

Possessing the Land – Vocabulary

A

Abomination – Something that is utterly disgusting; in Scripture, a terrible sin that God hates (p. 153)

Alliance – An agreement between nations; a promise not to attack, but to cooperate (p. 111)

Altar – A place to offer sacrifices; often a stone mound or table (p. 16)

Annals / Chronicles – A historical record; a book about the events in a nation or kingdom (p. 133)

Anoint – To put oil on someone; shows that the person is chosen for a special purpose (p. 96)

Atone – To right a wrong (p. 52)

B

Ba'al – An Old Testament name for many kinds of false gods; can mean “lord” or “ruler” (p. 116)

Babylonian Exile – The time when many Jews were forced to live in Babylon (600s–500s BC) (p. 122)

Banquet / Feast – An elegant meal, often for a large group of people (p. 133)

The Bible – The collection of 66 books inspired by God (p. 5)

Birthright – The benefits and privileges of the eldest child, usually the firstborn son; often a greater inheritance or place of leadership (p. 21)

Blessing – Giving someone special favor or grace; words that wish happiness or success (p. 21)

Blot Out – To wipe away or erase (p. 107)

Boil – A painful infection in the skin that raises as it fills with dead cells and pus (p. 41)

C

Census – A count of all people in a group or nation (p. 107)

Chaff – The empty husks left behind after threshing grain (p. 144)

Christ / Messiah – A person anointed or chosen for a special role; the promised Savior Jesus (p. 144)

Chronicles / Annals – A historical record; a book about the events in a nation or kingdom (p. 133)

Commandment – Another name for a law; in Exodus, the Ten Commandments begin God’s Law (p. 47)

Compassion – Showing love and gentleness to someone who needs it (p. 82)

Conform – To become like something or someone; to act like (pp. 52, 139)

Consecrate / Sanctify – To set apart as holy or sacred (p. 52)

Cornerstone – The first or most important stone laid down for a building (p. 144)

Covenant – A binding agreement between two or more people; a promise (p. 16)

Covet – To want something that does not belong to you, even if you should not have it (p. 47)

Creation – Everything God brought into being; the universe (p. 10)

D

Decree – A law given by a ruler like a king or queen; a public command (p. 133)

Defile – To make filthy or corrupt (p. 158)

Discern – To see the differences between one thing and another; to know good from evil (p. 111)

Discipline – Self-control; training to do what is good, healthy, and right (p. 158)

E

Ecclesiastes – Preacher; from the Greek word *ekklesiastes* (p. 148)

Exile – To drive out someone from their home country; to banish or separate (p. 122)

Exodus – Leaving or departing a place; Israel's departure from Egypt (p. 41)

F

Faith – A belief in something we cannot see or prove; trust in God (p. 16)

The Fall – Humanity's turn from God toward sin and death; the results of the first sin (p. 10)

False Witness / False Testimony – A deception or lie told to others (p. 47)

Famine – A time when many people have very little food (p. 16)

Fasting – Choosing not to eat, often to focus on praying or some other spiritual activity (p. 133)

The Fear of the Lord – Respect and reverence for God (p. 148)

Feast / Banquet – An elegant meal, often for a large group of people (p. 133)

Firstborn – The first child of a husband and wife (p. 21)

Fool – A person who refuses to learn; in Scripture, someone who does not fear God (p. 148)

G

Generation – All the people born during the same time period, often 30–40 years (p. 67)

Glean – To gather crops by hand, sometimes after the main harvest is over (p. 82)

H

Hebrews – God's chosen people; later known as Israelites or Jews (p. 16)

Herald – To declare a message, often for a king; also a name for someone who heralds (p. 158)

Holy – Removed from sin or anything unclean; sacred or set apart for God's use (p. 52)

I

Idol – A statue or image of a false god; often worshiped (p. 41)

Idolatry – The practice of worshiping idols or false gods (p. 153)

Iniquity – A wicked or evil action; a sin (p. 107)

Inspiration – The way God worked through human writers to record Scripture; "God-breathed" (p. 5)

Israel – The name given to Jacob and his descendants; means "wrestling with God" (p. 21)

J

Judge (noun) – In the Old Testament, a leader chosen by God to save Israel from its enemies (p. 77)

Judge (verb) – To declare something right or wrong; to decide what is just and fair (p. 77)

L

Law – A rule that shows how to apply a moral idea or principle; God's instructions to His people (p. 47)

Leadership – The ability to lead others; for believers, helping people follow God (p. 128)

Leprosy – In Scripture, a term to describe diseases that could result in sores, loss of feeling, and deformities; used to be incurable (p. 57)

Levite – A person from the tribe of Levi (p. 52)

Locust – A grasshopper that can become agitated and begin to swarm, often damaging crops (p. 41)

Lots – Items thrown to decide something by chance; often coins, rocks, or sticks (p. 167)

M

Magistrate – A government official that helps apply and enforce the law (p. 122)

Manna – A kind of food that God gave Israel in the wilderness (p. 57)

Meditate – To think deeply and continually about something (p. 67)

Merciful – Having mercy; not punishing someone who deserves it; showing an attitude of forgiveness and compassion (p. 62)

Messiah / Christ – A person anointed or chosen for a special role; the promised Savior Jesus (p. 144)

Midwife – A woman who helps pregnant mothers give birth to their babies (p. 36)

Mortar – A substance to hold bricks together; usually a mixture of sand, water, and other minerals (p. 36)

P

Passover – A Jewish holiday celebrating the day God rescued the Israelites from Egypt (p. 41)

Pharaoh – A king or queen of Egypt; often claimed to be a god (p. 26)

Plague – A disaster for a large number of people; in Scripture, often reveals God's judgment (p. 41)

Plunder / Spoil – Goods and treasures taken by force from an enemy (p. 96)

Polygamy – Having more than one wife (p. 26)

Potter – A person who makes pots, often by shaping clay (p. 153)

Priest – A person chosen to perform religious rituals; in Israel, an adult male who helped the people worship God and offer sacrifices (p. 52)

Prophecy – A truth said by a prophet; often about future events (p. 5)

Prophet – Someone who shares a spiritual message, often from God (p. 5)

Proverb – A wise saying; a short statement that teaches a general principle (p. 111)

Providence – God's work through human or natural events (p. 122)

Psalm – A sacred song or poem (p. 144)

Psalmist – A person who writes a psalm (p. 144)

Q

Quail – A kind of bird, somewhat smaller than a chicken (p. 57)

R

Redeem – To buy back what was lost (p. 10)

Redeemer – A person that *redeems*; someone who can rightfully claim and take something (p. 82)

Remnant – Something or someone that remains; what is left over (p. 171)

Repent – To regret sin and turn back toward God; to ask God to forgive you (p. 77)

Revolt – To rebel against a ruler or some other authority; to break or turn away (p. 116)

S

Sabbath – The seventh day of the week; means "rest;" the day God rested after creating the world (p. 47)

Sackcloth – Rough fabric used for sacks or bags; in Scripture, often worn to show sadness (p. 167)

Sacrifice – To give up something, often to serve or worship God (p. 16)

Sanctify / Consecrate – To set apart as holy or sacred (p. 52)

Sanctuary – A safe place, protected from harm; a sacred place blessed by God (p. 153)

Scripture – Sacred writings; another name for the Bible (p. 5)

Seer – An older word for *prophet*; used in the time of David (p. 107)

Seraph / Seraphim – Angelic beings with six wings (p. 153)

Sheaf / Sheaves – Bundles of grain gathered and tied together during harvest (p. 26)

Siege – Surrounding an enemy location, cutting off its supplies, and attacking it (p. 96)

Signet – A ring used to sign or seal official documents, often for kings and rulers (p. 163)

Sin – The decision to break God's law; turning away from God (p. 10)

Slave – Someone who works for no pay, often a captive against their will (p. 26)

Slave master / Taskmaster – A person who oversees slaves; someone who forces others to work (p. 36)

Sojourner – Someone living in a foreign land for a while (p. 36)

Spoil / Plunder – Goods and treasures taken by force from an enemy (p. 96)

Successor – Someone who takes the place and responsibilities of another (p. 116)

Suffering – The hardship felt during times of pain or loss (p. 139)

Symbol – Something that represents or pictures another idea (p. 41)

T

Tabernacle – In Scripture, a tent compound where God showed His presence to Israel (p. 47)

Taskmaster / Slave master – A person who oversees slaves; someone who forces others to work (p. 36)

Testament – A promise or set of promises; an agreement or covenant (p. 5)

Threshing Floor – A wide, flat place where workers separate grain from the rest of the plant (p. 82)

Tribe – A group of people united together; usually related through a shared ancestor (p. 31)

U

Unleavened Bread – Bread that has no yeast or has not been allowed to rise (p. 41)

Upright – Another word meaning *righteous* or *just* (p. 139)

V

Vanity – Something that is vain, worthless, meaningless, or futile; empty pride (p. 148)

Vision – Seeing something; in Scripture, a glimpse of something supernatural or divine (p. 153)

Vow – A serious, unbreakable promise, sometimes to God Himself (p. 91)

W

Wisdom – The ability to use knowledge well; insight and understanding (p. 111)

Y

Yahweh – The holiest name of God used by ancient Hebrews; means "I AM" (p. 36)