

# THE SHORT BIBLE

## Key Terms by Chapter

The table below explains the key terms (people, geographical sites, concepts) described in *The Short Bible*. They appear alphabetically in the chapter in which they are first mentioned, and they are **not** repeated if they occur again in another chapter. In some cases, more than one person or location has the same name. For example, there are several people who have the name Joseph, and they are listed separately in the chapter where they are first mentioned.

### ESSENTIAL OVERVIEW

Canon	The collection of documents that are contained in the Bible
Council of Carthage	Group of church leaders who decided what should be included in the Bible
Covenant	Agreement made between God and the people of God
God	Name given to the supreme force in the universe who has three parts; sometimes called Lord
Grace	An undeserved gift or favor
Hermeneutics	The field of study related to the interpretation of the Bible
Holy Spirit	One part of God
Israel	Canaan, area where the Israelites (Jews) lived
Israelites	God's chosen people of Israel (descendants of Jacob)
Jews	Another word for the Israelites (not Gentiles)
Lord	Another word for God
Prayer	A form of human interaction with a divine power

### PART 1: OLD TESTAMENT

#### Chapter 1      The Beginning

Abel	Second child born to Adam and Eve, killed by Cain
Abimelech	Philistine king who had a good relationship with Abraham and Isaac
Abram/Abraham	Man who lived in Ur and moved to Canaan with his wife, Sarai/Sarah; first father of the Jews ("father of a multitude")
Adam	First man created by God who lived in the Garden of Eden with Eve
Ammonites	Descendants of Ben-ammi who lived east of the Jordan River
Angels	Cosmic beings that can be good or evil and sometimes interact with humans
Asher	Son of Jacob and Zilpah
Babylon	Major city in Mesopotamia (near the current city of Bagdad)
Beersheba	Desert-like city in southern Canaan and birthplace of Isaac
Ben-ammi	Son of Lot whose descendants were the Ammonites
Benjamin	Son of Jacob and Rachel and Jacob's youngest son

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Bilhah	Rachel's maid and wife of Jacob who had two sons (Dan and Naphtali)
Cain	First child born to Adam and Eve who killed his brother Abel
Canaan	Land promised to Abram and now called Palestine ("Holy Land")
Dan	Son of Jacob and Bilhah
Dan	City with a worship center in the Northern Kingdom
Dinah	Daughter of Jacob and Leah
Egypt	Large empire located southwest of Palestine and an area frequently visited by the Israelites during times of crisis
Esau	Older son of Isaac and Jacob, lost birthright and blessing to his brother Jacob, married foreign wives and left home to live in Edom
Eve	First woman created by God, lived in the Garden of Eden with Adam
Flood	Cataclysm used by God to destroy all humans, which ended with a rainbow, signifying God will never destroy all humans again
Gad	Son of Jacob and Zilpah
Galeed	Area southeast of the Sea of Galilee and site of an altar made by Jacob and Laban
Garden of Eden	Idyllic home of Adam and Eve before they sinned
Hagar	Egyptian servant of Sarah who gave birth to Ishmael (Abraham was the father)
Haran	Area in northern Mesopotamia that was the home of Rebekah, Laban, and his daughters Rachel and Leah
Isaac	Son of Abraham and Sarah ("son of promise") who had two sons (Esau and Jacob)
Ishmael	Son of Abraham and Hagar who lived east of the Jordan River
Issachar	Son of Jacob and Leah
Jacob	Younger son of Isaac who obtained Esau's birthright and blessing and who had 12 sons and a daughter with his four wives
Joseph	Son of Jacob and Rachel who became a leader in Egypt
Judah	Son of Jacob and Leah
Laban	Rebekah's brother, Rachel's father, and Jacobs' father-in-law
Leah	One of Jacob's wives who had six of his sons
Levi	Son of Jacob and Leah; another name for the disciple Matthew
Lot	Wealthy and righteous nephew of Abraham who moved to Canaan and lived in Sodom and later fled its destruction
Mesopotamia	General area with fertile land along the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers (currently in Iraq and part of the "Fertile Crescent")
Moab	Son of Lot and one of his daughters whose descendants were the Moabites
Moabites	Descendants of Moab who lived east of the Salt Sea
Naphtali	Son of Jacob and Bilhah
Noah	Faithful man who built an ark to save all living creatures from a massive flood
Philistines	People living in Philistia, a nation located on the southeast coast of the Mediterranean Sea (southwest Canaan)
Rachel	Wife of Jacob who had two sons (Joseph and Benjamin)
Rebekah	Wife of Isaac who had two sons (Esau and Jacob)
Reuben	Son of Jacob and Leah
Salt Sea	Large salty body of water where the Jordan River ends (Dead Sea)

Sarai/Sarah	Wife of Abram/Abraham
Satan	Evil angel leader that was expelled from heaven and the “prince of this world” who loses the final battle with God for the control of the universe (also called the devil)
Sea of Galilee	A very large lake in northern Israel (also known as Lake Tiberias)
Simeon	A son of Jacob and Leah
Sodom	Prosperous city near the southern end of the Salt Sea that was destroyed because of its injustice and immorality
Ur	City in southern Mesopotamia and south of Babylon where Abram and Sarai lived before moving to Canaan
Zebulun	Son of Jacob and Leah
Zilpah	Wife of Jacob who had two sons (Gad and Asher)

## **Chapter 2      Jacob Returns to Canaan**

Bethel	City near Jerusalem
Bethlehem	Town near Jerusalem and birthplace of Jesus (also called Ephrath)
Edom	Mountainous region east of the southern end of the Salt Sea (also known as Seir, meaning “rough”) where Esau went to live
Ephraim	Younger son of Joseph and his Egyptian wife, was blessed by Jacob
Ephrath	Another name for Bethlehem
Goshen	Fertile area in northern Egypt where Israelites settled after leaving Israel during a famine
Hamor	Leader of Shechem who was killed by Jacob’s sons
Israel	Name given to Jacob after fighting with an angel before meeting Esau
Jabbok River	River crossed by Jacob and his family before they met Esau
Manasseh	Older son of Joseph and his Egyptian wife
Nile River	Major river running northward through Egypt
Pharaoh	An Egyptian king
Potiphar	Leader of Pharaoh’s bodyguards
Shechem	Son of Hamor and the leader of the region based in the city of Shechem who married Dinah and was killed by her brothers
Shechem	City in the hills of central Israel near Samaria
Succoth	A place where Jacob stayed after meeting Esau; a city in the Jordan plain where Gideon asked for help when pursuing the Midianites

## **Chapter 3      Life in Egypt**

Aaron	Moses’s older brother who became the first High Priest
Gershom	Son of Moses and Zipporah
Hebrew	Language spoken by the Israelites; a word used to indicate something Jewish
Hebrews	Israelites (known for the Hebrew language they spoke); the name of a New Testament book written to the Jews
Jethro	Midianite priest who helped Moses
Midian	Southeastern area of the Sinai Peninsula and area east of the peninsula where Moses initially went to escape the Egyptians

Moses	Son of Levite parents and younger brother of Aaron; he was adopted by Pharaoh's daughter, led Israelites out of Egypt and through the wilderness, and authored several books of the Bible
Passover	Celebration of the night when God passed over the homes of the Israelites and killed the firstborn children of all other families living in Egypt just before the exodus
Sinai Peninsula	Large peninsula east of Egypt and south of Canaan, bordered by the Gulf of Suez and the Gulf of Aqaba
Wilderness	Name given to areas on and near the Sinai Peninsula after the Israelites left Egypt; a general term to describe desolate lands
Zipporah	Wife of Moses who had a son named Gershom

#### **Chapter 4      The Israelites Leave Egypt**

Amalekites	Descendants of Esau who attacked the Israelites at Rephidim
Ark of the Covenant	An ornately covered box that contained holy relics of the Jews
Elim	Oasis near the Gulf of Suez where the Israelites camped after escaping the Egyptians
Exodus	The departure and travels of the Israelites from Egypt after years of harsh treatment
Gulf of Suez	Extension of the Red Sea along the west coast of the Sinai Peninsula
Joshua	Leader who went with Moses to Mount Sinai and was one of the spies who said Canaan could be conquered and later led the successful invasion of Canaan
Manna	Sweet cracker-like substance ("bread") that appeared on the ground in the morning during the Israelites' days in the wilderness
Mount Sinai	Highest mountain on the Sinai Peninsula, located near the southern end of the peninsula, where Moses met God and got the 10 commandments (also known as Mount Horeb)
Red Sea	Large body of water between Egypt and Arabia with two northern branches (Gulf of Aqaba and Gulf of Suez)
Repent	The act of acknowledging wrong and then "turning" in another direction to pursue correct and more appropriate action
Rephidim	Area along the Gulf of Suez where Moses brought water out of the rock and where a battle with the Amalekites took place
Sabbath	The last day of the week, a day of rest
Shur	Wilderness area on the west side of the Sinai Peninsula
Tabernacle	A network of movable tents and courtyards where God dwelled before the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem
Ten Commandments	Commands from God given to Moses on Mount Sinai
Year of the Jubilee	The year after seven cycles of seven years (every 50 years) when debts are canceled; a term used in the writings of Isaiah that announced the arrival of the Messiah

#### **Chapter 5      Life in the Wilderness**

Amorites	People who lived in Canaan and land east of the Jordan River
Arnon River	River on the east side of the Salt Sea
Balaam	Mesopotamian sorcerer hired by the Moabites to curse the Israelites and was rebuked by his donkey that was stopped by an angel
Balak	Moabite king who hired Balaam to curse the Israelites
Caleb	One of the two spies who said the Israelites could conquer Canaan and was allowed to enter Canaan
Cities of refuge	Six cities run by the Levites that provided asylum and protection for anyone who unintentionally killed a person (manslaughter) until their case went to trial

Eleazar	High Priest who took over from Aaron
Ezion-Geber	City at the northern tip of the Gulf of Aqaba
Gulf of Aqaba	Extension of the Red Sea along the east coast of the Sinai Peninsula
Jericho	Large walled city near the northwest corner of the Salt Sea
Kadesh Barnea	Semiarid city about 50 miles southwest of Beersheba in southern Israel
Kibroth-hattaavah	Place in the wilderness where so many birds died that the Israelites got sick and sometimes died when they ate the birds raw
Midianites	People who lived in the Midian region (north of the Red Sea)
Mount Hor	Small mountain near the Edom border where Aaron died
Mount Nebo	Mountain in Moab where Moses saw Canaan before he died
Nazarites	People who dedicate themselves to serve God for a specific amount of time and agree not to shave their head or consume any form of a grape or touch a dead person
Negev	Desert-like region south of Canaan
Phinehas	Grandson of Aaron who stopped a plague by killing an Israelite man and his Moabite girlfriend and who resolved a conflict among the 12 tribes after the conquest of Canaan
Pisgah	Panoramic ridge at the top of Mount Nebo where Moses saw Canaan before he died

## **Chapter 6      The Occupation of Canaan**

Adam	Town on the Jordan River where a landslide stopped the river from flowing to allow the Israelites to cross on dry ground near Jericho
Ai	City close to Jericho where several battles took place
Euphrates River	A major river in Mesopotamia (part of the "Fertile Crescent")
Gaza	Major Philistine city in southwest Canaan
Gibeon	Area north of Jerusalem whose people tricked the Israelites into making a peace agreement
Gilgal	Camp where Joshua stayed before attacking Jericho and a city in northern Canaan
Hazor	Powerful city in northern Canaan
Hebron	City located about 25 miles south of Jerusalem
Mount Ebal	Small mountain north of Jericho and Ai
Mount Gerizim	Small mountain north of Jericho and Ai
Mount Hermon	High snow-capped mountain (more than 9,200 feet high) in northern Palestine that provides water for the Jordan River
Phoenicia	Area north of Palestine along the Mediterranean coast
Phoenicians	People who lived in Phoenicia, an area on the coast north of Israel
Rahab	Prostitute who hid two Israeli spies in Jericho, mother of Boaz
Shiloh	City with religious significance in northern Israel
Tyre	Phoenician city on the coast north of Israel
Valley of Achor	An area near Jericho
Waters of Merom	Area near Hazor where Israel defeated a coalition of forces in a surprise attack

## **Chapter 7      Israel Struggles in Canaan**

Abimelek	Gideon's son who became an evil king
Aram	Region north of Canaan (in present-day Syria, including where Aleppo now stands)
Asherah	Mother goddess worshipped by people in Canaan

Ashkelon	Major Philistine city in southwest Canaan
Baal	Main local God of the non-Jews living in Canaan
Barak	Man who lived in northern Canaan who fought with Deborah to defeat the army of Hazor
Boaz	Husband of Ruth, father of Jesse, and grandfather of David
David	Son of Jesse who killed Goliath, lived in Jerusalem as Israel's second king, and the father of Solomon
Deborah	Woman prophet and judge who led the battle with Barak to defeat the army of Hazor
Delilah	Samson's girlfriend who got him to reveal the secret of his strength
Gideon	Unusual prophet who used a fleece to confirm God's call to fight the Midianites
Gilead	Heavily forested area east of the Jordan River that was settled by the Manasseh tribe
Jephthah	Unusual leader from Gilead who defeated the Ammonites but tragically killed his only child
Jotham	Gideon's youngest son who escaped the wrath of his brother Abimelek
Kedesh	City in northern Canaan where Barak lived
Kishon River	Major river in northwest Israel where Deborah and Barak defeated the well-equipped army of Hazor
Manoah	Samson's father
Mara	Name Naomi gave herself when returning to Bethlehem ("bitter")
Megiddo	City in northern Israel where many battles took place; predicted in Revelation to be the site of a major battle during the end times (Armageddon)
Mizpah	City a few miles north of Jerusalem
Moreh	Hill in northern Canaan close to where Gideon launched a surprise attack against foreign armies
Naomi	Mother-in-law of Ruth and relative of Boaz (Ruth's husband)
Obed	Son of Boaz and Ruth and father of Jesse
Ophrah	Village in the central Canaan hills near Bethel where Gideon lived
Orpah	A daughter-in-law of Naomi (the other was Ruth)
Othniel	Judge and military leader and Caleb's younger brother who defeated the armies of the king of Aram
Palestine	Current name for Canaan, the Promised Land ("Holy Land")
Peniel	City in the Jordan plain where Gideon asked for help when he pursued the Midianites
Prophet	A person who speaks God's truth to others, often to those in power, and may make predictions about the future
Ramath Lehi	"Jawbone hill" where Samson killed many Philistines
Rock of Etam	Rocky area with caves near Bethlehem where Samson hid from the Philistines
Ruth	Moabite daughter-in-law of Naomi who married Boaz
Samson	Flawed Jewish hero known for his strength coming from his long hair
Taanach	City in a fertile valley in northern Palestine where major battles were fought
Zorah	Samson's mother

## **Chapter 8      Crowning a Unifying King**

Abigail	David's second wife
Ahinoam	David's third wife
Ashdod	Major Philistine city in southwest Canaan
Beth Shan	City where the Philistines hung the headless bodies of Saul and his sons
Ekron	Major Philistine city in southwest Canaan
Eli	High priest during the time of Samuel who spoke to Hannah and mentored Samuel

Gath	Major Philistine city in southwest Canaan and home of Goliath
Hannah	Mother of Samuel
Jabesh Gilead	Site of the first battle won by Saul over the Ammonites
Jesse	David's father and the grandson of Boaz and Ruth
Jezreel	Site of the battle with the Philistines where Saul and his sons were defeated
Jonathan	Saul's son and close friend of David
Michal	Saul's daughter and David's first wife
Mount Gilboa	Site of Saul's suicide
Ramah	A city in the central hills of Ephraim near Jerusalem
Samuel	Important prophet and judge when Israel selected its first king
Saul	First king of Israel; the Hebrew name of Paul
Valley of Elah	Battle site where David killed Goliath
Ziklag	Philistine city where David settled while being a fugitive

## **Chapter 9            King David and King Solomon**

Absalom	David's third oldest son who tried to replace David as king
Amnon	David's oldest son who was killed because he raped his sister Tamar
Bathsheba	Wife of Uriah who became David's wife and Solomon's mother
City of David	Another name for Jerusalem where David served as king
Damascus	The most important city in Syria, northeast of Palestine
Edomites	People who lived in Edom (an area southeast of Canaan)
Ishbosheth	Saul's son who was crowned king by several Israelite tribes
Jebusites	Canaanite people who occupied Jerusalem before being defeated by David
Jeroboam	Official who worked for Solomon who became the first king of the Northern Kingdom
Joab	Israeli army commander during David's reign
Maacah	David's wife who was the daughter of Talmai, the king of Gusher
Mount Zion	A small hill in Jerusalem
Nathan	Prophet who confronted David about his affair with Bathsheba
Queen of Sheba	Arabian queen who came to meet Solomon
Rabbah	City where Israel battled the Ammonites and Uriah was killed during a retreat planned by King David
Rehoboam	Solomon's son who became the first king of the Southern Kingdom
Solomon	Son of David and Bathsheba who became a wise king of Israel and built the Temple in Jerusalem and authored several books of the Old Testament
Tamar	David's daughter who was raped by her brother Amnon
Temple	Buildings and courtyards in Jerusalem where the Jews honored and worshipped God
Uriah	Bathsheba's husband whose death in battle was planned by David
Zion	Another name for Jerusalem because of its hill called Mount Zion

## **Chapter 10            The Divided Kingdom**

Ahab	King in the Northern Kingdom, husband of Jezebel
Ahaziah	King in the Southern Kingdom, son of Jehoram
Amos	Prophet in the Northern Kingdom

Dothan	City in the Northern Kingdom where the Syrian army went blind
Elijah	Main prophet in the Northern Kingdom
Elisha	Prominent prophet in the Northern Kingdom after Elijah disappeared
Gentiles	People who are not Jewish
Hosea	Prophet to the Northern Kingdom
Immanuel	A name given to the Messiah ("God with us")
Isaiah	Major prophet who wrote to both parts of the divided kingdom
Israel	Name given to the Northern Kingdom
Jehoram	King in the Southern Kingdom who shared his reign with his father Jehoshaphat
Jehoshaphat	King in the Southern Kingdom who shared his reign with his son Jehoram
Jeroboam II	King with the longest reign in the Northern Kingdom
Jezebel	Evil wife of King Ahab
Jezreel	Firstborn son of Hosea who was named after a city in the Northern Kingdom known for famous murders
Joram	King in the Northern Kingdom who gave the Syrian army a feast
Manasseh	Longest reigning king in the Southern Kingdom and son of Hezekiah
Micah	Prophet to the Southern Kingdom
Naaman	Syrian who was healed of a skin disease by Elisha
Northern Kingdom	Region known as Israel where 10 tribes of Jacob lived after the Israelites split into two kingdoms
Samaria	Area in northern Palestine inhabited largely by non-Jews
Samaritans	People who lived in Samaria and were despised by the Jews
Sidon	Phoenician port city north of Israel
Southern Kingdom	Region known as Judah where the tribes of Judah and Benjamin lived after the Israelites split into two kingdoms
Uzziah	King in the Southern Kingdom (Isaiah predicted his death)
Zarephath	City in Phoenicia where Elijah stayed with a widow
Zimri	Shortest reigning king during the centuries of the divided Kingdom

## **Chapter 11 Both Kingdoms Fall**

Habakkuk	Prophet in the Southern Kingdom
Hezekiah	King in the Southern Kingdom
Huldah	Female prophet who predicted the fall of the Southern Kingdom
Jeremiah	Prophet to the Southern Kingdom
Joel	Prophet to the Southern Kingdom
Jonah	Prophet to the Assyrians who avoided God's call by going to Spain
Josiah	King in the Southern Kingdom
Nahum	Prophet in the Southern Kingdom
Nineveh	Capital city of Assyria
Obadiah	Prophet in the Southern Kingdom
Sennacherib	Assyrian king who ruled during the invasion of Israel
Zephaniah	Prophet in the Southern Kingdom

## **Chapter 12 Life in Exile, Then Restoration**



Abednego	Faithful man trained in Babylon and one of three Jews who survived burning in a furnace
Aramaic	Widely-used Syrian dialect that was used in the Near East to conduct business and diplomacy; a language used in Palestine in addition to Hebrew
Artaxerxes	King in Person, son of Xerxes
Asia Minor	Region located in current day Turkey
Cyrus the Great	Persian leader during the time when the Israelites were in exile
Daniel	Religious and political leader who lived in Babylon and survived being thrown to the lions
Darius	Persian king
Esther	Jewish wife of the Persian King Xerxes
Ezekiel	Unusual Jewish prophet who lived in Babylon
Ezra	Jewish leader who lived in exile in Babylon who got permission for the Jews to return to Palestine
Haggai	Prophet to the Jews who returned to Palestine and advocated for the rebuilding of the Temple
Haman	Prime minister in Persia who tried to get rid of all the Jews
Magi	Priests of the Zoroastrianism faith
Malachi	Prophet to those living in the rebuilt city of Jerusalem and the last prophet who lived during the Old Testament period
Medes	People who lived in Media (Persia, in modern-day Iran)
Meshach	Faithful man trained in Babylon and one of three Jews who survived burning in a furnace
Mordecai	Uncle of Esther who lived in Persia
Nehemiah	Jew who served as the Persian king's cupbearer and returned to Jerusalem to rebuild its walls and gates
Parable	A simple story told to convey an important message
Shadrach	Faithful man trained in Babylon who was one of three Jews who survived burning in a furnace
Xerxes	Persian king during the time of Esther and Mordecai
Zechariah	Prophet to the Jews who returned to Palestine and advocated for the rebuilding of the Temple
Zoroastrianism	Persian religion

### **Chapter 13      Biblical Poetry**

Psalms	Old Testament book of poetry; a type of Jewish poetry
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### **Chapter 14      Unique Books in the Old Testament**

Bildad	One of the characters in Job who tells Job why he is suffering
Elihu	One of the characters in Job who tells Job why he is suffering
Eliphaz	One of the characters in Job who tells Job why he is suffering
Job	Main character in the book of Job who suffers greatly even though he is faithful to God
Proverbs	Old Testament book of wisdom literature; a type of wise sayings
Tarshish	A city in Spain where Jonah fled instead of going to Nineveh
Tigris River	A major river in Mesopotamia (part of the "Fertile Crescent")
Zophar	One of the characters in Job who tells Job why he is suffering

## **PART 2: NEW TESTAMENT**

## Chapter 15 The Messiah Arrives

Alexander the Great	Greek leader who conquered much of the world and helped spread the influence of Greek culture before the time of Jesus
Alexandria	Major city established by Alexander the Great located in the Nile River delta in Egypt on the Mediterranean Sea
Andrew	One of the first disciples of Jesus, a fisherman and Simon's brother
Anna	Widowed prophet who saw the baby Jesus at the Temple and told others about him
Annas	High priest when Jesus was alive (shared the role with Caiaphas)
Bartholomew	One of the 12 disciples (also known as Nathaniel)
Caesar Augustus	Roman emperor at the time of Jesus's birth who ordered a census
Caiaphas	High priest when Jesus was alive (shared the role with Annas)
Capernaum	City on the Sea of Galilee in northern Palestine where Jesus lived during his ministry
Christ	Greek word for Messiah, another word for Jesus
Disciples	People who learn from a teacher; men who traveled with Jesus
Essenes	Jews who withdrew from the world and lived simple lives near the Salt Sea
Gabriel	Angel who revealed John's birth to Zechariah and Jesus's birth to Mary
Galileans	People who lived in northern Palestine and were viewed with contempt because they often married non-Jews and disliked outsiders who lived in their communities
Gospel	"Good news" about Jesus' free gift of eternal life
Greek	Language spoken and written in Greece and throughout and beyond the Mediterranean region during the time of Jesus
Hanukkah	Jewish celebration to remember the victory over the Greeks in 142 BC
Hellenistic	Greek influences on other cultures
Herod	Roman king in charge of Palestine at the time of Jesus's birth
Herod Antipas	Roman governor of Galilee when Jesus was alive
Herodians	Jews who followed Roman traditions and beliefs
James	Fisherman and brother of John who was one of the 12 disciples of Jesus and later authored a book contained in the Bible
Jesus	Son of Mary and Joseph and a human form of God who was born in Bethlehem and who was given many names and fulfilled the Old Testament predictions of the Messiah (Christ)
John	Fisherman and brother of James who was among the first disciples of Jesus and who wrote several books contained in the Bible
John the Baptist	Unusual prophet and peer of Jesus who prepared the Israelites for the ministry of Jesus
Joseph	The father of Jesus
Luke	Gentile doctor and traveling companion of Paul who wrote a book (Luke) about the life of Jesus and a book (Acts) about what happened among the disciples after Jesus left the earth
Maccabees	Jews who revolted against the Greeks in the second century BC
Mary	Mother of Jesus
Messiah	The Anointed One who was predicted to save the Jews from their oppressors (Christ in Greek)
Nazareth	Town in Galilee 70 miles north of Jerusalem and hometown of Jesus
Peter	First disciple chosen by Jesus who became the leader of the church (also known as Simon and Simon Peter)

Pharisees	Influential Jewish religious leaders who adhered closely to the laws of Moses
Philip	One of the 12 disciples of Jesus who later preached in various places in Palestine
Pontius Pilate	Roman governor of Judea when Jesus was alive
Rabbi	Jewish religious teacher or scholar
Roman Empire	Vast empire that lasted for more than 500 years throughout much of Europe, northern Africa, and parts of southwest Asia
Rome	Largest city in Italy and the center of the Roman Empire
Sadducees	Small group of influential Jewish religious leaders who stressed morality rather than obeying religious rules
Sanhedrin	A diverse group of Jewish leaders who watched over the religious life of the Jews and had the powers to punish Jews
Scribes	People who wrote important documents (often religious in nature) and were experts in the law
Simeon	An old man who God promised would see the Messiah
Synagogue	Place of worship for the Jews and those who believe in Judaism
Tanakh	Jewish term for the entire Old Testament that is derived by using the Hebrew initial letters of the names of the three parts of the Hebrew Bible (its teachings, prophets, and writings)
Tiberius Caesar	Roman emperor when Jesus was a man
Zechariah	Priest who married Elizabeth and became the father of John the Baptist at an old age
Zealots	Jews who rebelled against foreign powers that occupied Palestine and were willing to fight and die for their cause

## **Chapter 16      Acts of Jesus**

Abyss	A very deep and vast space, a negative word that describes hell
Apostle	A messenger of God
Beelzebul	Another word for Satan and the devil
Cana	Sight of a wedding where Jesus turned water into wine
Gerasenes	Area east of Galilee where Jesus healed demon-possessed men
Joanna	Woman who managed Herod's household and supported Jesus and the disciples financially
Judas	One of the 12 disciples and half-brother of Jesus who wrote the book Jude
Judas Iscariot	Man with financial expertise who was a disciple and betrayed Jesus to the Jewish leaders
Lazarus	Good friend of Jesus who was raised from the dead
Martha	Sister of Mary Magdalene and Lazarus
Mary Magdalene	Woman who helped Jesus, sister of Lazarus and Martha, and the first person to see Jesus after his resurrection (often called Mary)
Matthew	Jewish tax collector, also known as Levi, who became one of the 12 disciples of Jesus
Nain	Town in Galilee where Jesus raised a man from the dead
Nicodemus	Religious Jew who secretly met Jesus and helped bury him after the crucifixion
Resurrection	When a person comes back to life after being dead
Rich young ruler	Man who asked Jesus what he must do to have eternal life
Simon the Zealot	One of the original 12 disciples of Jesus
Susanna	Woman who supported Jesus and the disciples financially
Thomas	The disciple who doubted that Jesus came back to life
Zacchaeus	Jewish tax collector who climbed a tree to see Jesus

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**Chapter 17**      **Teachings of Jesus**

Golden Rule	Part of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:12) that Jesus said summarized the message of the Old Testament
Good Samaritan	Parable told by Jesus about a Samaritan who took care of a man who was attacked on a dangerous road after devout Jews did nothing to help the man
Prodigal Son (Prodigal Father)	Parable about a man who has two sons, the younger of which asks for his inheritance early and squanders it on wild living, but is lavishly welcomed home later by a loving father
Sermon on the Mount	Longest consecutive set of teachings by Jesus early in his ministry, which includes “the Beatitudes” and the Lord’s prayer (the full text is found in Matthew 5–7)

**Chapter 18**      **Arrest, Trial, and Execution**

Barabbas	Rebel Israelite who was released instead of Jesus
Gethsemane	Garden where Jesus prayed before his arrest and where his arrest occurred
Golgotha	Hill in Jerusalem where Jesus was killed on a cross (“place of the skull”)
Joseph	A man from Arimathea who allowed Jesus to be buried in his new tomb
Lord’s Supper	Commemorative “meal” consisting of bread and wine which Christians take with other believers to remember Jesus’s body and blood given for his followers (also known as the Last Supper with Jesus and his disciples a few hours before Jesus was arrested)
Mount of Olives	Small hill just outside the walls of Jerusalem
Praetorium	Military section of a high-ranking Roman official’s palace
The Way	Term initially given to the religious movement based on the teachings of Jesus

**Chapter 19**      **Life After Death**

Emmaus	Village near Jerusalem where Jesus talked to two men after his resurrection
Josef	One of the sons of Mary, the mother of Jesus (she also had sons named James, Simon, and Judas)
Matthias	Man selected to be the twelfth disciple to replace Judas Iscariot
Witness	A person who observes an event and sometimes tells others about it ( <i>martyr</i> in Greek)

**Chapter 20**      **The Apostles Respond and Scatter**

Ananias	1. Man who sold land but lied about the sale price; 2. Man in Damascus who helped Saul (Paul) regain his sight
Antioch	City on the coast at the northeast corner of the Mediterranean Sea where believers were first called Christians (currently in Syria)
Barnabas	Jewish Christian who traveled and preached with Paul
Church	A group of Christians, word used to describe all Christians
Cornelius	Roman soldier who sent for Peter, resulting in new ways of thinking about the Gentiles and Jewish rules
Deacons	People chosen to help run the supporting functions of a church
Gamaliel	Pharisee who convinced the Sanhedrin not to kill the apostles
Joppa	Town on the Mediterranean coast where Peter raised Dorcas from the dead before Cornelius sent for him
Judas	1. Galilean who was killed when he led a rebellion against Rome; 2. man with a house in Damascus where Ananias met Saul

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Lydda	Town where Peter healed a man paralyzed for eight years
Paul	Pharisee who persecuted Christians until his dramatic conversion and later became the main evangelist to Gentiles (also known as Saul, his Hebrew name)
Pentecost	After Jesus's ascension, the day when the Spirit gave believers the ability to speak in another language; a day celebrated by Christians
Sapphira	Wife of Ananias who sold land but lied about the sale price
Shavuot	Major Jewish festival held 50 days after the second day of Passover (also the day Christians celebrate Pentecost)
Simon	A tanner who lived in Joppa where Peter stayed before visiting Cornelius
Stephen	One of the original deacons who was martyred after speaking to the Sanhedrin
Tabitha/Dorcas	Elderly Christian woman who was raised from the dead by Peter
Tarsus	Coastal city in southern Turkey and home of Saul/Paul

## **Chapter 21 Paul's Travels**

Apollos	Jewish scholar and Christian from Alexandria, Egypt
Aquila	Jewish tentmaker who traveled with Paul and preached in Corinth and Ephesus, married to Priscilla
Areopagus	Athenian council where Paul addressed Greek philosophers
Aristarchus	Paul's traveling companion who was seized in Ephesus
Artemis	Fertility goddess in Ephesus
Athens	Major city and capital of Greece
Berea	City in Macedonia (north of Greece) where Paul, Silas, and Timothy preached to a well-educated Jewish population
Corinth	A port city near Athens where Paul preached and lived 18 months
Council at Jerusalem	Jewish Christian leaders who debated the requirement of circumcision by Gentile Christians
Demetrius	Silversmith in Ephesus who organized workers against Paul
Derbe	City in Asia Minor where Paul and Barnabas preached
Ephesians	People who lived in the city of Ephesus
Ephesus	Major city on the western coast of Asia Minor (near current Izmir)
Epicureans	Greek philosophers who stressed seeking mental and physical pleasures as the goal of life
Gaius	Paul's traveling companion who was seized in Ephesus
Galatia	Region in central Turkey where Paul preached and sent letters
Gallio	Roman leader in Corinth
Hermes	One of the gods in the ancient Greek religion
Iconium	City in Asia Minor where Paul and Barnabas preached
Jason	Man who hosted the apostles in Thessalonica and was thrown in jail
Laodicea	Wealthy city in Asia Minor
Lydia	Business woman who became a Christian in Philippi
Lystra	City in Asia Minor where Paul and Barnabas preached
Macedonia	An area north of Greece
Perga	City on the southern coast of Turkey
Philippi	A major city in Macedonia
Pisidian Antioch	City in Asia Minor where Paul and Barnabas preached

Priscilla	Jewish tentmaker who traveled with Paul and preached in Corinth and Ephesus and was married to Aquila
Samothrace	Greek island in the Aegean Sea
Silas	Traveling companion of Paul
Stoics	Greek philosophers who stressed logic, self-control, and ethical living
Thessalonians	People who live in the Macedonian city of Thessalonica
Thessalonica	Large capital city of Macedonia
Thyatira	City in Asia Minor that was one of the seven churches mentioned in Revelation and where Lydia owned a business
Timothy	Traveling companion of Paul, Silas, and Luke who later became the bishop of Ephesus
Tyrannus	Site of a hall in Ephesus where Paul lectured
Zeus	The supreme god in the ancient Greek religion

## **Chapter 22 From Jerusalem to Rome**

Crete	Very large Greek island in the Mediterranean Sea
Epistle	A type of literature that is written in the form of a letter
Felix	Roman governor in Caesarea who heard the case against Paul and held him in prison
Festus	Roman governor in Caesarea who replaced Felix and heard Paul's appeal to be tried in Rome (also known as Porcius Festus)
Malta	Small island near Italy's southern coast where Paul's ship wrecked while he traveled to Rome
Mark	Jewish Christian who traveled with Paul and Barnabas and later with Peter; he wrote the first book about Jesus's life
Nero	Roman emperor who killed Christians during the first century AD
Phoenix	City on the southern coast of Crete with a good harbor
Sicily	Large island off the southwestern coast of Italy
Syracuse	City on the island of Sicily where Paul and others stopped on their way to Rome
Tertullus	Jewish lawyer who testified against Paul to Governor Felix

## **Chapter 23 Paul's Letters to Believers**

Agrippa	Roman king in Palestine who Festus consulted about Paul's case
Colossae	City in Asia Minor near Laodicea whose Christians received a letter from Paul
Colossians	People who lived in Colossae (located in central Turkey)
Fruits of the Spirit	Paul's list of the strong evidence that God's spirit is alive in a person (Galatians 5:22–23)
Love chapter	Part of Paul's letter to believers in Corinth (1 Corinthians 13)
Onesimus	Runaway slave who became a Christian while in prison, returned to his master (Philemon), and became bishop of Ephesus
Titus	Greek gentile who traveled with Paul and Barnabas and became the leader of the church on the island of Crete

## **Chapter 24 Other Letters to Believers**

Gnosticism	Belief that all matter is evil and only the spirit is good
Philemon	Gentile converted by Paul who led a house church in Colossae, who accepted his runaway slave (Onesimus) at Paul's request

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**Chapter 25      Predictions About the Future**

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Antichrist	False prophet who deceives the Jews during the final tribulation
Apocalypse	Events related to the end of times
Armageddon	Site of a final battle described in Revelation (Hebrew for “mountain of Megiddo”)
Beast	An evil power that opposes Christians in Revelation
Domitian	Roman emperor who considered himself to be a god
Dragon	Word used to describe Satan in John’s Revelation
Michael	Leader of a battalion of angels who led the battle against Satan and other demons as described in Revelation
Millennium	A period of 1,000 years of peace described in Revelation that occurs before the final judgment
Patmos	Greek island near Ephesus where John wrote Revelation
Rapture	The act of Christians suddenly going to heaven
Revelation	Last book of the Bible, which contains apocalyptic literature (Greek title means “unveiling”)
Seven cities	Cities mentioned in the book of Revelation
Tribulation	Term for a period of intense persecution of the Christians before the final judgment occurs

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**EPILOGUE**

Evangelism	The act of spreading the Christian gospel (“good news”) by public preaching or personal testimony (different from “proselytizing,” which is a process to convince others to change their faith)
Great Commission	Jesus’ command for his followers to make disciples in all nations

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