

Vocabulary for Unit 8

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

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

crisis imagery: A common literary feature of apocalyptic writing that includes images or visions of widespread chaos and cataclysmic destruction.

Dispersion (Diaspora): Refers to the Israelites' living outside of Palestine after the Babylonian Exile; *Diaspora* means "dispersion" or "the scattered ones."

end times: In apocalyptic literature, refers to the end of the persecution that the intended audience is presently enduring. Often misinterpreted as referring to the end of the world.

expiation: The act of atoning for sin or wrongdoing.

Holy of Holies: The most holy place in the Tabernacle, which at one time contained the Ark of the Covenant. Only the High Priest could enter, and he only once a year.

Levitical priests: The priests of ancient Israel, who offered sacrifice on behalf of the people at the Temple in Jerusalem. They were all members of the tribe of Levi, descendants of Aaron.

martyr: A person who suffers death because of his or her beliefs. The Church has canonized many martyrs as saints.

New Jerusalem: In the Book of Revelation, a symbol of a renewed society in which God dwells; a symbol of the Church, the "holy city," the assembly of the People of God called together from "the ends of the earth"; also, in other settings, a symbol of Heaven.

prophet: A person God chooses to speak his message of salvation. In the Bible, primarily a communicator of a divine message of repentance to the Chosen People, not necessarily a person who predicted the future.

salvation: From the Latin *salvare*, meaning "to save," referring to the forgiveness of sins and the restoration of friendship with God, attained for us through the Paschal Mystery—Christ's work of redemption accomplished through his Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension. Only at the time of judgment can a person be certain of salvation, which is a gift of God.

Septuagint: A Greek translation of the Old Testament begun about 250 BC. The Septuagint included the forty-six books of the Old Testament. It is often referred to by the Roman number LXX, which means seventy, in honor of the legendary seventy rabbis who translated the Hebrew text into Greek in supposedly seventy days.

vision: A revelation given by God to an individual or group that evokes the imagination and stirs strong emotions. In apocalyptic literature, these often include symbolism and allegory.

