

Vocabulary for Unit 4

Terms for Mastery

apocalyptic literature A literary form that uses dramatic events and highly symbolic language to offer hope to a people in crisis.

Beatitudes The teachings of Jesus that begin the Sermon on the Mount and that summarize the New Law of Christ. The Beatitudes describe the actions and attitudes by which one can discover genuine happiness, and they teach us the final end to which God calls us: full communion with him in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Beloved Disciple A faithful disciple in the Gospel of John who is present at critical times in Jesus' ministry. The Beloved Disciple may have been the founder of the Johannine community.

epistle Another name for a New Testament letter.

Evangelists From a Greek word meaning "messenger of good news," the title given to the authors of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Gospel Translated from a Greek word meaning "good news," referring to the four books attributed to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The Gospels are the principal source for accounts of Jesus Christ's life and teaching and work of salvation.

Infancy Narratives The accounts of Jesus' birth and early childhood.

Johannine Related to the Apostle John or the New Testament books attributed to him.

kerygma A Greek word meaning "proclamation" or "preaching," referring to the announcement of the Gospel or the Good News of divine salvation offered to all through Jesus Christ. *Kerygma* has two senses. It is both an event of proclamation and a message proclaimed.

Logos A Greek word meaning "Word." *Logos* is a title of Jesus Christ found in the Gospel of John that illuminates the relationship between the three Divine Persons of the Holy Trinity. (See John 1:1,14.)

Matthean Related to the author of the Gospel of Matthew.

messianic secret A theme in the Gospel of Mark that portrays the disciples and others as recognizing Jesus' identity as the Messiah. However, Jesus directed them not to tell anyone else.

miracle Signs or wonders, such as healing or the control of nature, that can only be attributed to divine power.

parables Short stories that use everyday images to communicate religious messages. Jesus used parables frequently in his teaching as a way of presenting the Good News of salvation.

Pauline letters Thirteen New Testament letters attributed to Saint Paul or to disciples who wrote in his name. The letters offer advice, pastoral encouragement, teaching, and community news to early Christian communities.



Quelle Also called the Q source, a theoretical collection of ancient documents of the teachings of Jesus shared among the early followers of Christianity; believed by Scripture scholars to be a source for the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

sign The Johannine name for a miracle of Jesus.

synoptic Gospels From the Greek for “seeing the whole together,” the name given to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, because they are similar in style and content.

Terms Introduced for Later Mastery

Paraclete A term meaning “advocate” or “helper,” used in the Gospel of John to describe the Holy Spirit, the Third Divine Person of the Trinity, whom Jesus promised to the disciples as an advocate and counselor.

Paschal Lamb In the Old Testament, the sacrificial lamb shared at the seder meal of the Passover on the night the Israelites escaped from Egypt; in the New Testament, the Paschal Lamb is Jesus, the Incarnate Son of God who dies on a cross to take away “the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

Passion The sufferings of Jesus during the final days of this life: his agony in the garden at Gethsemane, his trial, and his Crucifixion.

Pentecost The fiftieth day following Easter, which commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the early Apostles and disciples.

Terms Previously Mastered or for General Knowledge

anawim A Hebrew word for the poor and marginalized.

Annunciation The biblical event in which the Archangel Gabriel visits the Virgin Mary to announce that she is to be the Mother of the Savior.

antichrist A pseudo-messianism whereby a human being puts himself or herself in the place of God or declared himself or herself to be a new messiah.

apostate A person who was a believer but has abandoned his or her faith.

Asia Minor An area corresponding roughly to modern-day Turkey.

canticle From the Latin *canticum*, meaning “song.” It usually refers to biblical hymns (other than the Psalms), such as those found in the Song of Solomon in the Old Testament and the hymns of Mary (see Luke 1:46–55) and Zechariah (see Luke 1:68–79) in the New Testament. By extension, *canticle* is sometimes used to describe other hymns in the liturgy.

corruption Decomposition or decay.

garden at Gethsemane An olive grove near the Mount of Olives, where Jesus gathered with the Apostles to pray and prepare for his Crucifixion on Calvary.

Gentiles Non-Jewish people.



Vocabulary for Unit 4

Gnosticism A group of heretical religious movements that claimed salvation comes from secret knowledge available only to the elite initiated in that religion.

Golgotha A Hebrew word meaning “place of the skull,” referring to the place where Jesus was crucified.

Magi From the Greek for “priest” or “learned one,” refers to the wise men from the East who visited the newborn Jesus in Bethlehem.

Magnificat This is the first Latin word (from *magnus*, meaning “great,” and *facere*, meaning “to make”) and the title of the prayer of Mary in response to the Annunciation of the birth of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke (see Luke 1:46–55).

martyrdom Witness to the saving message of Christ through the sacrifice of one’s life.

rabbi An honored teacher in the Jewish tradition.

Samaritan An inhabitant of Samaria, in the central hill country of Palestine. The Samaritans rejected the Jerusalem Temple and worshipped instead at Mount Gerizim. The New Testament mentions the Jewish rejection of Samaritans in both the Parable of the Good Samaritan (see Luke 10:29–37) and the account of Jesus’ speaking with the Samaritan woman at the well (see John 4:1–42).

scribes Jewish legal scholars or teachers of Jewish Law. In the New Testament, they are associated with the Pharisees and the High Priests as opponents of Jesus.

Syrophoenecian A person from the Phoenician cities of Tyre and Sidon. Jews considered Syrophoenicians “outsiders” because of their idolatrous practices.

venerate To show respect and devotion to someone or something.

