

Vocabulary for Unit 1

Apocalyptic literature: A literary form associated with the end times or the last things that anticipates the time of Last Judgment when Jesus returns. It generally appears in times of turmoil and uses symbols and images to communicate a message to the intended audience while preventing enemies from understanding its true meaning.

apocryphal: For Catholics, it means books that were not included in the official list of books (noncanonical) because they were not in complete agreement theologically with the Apostolic Tradition. For Protestants, additional books Catholics include in the Bible.

Bible commentary: A book that offers background information to help in interpreting Bible passages.

biblical inspiration: The guidance of the Holy Spirit in the development of the Scriptures, whereby the Spirit guided the human authors to teach without error those truths of God that are necessary for our salvation.

canon: The official list of books that the Church declares are part of the Bible, the inspired Word of God.

canonical: Approved by the Church as a book to be included in the Bible.

concordance: A reference book that lists words and the biblical verses in which the words are included.

covenant: A solemn agreement between human beings or between God and human beings in which mutual commitments are made.

deuterocanonical books: The seven Old Testament books that Catholics include in the Bible but Protestants do not.

Evangelist: One of the four Gospel writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John.

exegesis: The study of the Bible that uses a number of methods and criticisms to interpret the Scriptures.

Gospel: One of the four accounts of the life and teachings of Jesus in the Bible written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, respectively.

New Testament: The second part of the Bible that tells how God's promise of salvation made in the Old Testament is fulfilled in the saving acts of Jesus. It was written by Christians and contains twenty-seven books: the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, the epistles, and the Book of Revelation.

Old Testament: The first part of the Bible composed of forty-six books written by the Israelites. It records salvation history prior to Jesus.

oral tradition: The passing down of sacred wisdom, parables, regulations, and rules of life revealed to the ancestors from generation to generation by telling them. Many stories and teachings in the Bible were passed on by oral tradition before they were written down.

Q Source: A document that biblical scholars believe was used by Matthew and Luke as they wrote their Gospels. It is named for the German word *quelle*, which means "source."



revelation: God's self-communication and disclosure of the divine plan to humankind through creation, events, people, and, most fully, in Jesus Christ.

Scriptures: The Old and New Testaments that make up the Bible and are recognized as the Word of God.

synoptic Gospels: The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke; *synoptic* ("seen together") means that these Gospels follow a similar pattern in both their overall structure and individual narratives.

Tradition: The central content of Catholic faith contained in both the Scriptures and in Church doctrines and dogmas, as well as the process by which that content is faithfully passed on from generation to generation, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Vulgate: Saint Jerome's Latin translation of the Bible.

