

Name _____

Unit 2 Vocabulary

Terms for Mastery

A

anawim A Hebrew word for the poor and marginalized.

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

B

ban The practice of destroying everyone and everything in a defeated town and burning it as a sacrificial offering to God

C

circumcision The act, required by Jewish Law, of removing the foreskin of the penis. Since the time of Abraham, it has been a sign of God's covenant relationship with the Jewish People.

creed A short summary statement or profession of faith. The Nicene and Apostles' Creeds are the Church's most familiar and important creeds.

D

deuteronomic cycle The pattern repeated by the Israelites found in the writings of the Deuteronomist. The pattern was: (1) the Israelites forget their covenant commitments and fall into sin; (2) God's punishes them, allowing them to be conquered by their enemies; (3) the people repent and cry for God's mercy; and (4) God hears their cry and sends a leader to deliver them.

divine retributive justice The belief that God punishes people for their sins during this lifetime.

H

Holy of Holies The most holy place in the Tabernacle and later the Temple in Jerusalem, where the Ark of the Covenant was kept. Only the High Priest could enter, and only once a year.

I

Israel This name comes from Jacob's experience of "wrestling with God" (see Genesis 32:28) and is used to refer to several different things: (1) the Twelve Tribes of Israel as descendants of the twelve sons of Jacob, (2) the Chosen People or Jewish People as a whole, (3) the northern kingdom (Israel) in contrast to the southern kingdom (Judah), and (4) the modern nation of Israel.

J

Jerusalem From the Hebrew meaning "foundation of peace," the name of the city in Palestine that was Israel's capital where Solomon built the Temple and where Jesus was crucified.

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

K

kosher laws A set of dietary and food preparation restrictions that govern the foods Jewish people can and cannot eat.



L

Law of Moses (also called the Mosaic Law)

The first five books of the Old Testament, which are also called the Books of the Law or the Torah. God gave Moses the tablets summarizing the Law (see Exodus 31:18), which is why it is also called the Law of Moses or the Mosaic Law.

M

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.

N

nazirites People who were consecrated to God through a vow to remain in a holy state, which required that they refrain from drinking alcohol, stay away from dead bodies, and keep their hair uncut.

P

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.

patriarch The father or leader of a tribe, clan, or tradition. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were the patriarchs of the Israelite people.

S

Seder This Hebrew word (meaning “order” or “procedure”) refers to a Jewish ceremonial meal, usually celebrated at home during Passover, in commemoration of the Exodus of the Chosen People from Egypt.

Sinai Covenant (also called Mosaic 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.

T

Tabernacle In the Old Testament, the portable tent that was used as a sanctuary for the Ark of the Covenant during the Israelite’s migration in the desert.

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.

theophany God’s manifestation of himself in a visible form to enrich human understanding of him. An example is God’s appearance to Moses in the form of a burning bush.

Torah A Hebrew word meaning “law,” referring to the first five books of the Old Testament. It can also refer to the Law of Moses.

Y

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

Eucharist The celebration of the entire Mass. The term can also refer specifically to the consecrated bread and wine that have become the Body and Blood of Christ.

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.

Paschal Lamb In the Old Testament, the sacrificial lamb shared at the Seder meal of the Passover on the night the Israelites escaped from Egypt; in the New Testament, the Paschal Lamb is Jesus, the Incarnate Son of God who dies on a cross to take away “the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

redemption, redemptive From the Latin *redemptio*, meaning “a buying back,” referring, in the Old Testament, to Yahweh’s deliverance of Israel and, in the New Testament, to Christ’s deliverance of all Christians from the forces of sin.

Zion (also Sion) This word originally referred to the mountain on which stood the Canaanite fortress that was captured by David. It was later used to designate the Temple built on that location, and then eventually it referred to the whole city of Jerusalem, Israel’s capital; the term is also used to refer to the New Jerusalem, the heavenly city of the future.

Terms Previously Mastered or for General Knowledge

dynasty Any sequence of powerful leaders of the same family.

faith From the Latin *fides*, meaning “trust” or “belief,” faith is the gift of God by which one freely accepts God’s full Revelation in Jesus Christ. It is a matter of both the head (acceptance of God’s revealed truth) and the heart (love of God and neighbor as a response to God’s first loving us). Also, one of the three Theological Virtues.

genocide The systematic and planned extermination of a national, racial, ethnic, or cultural group.

holy To be dedicated to God; to reflect some aspect of God’s being.

pharaoh A ruler of ancient Egypt.

sign An object, event, or action that conveys a meaning or represents something else.

