

Bible Prophecy University

Systematic & sober study of Bible prophecy, doctrine, & apologetics

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Glossary of Theological, Prophetic, and Apologetic Terms

This is a list of terms used in the Bible, prophecy study, and theological discussions. It will add to continuously. If there is a word or phrase that isn't listed here that you think should be, **please let me know** by email or one of the social media venues.

Please note that this comes from a Christian view with the Bible in mind, so the definitions of terms are given in relation to Christianity and how they are used in Scripture. For example, *apostasy* is defined as a renunciation of *Christian* belief when technically it means the renunciation of any religious belief.

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A-F

Abaddon Hebrew name given to Satan in **Revelation 9:11**, meaning the *destroyer*

Adoption The act by which God confers full adulthood rights to His children when they are born again

Agnosticism The belief that God cannot be fully known, or with some, can't be known at all

Aliyah The immigration of Jews to Israel

Amillennialism A theological position that denies the literal, earthly 1,000 year reign of Christ, instead

¹Examples include speaking of God as having eyes (**Genesis 6:8**), ears (**1 Peter 3:12**), arms (**Isaiah 51:9**), and fingers (**Psalms 8:3**)

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spiritualizing it

Angel of the Lord When capitalized, an appearance of the preincarnate Christ (Christophany)

Anthropological Argument An apologetic approach that asserts that personal aspects of man, such as a conscience that regrets doing wrong, is proof of a personal God

Anthropomorphic Language Ascribing to God human characteristics which He does not actually possess in order to explain something in the terms of man¹

Anthropopathic Language Figure of speech that ascribes to God human emotions that He does not literally feel (for example, repentance) so to express a thought in way understandable to man

Antichrist (1)The final man of lawlessness who proclaims himself to be God, ruling the world; (2)Anyone who is against Christ or attempts to replace Him in some fashion

Antinomianism Heretical belief that since Christians are under grace, they are free from any moral law²

Apollyon Greek name given to Satan in **Revelation 9:11**, meaning the *destroyer*

Apostasy (1)The renunciation of Christian belief; (2)In prophecy, the mass defection of the false church leading up to, and continuing through, the Tribulation

Armageddon (1)Theological term for the rapid series of military assaults and battles culminating in the return of Christ, when all nations come against Him; (2)Sometimes used to refer to the place of the final battle, Megiddo (**Revelation 16:16**)

Atonement The redemptive work of Christ by which He reconciles with the Father those who have saving faith in the Son, done through the shedding of blood on the cross³

Baptism (1)The sacramental identification of a believer with Christ, using water; (2)Any means by which a person is identified with someone or something else, particularly with God

Baptism of the Holy Spirit The act by which the Holy Spirit places a believer into the body of Christ at the moment of regeneration (**Romans 6:4-6; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27**)

Beelzebub Referring to Satan, the *prince of the demons*

Belial Name given to Satan in **2 Corinthians 6:15**, meaning the *worthless one*

Bibliology The study of the writing, preservation, and doctrine of the Bible

²Antinomianism is clearly forbidden in multitudinous portions of Scripture, including by James who calls it a sign of "dead faith" (**James 2:17**)

³There are some who do not like to use the word *atone* in connection with Christ's redemptive work because literally translated it means "to cover," and was used in the Old Testament to speak of animal sacrifices that "covered" sins, looking forward to Christ completely removing them. By and large however, when *atonement* is used by a Christian, it refers to Christ's redemptive work

⁴Some prefer to refer to all Old Testament appearances of Christ as Theophanies, and save Christophany for post-resurrection appearances only

⁵Examples of common grace include the sustaining of life, providing of sustenance, rain for crops, etc. (**Matthew 5:45**)

Body of Christ Born again believers of the church age⁶ taken by Christians who have a
Born Again Receiving a "new birth" from the Holy Spirit⁶ all known sin. Unbelievers
 through faith in Christ; a requirement of salvation should never take communion.
Canon The 66 books of the Bible accepted as being⁶ Taking communion unworthily
 authored by God and completely authoritative risks severe judgment from God
 (1 **Corinthians 11:27-31**)

Christology The study and doctrines of Christ

Christophany Any of the Old Testament appearances of the preincarnate Christ, or New Testament appearances of the resurrected Christ⁴

Church (1)The whole body consisting of all born again⁷ commonly referred to as
 believers beginning with the installation of the New⁷ replacement theology by
 Covenant; (2)Any assembly of Christians, from the Greek⁷ a term that
ekklesia, meaning "called out"

Church Age The time period from the institution of the New Covenant until the Rapture

Common Grace God's kindness to all people, regardless of their relationship to Him⁵

Communion (The Lord's Supper) The sacramental practice, taken by born again Christians,⁶ of reflecting on Christ through the elements of bread and juice of the vine
 (**Luke 22:19-20**)

Cosmological Argument An apologetic approach that demonstrates the necessary existence of an eternal essence containing the power of being within Himself,⁸ Election is clearly taught in
 having volition and capability to act, else there could not⁸ Scripture (**Romans 8:28-30**;
 be anything in the universe, including angels.⁸ **Ephesians 1:4-11**, **2 Timothy 2:24**;
2 Timothy 2:10; **1 Peter 1:1-2**) but there is

Cosmology The study of the origin and development of the universe and development of works. At some point I will
 devote a special section (or blog

Covenant Theology A biblical hermeneutic that believes⁸ series to teaching this important
 the church has assumed the promises and role God gave to Israel⁷
 ISSUE

The Day of the Lord In prophecy, the time when Jesus Christ returns to bring God's wrath upon the unbelieving world

Deism The belief that God exists as the Supreme Being and Creator, but does not intervene in the universe

Deity The full essence of God, found in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Diaspora The dispersion of the twelve tribes of Israel

Dispensationalism The biblical hermeneutic that believes Israel & the church are separate and there is still a future prophetic role for the nation Israel

Ecclesiology The theology and doctrine of the church

Eisegesis Reading into biblical text something that isn't there

Election The act of God by which He chose those to be in Christ before the foundation of the world⁸

Epistle Any of the New Testament books written in the form of a letter

Eschatology The study of future things

Eternal Death Everlasting separation from the goodness of God, while being in the presence of His wrath

Eternal Life Never ending union with God

Exegesis The hermeneutical principal of getting out of biblical text what is there—nothing more, nothing less

Expiation The act where a sinner's guilt is removed through Christ

The Fall The act of sin committed by Adam whereby the sin nature and death came into the world

Flesh In theology, the fallen nature inside all men

Fruit of the Spirit The evidences of Christ in the life of a believer who is yielded to Him; love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control as produced by the Spirit

G-L

Gehenna Eternal hell; Lake of Fire

Gentile Generally, in the Old Testament, any non-Jewish person; in the New Testament, any non-Jewish person

Gifts of the Spirit Any number of gifts given by God to Christians, enabling them to carry out His work on earth

Glorification The future state of Christians picturing the absence of the presence of sin

Gospel The "good news" that Christ died for sins, was buried, and rose again, paying the penalty for the sins of those who have saving faith (**1 Corinthians 15:1-4**)

Grace God's unmerited favor, where He bestows His goodness upon undeserving people

Great White Throne The final judgment of the lost where they are sentenced to eternal hell

Hades/Sheol Hades is Greek, Sheol is Hebrew—(1)Old Testament place of comfort for saints awaiting the redemptive work of Christ; (2)temporary place of punishment for unbelievers awaiting the Great White Throne judgment; (3)the grave.

Many brilliant theologians

dispute the impeccability doctrine, saying this would

deemphasize Christ's

faithfulness. The answer to that

by the Spirit, "Have you

ever been tempted and not

sinned?" The answer is yes for

all of us, even non Christians.

Even on earth and with a human

nature, Christ was God

(**Romans 9:5; 1 Timothy 3:16;**

Hebrews 1:8) and God cannot

save Himself (see

James 1:13). The purpose of His

temptations was to prove that He

was who He said He was

Hamartiology The study of sin

Hermeneutics The science of interpreting written text, specifically the Bible

Hypostatic Union The union of full deity and full humanity in the incarnate Christ

Immutability (of God) The attribute of God where He is unchanging and unable to be changed

Impeccability (of Christ) The doctrine that states that Christ not only did not sin, but as God He was incapable of sin⁹

Imputation (1)The charge of Adam's sin to the human race, making us all guilty; (2)The credit of Christ's righteousness to believers

Incarnation God the Son becoming a man, via the virgin birth, in order to redeem those with saving faith

Inerrant Without error

Infallible Incapable of containing error

Inspiration (of Scripture) The act by which God

superintended the Scriptures though He did not originate them. It is the original relation to the earth, and it is the planet that is moving. It is important to note when phenomenological language is used in Scripture

Isagogics The literary and external history of the Bible, including culture and customs at the time each book was written, used to aid in hermeneutics

Judgment Seat of Christ The examination of Christians to determine rewards

Justification The act by which God declares a sinner legally righteous

Lake of Fire The eternal place of burning and darkness for the devil, demons, and those who die without saving faith in Christ

Last Days Time period, apparently beginning at or during the incarnation of Christ and lasting through the Millennium

Legalism The attempt to earn God's favor through human effort

The Lord's Supper See Communion

Lucifer Satan prior to his fall, meaning *morning star*

M-R

Millennium In dispensational theology, the period of 1,000 years where Christ physically reigns over earth from Jerusalem in fulfillment of God's promises to

Abraham and David

Objectivism Bible study that attempts to learn what a passage literally means before applying it to oneself

Ontological Argument An apologetic approach based on modal logic that demonstrates that if it is possible that an omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent being exists, then He must exist

Original Sin The doctrine that all people, as descendants of Adam who sinned, are conceived in a fallen state, dead spiritually and at enmity with God

Paganism Any worldview contrary to the Bible

Pentateuch The first five books of the Old Testament, commonly called the *Books of Moses* or the *Books of the Law*

Phenomenological Language The expression of an event in the way it appears to the human eye¹⁰

Plenary Inspiration The belief that the verbal inspiration of the Bible extends to every jot and tittle (**Matthew 5:18**)

Pneumatology The study of the Holy Spirit

Positional Sanctification At salvation, the setting apart of a life, by God, for Himself, leading to a desiring for the things of God

Postmillennialism A belief that the church will "win and rule the world" for Christ for 1,000 years before His return

Predestination (1)God's sovereign ordaining of events that must come to pass (**Acts 4:27-28**); (2)used by some as a synonym for election

Premillennialism The belief that Christ will return to the earth and reign bodily for 1,000 years

Preservation of the Saints The doctrine showing that once a person is truly saved, God will, by His power, keep that person saved

Progressive Sanctification The process of Christians becoming more like Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God

Prophecy (1)The gifting of the Spirit to proclaim the truth of God, from His Word; (2)Foretelling the future

Propitiation The act where God's wrath is satisfied in the Cross of Christ

Providence The power of God whereby He works all things according to His purposes

The Rapture The "snatching away" of the church before God unleashes His wrath upon the earth

Reconciliation The act by which peace is made between man and God through Christ

Redemption Term referring to Christ paying the ransom price for sinners and a fallen world

Regeneration The act by which the Holy Spirit gives "new birth" to a person, making him born again. At this moment the new believer is given God's own nature

The Resurrection Christ's resurrection from the dead after three days

Resurrection of the Dead The act at the end of the age when God brings all men back to life to face final judgment, either of sins (for the unbeliever) or works (for the Christian) ([Acts 24:15](#))

Revelation (1)God's revealing of Himself to man;¹¹
(2)The final book of the Canon

Revived Roman Empire The final world power leading to the Antichrist becoming global dictator

S-Z

Salvation (1)The plan and result of God's grace, given to save sinners from hell; (2)Being saved from a precarious situation

Sanctification (1)The act of God setting apart a person or thing to Himself; (2)The process of spiritual growth of a Christian, including the pursuit of holiness; (3) The final act by which God completely removes all remnants of fallen man from Christians

Second Death The final sentencing of Satan, demons (fallen angels), and those who die without the grace of Christ to the Lake of Fire ([Revelation 20:11-14](#))

Septuagint The first Greek translation of the Old Testament

Sin Any failure to meet God's perfect standard, including doing wrong, failing to do right, and doing right for motives other than God's glory

Sheol See Hades

Soteriology The study of the doctrines of salvation

Sovereignty God's authority of all of His creation

Spiritual Death The state of man from conception, separated from God by sin and the sin nature

Subjectivism Interpreting Scripture through one's personal worldview, often accepting contradictory beliefs

Systematic Theology The whole scope of theology, where each individual truth fits together to form a self-consistent whole

Teleological Argument An apologetic approach that asserts the existence of a Creator based on the order of the universe;¹² also known as the argument from design

Theanthropic Both human and divine, referring always and only to the Lord Jesus Christ

Theodicy The work of explaining the presence of evil in light of an omniscient God being both loving and omnipotent

Theophany Any visible manifestation of God to humankind

Third Heaven The abode of God

Tribulation (1)*The Tribulation*: The seven year period of divine discipline against Israel and judgment on the world prior to the return of Christ; (2)affliction, persecution

Trichotomy A division into 3 categories, such as Father, Son, & Holy Spirit (with God), and body, soul, & spirit (with man)

Trinity The essence of the One True God in three subsistences; Father, Son, & Holy Spirit, eaching have all the attributes of deity

Type An illustration or preview of a divine truth, especially prophetically

Ultimate Sanctification The future act where God removes all sin from His children (in heaven), effecting their glorification

Verbal Inspiration The belief that the Bible contains the actual words of God, given through men

Works (1)The acts of God; (2)A Christian's service for God; (3)The evil deeds of fallen man

Worldview A philosophy of life or conception of the world

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