hostile or indifferent universe, regards human existence as unexplainable, and stresses freedom of choice and responsibility for the consequences of one’s acts. The idea that people create themselves and their experience by the choices they make.

Exodus – Greek for “the going out”.

exomologesis – Penitence. The ancient practice was simplified by Pope Gregory I.

ex talionis – The law of “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth”, much less bloody than before.

fable (– A story where animals or other non-human beings speak and act like human beings.

‘filioque’ clause – The words “*and the Son*” added to the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed in 589 at the Third Council of Toledo to show that the Father and the Son were of the same substance. It read “... the Holy Ghost who proceedeth from the Father *and the Son*...”

first principle – An idea that is self-evident (like a mathematical axiom.)

form criticism – Based on the work of the source critics, it was an attempt to discover the origin and trace the history of particular passages from the Bible, particularly the Gospels, by analysis of their structural forms. In the 19th and 20th centuries, scholars noted that the gospel narratives consisted to a considerable extent of *chreia*, or vivid anecdotes or maxims. They determined that the gospel materials were shaped to meet the needs of the church, that the separate stories and traditions acquired shape or “form” while being handed on, and that the units were isolated as they were handed on, so their present setting is secondary.

Formula of Concord – A document composed by a group of Lutheran theologians in 1560 for the purpose of bringing peace to contending Lutheran parties. Its language is precise and emphatic, and represents the definitive statement of Lutheran orthodoxy. It was a great political success.

formula quotations – Texts from scripture generally introduced by some such phrase as “This happened in order to fulfill what was written by the prophet.” (Used often in the Gospel of Matthew.)

Free Church – Those denominations that are not established or state churches, and are made up of nonconformists to or dissenters from the Church of England, i.e., Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Methodists, Quakers, and Baptists.

Geneva Catechism – An expansion of Calvin’s Catechism. (See “Calvin’s Catechism”.)

Geschichte – Interpreted events in human history, full of mythical language and ideas; ones seen to be meaningful. (Developed by Rudolf Bultmann.)

Gestalt – A configuration or inclusive pattern. A physical, psychological, or symbolic configuration or pattern so unified as a whole that its properties cannot be derived from its parts.

gezerah shawah – The rabbinic method of biblical interpretation which interprets a phrase in one passage in the light of the same phrase used in another.

gnosis – Knowledge.

- Gnosticism** – A system of mystical religious and philosophical doctrines, combining Christianity with Greek and Oriental philosophies, propagated by early Christian sects that were denounced as heretical. Gnostics believed in a special and often secret knowledge, not available to the public, about the meaning of life and salvation. They believed that people occupied different levels of spiritual maturity, a status that was unalterable. In their view, some people were by nature superior to others.
- God-fearer** – Gentiles drawn to Judaism who were not able or did not choose to become full converts.
- Gordian knot** – An exceedingly complicated problem or deadlock.
- Goths** – A Germanic people that invaded the Roman Empire and sacked Rome in the early centuries of the Christian era.
- grace** – God’s love and protection bestowed freely on mankind, even though undeserved.
- Great Awakening** – A widespread religious revival in the early 18th century in the English colonies of northeastern America. It began among the Dutch Reformed churches of New Jersey, spread to the Presbyterian and Congregational Churches, and reached its height in New England in the 1740s. It was closely associated with the preaching of Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield. The movement was called pietism in Germany and evangelicalism in England.
- Great Commission** – “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations . . . (Matt. 28:18)
- Great Schism** – (Pronounced siz’ um) The breach between Eastern and Western Christianity, traditionally dated 1054. (Also, the period 1378-1417, during which Western Christendom was divided by the creation of antipopes.)
- Gregorian calendar** – The calendar, ordered by Pope Gregory XIII and presently used, that corrected the Julian calendar, which by the 15th century was off by nine days. (See “Julian calendar”.)
- Gregory of Nazianzus** – 4th century Cappadocian Church father whose preaching and teaching skills helped to shift direction of theological thought. He proved to church leaders that Apollinarius’s doctrine of the Incarnation was faulty.
- Gregory of Nyssa** - 4th century Cappadocian Church father and a great theologian who tried to clarify language about God.
- ground of being** – Paul Tillich’s phrase for God as Being Itself, in which all other beings participate.
- Gunpowder Plot** – The attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament and destroy King James I, the Lords and Commons together, in the hope that the Roman Catholics would then be enabled to seize the government. This ended any possible good feelings toward Roman Catholics.
- Habiru** – A word related to the word “Hebrew” but not equivalent to it; apparently a rough class of people who came in from the desert areas and plagued the settled communities; a kind of riffraff who kept harassing Canaan at about the time the Bible speaks of the Israelite invasion of that land.
- haggadah** – A rabbinical term used by form critics which describes the Jesus stories and miracle stories that satisfy curiosity and give sheer delight in a good tale but do not primarily teach how to live.
- halakhah** – A rabbinical term used by form critics which describes the pronouncement stories and Jesus’ sayings that teach the Christian community how to live. (20B) A body of legal decisions not directly enacted into the Mosaic law.
- Halakhic Jewish Christian community** – A community concerned with acceptable ways of keeping the biblical commandments as Jews.
- Hanukkah** – The Jewish Festival of Dedication, associated with the cleansing of the Temple from idolatry.
- Hasidism** – Meaning “pietism”, a sect of Jewish mystics (founded in Poland about 1750) fostered emotional intensity and emphasized prayer and personal devotion in their fervent longing for a Messiah in opposition of the formalistic Judaism and to ritual laxity of the period.
- Hebrew Bible** – The Old Testament.
- Heidelberg Catechism** – The Protestant confession of faith compiled in 1563 when the Elector of the Palatinate, Frederick III, declared for Calvinism, making the region he governed the first German Protestant region to forsake Lutheranism for Calvinism and forming the first German Reformed Church.
- Hellenes** – Either Gentiles or Greek-speaking Jews who had been immersed in Greek culture.
- Hellenism** – The culture of Greece from the time of Alexander the Great (333 BCE) into the first century BCE. Its cosmopolitan character was very attractive to many Jews.

Helvetic Confession – The first was a blend of Zwinglian and Lutheran teachings, primarily authored by Heinrich Bullinger, a Swiss reformer; the second was a lengthy personal confession of faith, a moderate statement of reforming views that came to be widely authoritative in the Low Countries, Scotland, and England, written also by Bullinger.

henotheism – One God for a particular tribe or nation, with the recognition of other gods for other tribes and nations.

herem – The dedication of all the spoils of war.

heresy – A doctrine at variance with established religious beliefs. But more than incorrect doctrine, it is one-sided, containing only some truth and destructive of Christianity.

hermeneutics – Interpretation of scripture to present-day audiences; the science and methodology of Biblical interpretation.

heterodox – Not in agreement with accepted beliefs.

heteronomy – Ruled by another, as opposed to autonomy or theonomy.

High Commission - An ecclesiastical court set up by the crown in the 16th century to enforce royal control over the church.

high places – Local shrines where Hebrew people worshiped before the temple was built. After King Josiah conducts his reform in 621 BCE, such worship is forbidden.

higher criticism – Literary and historical analysis of the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament in contrast to textual criticism. This method of scriptural interpretation was considered a step beyond text criticism (lower criticism) because it was dealing with larger historical problems. Source criticism, form criticism, redaction criticism, and narrative criticism are the most widely used “higher” methods.

Hinduism – A diverse body of religion, philosophy, and cultural practice native to and predominant in India, characterized by a belief in reincarnation and a supreme being of many forms and natures, by the view that opposing theories are aspects of one eternal truth, and by a desire for liberation from earthly evils.

Hippolytan schism – Hippolytus, a theologian, priest, antipope, and martyr of the 3rd century CE, resisted several popes because he was zealous for orthodoxy and a rigorist concerning penitential discipline and was sent into exile to Sardinia.

Historie (history) – Factual recorded events. Scientific history.

Hittite – A much earlier mighty empire; in the Hebrew Bible “Hittite” is frequently used for any original inhabitant of Canaan.

holiness – Set apart from the rest of the world.

holy - A thing or a people belonging to God.

homiletics – The study or art of preaching.

homoiousia – Greek for “of like substance.”

homoousios – From a Greek adjective meaning “having the same essence or essential being or stance as.” Is sometimes translated “consubstantial” in English.

homoousia – Greek for “same essence” but used earlier in a Sabellian sense – the Father and the Son were “the same being.”

hortatory – Given to exhortation, strong urging.

household codes – Literary forms that were lists that outlined the ethical obligations that members of a society or a family had toward each other. A popular mode of expression in the ancient world and one that occurs several times in the New Testament.

hubris – Mankind’s overreaching pride.

Huguenots – French Reformed Protestants.

hule – (Pronounced HEW-lay) For Plato, unformed matter, the raw material, waiting to be shaped by God after the pattern of the eternal Ideas. Manichaeism spoke of God and ‘Hule’ as the two principles from which the world derives. God is the source of the human soul and Hule fashions the body. This suggested that ‘Hule’ was a god.

Humanism – A cultural and intellectual movement of the Renaissance that emphasized secular concerns as a result of the study of the literature, art, and civilization of ancient Greece and Rome.

Hussites – Followers (now known as Moravians) of the Bohemian religious reformer John Huss, a priest who was excommunicated because he supported John Wycliff’s theology. His violent sermons on the morals of the clergy also got him in trouble. See **Moravian Brethren**.

Hutterites – Anabaptists followers of Jacob Hutter who fled to Moravia because of persecution in Switzerland and established a society patterned after the Christian community described in Acts 2.

Hyksos – A people who invaded and took control of the Nile delta sometime between 1750 – 1550 BCE. Some were Semites.

hymn of Miriam – “Sing unto the Lord for he has triumphed gloriously . . .” Sung after Pharaoh’s chariots were drowned in the Red Sea.

hypocrite – (An alternate meaning of) one who is falsely or mistakenly interpreting Torah – getting their priorities wrong.

hypostasis – A semi-independent being existing alongside God at creation who, according to Jewish thought, was a *creature* not to be equated with God. Wisdom was gradually seen as a hypostasis just prior to the time of Christ. (8C) An ambiguous word, meaning something like a particular or concrete expression of a thing. The word came to be preferred in the debates of the Greek theologians to an earlier term, *prosopon*. In later theology the East spoke of the three *hypostases* of the Trinity, rather than the three *personae* (persons).

hypothesis – An unproved or unverified assumption that can be either used or accepted as probable in the light of established facts.

icon – A stylized religious painting, the tradition of which was developed by the eastern churches.

iconoclasm – The destruction of icons.

Iconography – Representations of sacred personages.

Idea – In the philosophy of Plato, an archetype of which a corresponding being in phenomenal reality (the real world) is an imperfect replica.

Idealism – The philosophical theory that the object of external perception, in itself or as perceived, consists of ideas. The view that the material world is produced by the mind.

illative sense – A pattern of thinking that shapes our reason.

immanence, immanent – Nearness of God.

Imperial Church – The church connected to the Roman Empire.

imperium – A sphere of power or dominion. (Here it is referring to the government of Rome.)

Incarnation – The Doctrine which affirms that the eternal Son of God took on human flesh from His human mother when he came to earth. “God made flesh.”

Independents – Those who insisted that the local congregation alone expresses the kingdom of God and should be free of any superior authority, civil or ecclesiastical. They rejected the episcopal organization of the Church of England in the 17th century, magnified preaching as the principal part of the minister’s duty, and attacked “Common-Prayer-Book-Worship”. They were strongest among the Puritan parties.

inductive reasoning – Reasoning that begins by using sense impressions to prove something; used in the Scientific method. Known as objective truth; Empiricism. (Specific to general – objective proof – “Seeing is believing”) First used by nominalist philosophers of the 14th Century.

Indulgences – The remission of a penalty due to forgiven sin in virtue of the merits of Christ and the saints. The later Middle Ages saw the growth of considerable abuses in the sale of indulgences.

infallibility (papal) – The doctrine of the Pope’s inability to err in teaching revealed truth involving faith and morals, a declaration put forth by the First Vatican Council in 1870.

infidel – One who is ‘non-faithful’ to God’s or Allah’s will. Used by both Christians and Moslems.

infralapsarian – Opponents of the ‘supralapsarian’ view believed that God foresaw the Fall *and then* decreed election to salvation as a means of saving some. (See ‘supralapsarian’.)

inner light – The principle of Christian certitude, consisting of inward knowledge or experience of salvation, which is upheld by the Society of Friends (Quakers).

Inquisition - Former ecclesiastical courts in the Roman Catholic Church directed at the suppression of heresy.

The Institutes (of the Christian Religion) – The synthesis of John Calvin’s thought, the classical statement of reformed faith, and the dominant doctrinal influence in the Reformed family of churches.

invocation of saints – The calling on saints as special intercessors to obtain the mercy of God by their prayers.

Iona Community – A community begun in the late 1930s in Scotland to restore a greater depth to Reformed spirituality.

Ioudaios – Jews or Judeans. The Jews the Gospel of John speaks of appear to be Judean.

irenic – Promoting peace; conciliatory.

Islam – A religion, begun in 610 CE, based upon the teachings of the prophet Mohammed, believing in one God (Allah) and in Paradise and Hell, and having a body of law put forth in the Koran and the Sunna.

Israel – The northern kingdom of the Israelites, a loose confederate system (27A).

Jesus Seminars – A series of controversial seminars and publications which have tried to assess the historicity of the words within the texts attributed to Jesus in Christian sources from the first three centuries.

JHWH – (as in “J” document, **Yahwist**, “J” writer) The German form of God’s personal name.

jubilee year – Every fiftieth year.

Judah – The southern kingdom of the Israelites, a more stable system than Israel (27A).

Julian calendar – A calendar established by Julius Caesar in 46-45 BCE, that exceeded the solar year by 11 minutes 15 seconds and was corrected by the Gregorian calendar in 1582.

justification – The word (from the Latin *justus*, meaning “righteous,” and *facere*, meaning “to make”) is used in both the Old and New Testaments to mean “being set in a right relation to another person or to God within the covenant.

justify – To treat as righteous.

Karma – In Hinduism and Buddhism the grand cosmic law of cause and effect; the total effect of a person’s actions and conduct during the successive phases of his existence which determine his destiny.

kataphatic – A style of piety that John Chrysostom practiced which was filled with images of morality and with specific expectations for the moral life of the Christian, seeking to stir up the will by appealing to the heart.

kataphatic spiritual style – An approach to spirituality that is aided in “seeing” more visually through the use of images.

Kenite hypothesis – A theory that suggests that the Kenites had an important influence on the shaping of the Hebrew religion, when Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, shares his tribal Deity and the Deity’s name with Moses, who then, by this God’s power, frees the Hebrews from Egyptian slavery.

Kenites – A people who never really became a part of Israel, even though they lived on or near its borders. According to the traditions of both Israel and themselves, they were the descendants of Cain. They joined with the Hebrews who came out of Egypt to help conquer Canaan and they probably passed on the name YHWH to Moses as the name of the God they worshiped.

Kenotic theories of the incarnation – (From the Greek: to empty) Theories developed by several nineteenth-century Lutheran theologians who held that the divine Son “emptied himself” of the attributes of Godhead in order to become incarnate.

Kerygma – The pattern of proclamation in the New Testament. (The basis for *kerygma* is always *didache*, or instruction.)

Kingdom of God – The rabbinic meaning combined with “accepting the yoke” means to accept God as sovereign. Before and after the Gospels were written, it simple refers to God’s continuing sovereignty over the world and by implication to the duty of God’s people to respond to that sovereignty with obedience and love. An eschatological hope, sometimes coupled in the expectation of the Messiah, expressed In the Judaism of the Gospels, that God will redeem and restore Israel. (33B) The possibility of a world transformed.

koine (koy-nay) – “Common” Greek spoken almost everywhere in the first century CE by the educated and understood to some extent by the less educated. The New Testament is written entirely in *koine*.

koinonia – The communion which exists in the church, where we can enter into the victory of Christ. (See “recapitulation.”)

laos – In the biblical sense, a priestly term for a priestly person; the people of God; God’s faithful people. “Laity” comes from this word.

Latitudinarians(– Certain Anglican scholars of the 17th century who were seeking to separate what they regarded as the truth of Christianity from any mystical or sacramental ideas. The term ‘Latitudinarianism’ was a “put-down”, intending to imply that these clergy attached relatively little importance to dogmatic truth and put more emphasis on reason as the true guide in religion.

lay investiture controversy – The famous dispute dating from the late 11th – 12th century over the claim of the Emperor and other lay princes to invest an Abbot-elect or Bishop-elect with the ring and staff of his office and to receive homage from him before his consecration.

lectio divina – Devout reading and meditation during private prayer, taught by Benedict.

lectionary – An ordered system for reading the Holy Scriptures at the eucharist and the Daily Offices. See **Common Lectionary**.

left-wing Origenism – The belief that asserted that the Son was different from the Father, with the Father being greater than the Son.

legend – A story involving a hero who is important to his people, having some truth, and *showing us what sorts of things the people value.*

levirate marriage – A marriage in which an unmarried brother or next of kin takes the widow of a man who has died without producing an heir. The first child of such a marriage is considered to be the child of the first husband.

Levites – Local priests, originally scattered throughout the tribes of Israel who, when sacrificial worship became centralized in Jerusalem, became a secondary, auxiliary group of temple assistants.

lex orandi lex credendi – An ancient principle meaning “as one prays, so one believes”.

Lex Tallionis – (Latin for “law of retaliation”) The law of “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth”; a modified and less bloody version of the law of blood revenge.

liberation theology – A Latin American response to Vatican II and to the crushing political and economic oppression experienced by the poor which has widened to include all those in the world suffering from oppression of any sort.

“light and heavy” – See *qal wa-homer*.

liturgics (– Worshiping God in community.

Logos – Greek word meaning “word.” Used especially in Christian theology with reference to the Second Person of the Trinity. (6B, 4C, 6C) The term was known both in pagan and in Jewish antiquity. In Hellenistic Judaism the concept of the Logos as an independent hypostasis was further developed (God’s Word), and the Logos also came to be associated with the figure of Wisdom. (6C) In Neoplatonism the Logos is the expression of the inner being of the One; he is God’s ‘face’, his speech, his self-manifestation, the intermediary between the absolute, unchanging, and unspeakable One and the relative, changing, describable universe..

Lollard – A name given to John Wycliffe’s followers by their detractors. (Lollard is from the Dutch *lullen*, “to mutter” or “to chant”.) They called themselves “poor preachers” and preached a return to the simple gospel, but were driven underground by persecution.

Lollardy – Anyone seriously critical of the Church.

low churchmen - The group in the Church of England which gives a relatively unimportant or “low” place to the claims of the episcopate, priesthood, and sacraments, and generally approximates in its belief to those of Protestant Nonconformists (English Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Methodists, Quakers, and Baptists.) It is now applied to Evangelicals within the Church.

LXX – See “Septuagint.”

Macedonianism – The belief that the Holy Spirit was a creature of the Son. Also called “Spirit-fighters” (Pneumatomachians.)

magisterium of the church – Its teaching authority.

Manichaeism – A religion out of Zoroastrianism which prescribed ways of combating material powers and escaping into the world of spirit and light. (Manichaeism was seen by the early Christians as a heresy because it so despised the created world, including the human body, that it could not accept the doctrine of the Incarnation. Named for Mani, a Persian teach, he taught that ‘spirit’ is good and ‘matter’ is evil.

Maranatha – Transliterated from the Greek into Aramaic, meaning “Our Lord, come!” May be liturgical and probably goes back to Aramaic-speaking Christians of the very first years of the faith.

Marcion – A native of Asia Minor, and son of a bishop there, who believed the church had largely lost the essential teaching of Paul – salvation by the love and forgiveness of God. He believed that the Old Testament God was a fallen angel who had lost his vision of the supremacy of love and had created the material world to bring his wrath to bear on those opposed to his will. He accepted the docetic view of Jesus – that he only appeared to be human.

Marduk – Babylonian god who creates order by slaying Tiamat.

Mari tablets – Found in the Tigris-Euphrates valley and dating from around 1800 or 1700 BCE, mostly these tablets kept track of business accounts within the area of Palestine and confirm the kind of life there as described in Genesis.

Marprelate tracts – A series of violent and frequently scurrilous Puritan tracts attacking Episcopacy in 1588 and 1589. They aroused hostility rather than sympathy for the Puritan party.

marshal – The basic sense of this word is “being similar” or “being like”. Used where there was the idea of comparison. (See “parable.”)

Masoretes – Hebrew group who safeguarded the Hebrew Bible by using a system of marks, above and below a consonant letter, to indicate vowel sounds.

matins – In the West the traditional Breviary Office for the night.

Mechanism – The theory that everything in the universe is due to mechanical actions or material forces.

Mennonites – The followers of Menno Simons, originally a parish priest in Dutch Friesland, who renounced the Roman Catholic Church and joined the Anabaptists. They are opposed to church organization, taking oaths, holding public office, performing military service, infant baptism and the Real Presence in the Eucharist. They recognize no common doctrine, with some taking a Unitarian position and others a Trinitarian.

“mercy seat” – Probably the lid of the ark of the covenant.

Messalians – A sect which taught that everyone has a demon united with the soul which can be controlled only by constant prayer. It had spread from Mesopotamia throughout the eastern region of the empire by the middle of the 4th century, and was condemned at the Council of Ephesus in 431 for denying the power of baptism to cleanse the soul.

Messiah – The Anointed One, the One who is to begin the Kingdom.

messianic secret – Biblical critics call Jesus’ forbidding anyone to tell of his miracles. No one realized that Jesus was the Messiah because he himself carefully hid it.

metaphysics – The study of reality at its ultimate level; the study of being and what really exists; all the ultimate questions.

metic – Aliens who could live in a Roman city provided they had a citizen sponsor. They had few legal rights and paid high taxes, but they like the opportunities the cities provided.

Metropolitan – Bishop of the capital city of a province.

Midrash – A set of Jewish scripture commentaries which have special merit; also the name of a style of commentary reflected in the way the Midrash is written.

Millenary Petition – A petition present in 1603 by the Puritans to James I on his way from Scotland to London asking that the English church be freed of certain practices that they considered Romish.

millennarianism – See **chiliasm**.

minim – A term Rabbis used, meaning “sectaries” or “heretics,” whom they perceived as teaching that there were “two powers in heaven.” (The Rabbis never explained whom they were directing this charge against, but Christianity is an obvious possible candidate.) They objected to the notion that any heavenly being could exercise independent authority and see this as a betrayal of the unity of God.

Mishnah – Refers primarily to a method and form of Jewish exegesis (explaining) of Scripture.

mitzvah – Commandment.

Mizpah benediction – “The Lord watch between me and thee . . . ; not a blessing at all, but a warning that God is watching Jacob and Laban to keep them honest.

Modalism – A form of unorthodox teaching on the Trinity which denied the permanence of the three Persons and maintained that the distinctions in the Godhead were only transitory.

Modalistic Monarchianism – Same as Modalism. Also called Sabellianism after its most prominent teacher, Sabellius of Rome.

Modernism – An attitude toward knowledge, begun in the 18th century Enlightenment, that there is such a thing as objective knowledge through careful observation and the use of objective sense data, that the self is autonomous, and that the world was making progress.

Molinist controversy – Miguel de Molinos, a Spanish Quietist, who at first rose to be a celebrated confessor and spiritual director, taught that man, in order to be perfect, must attain complete passivity and annihilation of will, abandoning himself to God to such an extent that he doesn’t even care for his own salvation. He was condemned and imprisoned for life for his teaching.

monad – (An idea proposed by Leibnitz.) He described a monad as being a self-contained and windowless unit, entirely cut off from every other monad but containing within itself a complete mirror of the universe. What appear to be objects are actually interior representations of aspects of the universe.

Monarchianism – A theological movement in the 2nd and 3rd centuries which attempted to safeguard Monotheism and the Unity of the Godhead. There were two forms: Dynamic Monarchianism which maintained that Jesus was truly indwelt by “the divine,” but not by God himself, and Modalistic Monarchianism, which taught that God the Father became flesh as the “Son.” After suffering death in his flesh, he ceased his activity as Son and poured himself forth upon believers as Holy Spirit. (Eventually came to be known as Sabellianism after its most prominent teacher, Sabellius of Rome.)

monasticism – Men sharing life together, and working and praying as a body.

monolatry The view that gives religious validity to a single culture and denies the gods of other cultures.

monologic prayer – Repetition of one word in prayer to drive other thoughts from the mind, found in other traditions besides Christianity.

Monophysitism – A view concerning Christ that in his person there was just a single divine nature, not two natures: one human and one divine.

monotheism – The belief in only one God. According to Schleiermacher, the highest stage of religious development.

Monothelitism – A 7th century heresy confessing only one will and one divine-human operation in Christ. The heresy was of political rather than of religious origin, being designed to rally the Monophysites to their orthodox (Chalcedonian) fellow-Christians when division endangered the Empire, faced with Persian and later with Mohammedan invasions.

Montanism – A movement within the Christian church in the 2nd century, founded by a Christian convert named Montanus, formerly a pagan priest, who proclaimed himself as the chosen vessel for a new movement of the Holy Spirit. His concerns were essentially moral. Montanists were expected to lead lives of absolute perfection and to seek martyrdom. Tertullian was the movement's most famous convert.

moral autonomy – The attempt on our part to decide for ourselves what is good and what is evil; literally means "self rule" or "self law".

moralism – Concern for virtuous conduct.

Moravian Brethren – A Protestant denomination founded in Saxony in 1722 by Hussite emigrants from Moravia. Highly pietistic and missionary-oriented, it operated as a Protestant version of a Catholic monastic order, sending groups to the West Indies, Africa, and the North American colonies. The Brethren have maintained episcopal succession from the days of Huss, and the English Parliament in 1749 recognized the Moravian Church as "an ancient Protestant Episcopal Church."

Mt. Nebo – Where Moses died.

Mt. Sinai (Mt. Horeb) – Where Moses received the Ten Commandments.

Muratorian Canon – An anonymous fragment in very bad Latin, which appears to be a translation of an early fourth-century list of books accepted as apostolic by the Eastern church.

mysterium tremendum et fascinans – "The holy"; the mystery that both attracts by its fascination and terrifies with its overwhelming power; (Rudolf Otto maintains that it is the combination of these two contradictory aspects that makes an experience truly religious.)

myth – A story about (a) god(s) of a particular culture that speaks of the important things at the heart of a religion told within a scientifically impossible story. (Strauss defined myth as "the creation of a fact out of an idea.")

narrative – A story.

nations – All the peoples of the world with whom YHWH had not covenanted.

natural law – In theology, the law implanted in nature by the Creator which rational creatures can discern by the light of natural reason.

natural religion – Religion based on natural reason.

natural theology – The body of knowledge about God which may be obtained by human reason alone without the aid of revelation, grounded on inferences and nature.

Nazirites – People set apart from the rest of society by vows who were protesting against the corruption of Israelite life by the influence of the Canaanite cults. They abstained from alcohol and from anything that might bring ritual pollution.

necessary being – God (who causes contingent beings.)

neo-orthodoxy – A Protestant movement of the 20th century, begun by Karl Barth, that opposes liberalism and aims to revive adherence to certain theological doctrines of the Reformation.

Neo-Platonism – A philosophical system developed at Alexandria in the 3rd century CE, based on a modified form of Platonism combined with elements of Oriental mysticism and some Judaic and Christian concepts. It posited a single source from which all existence emanates and with which an individual soul can be mystically united. It taught that the ultimate One lies beyond all things, and it is impossible to speak of that One at all; a human being is really spirit, akin to the ultimate One which lies beyond all things, but the human spirit is trapped in a material body. Only mystical exercises can help it reach union with the One.

Neo-Pythagoreanism – A school of philosophy that developed in Rome and Alexandria during the first century BCE which was chiefly interested in speculating about the divine. They were profoundly mystical, regarding all existing things as bound together in a universal harmony. They cared for all life and would neither eat flesh, nor wear wool or leather.

Nephesh – Hebrew word meaning "soul" (but without the connotations of an immortal substance or a "spirit" as in the popular use of the word "soul".) It combines the meanings of animation ("aliveness") and uniqueness ("individuality") (See 28A, p. 516).

Neshama – Hebrew word meaning "breath"; is occasionally translated as "spirit" and once as "soul".

Nestorianism – The heretical doctrine that there were two separate Persons in the Incarnate Christ, the one Divine and the other Human, as opposed to the orthodox doctrine that the Incarnate Christ was a single Person, at once God and man.

Nestorius – Student of Theodore of Mopsuestia who absorbed from him that Christianity was based on the Word's having been united to a complete human nature, since there could be no salvation for us if Christ was a hybrid.

new dispensation – The new age, where the Christian community, which is over against the world and not in it, love each other in Christ.

New Learning – The abandonment of scholastic philosophy in favor of a humanist approach to the problems of literature, religion, and manner of living.

nexus – Connection, link, or tie.

Nihilism –A doctrine that all values are baseless and that nothing is knowable or can be communicated; a belief that there is no meaning or purpose to life.

nimshal – An interpretation attached to a written parable.

nirvana –A Buddhist belief in the state of absolute blessedness, characterized by release from the cycle of reincarnations and attained through the extinction of the self.

Noachian commandments – In rabbinic tradition, the basic forms of response to God's grace that would entitle a Gentile to be called "righteous." (From the seven commandments, according to Jewish tradition, originally given to Noah.)

Nominalism – Developed in the middle ages, the theory of knowledge, opposed to Realism, which denies reality to universal concepts. They exist only as names. It stressed freedom of the will and drew a distinction between science and theology, thus allowing science to be investigated without hindrance from theology.

None – In a monastery, the service held at three in the afternoon (the 'ninth hour' of the day) right after the rest period.

non-juring bishop – A bishop who is not required to swear to uphold the monarch as supreme governor of the church. (See 'enabling act'.)

notional assent – John Henry Newman's phrase for believing with the mind alone that God exists, but still open to doubt.

noumenon – Kant's word for pure reality which cannot be known in itself. (He sometimes called this "the thing-in-itself.") At its most profound and ultimate level, God.

Nous – (Pronounced nooss) The Neoplatonic idea of the first emanation from God, the "Idea of Ideas", "the One", which contains the Ideas of all things – in direct contact with "the One" and indirectly related to "the many." Therefore, *Nous* can be thought of as a mediator between "the One" and "the many."

Novatian Schism – A rigorist schism in the Western Church which arose out of the Decian persecution. Its leader, Novatian, a Roman presbyter and the author of an important work on the doctrine of the Trinity, was elected rival Bishop of Rome because his followers were scandalized over the election of a bishop they thought was a betrayer of Christ. The Novatianists were excommunicated, even though they were doctrinally orthodox.

objective – Of or having to do with a material object as distinguished from a mental concept; having actual existence or reality.

obscurantism – Withholding information from the public.

observant – A member of the Franciscan order who tries for a stricter observance of the earlier rule.

oecumene – (Pronounced 'ek yoo-men-nay'.) Greek for 'world' or 'universe'. (The first ecumenical council was at Nicea.)

oikonomia – Greek for "household law" or "rule", used to mean God's governance of the universe. Origen uses it to show how the three persons of the Trinity carrying out their different operations.

old Calvinists – Those within early 19th century Congregationalism in the U. S. who saw themselves as guardians of the original traditions of Puritanism, distinct from the revivalists or liberal rationalists within the church.

omniscience – Knowledge of everything.

ontology – The branch of philosophy that deals with being. The study of what kinds of things actually make up the universe.

Opus Dei – Prayer, the 'Work of God', so named by Benedict.

oracular – Prophetic.

oral tradition – Stories passed on by word of mouth, often for many centuries and with great accuracy, keeping alive the community's culture.

oratory – A congregation of either men or women intended for their sanctification, living in community without vows, observing the evangelical counsels. They aimed at parochial and pastoral renewal, partly by visitation of the sick and work among the poor, prisoners, and orphans and partly through ascetic practices and fixed routine of prayer.

original sin – The belief that there is an inclination to sin in every human being from the very beginning of his or her life. Original sin is the tendency in us that leads us to do acts of sin.

orthodox – Adhering to the accepted or traditional and established faith.

ousia – Derived from the Greek verb “to be,” it means the essence or being of a thing. Latin equivalent is *substantia*; English is poorly translated as “substance.” It is important to remember the Platonic understanding when this word is used.

Oxford Tractarians – An Anglican movement against the rampant individualism of the early 20th century which reaffirmed the church as the principal mediator of salvation and emphasized a high church sacramental life.

Palestine – Roman name for Judea, renamed after the second Jewish war ended in 135 CE.

Panthesism – A form of religion that overemphasizes the immanence of God at the expense of his transcendence.

papal bull – See **bull**.

papism – A hostile term for Roman Catholicism.

parable – An indirect way of communicating a teaching, resembling a lengthy metaphor, and having an unexpected “bite” to it. (16B) From a Greek word which essentially means “comparison.” In the Septuagint it would be something that in English would be called a “proverb” or a “byword.” (Hebrew: *mashal*)

paradigm shift – A change in the way we think that is profound and alters our perceptions in a significant way. A change in the framework within which scientific theories are constructed.

parainesis – Exhortation and advice, divided into two equal parts: encouragement and dissuasion.

parakletos – (English: **Paraclete**) – counselor or comforter (strengthened), the Holy Spirit who strengthens the faithful and convicts the faithless.

parallelism – Verses made up of two or more statements that either repeat the same thought in different words or compare thoughts so as to bring out some inherent relationship between them or to contrast them. The major characteristic of Hebrew poetry.

parallel passages – Story repetitions that have sometimes been woven together.

parousia – In its English form (following New Testament usage) the Second Coming of Christ.

particularism – Functioning with less and less regard for the whole. What nation-states, coming into power all over Europe, did, in place of the medieval sense of universality.

Passover – According to the tradition of Israel, this was the time when God chose Israel to be his special people and promised to be their God forever. This festival, the most important cultic act of Israel, is one of redemption.

patriarchal world – The world of the New Testament where men lead and made decisions and women were subordinate.

patriarchate – The territory of a patriarch.

patriarchs – The forefathers of Israel (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob). The title given to the bishops of important cities in the eastern church.

patripassianism - A form of Monarchianism which arose in the early 3rd century and held that God the Father suffered and died as the Son Jesus, born of Mary. Also known as ‘Sabellianism’.

patristic – Referring to the early Church Fathers.

Pauline - Referring to St. Paul.

pax Romana – “Roman peace”; The stability maintained in the Roman Empire from the time of Augustus Caesar in 27 BCE to the death of Marcus Aurelius in 180 CE.

P document – (**Priestly** writer or “**P**”) Writings using “*Elohim*,” showing concern for things having to do with temple worship, rights and duties of priests, and genealogies; probably a recension.

pedagogy – The art of teaching, instruction.

Pelagianism – The heresy which holds that man can take the initial and fundamental steps towards salvation by his own efforts, apart from Divine Grace. Historically, it was an ascetic movement, begun by Pelagius, a British theologian, who wanted to vindicate Christian asceticism against the charge of Manichaeism by emphasizing man’s freedom to choose good by virtue of his God-given nature. Pelagius believed that if we *will* to be righteous, we can *achieve* righteousness.

penance – The sacrament that brings forgiveness of mortal sins committed after baptism. In the early days a penitent could only be forgiven after the public performance of certain acts, including fasting, almsgiving and pilgrimage, which could take several years. Penance became private sometime between the 6th and 10th centuries and considerably shorter and easier.

Pentateuch – Greek word for “five books”; the first five books in the Hebrew Bible.

Pentecost – The day the Holy Spirit came down upon the Apostles, bringing to them the Gifts of the Spirit.

Pentecostal churches – Churches who practice “glossolalia”, or speaking in tongues, and other manifestations of the Spirit. This phenomenon is also known as Spirit Baptism. A high degree of religious fervor and emotion is displayed at Pentecostal churches. This form of religious practice occasionally appears today in most major denominations also.

pericope (per IH ko pay) – A separate story unit (or tradition) in the Bible, often appearing in more than one Gospel, of particular interest to the form critics studying the Gospels. The Propers read during the liturgy are pericopes.

personae – Latin for “persons.” (Also means “masks.”) In later theology particularly in the West it became customary to speak about the three *personae* (persons) of the Trinity, while the East spoke of the three *hypostases*.

Petrine – Referring to St. Peter.

Pharisees – Very likely a continuation of those among the chasidim that concentrated on the preservation of a way of life in strict conformity with the torah. They developed a complex oral tradition of interpretations of the Law. Their name comes from a word which means “to separate”; (in religious usage “separate” (adj.) and “holy” mean essentially the same thing.)

phenomenology – A descriptive science of the 20th century concerned with the discovery and analysis of essences and essential meanings. The study of how things appear (as opposed to how we think they appear).

phenomenon – Kant’s word for knowledge derived from the senses that deals with matters of appearance, not with pure reality itself.

Philippists – Followers of Philip Melanchthon who had split with Martin Luther over several theological matters. Strict Lutherans regarded Melanchthon’s thoughts as dangerous departures from Lutheran doctrine. Followers were called Crypto-Calvinists and Synergists. (See ‘Synergism’.)

Philo – Jewish philosopher from Alexandria, he was the most important figure among the Hellenistic Jews of his time. He developed an allegorical interpretation of scripture, interweaving Greek and Jewish theological ideas. Clement and Origen used him freely.

philology – Historical linguistics; literary study or classical scholarship.

physis – Greek for “nature.” It was most frequently used to refer to the divine and human natures of Christ.

Pietism – A 17th century movement in the German Lutheran Church with the purpose of infusing new life into the lifeless official Protestantism of its time. Devotional circles of prayer, Bible reading, etc., were begun so that the Christian faith could effect a noticeable change in the believer’s life. Unfortunately, the life of the mind and scholarship became downgraded in these groups and Pietism came to stand for shallow emotionalism in religion.

piety) – Religious devotion and reverence to God.

pistis – The word Plato used for the mental act by which knowledge of the everyday world of sensations is generated. This is the same word that the New Testament uses for “faith”. To a true Platonist, unlike to a Christian, faith is uncertain and distorted knowledge.

Platonism – Taught that while individual things come and go, the Idea behind each lasts forever.

plenary – complete.

Pneumatomachianism – See “Macedonianism”.

pogrom – A deliberate attempt to liquidate the Jewish people.

polemic – A controversial argument, as one against some opinion, doctrine, etc.

polity – Form of government.

polytheism – Belief in many gods; the original “heavenly court”.

pope – Anglicized version of the Latin *papa* – “father”, originally applied to any bishop.

positivist – A person taking a Modernist view of the world. (See “Modernist”.)

Postmodernism – A belief that rejects Modernism, believing that there is no such thing as objective or neutral knowledge or the autonomous self, and that so-called progress is a self-serving construct.

practical reason – Kant’s phrase for reason applied to the issues of moral action, as opposed to “pure reason”, or reason applied to the search for understanding.

Praemunire statutes – (Pronounced Prae-moon-EE-ry) First passed in the 14th century, these laws were designed to protect the interests of the English crown against encroachments by the papacy.

pragmatism – The theory that the meaning of a proposition or course of action lies in its observable consequences and that the sum of these consequences constitutes its meaning. The view that the truth and value of ideas depend on how useful they are in real life.

praxis - A Greek word used to refer to the ways in which Christian life is expressed, such as liturgical practices, styles of piety, ethical standards and social customs, church polity and organizational structure, and national or ethnic identity.

predestination – The Divine decree according to which certain persons are infallibly guided to eternal salvation and others are excluded. It is suggested in the New Testament in Mt. 20 and Jn. 10, and St. Paul further developed it in Romans 8. Augustine of Hippo wrote a great deal about it. It was one of John Calvin's (1509-1564) cornerstones in his belief system.

prelacy – The office or station of a high-ranking clergyman, such as a bishop or an abbot.

premillennialism – The belief that Christ will return and then establish his reign on earth for a thousand years. Proponents emphasize Christ's return *before* his reign and call the teaching of the Christian churches *a*-millennial because it does not include an earthly reign between the second advent and the final state.

presbyter –A person who assisted the bishop in the early Church, according to the church hierarchy developed by Ignatius of Antioch. Presbyters, at this time, were something like the governing board of a church. (In Titus, and 1 and 2 Timothy, "presbyter" and "bishop" seem to apply to the same person.) As the church grew, presbyters, now called priests, were deputized to preside in place of the bishop.

prevenient grace – According to Augustine of Hippo, this divine gift of grace which "comes before" creates in the human heart the will to be saved.

priesthood of all believers – Martin Luther's teaching that by baptism each person is called to participate in the priesthood of the ministry.

Priestly code – "The Law" with its Priestly interpretation of the history of the covenant.

Prime – The first of the daily offices in a monastery.

primeval history – Original history; belonging to the first or earliest age of history.

principle of multiple attestation – A way scholars determine what is historical in the Gospels by noting when a particular saying or episode is witnessed by a number of apparently independent testimonies.

procession – Used in a special sense by Thomas Aquinas to refer to the origin of one divine person from another (in the Trinity.)

process theology – A theological approach that understands ultimate reality in terms of a dynamic process of becoming and ongoing change.

procurator -- An administrator of a minor Roman province (Pontius Pilate).

proletariat – The industrial working class, who possessing neither capital nor productions means, must earn their living by selling their labor.

proof text – Passage of scripture used to prove something.

prophecy – Insight (not knowledge) of the future.

prophet – One called to a task by God.

prosopon – Greek theater for "mask", role or stage identity. The Greek word "hypostasis" was later used in place of *prosopon* in forming the creeds. In theology it was used to express the specific manifestation of God which is denoted by the terms Father, Son, and Spirit.

prostatis – A benefactor, or patron; in first-century Greco-Roman society to declare someone your "benefactor" or "patron" was to make a serious claim about their status.

Proto-Luke hypothesis – The suggestion that an original version – now lost -- of the Gospel was written before 64 CE and then revised sometime in the eighties CE to be the Gospel we know.

protreptic – An exhortation to a way of life.

provenance – Place of origin.

providence – God's acting to uphold and direct his creation.

Pseudo-Isidorian Decretals – A collection of forgeries which appeared in the 9th century, generally accepted as real until the 15th century, among which was a document claiming to be an edict from the Emperor Constantine giving the pope absolute authority over all Christians and ceding him control over the western half of the empire.

pure reason) – Kant's phrase for reason applied to the search for understanding, (knowledge which does not come to us through the senses) as opposed to "practical reason" or reason directed to the issues of moral action.

purgatory – The doctrine formulated definitively in the Middle Ages that taught that purification was available in this place for any who died truly penitent in the love of God before making satisfaction for their sins.

Puritanism – Advocacy more extreme Protestantism in the 16th and 17th centuries, which included simplification of religious ceremonies and creeds of the Church of England and strict religious discipline along the lines of John Calvin's church model in Geneva. The idea was to take over the Church of England and purify it. Preaching, not the sacraments, was the primary means of grace.

“Q” source (or Quelle) – A document scholars have hypothesized that Matthew and Luke must each have had access to, in order to write their Gospels, besides their use of Mark.

qal wa-homer – A literary technique meaning “If this, then much more that” (A “light and heavy”).

qorban (or corban) – Transliterates Hebrew word meaning “gift devoted to God”. It refers to gifts that were consecrated for religious purposes. *Qorban* carries something of the implications of a “ban” or *tabu* and was used as an oath.

quietism – A form of Christian mysticism enjoining passive contemplation and the beatific (exaltedly joyful) annihilation of the will.

Qumran – Place and community of the Essenes, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found.

rabbi – Teacher of the Law.

Radical Reformation – A third reform movement (after the first of Luther and the second of Zwingli) associated with the Anabaptists who strongly disagreed with Zwingli on fundamental Christian doctrines.

Ras Shamra tablets – Dating from between the 18th and 13th centuries BCE, in the language of ancient Canaan, they describe Canaanite cults and myths in parallel language forms. They have helped scholars to understand Hebrew words, and they confirm the cultic practices alluded to or described in the Old Testament, thus supporting the essential accuracy of the Hebrew accounts.

rationalism – The belief that truth can be obtained only through reason, observation and experiment. Reason, not God, is the way to deal with the powers of darkness (ignorance, superstition, and most forms of religion).

real assent – John Henry Newman's phrase for being changed by knowing that God exists, by having a personal knowledge of and a relationship with God, and being both responsive and responsible to God.

Realism – The doctrine, developed during the Middle Ages and based on Plato, that abstract concepts ('universals') have a real existence apart from the individuals ('particulars') in which they are embodied.

reality – The sum of all that is real, absolute, and unchangeable.

realized eschatology – The view that the Kingdom of God is already present because of Jesus' work and ministry.

recapitulation – The key term, used by Irenaeus to describe the redemption, meaning, for him, the perfection or completion of God's creation through Jesus Christ who brings it to the fullness or unity intended for it by the Creator.

recension – A revision of the existing text with new material added.

rectilinear – Moving in, bounded by, consisting of, or characterized by a straight line or lines.

recusant – (Pronounced REK-you-zahnt) A nickname for those people who refused to worship according to the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England or to accept its authority in spiritual matters.

redaction criticism – An effort to study the editorial work of the evangelists by examining how they used Mark to create Matthew and Luke. They developed the idea that the evangelists were authors, not just compilers.

redactor – Someone who takes already existing documents and edits them to make a common document.

redemption – The divine response to the condition of sin described in the first eleven chapters of Genesis. Redemption takes place in terms of *covenant*. (N.I.B. dictionary: God's saving actions among men. In the Old Testament sense, it means the delivering of a person or a thing from captivity.) (D) God who participates in suffering.

Reformation – The 16th century movement, begun by Martin Luther, that aimed at reforming the Roman Catholic Church and resulted in the establishment of Protestantism.

Reformed tradition – Strictly speaking, those churches who follow Calvinism; broadly, those churches which have accepted the principles of the Reformation.

regalia – During the Middle Ages, the lands, rights, and offices held by the emperor which he, in turn, gave abbots- and bishops-elect the right to control.

regeneration – What happens at Baptism, according to Clement. (Spiritual or moral revival or rebirth.)

Reign of Terror – A period during the French Revolution when Robespierre presided over the slaughtering of huge numbers of the hated aristocracy and Royalist sympathizers.

relativism – The denial that there are certain kinds of universal truths.

religious rationalism – Religion arrived at solely by reason, such as Deism.

remembrance – In the Hebrew sense, when God “remembers,” God acts. (1C) It is much more than a mental act. It is also dynamic. To remember is to become present again in the events of the past.

Remonstrants – Followers of the more liberal Reformed views of Jacobus Arminius who, after he died, drew up a statement of their beliefs concerning salvation, called their Remonstrance, and rejected the forms of Calvinistic predestination, then current. Arminian views were condemned and all who held them were banished from the Netherlands for a number of years.

representation – A Germanic idea that allowed a relative or appointed person to do penance on behalf of the penitent, if for certain reasons (illness, for example) s/he could not discharge the penalty that had been imposed.

The Restoration – The time when Prince Charles returned to England in 1660 to reclaim the throne and reestablish the monarchy after Cromwell’s Commonwealth had lost popularity.

revealed theology – Knowledge about God gained through special revelation from supernatural sources.

revealed truth (– That truth accepted on the basis of the teaching authority of the church, not on rational grounds.

revelation – A manifestation of divine will or truth. Tillich says revelation occurs when God, “being-itself”, is disclosed in human experience and that revelation is the manifestation of the healing, renewal, and power of “being-itself” (God) taking form in human life, an experience of redemption.

righteous – In the Hebrew sense, “suitable” to God; when used to describe a person, it means that the person has done the things that are right in the circumstances. This person does not break his/her relationship between God and neighbor or disrupt God’s intended order.

right-wing Origenism – The belief that the Father and the Son are coeternal and share the same incorporeal (lacking material form or substance) divine nature; the Son is eternally begotten of his Father. This position emphasized the essential unity and equality of the three persons. This eventually came to be the established position.

Romanitas – The genius of the Romans whose respect for the wisdom of the past, reverence for the gods, obedience to authority, and self-discipline provided a conservative base that maintained the structure of Roman society and kept its institutions from decay.

romantic movement – An artistic and intellectual movement of the 18th century which stressed strong emotion, imagination, freedom from classical correctness in art forms and rebellion against social conventions.

root metaphor – An image through which a culture perceives reality. (“The world is a machine.”)

Ruach – Hebrew word meaning “wind, storm, spirit”.

rubric – A direction for worship. (See Book of Common Prayer.) Ritual or ceremonial direction, printed at the beginning of service-books, or in the course of the text.

sabbatical year – Every seventh year.

Sabellianism – (See “Monarchianism.”)

sacerdos – See **sacerdote**.

sacerdote – Latin word for “priest.”

sacred place – In ancient religions, a particular piece of land, often a mountain, that was thought of as the center of the universe where the realm of the gods is and where the gods and human beings can come together.

Sadducees – A group made up of the priestly circle and often closely allied with the hellenizing elements of Judaism and against any interpretation of the torah other than a literal one. They opposed the Pharisees.

saga – A lengthy series of stories, usually about a single person, which may be legendary.

sage – An expounder of wisdom and a teacher of the young.

salvation-history – The history of the people of God; the story of call and response, of election and faith.

Samaritans – People from Samaria, to the north of Judea, whose ancestors had been Jewish, and whose traditions differed markedly from those of the Jews. Samaritans were often looked down on as if they were Gentiles.

Sanhedrin – Highest judicial and ecclesiastical council of the Jewish nation.

Sarum Rite – The local medieval modification of the Roman rite in use at the cathedral church of Salisbury, England.

Satan – He appears in Zechariah’s vision (and Job) as the “accuser” – the member of YHWH’s heavenly court whose function is to act as prosecuting attorney. He has not yet become the figure representing the power of evil, the adversary or enemy of God, the “prince of darkness.”

satisfaction – According to the strict requirements of medieval justice, an act of reparation for an injury committed. (25C) – From the 5th or 6th century, a punishment or an attempt to acquire merit to counterbalance a confessed sin.

Schism – (Pronounced siz’ um.) A division or split into opposing factions (particularly a formal breach of union with a Christian church) because of disagreement.

Schleitheim Confession – A 1527 statement of faith generally believed by various Anabaptist groups.

Scholasticism – The educational tradition that dominated the medieval schools from the 11th – 15th centuries and is associated with the revival of philosophy which followed the rediscovery of Aristotle. It tended to give a high place to the power of the human will. It believed that outside the church there can be no salvation.

scholia – Brief explanations of particularly difficult passages.

Schwenckfelders – Followers of Silesian Reformation theologian, Caspar Schwenckfeld, a mystic by nature, who was much impressed with the writing of Tauler and Luther, and who remained a Lutheran long after he was no longer able to agree with all the church’s doctrines.

Scots Confession – (Also called Scottish Confession.) The first Confession of Faith of the reformed Church of Scotland, adopted by the Scottish Parliament in 1560. It remained the confessional standard until superseded by the Westminster Confession in 1647.

scriptoria – Rooms set aside especially in monasteries for the copying of manuscripts.

sectarians – Those who adhere or are confined to the dogmatic limits of a sect.

secular clergy – Priests living in the world, distinguishing them from the ‘regular clergy’ (members of religious orders, who live according to a rule). Secular priests are bound by no vows, may possess property, and owe canonical obedience to their bishops.

secularism – A system which seeks to interpret and order life on principles taken solely from this world, without recourse to belief in God and a future life.

secular theology – Theology associated with the “God is dead” movement.

Sefardim – Descendants of the Jews who had been expelled from Spain, went to North Africa, and eventually ended up in France, Holland, Italy, and the Balkans.

Semite – A member of any of various ancient and modern peoples including the Hebrews and Arabs.

separated brethren – A term used by the Roman Catholic Church prior to Vatican II to refer to baptized non-Roman Catholic Christians.

Separatists – Those who wanted to abandon the idea of a national church altogether and give to the congregation gathered in a local place entire autonomy in 16th and 17th century England. This idea eventually expressed itself in Congregationalism.

Septuagint – Also called the LXX, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible for the benefit of the many Jews throughout the Roman Empire who spoke no other language but Greek.

Shammaites – Followers of one of the two great Pharisaic houses (the other being Hillel). They were strict and uncompromising and died out at the final destruction of the temple. (Before Paul became a Christian, he was a Shammaite Pharisee.)

shekinah – The glory of God.

shema – “Hear O Israel. The Lord is our God, the Lord Alone.” (Deut. 6:4)

Shiah Muslims (Shiites) – The principal minority sect of Islam, composed of the followers of Ali, the cousin and son-in-law of Mohammed, who regard the heirs of Ali as the legitimate successors to the Prophet and reject the other caliphs (secular and religious heads of Moslem states) and the Sunnite legal and political institutions.

shibboleth – A slogan or catchword.

Shintoism – The aboriginal religion of Japan, marked by the veneration of nature spirits and of ancestors.

simony – Buying or selling spiritual things at a price.

Sinuhe (Tale of Sinuhe) – A story circa 1900 BCE which tells of an Egyptian forced to flee from Egypt because of a court intrigue, who takes refuge with an Amorite chieftain. (The Amorites lived in the north central part of Palestine.) The tale describes life in this area very much like that described in the Genesis accounts, showing that the stories in Genesis preserve some accurate memories.

skepticism – The philosophical doctrine that no knowledge is trustworthy. A belief that it is impossible to know anything about the world with certainty.

Smithfield – In London, originally Smoothfield. The place was noted as the site of executions, especially during the Reformation period, when in the ‘fires of Smithfield’ during Mary Tudor’s reign about 300 heretics were burned there.

social gospel – A movement from the end of the 19th century until World War I that was a response to the failure of mainline Protestant churches to deal with poverty and industrialization.

Socinianism – An anti-trinitarian movement that was to establish Unitarian churches in Poland (The Polish Brethren). Their influence spread eventually to England and the U. S.

sojourner – The ‘Stranger within thy gates’ of the Ten Commandments that Israel’s law takes great care in protecting.

solidarity – Union. (If one suffers, all suffer. If one sins, all sin.)

solipsism – The view that the individual self is the whole of reality and the external world has no independent existence.

sophia – The Greek word for “Wisdom,” and under the influence of Hellenistic culture, identified with Christ (along with *Logos* or Word.)

sophrosyne – Greek for moderation, the classic Hellenistic virtue.

soteriology – The section of Christian theology which treats of the saving work of Christ for the world.

source criticism – The critical study, begun in the 18th century, of sources and texts in the Old and New Testaments. It was applied with particular success to the problem of the relationship among the three “Synoptic” Gospels, the primacy of Mark, the two-source hypothesis (“Q” source + Mark), but was unsuccessful in the search for the historical Jesus.

Spanish Inquisition – Instituted at the end of the 15th century and set up with papal approval by Ferdinand V and Isabella, it originally persecuted and tortured baptized Jews suspected of having returned to their old beliefs. It later served against Moors who had been forced to accept Baptism and Protestants. It was finally suppressed in 1834.

speculation – Contemplation of a profound nature; (In its original sense, “to see” , thus, “seeing” in intellectual terms and constructs.

spirate – Breathe forth. (Used by Thomas Aquinas in describing the Father and the Son bringing forth the Holy Spirit.)

Spirit-fighters – (See “Macedonianism”.)

Star Chamber – Established in medieval times in England as the king’s own court.

stele – (pronounced STEEL ee) An obelisk-type marker.

Stoicism – A Greco-Roman school of philosophy which taught that nature is identical with reason (*logos*), or harmony that pervades the universe and is basic to it. To be good is to be wise, and to be wise is to live in accordance with nature and reason, unmoved by the sufferings or joys of any particular moment.

story – A neutral word; events may be factual or fictional.

strophe – Stanza; special type of poetry where the lines are asymmetric.

subjective reality (– One’s perception of what is real; reality generated by oneself.

subjectivity – As used by Kierkegaard, not being affected by the external world.

Subordinationism – A view that Christ and the Holy Spirit are lesser in rank than the Father.

Sufism – A form of Islamic mysticism which was a protest to what some considered the worldly characteristics of the Muslim community. Sufis stress moral motivation and contrition and avoid the legalistic formulations that characterize much of Islam.

Sukkoth – A Jewish holiday, the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths, celebrating the fall harvest. The main distinctive ritual of the festival is the requirement to “dwell in booths” in commemoration of Israel’s sojourn in the wilderness.

Sunni Muslims – The great branch of Islam following orthodox tradition and accepting the first four caliphs as rightful successors of Mohammed.

supralapsarian – The view of a professor of Leyden in strongly Calvinist Netherlands of the 17th century that God decreed salvation and damnation from the outset of creation and then caused the Fall as a means to bring about his decree. (See ‘infralapsarian’.)

symbol – May be words, actions, pictures, carvings, or anything that *expresses something* or that *points to the mystery* of which it is a symbol.

synagoge (Synagogue) – In New Testament times, the place or building where the Jews met for worship. (They first appeared during the Babylonian captivity.)

syncretism – The practice of trying to reconcile differing beliefs, as in philosophy or religion. In Biblical context, it means the blending of YHWH worship with local Canaanite agricultural religions.

synergism – The Roman view, voiced at the Council of Trent, stated that human cooperation with God’s grace results in good works that merit salvation. Martin Luther’s good friend and chief collaborator, Philip Melancthon, had another view, called *synergism*: He insisted that the will, infused with the Holy Spirit, is set free to accept the grace that is offered. Salvation does not come *because* of the human will, but it does not come *without* it. (Luther disagreed by saying that the human will has lost its freedom and is in utter bondage to sin. We can do nothing at all to acquire salvation; even our acceptance of it is God’s work in us.)

synergistic – “Working together”. Gregory of Nyssa taught that the spiritual life is synergistic in that we ‘work together’ with God to bring it about. Eastern piety is frankly ‘synergistic’ – human *eros* and divine *agape* cooperate so that we seek God until he eventually finds us.

synod – A council of the bishops in the surrounding region.

Synoptic Gospels – Matthew, Mark, and Luke, which have a large amount of common narratives and often similar phrasing.

synoptic problem – The problem of the literary relations between the three “Synoptic Gospels” and the search for an explanation of how they came about.

synthetic knowledge – Kant’s phrase for the kind of knowledge that adds information not contained in analytical knowledge.

systematic theology – A constructive method of theology which aims at a complete, philosophic and systemic statement of the entire sum of theological knowledge. It is a process that brings coherence to our understanding of God.

tabernacle – A tent in which the ark of the covenant was kept and sacrifices were offered during the wilderness journey.

tabula rasa – Literally, “blank slate”; how John Locke described the mind of a newborn child.

Taizé – A Reformed and Lutheran monastic community in France begun for liturgical experimentation and missionary work among laborers in industrial centers.

Talmud - A rabbinic commentary on the Mishna (oral teaching of the Jews) and the Gemara (collection of discussions on the Mishna.)

ta logia – A phrase (used in reference to the Gospel of Matthew) with the possible meanings: Oracles (meaning commands or revelations from God) or proof texts from the Hebrew Bible,

talmidim – Students, disciples of the Law.

targums – Free translations – paraphrases – of the Hebrew scriptures into Aramaic, allowing the average Jew to understand the sacred text. (Aramaic paraphrases that represent synagogue usage and interpretation over a number of centuries.)

tautology – Needless repetition of an idea in different words. (“I AM WHO I AM.”)

teleology – The philosophical doctrine that all of nature are goal-directed or functionally organized.

telos – Goal or end.

temporal punishment – Punishment due to sin in this life.

Ten Articles – An effort in the English church in 1536 to create a definition of the true faith in order to define the limits of orthodoxy, clarifying what was to be believed and what was to be regarded as heresy. It was a compromise, Lutheran in parts of its emphasis, and yet conservative in its teaching.

tent of meeting – A tent pitched a safe distance (so that the people will not be harmed by the divine presence) from the camp of Moses and his people, where YHWH comes from time to time to meet with Moses.

teraphim – Possibly a small image.

tertiary – Member of a ‘Third Order’. A lay person living in the world but attached to a monastery.

Tertullian – The first Latin theologian.

testament – A type of literary genre, very common among Christians and Jews in the first centuries CE, written by an important figure who is bidding farewell to her/his closest associates and handing on the essence of his/her teaching.

tetrarch) – Subordinate ruler.

Teuton – A collective name for the Germanic tribes.

textual criticism – A scientific approach to understanding the Bible, begun during the Enlightenment in the 18th century, where scholars try to find the facts about Jesus and the Christian faith, showing us what might be of value in them, what can be salvaged of belief, and how we might live.

Theism – A philosophical system which accepts a transcendent and personal God who not only created but also preserves and governs the world and is known by revelation. (As opposed to Pantheism or Deism)

theodicy – The theological problem of reconciling belief in a good God in a world in which evil abounds.

Theodore of Mopsuestia - Rebutted Apollinarius, using Aristotle. Said that the man Jesus was completely human and that the Word “indwells” Jesus as a shrine.

theology – Thinking about God

theonomy – Ruled by God, the ultimate authority, through the miracle of revelation, being held in perfect unity.

theophany – The appearance of (a) God to man; divine manifestation.

- Theosophical Society** – Founded in 1875 and inspired by Jewish mysticism, Gnosticism, and western occultism, it teaches the transmigration of souls, the brotherhood of men irrespective of color and creed, and complicated systems of psychology and cosmology, while disavowing a personal God and personal immortality. It advocates universal toleration of all religions as well as of atheism.
- Theotokos** – (Greek for “God-bearer”) Mother of God, referring to Mary. Alexandrians loved the title, but they never meant that Mary was the source of God’s divinity. Nestorius said that Mary was the mother of Christ, not God.
- “thing-in-itself”** – See *noumenon*.
- Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion** – The set of doctrinal formulae finally accepted by the Church of England in 1563 in its attempt to define its dogmatic position in relation to the controversies of the 16th century. The earlier stages were the Ten articles (1536), the Bishops’ Book (1537), the Six Articles (1539), the King’s Book (1543), and the Forty-Two Articles (1553).
- t’hllim** – Hebrew title for the Psalter, meaning “praises” or “hymns”.
- Thomism** – The systematized expression of the doctrines of St. Thomas Aquinas (especially those philosophical), particularly as developed in the Roman Catholic Church in the Dominican Order.
- Tiamat** – Babylonian goddess monster of the deep (chaos) who is slain by Marduk (warrior god), and from her body is made the firmament.
- Torah** – The Pentateuch, or first five books of the Old Testament. During the Exile, the written down beliefs, customs, and traditions in a single body of “teaching”, which were the books of the prophets and other books called “the Writings”, all considered to be sacred scriptures. (32A, pp. 593, 607) It can refer to the commandments, the Pentateuch, and/or to the whole of the Jewish Scriptures. (3B)
- Tractarians** – See **Oxford Tractarians**.
- transcendence** – In the Greek view, God is the opposite of the finite world. He is not affected by the world; he is without passions. God is *being itself*. He is *pure actuality*; the cause of it all; moves all things; is moved by nothing. (The word refers to the separateness of God from his creation. 3A) The Hebrew is aware of the transcendence of God in the *experience of the covenant*, in which God is *Lord*. But God has human passions. (23B) Above and independent of the material world.
- transcendental** – Concerned with the *a priori* (based on theory rather than experience) basis of knowledge; minimizing the importance or denying the reality of sense experience.
- transcendentals** – According to Thomas Aquinas, the qualities or perfections of creatures, properties belonging to all subjects, whatever their nature. They are: *being, reality, unity, distinction, truth, and goodness*. They help us to discern God’s nature by the principle of analogy. *Being, reality, and goodness* are predicated of God and ourselves, and *unity, distinction, truth* are present in God and in ourselves.
- Transfiguration** – The appearing of the Lord Jesus, during his earthly life, in glory with Moses and Elijah as witnessed by Peter, James and John.
- transliteration** – The representation of letters or words in the corresponding characters of another alphabet.
- transmigration of the soul** – According to Hindu theology, the passing of a soul into another body after death.
- transubstantiation** – Pronounced dogma essential to salvation by the Fourth Lateran Council, the eucharistic teaching, commonly held for centuries, that the bread and wine become the actual body and blood of Christ. Transubstantiation means a change from one ‘whole substance’ to another. It is an explanation of the eucharistic mystery that depends for its imagery on the Aristotelian distinction between ‘substance’ (the underlying reality of a thing) and ‘accidents’ (its appearance).
- treasury of merit** – A store house of righteous deeds, first, from that of Christ’s unrequired death, and second, from that of the saints beyond what was needed for their own salvation which could be drawn on by sinners who would earn ‘indulgences’ to shorten their stay in purgatory.
- Tridentine** – Latin for “Trent”.
- Tritheism** – A belief that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three separate divine beings forming a hierarchy.
- Truce of God** – In the eleventh century local churches began to forbid private war entirely during certain periods of time in an effort to teach respect for the Christian ideals of concern for the poor, orphans, widows, and pilgrims and to advance the ethics of chivalry somewhat beyond the brutality that lay at its base. They were able to do this by the threat of excommunication.
- typology** – The practice of seeing certain Old testament figures or events as being types which foreshadow things to come, e.g., the coming Messiah
- ultimate concern** – Paul Tillich’s phrase for the abstract translation of the great commandment: ...”you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart ...”; God is ultimate concern, ultimate authority.

Uniat churches – The Churches of Eastern Christendom in communion with Rome, which yet retain their respective languages, rites, and canon law, which include Communion with both bread and wine, baptism by immersion, and marriage of the clergy.

uniformitarianism – The theory that all geological phenomena may be explained as the result of existing forces having operated uniformly from the origin of the earth to the present time.

universalism – The anti-nationalist teaching expressed in Deutero-Isaiah and Jonah that God's purposes covered not only the Jews but some others as well. The doctrine of universal salvation.

universal jurisdiction – Authority by the Bishop of Rome (later the pope) over the entire church, East and West.

universals – In metaphysics, general concepts, representing the common elements belonging to individuals of the same genus or species. (Scholasticism pondered whether universals were things (*res*) or only names (*nomina*). Out of these two terms the systems of Realism and Nominalism developed.)

Urim and Thummin (– The sacred lots which were cast to determine Yahweh's will.

Utopia – An ideally perfect place, especially in its socio-political aspects. (The name of a book written by Sir Thomas More during the time of Henry VIII, who thought such a place might be possible if organized by 'rational' people, living by the standards of the natural law discernible by any intelligent mind and practicing a 'rational religion' without the superstitions that were common in Christianity then.) (27C) – Communities formed by Anabaptists, trying to create a pattern of life which would embody Christian standards.

vanity – In Ecclesiastes, it means "emptiness" or "futility," not arrogant concern over one's own beauty.

Vespers – The evening service in a monastery.

Vestiarian Controversy – A serious attack on the Church of England in 1563 by the Puritans in which they demanded reforms in outward observances which they considered vestiges of Romanism.

via media – The 'middle path'. The middle road between Catholicism and Protestantism in the Anglican Church.

via negativa – Describing God in terms of what He is not.

vicarious – Refers to an act done on behalf of someone else.

voluntarism – A feature of William Ockham's theology that explained events by appeal to God's will (*voluntas*). In Ockham's view, God could will anything at all.

Vulgate – The Latin version of the Bible, for the most part the work of St. Jerome in the 4th century, so called for being in the "common" tongue.

Waldensians – A small Christian community in Northwest Italy, founded in the early Middle Ages, who were excommunicated for their zealous preaching and refusal to accept the Church's decrees and sanctions. They appointed their own ministers, tended to doubt the validity of sacraments administered by unworthy ministers and to avoid on scriptural grounds such practices as prayers for the dead and the veneration of saints and relics. They also refused to take oaths or to countenance killing.

Western Schism -- (See "Great Schism.")

Westminster Confession of Faith – The primary confession of faith for Presbyterianism from 1644 on, three years before Oliver Cromwell marched into London, having seized the king.

Wisdom literature – A type of literary style, not native to the Israelites, made up of wisdom utterances and practical truths, found, but not limited to, the books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job.

words of institution – Jesus' words at the Last Supper when he referred to the bread as his body and the wine as his blood.

World-Soul – In the Neoplatonic view, World-Soul emanates from *Nous*, looking upward to it and downward to the world. It provides the forms copied from the Ideas in *Nous* that shape chaotic matter into the objects of the physical world. Human souls also emanate from World-Soul, making them immortal, but they contact matter, so their bodies are subject to change, decay, and eventually death.

Yahweh – God's probable personal name (derived from **YHWH**).

yeshiva – A rabbinical academy.

Zealot) – A member of a Jewish party of revolt who believed that only God was their ruler and Lord and who inspired fanatical resistance against Rome in Jerusalem (which led to its downfall in 70 CE).

ziggurat – A temple tower of the ancient Assyrians and Babylonians, having the form of a terraced pyramid with receding stories – probably intended to represent a mountain – possibly a stylized reproduction of a sacred place.

Zion – God's holy mountain at Jerusalem; (also, Jerusalem itself, the city of David.)

Zionism – A Jewish movement, appearing around the turn of the 20th century, dedicated to the recovery of Palestine.

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