

Vocabulary for Unit 4

Ashtaroth: The Canaanite goddess of love.

assimilation: The integration of cultural and religious practices from another nation or region.

Baal: Word meaning “master” or “lord”; the name of a god other than Yahweh; his worshippers were generally enemies of the Israelites. The plural is used to refer to pagan gods.

deuteronomist: The person or group responsible for writing the histories contained in the historical books, Deuteronomy through Second Kings. The deuteronomist emphasized that God’s punishment occurred whenever the people sinned and broke their Covenant with God and that if they repented and obeyed, God’s favor would return.

federation period: The period of Israel’s history following the conquest of Canaan when the tribes settled their allotted pieces of land and lived as a tribally divided nation.

idolatry: Worship of other beings, creatures, or material goods in a way that is fitting for God alone.

judges: Charismatic leaders, tribal leaders, and military commanders of Israel during the federation period whom the Holy Spirit inspired to lead the Israelites when they were a loosely knit federation of tribes. The judges were clan heroes who empowered the faith of the people in times of crisis and focused their attention on the promises of the Covenant.

judges cycle: The pattern of disobedience, destruction, repentance, and deliverance in the lives of the Israelites during the period of the judges; also called cycle of sin.

polytheism: The belief in many gods.

servant leadership: A type of leadership based on humble service to all God’s people.

