# Section E

# Bible words

This section gives a glossary of words which are used in the Bible but are not in common use, and words which have special meanings in the Bible.

angel

a messenger, usually from God.

"Now an **angel** of the Lord said to Philip, 'Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (Acts 8:26)

anoint

to pour oil on someone's head. This was often done when appointing someone to be king or priest.

"Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the sacred tent and **anointed** Solomon. Then they sounded the trumpet and all the people shouted, 'Long live King Solomon!'" (1 Kings 1:39)

See also: Christ, Messiah.

antichrist

someone opposed to Christ.

"Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the **antichrist** is coming, even now many **antichrists** have come. This is how we know it is the last hour." (1 John 2:18)

ark

The Hebrew word for ark means box, chest or coffin. There are three 'arks' mentioned in scripture: Noah's ark, which was probably like a large floating box; the basket that baby Moses was placed in on the Nile River; and the ark of the covenant which was a gold covered box containing the stone tablets of the law and other sacred items.

"Bezalel made the **ark** of acacia wood—two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high. He overlaid it with pure gold, both inside and out, and made a gold molding around it."

(Exodus 37:1–2)

apostle

a messenger, someone sent.

"I was appointed a herald and an **apostle**—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a teacher of the one true faith to the Gentiles." (1 Timothy 2:7)

See also: disciple. (Jesus had thousands of disciples but only 12 apostles.)

#### atonement

the process which brings God and man together again after sin has separated them.

"For this reason [Jesus] had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make **atonement** for the sins of the people." (Hebrews 2:17)

#### Related words:

• atone: to do something that brings God and man together again.

## baptism

immersion in water as a symbolic act. The Greek word translated 'baptism' originally meant the immersion of a garment in dye to change its colour.

"We were therefore buried with him through **baptism** into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:4)

#### Related words:

- baptise: to dip a person in water as a symbolic act.
- baptist: someone who baptises other people. e.g., John the Baptist.

#### belief, believe see faith.

## blasphemy

profane talk, words slanderously spoken against God.

"And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven." (Matthew 12:31)

#### Related words:

- blaspheme (verb): to speak against God or limit or discredit his
- blasphemous (adjective): used of words or behaviour that involves or expresses blasphemy.

## chapter

short section of the Bible. Except for the book of Psalms, the books of the Bible are divided into sections called chapters. Chapters are subdivided into verses. See page 1 for more information.

## cherubim

flying creatures which seem to have been used as guards by God in the Old Testament. Cherubim is the Hebrew plural of cherub. It is incorrect to say "a cherubim".

"After he drove the man out, [God] placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life." (Genesis 3:24)

## Christ

anointed; Christ is a Greek word, the translation of the Hebrew word Messiah.

"Are you the **Christ**, the Son of the Blessed One?" (Mark 14:61)

#### Related words

• Christian: a follower of Jesus Christ.

See also: anoint, Messiah.

## church

an assembly or gathering of people. In the New Testament it means the faithful in Christ. It can be used of all the faithful or of a local congregation. The church of the New Testament is a group of people; it is not a building.

"If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the **church**; and if he refuses to listen even to the **church**, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector." (Matthew 18:17)

See also: congregation.

## circumcise

to cut off the foreskin. Circumcision is the act of circumcising. Required of all Jewish males.

"You are to undergo **circumcision**, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you." (Genesis 17:11)

## congregation

a group of people gathered together. Congregate means to gather together.

"Praise God in the great **congregation**; praise the LORD in the assembly of Israel." (Psalm 68:26)

See also: church.

#### covenant

agreement, promise or pledge between two parties. Also called testament.

"Christ is the mediator of a new **covenant**, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died to set them free from the sins committed under the first **covenant**." (Hebrews 9:15)

See also: **oath**.

## covet

to earnestly want material possessions, particularly something belonging to someone else.

"You shall not **covet** your neighbour's house. You shall not **covet** your neighbour's wife, . . . or anything that belongs to your neighbour." (Exodus 20:17)

Related words:

- covetous (adjective): having an earnest desire of material possessions.
- covetousness (noun): earnest desire of material possessions.

# crucifixion

an ancient Roman method of execution where the victim was bound or nailed alive to a cross. It resulted in a slow and painful death.

"He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be  ${\bf crucified.}$ " (Matthew 27:26)

Related words:

• crucify (verb): to execute by nailing to a cross.

#### demon

an evil spirit. In the New Testament, people with illnesses are described as "having demons". This reflects the medical thinking of the day.

"A man approached Jesus and knelt before him. 'Lord, have mercy on my son,' he said. 'He has seizures and is suffering greatly.' ... Jesus rebuked the **demon** and it came out of the boy, and he was healed from that moment." (Matthew 17:14–18)

#### devil

a false accuser, someone prone to slander.

"Then Jesus replied, 'Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a **devil**.'" (John 6:70)

## disciple

a learner, pupil, student

"When [Saul] came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a **disciple**."

(Acts 9:26)

#### Related words:

• discipleship: the act of being a disciple.

See also: apostle.

#### doctrine

something that is believed or taught.

"For the time will come when men will not put up with sound **doctrine**. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear."

(2 Timothy 4:3)

#### eternal

everlasting, ongoing.

"[Jesus] became the source of **eternal** salvation for all who obey him." (Hebrews 5:9)

Related words:

• eternity: being eternal

#### exhort

Encourage, warn, urge.

"Finally then, brethren, we urge and **exhort** in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God." (1 Thessalonians 4:1)

Related words:

• exhortation: words which exhort.

#### faith

belief or trust.

"Now **faith** is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." (Hebrews 11:1)

## Gentile

a person who is not a Jew. The New Testament sometimes uses the word 'Greek' to mean Gentile, even if the person is not actually Greek.

"... but glory, honour and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the **Gentile**." (Romans 2:10)

See also: **pagan** 

## ghost

In very old English translations of the Bible, ghost means spirit. In particular, "giving up the ghost" means to die. The Bible does not use 'ghost' to mean a dead person. In fact, the Bible teaches that dead people are unconscious.

"Then Abraham gave up the **ghost**, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people."

(Genesis 25:8 KJV)

See also: Holy Ghost, spirit.

god

something worshipped other than the true and living God.

"But those who trust in idols, who say to images, 'You are our **gods**,' will be turned back in utter shame." (Isaiah 42:17)

Related words:

• goddess: female god.

God

the Creator and ruler, the Almighty One.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1)

gospel

good news.

"And this **gospel** of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.". Matthew 24:14

hallelujah

praise God.

"After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: 'Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God.'" (Revelation 19:1)

heathen

Gentiles or pagan nations of the world. Can be an adjective or noun, singular and plural.

"... each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the **heathen**, who do not know God." (1 Thessalonians 4:5)

See also: Gentile, pagan.

hell

grave or pit. It is a translation of the Hebrew *sheol* or the Greek *hades* or *Gehenna*. In the Bible, *sheol* and *hades* both mean 'grave'. *Gehenna* was the name of the valley south of Jerusalem which was used for burning the bodies of criminals and other rubbish.

"And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell." (Matthew 5:30)

holy

sacred, set apart, separate.

"Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be **holy** because I, the LORD your God, am **holy**.'" (Leviticus 19:2)

Related words:

• holiness (noun): the quality of being holy.

See also: sanctify.

**Holy Ghost** 

In the King James (Authorised) translation of the Bible, "Holy Ghost" is used instead of "Holy Spirit".

"And they were all filled with the **Holy Ghost**, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:4 KJV)

See also: **ghost**, **spirit**.

**Holy Spirit** 

See spirit.

hosanna

A Hebrew or Aramaic word meaning "save us".

"They took palm branches and went out to meet [Jesus], shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!'" (John 12:13)

idol

a false god, or an image of a false god.

idolatry

the worship of idols.

"Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry." (1 Corinthians 10:14)

immortal

not able to die, everlasting.

"[God] who alone is **immortal** and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honour and might forever. Amen." (1 Timothy 6:16)

Related words:

• immortality (noun): the quality of being immortal.

inspired

Literally 'God-breathed'. The Bible is inspired because God guided what the individual authors wrote.

"All scripture is **inspired** by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

(2 Timothy 3:16–17 NRSV)

**Jehovah** 

see Yahweh.

**Jesus** 

the son of God who was born 2000 years ago. His name is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Joshua, meaning "God is salvation".

"[Mary] will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name **Jesus**, because he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)

Jew

originally, a member of the tribe of Judah. Later, anyone who lived in the territory of Judah. By 550 BC, it had come to be used for any Israelite.

"To the **Jews** who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.'" (John 8:31)

jubilee

A celebration. Every fiftieth year, Israel was to have a "Year of Jubilee" when all land was to be rested, all property was to return to its original owners and all Israelite slaves were to be freed.

"Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a **jubilee** for you; each one of you is to return to his family property and each to his own clan." (Leviticus 25:10)

justify

to declare a person free from guilt.

justification

the act of God declaring a person free from guilt and acceptable to him. "Just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was **justification** that brings life for all men." (Romans 5:18)

See also: righteous, sanctify.

Levite

a member of the tribe of Levi. The Levites were responsible for the administration of worship in Israel. The Israelite priests were all Levites, although not all Levites were priests.

"Whenever the tabernacle is to move, the **Levites** are to take it down, and whenever the tabernacle is to be set up, the Levites shall do it. Anyone else who goes near it shall be put to death." (Numbers 1:51)

See also: **priest**.

Lord

in the Old Testament, "Lord" is a translation of the Hebrew word *adonai*. In the New Testament it is a translation of the Greek word *kyrios*. In both cases, it means master. It can be applied to God or to a human master.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our **Lord** Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (1 Peter 1:3)

LORD

in the Old Testament only. A translation of the Hebrew name *Yahweh* (also sometimes written as *Jehovah*). It means "He who is" or "He who will continue to be", and is God's sacred name.

God also said to Moses, 'Say to the Israelites, 'The **LORD**, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation.'" (Exodus 3:15)

See also: Yahweh.

Lucifer

occurs only in the King James (Authorised) version and New King James Version, and only in Isaiah 14:12. It means "morning-star" and is a title given to the King of Babylon (see Isaiah 14:4).

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!" (Isaiah 14:12 KJV)

"How you have fallen from heaven, O **morning star**, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!" (Isaiah 14:12 NIV)

mediate

to intervene between two others

mediator

someone who intervenes between two others to restore peace and friend-ship.

"For there is one God and one **mediator** between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 2:5)

meek

humble, lowly, teachable.

"Blessed are the **meek**, for they will inherit the earth." (Matthew 5:5)

Messiah

Hebrew word for anointed; (equivalent to the Greek word *Christ*).

"The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, 'We have found the **Messiah**' (that is, the Christ)." (John 1:41)

See also: anoint, Christ.

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#### miracle

a supernatural event.

"Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by **miracles**, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know." (Acts 2:22)

#### Related words:

• miraculous (adjective): supernatural

#### oath

a solemn promise supported by an appeal to God or some sacred object. "Saul listened to Jonathan and took this **oath**: 'As surely as the LORD lives, David will not be put to death." (1 Samuel 19:6)

#### Related words:

• swear: the statement of an oath

See also: **covenant**.

## pagan

to worship a god or gods other than the living God of the Bible. Some Bible versions use 'pagan' to mean 'Gentile'.

"And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the **pagan** world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them." (Luke 12:29–30)

See also: Gentile, heathen.

## parable

a short story designed to teach a lesson.

"With many similar **parables** Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand." (Mark 4:33)

#### **Passover**

a feast commemorating the time when Israel was in Egypt and the destroying angel "passed over" the houses of the Israelites killing only the first-born of the Egyptians.

"This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's **Passover**." (Exodus 12:11)

## patriarch

father and ruler of a family; Abraham and his immediate descendants. "Just think how great [Melchizedek] was: Even the **patriarch** Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder." (Hebrews 7:4)

## **Pentecost**

the second of the three annual Jewish festivals, also called the "feast of weeks", the "feast of harvest" and the "day of firstfruits". It was celebrated 50 days after Passover, hence the name Pentecost which means "fiftieth". The apostles received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost after Jesus went to heaven.

"When the day of **Pentecost** came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." (Acts 2:1–4)

#### **Pharisees**

a political party or school among the Jews at the time of Christ. Their name means "separated". Their main purpose was to preserve traditional Judaism. They insisted on a literal interpretation of the law and in following the traditions of the elders. These traditions were called the "oral law" and the Pharisees believed they completed and explained the written law.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and **Pharisees**, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness." (Matthew 23:23)

See also: Sadducees, scribe.

## priest

a representative of the people to God. Under the Law of Moses, a priest was a male descendant of Aaron of the tribe of Levi, who performed the necessary duties in congregational worship.

"He is to wash the inner parts and the legs with water, and the **priest** is to burn all of it on the altar. It is a burnt offering, an offering made by fire, an aroma pleasing to the LORD". (Leviticus 1:9)

Related words:

• priesthood (noun): an order of priests.

See also: Levite.

# prophet

a person who declared a message received from God. Often this involved foretelling the future, but not always.

"Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the  ${\bf prophets}$ ." (Amos 3:7)

## psalm

a song of praise.

"Speak to one another with **psalms**, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord." (Ephesians 5:19)

#### **Psalms**

a book of the Bible comprising 150 psalms.

#### redeem

to buy back, especially to pay the required price to secure the release of a convicted crimina. In the New Testament, it often refers to Jesus purchasing believers with his own blood.

"[Jesus Christ] gave himself for us to **redeem** us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good." (Titus 2:14)

Related words:

• redemption (noun): deliverance from sin and its consequences.

#### repent

to be sorry, to turn away from (sin).

"Therefore, O house of Israel, I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. **Repent!** Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall." (Ezekiel 18:30)

## resurrect

to bring back from the dead

#### resurrection

rising from the dead.

"If we have been united with [Jesus] like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his **resurrection**." (Romans 6:5)

## righteous

(adjective) spiritually correct, faultless, without blame.

"The prayer of a **righteous** man is powerful and effective." (James 5:16)

Related words:

• righteousness: a righteous action.

See also: justify.

#### Sabbath

the seventh day of the week on which Jews did not do their normal work, but 'rested'.

"For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the **Sabbath** day and made it holy." (Exodus 20:11)

## sacrifice

(verb and noun) to slaughter, kill; symbolically, anything offered to God. "Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he **sacrificed** burnt offerings on it."

(Genesis 8:20)

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living **sacrifices**, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship." (Romans 12:1)

#### Sadducees

a political party among the Jews at the time of Christ. Their name means "the righteous". They were the social elite in Israel and denied the existence of angels and the possibility of life after death. They also rejected the oral law. The Sadducees controlled the priesthood during the time of Jesus.

"But when [John] saw many of the Pharisees and **Sadducees** coming to where he was baptising, he said to them: 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?'" (Matthew 3:7)

See also: Pharisees.

#### saint

holy one, one of God's people.

"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the **saints** in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 1:1)

See also: sanctify, sanctuary.

## salvation

being saved. In the Bible, salvation usually means being saved from the eternal death that we each deserve because of our sin.

"So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring **salvation** to those who are waiting for him." (Hebrews 9:28)

See also: save, saviour.

## sanctify

to set apart, make holy, dedicate, consecrate.

"It is God's will that you should be **sanctified**: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ..." (1 Thessalonians 4:3)

Related words:

• sanctification (noun): the action or condition of being sanctified.

See also: justify.

#### sanctuary

holy place. In the Bible, it usually refers to the Jewish temple or the inner room in the Jewish temple.

"Now devote your heart and soul to seeking the LORD your God. Begin to build the **sanctuary** of the LORD God, so that you may bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the sacred articles belonging to God into the temple that will be built for the Name of the LORD." (1 Chronicles 22:19)

See also: tabernacle, temple.

## Satan

an opponent or enemy.

"Jesus turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, **Satan!** You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.'" (Matthew 16:23)

save

to rescue from danger. In the Bible, 'save' usually means to rescue from eternal death (the consequence of sin).

"Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can **save** you." (James 1:21)

See also: saviour, salvation.

#### saviour

one who saves.

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and **Saviour** Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen." (2 Peter 3:18)

See also: save, salvation.

#### scribe

a clerk, especially a public servant or secretary. In the New Testament, a scribe was one who copied, studied and taught the law.

"So Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to the **scribe** Baruch son of Neriah, and as Jeremiah dictated, Baruch wrote on it all the words of the scroll that Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire. And many similar words were added to them." (Jeremiah 36:32)

"They were astounded at [Jesus'] teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the **scribes**." (Mark 1:22 NRSV)

See also: Pharisee.

## scripture(s)

the written words of the Bible.

"Jesus replied, 'You are in error because you do not know the **Scriptures** or the power of God.'" (Matthew 22:29)

Related words:

• scriptural (adjective): based on the scriptures.

# seraph

literally 'fiery creature'. A being with six wings which Isaiah saw in his vision of the Lord in the temple. Some Bible versions use seraphim as the plural of seraph.

"Above him were **seraphs**, each with six wings; With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying." (Isaiah 6:2)

sin

to disobey God's commandments.

"Everyone who  $\sin s$  breaks the law; in fact,  $\sin s$  is lawlessness." (1 John 3:4) Related words:

- sinful (adjective): involving sin.
- sinner: one who sins.

soul

that which breathes, a human being, the feelings and will of a human being. The Bible never speaks of a soul without a body.

"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living **soul**". (Genesis 2:7 KJV)

"Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your **soul** and with all your strength." (Deuteronomy 6:5)

spirit

wind or breath. The 'spirit' of a person is their inner being or character. The "Holy Spirit" or "Spirit of God" is God's power and, sometimes, his character.

"All of them were filled with the Holy **Spirit** and began to speak in other tongues as the **Spirit** enabled them." (Acts 2:4)

"So I say, live by the **Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature." (Galatians 5:16)

spiritual

having to do with the spirit.

"Therefore you do not lack any **spiritual** gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 1:7–8)

swear

see oath.

synagogue

the local meeting place and assembly of the Jewish people during New Testament times.

"Coming to his hometown, [Jesus] began teaching the people in their **synagogue**, and they were amazed. 'Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?' they asked." (Matthew 13:54)

See also: **temple**.

tabernacle

dwelling place, tent, portable temple of worship. The Israelites used a tabernacle for worship for about 500 years before building a temple. It is sometimes simply called "the Tent" in the Bible.

"Make the **tabernacle** with ten curtains of finely twisted linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn, with cherubim worked into them by a skilled craftsman." (Exodus 26:1)

See also: sanctuary, temple.

temple

sanctuary, place of worship.

"Solomon gave orders to build a **temple** for the Name of the LORD and a royal palace for himself." (2 Chronicles 2:1)

See also: sanctuary, synagogue, tabernacle.

tempt

to test a person by suggesting that they do something wrong.

temptation

being tempted, wanting to do or have something that would be sinful.

"People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction." (1 Timothy 6:9)

Related words:

• tempter: a person who tempts another

tribe

verse

testament see covenant.

**tithe** a tenth part, especially as offered to God.

"The men of Israel and Judah who lived in the towns of Judah also brought a **tithe** of their herds and flocks and a **tithe** of the holy things dedicated to the LORD their God, and they piled them in heaps." (2 Chronicles 31:6)

**tongue** a particular language of any people.

"Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own **tongues**!" (Acts 2:11)

descendants of one of the twelve sons of Jacob. Israelite society was structured around the twelve tribes.

"Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said. He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve **tribes** of Israel."

(Exodus 24:4)

See also: Levite.

a small numbered division of the Bible. Each book of the Bible is divided into chapters, and each chapter into verses. The division into verses is

simply for convenience. See page 1 for more information.

See also: chapter.

Yahweh God's sacred name. It is a Hebrew word meaning "He who is" or "He

who will continue to be". It is sometimes written as Jehovah, although Yahweh is thought to be closer to the original pronunciation. The Jews never pronounce it for fear of misusing God's name. For this reason, it has traditionally been replaced by LORD in most English translations of

the Bible.

See LORD.