

Vocabulary for Unit 3

Terms for Mastery

Ark of the Covenant A sacred chest that housed the tablets of the Ten Commandments. It was placed within the sanctuary where God would come and dwell.

Baal . . . Asherah Two Canaanite gods of earth and fertility that the Israelites worshipped when they fell away from the one true God.

Babylonian Exile The period in Israelite history during which the Israelites of the ancient kingdom of Judah were held in captivity as slaves in Babylon. The period began with the Babylonians' destruction of the Temple and the city of the Jerusalem in 587 BC and lasted until 539 BC.

Emmanuel A Hebrew word meaning "God is with us."

judges The eleven men and one woman who served the Hebrew people as tribal leaders, military commanders, arbiters of disputes, and enliveners of faith.

manna The breadlike food that God miraculously provided for the Chosen People during their wandering in the desert.

messianic hope The Jewish belief and expectation that a messiah would come to protect, unite, and lead Israel to freedom.

Passover The night the Lord passed over the houses of the Israelites marked by the blood of the lamb, and spared the firstborn sons from death. It also is the feast that celebrates the deliverance of the Chosen People from bondage in Egypt and the Exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land.

pharaoh A ruler of ancient Egypt.

primeval history The time before the invention of writing and recording of historical data.

Promised Land The land (Canaan) God promised to the children of Abraham.

prophecy A message communicated by prophets on behalf of God, usually a message of divine direction or consolation for the prophet's own time. Because some prophetic messages include divine direction, their fulfillment may be in the future.

remnant A prophetic term for the small portion of people who will be saved because of their faithfulness to God.

Sinai Covenant The covenant established with the Israelites at Mount Sinai that renewed God's covenant with Abraham's descendants. The Sinai Covenant establishes the Israelites as God's Chosen People.

stump of Jesse A phrase taken from Isaiah 11:1 that traces Jesus' lineage to Jesse's son, King David.

Ten Commandments Sometimes called the Decalogue, the list of ten norms, or rules of moral behavior, that God gave Moses and that are the basis of ethical conduct.

Yahweh The most sacred of the Old Testament names for God, which he revealed to Moses. It is frequently translated as "I AM" or "I am who am."



Terms Introduced for Later Mastery

Nicene Creed The formal statement or profession of Christian belief originally formulated at the Council of Nicaea in 325 and amplified at the Council of Constantinople in 381.

Qoheleth A Hebrew word for *Ecclesiastes*, meaning “preacher” or “one who convokes an assembly.”

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

Terms Previously Mastered or for General Knowledge

fidelity Faithfulness to obligation, duty, or commitment.

herald One who proclaims or announces a saving message. As a verb, the word means to proclaim or announce a saving message.

hymns Poetic song lyrics written to honor God.

idolatrous Worshipping false gods.

lament A cry for God’s intervention in difficult situations. Many of the Psalms are laments.

monarchy A government or a state headed by a single person, such as a king or queen. As a biblical term, it refers to the period of time when the Israelites existed as an independent nation.

Near East In biblical times the region commonly known today as the Middle East, including the modern countries of Iraq, Iran, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, and Jordan.

personification A literary technique that uses human characteristics to describe nonhuman realities.

polytheistic Belief in many gods and goddesses.

Semitic A term referring to Semites, a number of peoples of the ancient Near East, from whom the Israelites descended.

theocracy A nation ruled by God.

