

# Vocabulary for Unit 2

## Terms for Mastery

**biblical exegesis** The critical interpretation and explanation of Sacred Scripture.

**biblical inerrancy** The doctrine that the books of Sacred Scripture are free from error regarding the truth God wishes to reveal through Scripture for the sake of our salvation.

**canon** The collection of books of the Bible that the Church recognizes as the inspired Word of God.

**contextualist approach** The interpretation of the Bible that takes into account the various contexts for understanding. These contexts include the senses of Scripture, literary forms, historical situations, cultural backgrounds, the unity of the whole of Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the analogy of faith.

**Divine Inspiration** The divine assistance the Holy Spirit gave the authors of the books of the Bible so the authors could write in human words the message of salvation God wanted to communicate.

**exegete** A scholar specializing in critical explanation of biblical texts.

**fundamentalist approach** The interpretation of the Bible and Christian doctrine based on the literalist meaning of the Bible's words. The interpretation is made without regard to the historical setting in which the writings or teachings were first developed.

**Hebrew people** The descendants of Abraham and Sarah who become known as the Israelites after the Exodus and who later were called Judeans or Jews.

**Law of Moses** The first five books of the Old Testament, which are also called the books of the Law or the Torah. God gave Moses the tablets summarizing the Law (see Exodus 31:18), which is why it is also called the Law of Moses, or the Mosaic Law.

**literary forms (genres)** Different kinds of writing determined by their literary technique, content, tone, and purpose.

**oral tradition** The handing on of the message of God's saving plan through words and deeds.

**Pentateuch** A Greek word meaning "five books," referring to the first five books of the Old Testament.

**Psalter** The Book of Psalms of the Old Testament, which contains 150 Psalms.

**Torah** A Hebrew word meaning "law," referring to the first five books of the Old Testament.

**written tradition** Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the synthesis in written form of the message of salvation that has been passed down in the oral tradition.



## Terms Introduced for Later Mastery

**analogy of faith** The coherence of individual doctrines with the whole of Revelation. In other words, as each doctrine is connected with Revelation, each doctrine is also connected with all other doctrines.

**Christological** Having to do with the branch of theology called Christology. Christology is the study of the divinity of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Second Divine Person of the Trinity, and his earthly ministry and eternal mission.

**Eucharist, the** The celebration of the entire Mass. The term can also refer specifically to the consecrated bread and wine that have become the Body and Blood of Christ.

**Parousia** The second coming of Christ as judge of all the living and the dead, at the end of time, when the Kingdom of God will be fulfilled.

## Terms Previously Mastered or for General Knowledge

**allegory** A literary form in which something is said to be like something else, in an attempt to communicate a hidden or symbolic meaning.

**Essenes** A group of pious, ultraconservative Jews who left the Temple of Jerusalem and began a community by the Dead Sea, known as Qumran.

**Gnostic** Referring to the belief that salvation comes from secret knowledge available to only a select few.

**Hellenism** The acceptance of Greek culture, language, and traditions.

**Nag Hammadi manuscripts** Fourth-century writings, discovered in 1945 near the village of Nag Hammadi in Upper Egypt, that are invaluable sources of information regarding Gnostic beliefs, practices, and lifestyle. Gnosticism was an early Church heresy claiming that Christ's humanity was an illusion and the human body is evil.

**redact** To edit or adapt written material to serve a particular purpose.

