

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Term	Language	Meaning
Abba	Aramaic	Father
Ach	Hebrew	Brother
Adon	Hebrew	Master, ruler, lord
Adonai	Hebrew	Great Master, an intensive form of Adon. A title used to address kings, regents and royalty (eg. Yosef, vice-regent of Mitzrayim, David) and often also of the Almighty, being the greatest of kings. From sometime in the Second Temple period and thereafter, it became a circumlocution for the Holy Name YHWH.
Adoni	Hebrew	My Master. A term used for Messiah in Tehillim 110
Ado-Shem	Hebrew	Composite of "Adonai" and "HaShem". Used in normal speech by some Jews to refer to YHWH.
Afikomen/ Afikoman	Greek	Etymology unclear. Some say "that which comes after", "after-dish", ie. dessert. Others say "has come", ie. points to the Messiah who has come. The piece of Matzah broken during the early part of Pesach Seder and hidden. After the Pesach meal is eaten, the children look for it and when they find it, they exchange it with the leader of the Seder for some price. Believers in Yeshua believe that it was used by Yeshua to symbolise His body.
Anno Domini (AD)	Latin	Year of our Lord. The time counting from the birth of Yeshua. The term was created to separate between the time before the birth of Yeshua and the time thereafter. However, the calculation was not accurate, and it is currently believed that the correct timing for the birth of Yeshua is sometime between 6 - 4 BC.
Annual Reading Cycle	English	Cycle of reading the whole of Torah over a period of one year. Became the pattern of Babylonian Jewry sometime in or after the Second Temple period. With the destruction of Yerushalayim in 70 CE, Babylon grew in prominence in the Jewish world and by the 12th century became the dominant method of reading.
Av	Hebrew	Father
B'rakhah (pl. B'rakhot)	Hebrew	Blessing. Many blessings start with the word "B'rukh", bless.
Bar	Hebrew	Son
Before Christ (BC)	English	Before Christ, the time before the birth of Yeshua. See Anno Domini
Before Common Era (BCE)	English	Synonymous with Before Christ
Beit	Hebrew	House
Beit Din	Hebrew	House of Judgment. The council of judges that sat to determine cases and to establish Halakhah.
Ben	Hebrew	Son
Christos	Greek	Christ. Same meaning as Messiah.
Common Era (CE)	English	Synonymous with AD
Counting of the Omer	English	See Sefirat haOmer
El	Hebrew	Mighty One, used of humans (kings, strong men and judges), deities (false gods) and the Almighty Himself
Elohim	Hebrew	Intensive form of El and sometimes speaks of more than one El. Used in the same way as of the word "El".
Galut	Hebrew	The dispersion of the Jewish people throughout the world, the Diaspora
Ger / Geyr (pl. Gerim/ Geyrim)	Hebrew	A Gentile who has become obedient to the covenant God made with Israel but has not undergone the rite of circumcision
Goy (pl. Goyim)	Hebrew	A Gentile, a pagan, nations
Hadas	Hebrew	Myrtle branch

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Hag haMatzah	Hebrew	Feast of Unleavened Bread. Celebrated from 15 to 21 Aviv when unleavened bread was eaten to commemorate the deliverance of Israel from Egypt and the haste with which they left. On the first day of the Feast, the Paschal lamb was eaten with maror and matzah during the Pesach Seder.
HaKodesh	Hebrew	The Holy One
Halakhah	Hebrew	"The way things are done", Jewish legal tradition, the rules for the community of Israel, the application of Torah to everyday life
HaShem	Hebrew	The Name. Used in normal speech by Jews to refer to YHWH.
Hechsher	Hebrew	Graphic symbol on food packaging identifying food certified as kosher by a rabbinical authority. Many such symbols exist, but the most common are the "U" with a circle around it and "K" with a circle or other symbol with it.
Kashrut	Hebrew	From word "kasher" meaning "fit". In this context, the laws governing what is fit for consumption. Includes laws of what meat can be eaten (animals with split hoofs that chew the cud, sea creatures that have fins and scales, certain birds and insects), how meat must be slaughtered (by slitting the throat and draining the meat of blood) and the prohibition of taking any form of blood.
Ketuvim	Hebrew	Writings. A term used for the third division of the Tenakh and comprise the books from Tehillim to Chronicles.
Kosher	English	See Kashrut.
Maror	Hebrew	Bitter herbs. Eaten with matzah during the Pesach Seder.
Mashiyakh	Hebrew	Messiah. Means "Anointed One". Used of those upon whom the anointing oil was poured upon to consecrate to an office, usually those of king, priest or prophet. In later years, became the title of the prophesied King who would come and set up the kingdom of Israel and bring peace to the earth.
Masorettes	English	From Hebrew "Mesorah". Jewish scribes living between the 7th and 10th century CE whose labours included the compiling the Tenakh, standardising division of the text into books, sections and paragraphs and fixing the orthography, pronunciation, and cantillation.
Masoretic Text (MT)	English	Hebrew text of the Tenakh approved for general use in Judaism compiled by Masorettes. Used as the primary text in the Authorised Version (KJV) of the Christian Bible. Somewhat different from the Septuagint.
Matzah	Hebrew	Unleavened Bread. Eaten during the 7 days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread when leaven is to be removed from the homes and not eaten.
Mesorah	Hebrew	literally "fetter" ie. Tradition. Can refer to Jewish tradition and Oral Law. Also the transmission of tradition. With respect to the Masoretic Text, refers to concise marginal notes in manuscripts (and later printings) of the Hebrew Bible which note textual details, usually about the precise spelling of words
Mishnah	Hebrew	Code of Jewish law promulgated by Yehudah haNasi, codified around 200 CE
Mishpaht (pl. mishpatim)	Hebrew	Judgement, right-ruling. Ethical commandments of Torah. Also used of decisions handed down by the Beit Din.
Mitsvah Lo Ta'aseh	Hebrew	Negative Commandment, ie. a prohibition
Mitzraim	Hebrew	Egypt
Mitzvah (pl. Mitzvot)	Hebrew	Commandments. The commandments of Torah. Judaism has broken down the Torah into 613 mitzvot.
Mitzvah Aseh	Hebrew	Positive Commandment, ie. a command to do

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Moshe	Hebrew	Name - Moses. Probably from Egyptian root word meaning "draw out". Leader of Israel who led them out of Mitzraim. Known as the great lawgiver and the greatest of prophets. His books known by his name, are the foundation of Scripture and doctrine.
Nasi	Hebrew	Prince/ President, usually used of the leader of the Beit Din, the Sanhedrin and synagogues. In Talmudic times, it was used for the leader of the Jewish people (since they had no king over them). It is also used as a prophetic term for Messiah (Ezekiel 40-).
Natzrim	Hebrew	Nazarenes, What the early followers of Yeshua from Natzaret were called. Even till modern times, the eastern world uses the term.
Navi	Hebrew	Prophet
Nevi'im	Hebrew	Prophets. A term used for the second division of the Tenakh and comprises the books from Yehoshua to The Twelve.
Omer	Hebrew	Measure of volume of grain. Specifically an omer offering of barley was brought at the Feast of Firstfruits and commenced the counting of the Omer.
P'rushim	Hebrew	Pharisees
Pentecost	Greek	See Shavuot. Comes from Greek word "pente" meaning five, by implication, the fifty days of the counting of the Omer.
Pesach	Hebrew	literally "pass over"; Passover. (1) The lamb/ goat slain on 14 Aviv, commemorating the protection of the Jewish people in Egypt during the time of the plague of the slaying of the firstborn, when anyone who was inside the house which had the blood of the Passover on the doorposts and lintel of the house were delivered. (2) The feast commencing on 15 Aviv, Hag haMatzah.
Rabbi	Hebrew	Teacher. Leader of modern Jewish synagogues
Rav	Hebrew	One who has much knowledge, loosely; a Rabbi
Ruach haKodesh	Hebrew	The Holy Spirit. A title of Elohim and used to signify the presence or movement and power of Elohim. Also used to signify the Holiness of Elohim as opposed to evil spirits
Salaam	Arabic	See Shalom. Greeting among Muslims and Muslim countries all over the world.
Seder	Hebrew	Order. (1) Order of service of the Pesach where one is commanded to eat the lamb, matzah and maror and repeat the story of the exodus from Mitzraim. (2) Readings of the Torah according to the ancient Triennial cycle, where the divisions are called "sedarim". (3) one of the orders / divisions of the Mishnah. (4) Order of prayers in the liturgy (siddur) eg. Seder of Rav X.
Sefirat haOmer	Hebrew	Counting of the Omer. The verbal counting of the time between the Feast of Firstfruits to Shavuot (Leviticus 23: 15-16). Signals when Shavuot is.
Septuagint (LXX)	English	From Latin "septuaginta" meaning seventy. Koine Greek Alexandrine text of the Tenakh and includes certain other books not accepted as canonical by most Jews. Legend has it that it was prepared by 72 Jewish scholars for Pharaoh Ptolemy II Philadelphus in the 3rd century BCE (Letter of Aristeas). Believed to be prepared between the 3rd and 1st century BCE, it is over 1,000 years older than the oldest Masoretic manuscript in existence.
Sha'ul	Hebrew	Saul, Paul
Shabbat	Hebrew	Sabbath, seventh day of the week. Comes from the word "rest" and commemorates Elohim's creation of the world in six days and resting and sanctifying the seventh day, thus creating the seven day week.

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Shalom	Hebrew	Peace/ wholeness. A greeting among Jewish people worldwide. Similar to "Salaam".
Shavu'ot	Hebrew	The Feast of Weeks, occurring on the 50th day of the Counting of the Omer. Celebrated as the time of the giving of the Ten Words at Sinai (Exodus 19-20). The time of the first outpouring of the Ruach haKodesh (Acts 2). The time for the offering of the firstfruits of wheat
Shimon (Kefa)	Hebrew	Simon (Peter)
Shofar (pl. Shofarot)	Hebrew	Trumpet made from the horn of a kosher animal (eg. ram)
Siddur	Hebrew	Prayerbook/ liturgybook of Judaism
Spiritus Sanctus	Latin	literally "Spirit that sanctifies/ makes holy". See Ruach haKodesh
Sukkot	Hebrew	Booths, Tents. Name of the feast known as Tabernacles/ Booths/ Ingathering held from 15 to 21 Tishri (7th month). Celebrates the joy of the ingathering of the harvest. Also reminds of the dwelling of Israel in the wilderness for 40 years, a picture of our transitory life on earth before we come to our true dwelling in heaven.
Tabernacles	English	See Sukkot
Talmidim	Hebrew	The Twelve Disciples of Yahushua
talmidim (sing. talmid)	Hebrew	A disciple of Yahushua who seeks to live according to his example and in accordance with His teaching
Tehillim	Hebrew	Psalms
Tenakh	Hebrew	Acronym for the Hebrew Scriptures - T (Torah), N (Neviim), K (Ketuvim)
Tetragrammaton	Greek	Word with four letters. Refers to the personal name of Elohim and is spelled by four Hebrew letters yud, hey, wav, hey (YHWH). It is not pronounced in Judaism today for fear of violating the commandment not to take the Name in vain (Exodus 20:7). When found in the Torah passages, the title "Adonai" is used. In normal speech, "HaShem" or "Ado-Shem" is used.
The Twelve	English	In the Neviim portion of the Tenakh. It refers to the twelve short prophetic books, which due to their length was traditionally written on one scroll. Corresponds to the Christian term "Minor Prophets"
Torah	Hebrew	Law, instruction. Generally used to refer to all the commands of Elohim. More specifically used of the first portion of the Tenakh and comprises the five books of Moshe (Moses), Genesis through Deuteronomy. The foundation of the Scriptures.
Treif	Hebrew	Non-kosher, literally "torn". Originally referred to meat incorrectly slaughtered and among the Sephardic, non kosher meat. Now usually means all that is non kosher
Triennial Reading Cycle	English	Cycle of reading the whole of Torah over a period of three years. Was the ancient pattern in Israel in the Second Temple period until around the 12th century. Being revived in certain Messianic and Jewish synagogues today. Conservative and Reform synagogues allow for this cycle but to ensure that everyone is on the same reading as with the Annual Reading Cycle, a first of three parts of the Annual Reading Cycle's reading is read in the first year, a second part thereof in the second year and the last part thereof in the third year.
Tzaddik	Hebrew	An exceptionally righteous and Torah obedient person
Y'hudah	Hebrew	Name - Judah. Comes from root word "praise". Fourth son of Yaakov. Father of the Jewish tribe called by the same name. Kingship is vested in that tribe and the Messiah is to come from this tribe

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Ya'akov	Hebrew	Name - Jacob. Comes from root word "grab". (1) Son of Yitzhak and patriarch of the Jewish people, was given the name "Israel" by Elohim. (2) One of the talmid of Yeshua and brother of Yochanan, son of Zebedee. (3) Brother of Yeshua and leader of the Congregation at Yerushalayim (Acts 15). In (2) and (3), the name was translated as "James"; however, the name in other languages show "Yakob" or "Jacob".
Yehoshua	Hebrew	Name - Joshua. Comes from "YHWH saves". (1) Leader of Israel after Moshe who leads the people into Kenan. (2) Yeshua the Messiah
Yerushalyim	Hebrew	Jerusalem
Yeshua	Hebrew	Name. Shortened form of Yehoshua. Name of the Messiah, commonly called "Jesus" today.
YHWH	Hebrew	Name of the Almighty as He revealed Himself to Moshe. Pronounced as "Yehowah" according to its spelling in ancient Hebrew and as accented by the Masoretes
Yochanan	Hebrew	Name - John. (1) The son of Zekaryah and Elisheva, commonly known as "John the Baptist", the forerunner of Yeshua. (2) The talmid of Yeshua, son of Zebedee. (3) John Mark, a cousin of BarNaba and later a disciple of Shimon Kefa.