

Bible Survey V

Glossary of Terms

Synoptic Gospels (Matthew-Luke)

Andrew -- an **Apostle** from **Bethsaida**; brother of **Simon Peter**. (Mk. 1, 3)

Apostles -- literally “sent-out ones.” Men chosen by Christ to learn of Him and bear witness of Him to the world. Originally twelve (often called “the twelve”); **Simon** (Peter), **Andrew**, **James**, **John**, Philip, Bartholomew (Nathanael), Matthew (Levi), Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Judas son of James (Thaddaeus), Simon the Zealot, and **Judas Iscariot**. **Judas Iscariot** was later replaced by Matthias (Acts 1). Paul, Barnabas, and others are also called apostles (Acts 14; Gal. 1; Rom. 16).

Beelzebul -- or “Beelzebub.” A heathen deity, believed to be the prince of evil spirits; probably another name for Satan. Jesus was accused of casting out evil spirits by his power. Probably means “lord of the house,” but may mean “god of dung.” (Mt. 10, 12; Mk. 3; Lk. 11)

Bethany -- a town about 2 miles east of **Jerusalem**, on the eastern slope of the **Mount of Olives**. Jesus spent much time here with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, and raised Lazarus from the dead. (Mt. 26; Mk. 11; Jn. 12)

Bethlehem -- a town about 5 miles SE of **Jerusalem**. Jesus was born here. (Mt. 2)

Bethsaida -- a town in **Galilee**, on the northwestern shore of the **Sea of Galilee**. **Peter** and **Andrew** were natives of this town. A blind man was healed here, and the city was later denounced for its unbelief. (Mt. 11; Mk. 8)

Caesarea Philippi -- a town formerly called Paneas, North of the **Sea of Galilee** and at the foot of Mount Hermon. Expanded by **Herod the Great** and his son, Herod Philip, and renamed after the Roman emperor, Tiberius Caesar. Jesus and His disciples visited here. (Mt. 16; Mk. 8)

Caiaphas -- son in law of the high priest Annas; appointed as high priest by the Romans. One of the rulers who tried Jesus. Unknowingly prophesied that it was better for Jesus to die for the nation than for the nation to perish. (Jn. 11, 18)

Capernaum -- a town on the northern shore of the **Sea of Galilee**. Jesus spent much time in this region, and preached here after miraculously feeding 5000 people. He healed many here, including a Roman centurion’s servant girl and Peter’s mother-in-law. He denounced the city for its unbelief. (Mt. 8, 9, 11; Mk. 1-2, 9; Jn. 4, 6)

Christ -- the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew term “Messiah,” meaning “the anointed one.” Jesus was anointed by the Father to be the Savior, to deliver His people from the bondage of sin.

cross -- a Roman (not Jewish) method of execution, considered a curse. Christ’s death on the cross paid the penalty for man’s sin, reconciling him to God.

Decapolis -- ten Greek cities south and east of the **Sea of Galilee**. They joined together in a league in the first century BC after the Roman occupation of Palestine, then became a Roman district. (Mk. 5, 7)

Denarius -- a Roman silver coin, equivalent to about a day's wages for a common laborer. (Mk. 6, 12, 14)

Galilee -- the northern-most of the three provinces of western Palestine in the time of Christ. Jesus' ministry was primarily in Galilee.

Gennesaret -- or "Chinnereth." The name given to a town and a district in an extended plain on the western shore of the **Sea of Galilee**. The name was also given to the **Sea of Galilee** itself. (Mt. 14; Lk. 5)

Gerasenes -- or "Gergesenes" or "Gadarenes." Inhabitants of the region of Gadara, SE of the **Sea of Galilee**. This surrounded the city of Gadara, one of the cities of the **Decapolis**, situated about 5 miles SE of the **Sea of Galilee**. Jesus healed a demoniac here, in what someone has noted is the first reference to "deviled ham." (Mk. 5)

Gethsemane -- a location in the Kidron Valley, on the lower slopes of the **Mount of Olives**, where Jesus prayed to the Father on the evening that He was betrayed by **Judas Iscariot**. (Mk. 14)

Herod the Great -- an **Idumean**; appointed by Rome as King over Israel in about 37 BC Paranoid; murdered a number of relatives, including his father Antipater, his wife Mariamne, and two sons. Slaughtered babies in **Bethlehem** in an attempt to kill Jesus. Died in 4 BC (Mt. 2)

Herod Antipas -- a son of **Herod the Great**; became tetrarch (ruler of one-fourth) of **Galilee** in 4 BC Married **Herodias**, his niece and his brother Philip's wife. Killed **John the Baptist** for condemning him in this. (Mt. 14; Lk. 13, 23)

Herodias -- granddaughter of **Herod the Great**. Deserted her husband and uncle, Herod Philip, to marry his brother, **Herod Antipas**. Schemed to have **John the Baptist** killed for condemning this. (Mk. 6)

Hosanna -- an exclamation of praise. Literally means "save please" or "save now." The crowd cried this at Jesus' entry into **Jerusalem**, a week before they demanded to crucify Him. (Mt. 21; Mk. 11)

Idumea -- the Greek and Roman spelling for the country of Edom, and for the area around Hebron, in southern **Judea**. (The ancient Edomites had settled in a region SE of the Dead Sea, but by the time of Christ had been driven westward to southern **Judea**.) Though non-Jews, the Idumeans had been forced by the Jews to accept circumcision and some other Jewish practices. **King Herod** was an Idumean. (Mk. 3)

James -- an **Apostle**; elder brother of **John the Apostle**; son of **Zebedee** and Salome. Along with his brother and **Simon Peter**, enjoyed a very close relationship with the Lord. The first **Apostle** to be martyred. (Mk. 1, 3, 5, 9, 14; Acts 12)

Jerusalem -- a city in the hills of **Judea**, 14 miles west of the Dead Sea, and 33 miles east of the Mediterranean. Made capitol of Israel by David and center of worship by Solomon. Visited numerous times by Jesus, who was crucified, buried, and raised just outside the walls of the city. (Jn. 5, 9)

John the Apostle -- an **Apostle**; younger brother of **James**; son of **Zebedee** and Salome. Along with his brother and **Simon Peter**, enjoyed a very close relationship with the Lord. Later wrote a gospel account, three letters, and the book of Revelation. Refers to himself in his gospel as “that other disciple” or “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” (Mk. 1, 3, 5, 9, 14-15)

John the Baptist -- the forerunner and baptizer of Jesus. Beheaded for rebuking **Herod Antipas** and **Herodias**. (Mt. 3, 9, 14; Mk. 6; Lk. 1, 5, 11)

Jordan -- a 160-mile long N-S valley in Palestine, and the 65-mile long river which flows in its central portion. The Jordan River takes water from the Sea of Galilee south to the Dead Sea.

Joseph of Arimathea -- a secret disciple of Jesus; probably a member of the Sanhedrin. Became more bold after the crucifixion; asked for Jesus’ body and buried it in his own tomb. (Mt. 27; Mk. 15; Lk. 23; Jn. 19)

Judas Iscariot -- an **Apostle**; betrayed Christ into the hands of the Romans. Felt remorseful afterward, but instead of repenting committed suicide. (Mt. 27; Mk. 3, 14)

Judea -- the southern-most of the three provinces of western Palestine in the time of Christ, west of the Dead Sea.

King Herod -- see “**Herod the Great**.”

leaven -- yeast, used in baking to make bread rise. Because of its rapid spreading to affect an entire lump of dough, it is universally used in Scripture as a symbol of sin and evil. (Mt. 13, 16, 22-23; Mk. 3, 8)

Mary Magdalene -- a woman from whom seven demons were cast. She accompanied Jesus afterward, and was with Him at the cross and the tomb. (Mt. 27-28; Mk. 16; Lk. 8, 23-24; Jn. 19-20)

Matthew -- also called “Levi.” A tax collector who became an **Apostle**. Later wrote a gospel account. (Mt. 9; Mk. 2; Lk. 5)

Mount of Olives -- a ridge of hills just east of **Jerusalem**, separated from it by the Kidron valley. Jesus entered **Jerusalem** from here a week before He was crucified, prayed here on the night He was betrayed, ascended from here, and will return here when He comes to earth again. (Mt. 2,26; Mk. 11,13; Lk. 19; Jn. 18; Zech. 14)

nard -- or “spikenard.” A perennial herb, from which a strongly aromatic oil was derived. Imported to Palestine from India. (Jn. 12)

Nazareth -- a town in southern **Galilee**, in a basin. The home of Joseph and Mary, and the boyhood home of Jesus. (Mt. 2; Lk. 1-4)

parable -- a brief story intended to illustrate a single idea. Used commonly by Jesus to reveal truth to His followers while revealing it from others. (Mt. 13)

Peter -- see "**Simon**."

Pharisees -- a Jewish sect, which began as a pious, "fundamentalist" reaction to secularism in the second century BC. They developed an "oral law" in an attempt to interpret and apply the written law of Scripture. They tended to be strict, legalistic, and separatistic, and many had become hypocritical by the time of Christ. Also called Hasidim. (Mt. 5)

Pilate -- the procurator (Roman governmental representative) in Palestine at the time of Christ's crucifixion. He delivered Jesus to be crucified. Thought to be imaginary by some critics until his name was found on an inscription at Caesarea in 1961. (Mt. 27; Mk. 15; Lk. 3, 23; Jn. 18-19)

Rabboni -- or "Rabbi". A title of honor given to teachers of the Law, meaning "my teacher." Though having the same meaning, it seems that the term "rabboni" was a more elevated term than "rabbi." (Mt. 23; Jn. 1,3,6,20)

Sadducees -- a Jewish sect, generally from aristocratic, wealthy, and powerful families. They followed only the written law of Moses, and rejected the future resurrection and judgment of man. (Mt. 16, 22)

Samaria -- the central of the three provinces of western Palestine in the time of Christ. The inhabitants were a mixed race, formed by intermarriage of Jews with Mesopotamians and Syrians. They only accepted the five books of Moses, and were despised by the Jews. (Lk. 9; Jn. 4)

Scribes -- originally copyists; they developed into a Jewish sect of professional students and teachers of the Law. They acted like lawyers and developed some interpretations and extensions to the Law which deviated from its original intent.

Sea of Galilee -- a harp-shaped lake in northern Palestine, about 60 miles north of **Jerusalem**, in Galilee. Also called the sea or lake of Chinnereth (meaning "harp"), **Gennesaret**, or Tiberias. Much of Jesus' ministry was in this area.

Simon -- also called "Peter." An **Apostle** from **Bethsaida**; brother of **Andrew**. Very zealous and impetuous. Denied the Lord, but later repented and became a strong leader of the early Church. Preached a powerful sermon at Pentecost to an international Jewish audience; took the gospel to the gentiles.

Zebedee -- a Galilean fisherman; father of the **Apostles James** and **John**. (Mt. 4; Mk. 1)