

GLOSSARY OF TOURING TERMINOLOGY

Acropolis – The highest part of a city wherein its citadel was defensible from attack and upon which temples and civic buildings were often built. (Wilson)

aedile – an elected civic official, prominent among the populace but a lower-level magistrate, nonetheless, charged with overseeing urban infrastructures such as the maintenance of public buildings and roads (Longenecker, p. 265)

afikomen – a small piece of matzo that is hidden by adults and hunted by children at the Passover seder

agorot – the smallest unit of Israeli money; 100 agorot equal one shekel

Agora - market area and public square of an ancient Greek city

Akkadian - a Semitic language that was spoken in Babylonia and Assyria, and written in cuneiform

Aliyah - (Hebrew - *to go up, ascend*): The Jewish expression used for the act of returning or making immigration to the land of Israel.

Amarna Letters – letters written by kings of Assyria, Babylonia, Mittani, Syria, and Canaan to the pharaohs Amenhotep III and IV. Composed in Akkadian, these letters are an important source for reconstructing life in the ancient Near East during the fifteenth to fourteenth centuries BC [*].

Amorites - name given by the Bible to inhabitants of Palestine prior to naming the land Israel; may be same as Canaanites. Amurru is the same name appearing in texts from Mesopotamia.

Amphitheater – an oval or circular open-air facility of tiered seating used for entertainment with surrounding seats. It was often used for gladiatorial contests or fighting wild animals.

amphora – Greek word for a two-handled storage jar used for oil or wine

Anatolia – Asia Minor; generally, what we know as modern Turkey, bordered in the north, west and south by the Black, Mediterranean and Aegean Seas

Anti-Semitism – ¹ the term applied to the hostile attitude toward Jews, individually and collectively. The consequences of this viewpoint have ranged from restrictive laws against Jews and the social isolation of Jewish groups to organized massacre and attempted genocide in the Nazi Holocaust. Christian anti-Semitism has historically resulted from an adoption of *replacement theology*. ² Hatred of Jews and/or other Semitic people. Although Arabs are, ethnically speaking, Semites, the term “anti-Semitism” is rarely used to refer to hostility towards Arabs.

Apollo – a Greek Olympian deity, son of Zeus/Jupiter (Longenecker, p. 265)

apse – a recess in a church building with an arched or domed roof that normally contains an altar and raised benches for clergy to sit. It is often located at an end of the structure pointing to Jerusalem.

Arab – A person who speaks the Arabic language and identifies herself or himself with Arab culture

Arabah – desert region in the Rift Valley between the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Elath/Aqaba; in the biblical period, also denoted the valley north of the Dead Sea around Jericho

Arab Christian – An Arab who believes in Jesus as the Messiah. Arab Christians consider themselves descendants of the early Church. There are approximately 25 million Arab Christians around the world, 15 million of whom live in the Middle East and North Africa. Of all the Arab countries, Egypt has the largest Christian populations, while Lebanon has the most Christians as a percentage of its total population. In Palestine, Arab Christians comprise less than 2% of the population, numbering between 180,000 and 200,000; the percentage is roughly the same within Israel proper.

Arab Muslim – An Arab Muslim believes in Allah (god), that Muhammad was God’s final prophet, and in the Qur’an (Holy Book) as God’s final revelation. While most Arabs are Muslim, only 20% of all Muslims are Arabs.

arch – a distinctly Roman architectural device in which wedge-shaped blocks were arranged in a semicircular covering for an opening so that pressure from a building’s weight is exerted laterally instead of downward

arcosolia, arcosolium (pl.) - Second Temple period tombs cut widthwise, forming a kind of shelf, or recess, about six feet wide and a foot and a half deep with an arched top

area - designation of a unit of excavation; usually 5x5 or 4x4 meters in width. All basic recording of finds is done in relation to the individual areas of a field

artifact - any material object altered by human intervention for some purpose; a stone or metal knife, clay formed and fired to a figurine, coin, etc.

Ashkenazi Jews - literally, “German;” more generally applied to the Jewish culture of northern and eastern Europe, using Yiddish as vernacular

ashlar masonry – square or rectangular cut stones, uniform in size and shape and laid in horizontal courses; laid regularly either as a wall in itself or as facing for a rubble containment

ash layer/destruction layer – stratum in an archeological site that displays evidence of destruction, such as widespread burning [*]

Asherah pole – sacred pole in Canaanite religion that depicted the goddess Asherah and was an object of veneration [*]

Assyria – a Semitic kingdom centralized in modern Iraq (biblical Mesopotamia) which controlled the majority of the ancient near east during the eighth century BC

atrium – in Roman domestic quarters, an entrance courtyard open to the sky [*]

Ba'al (Hebrew, “lord”) - Generally, a Canaanite deity, but specifically the epithet of the fertility and storm god. The *Ba'al* cult was an idolatrous influence during the biblical period that corrupted Israel and brought about the destruction of the First Temple.

baklava – a sweet flaky pastry with ground nuts and honey

balk - unexcavated strip of soil left standing between areas of excavation. Usually one-meter-wide, these balks serve as the vertical record of the excavation, providing a visible cross-section through the soil.

Bar-kokhba – leader of the Second Jewish Revolt against Rome (A.D. 132-135)

bar mitzvah – ceremony that ushers a Jewish boy into adult religious responsibilities

bas mitzvah – ceremony that ushers a Jewish girl into adult religious responsibilities

basalt – a kind of dense, dark grey or brownish-black igneous volcanic rock; most plentifully found in the mountains of Galilee.

basilica (Latin, “portico, colonnaded building”) - This long rectangular building with two rows of pillars or columns dividing it into a central nave and two aisles is common to Roman administrative architecture. Its design influenced both that of the royal portico on the Temple Mount and that of synagogues and churches of the period. Later, it became a style of Christian churches developed in the 4th century with three or five aisles

Bedouin – These tribal nomadic Arabs inhabit desert regions in the Near and Middle east. Members of the Ta-amireh tribe were responsible for discovering many of the Dead Sea Scrolls as well as other archaeological artifacts from tombs in the West Bank and Jordan.

beer – a well or cistern

bet, beth (Hebrew), beit (Arabic) - house, temple

Bet Midrash – a center for study and teaching of the Torah and its rabbinic interpretation emerged in the first century. It was usually located within the synagogue. It was a “high school” where boys between the ages of thirteen and seventeen studied religious texts, although adults continued to study there in their free time.

bichrome ware - Middle Bronze Age (MB IIC) and Late Bronze Age (LB I) pottery group, characterized by geometric and faunal designs in black and red, of both Cypriot and Syro/Canaanite traits and provenance

bichrome ware (Iron Age) - Phoenician pottery group in vogue mainly from the eleventh-ninth century B.C.; mostly globular flasks, jugs, and bowls decorated with black, red, and sometimes white concentric circles

Bitumen – an asphalt used in antiquity as cement and mortar. It was also employed by the ancient Egyptians in mummification [*].

blintzes – ham or cheese pancakes

boker tov – Hebrew for *good morning*

boss – the untrimmed, projecting face of a stone after its edges or margins have been trimmed square of draft cut

Boule – The representative council of a Greek city chosen to carry out the decisions of the demos. (Wilson)

bouleuterion – the building set apart as a council chamber in Greek cities for the Boule; sometimes also functioned as an odeion

British Mandate – It refers to the rule of Great Britain over Palestine from 1920-1948.

bullae (bullae) – an inscribed seal impression printed on a little lump of clay used in antiquity to secure documents or identify the owner or sender; sometimes metal was used

burma – a Turkish dessert made of wheat rolls stuffed with pistachio nuts and soaked in syrup or honey

burnish - this finish given to pottery by rubbing a bone, stone, shell or other material over the leather-hard pottery (a condition of partially dried pottery before firing), could be applied entirely or partially over the vessel. Patterns could be made on the pottery with this method.

bypass road – These roads are built in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by the Israeli government are intended to link Israeli colonies to each other and to Israel proper. They are called bypass roads precisely because they bypass Palestinian communities – whose residents are generally barred from using them. These roads are under Israeli control, and their construction necessitates the forceful takeover of Palestinian land by Israel. This is all done on behalf of Israeli settlers, for the purpose of establishing Jewish neighborhoods and colonies in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Byzantine - This was the period of Roman Christian rule in Jerusalem (A.D. 313-638) during which Christianity was made the official religion of the Roman Empire, and the center of imperial power was moved to Byzantium. The Byzantine period is divided into the early period (313-491), the Great Christian architectural period, and the late period (491-638), which saw a temporary conquest by the Persians, and ended with the Islamic invasion under Caliph Omar Ibn el-Khattab.

Byzantine Empire - This Greek-speaking Christian state ruled from Constantinople (modern Istanbul) after the eastern Roman Empire was divided from the west (4th century C.E.).

Byzantium - original name for Constantinople; named Istanbul in modern times

cadde - avenue, street

Caldarium - hot room of a Roman bath

caliph – the head of a Muslim community

Calvary – (Latin word) site of the crucifixion, also known as Golgotha

cami - mosque

Canaan, Canaanite - In the O.T., Canaan is generally used as a designation for the territory west of the Jordan River. It is used primarily for the land of Palestine and its inhabitants prior to Israel's occupation.

capital – the topmost section or member of a classical column or pilaster.

carbon-dating - a means of arriving at the approximate date of a given context or locus by measuring the residual C14 radioisotopes in plant or animal remains

Cardo maximus – one of two main streets in a Roman city plan, running north-south and intersecting at right angles with the east-west streets

Carsi - market

cartouche – in ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs, an oval figure enclosing the name of the sovereign king [*]

casemate: descriptive name for a technique of fortification used in Palestine especially during the monarchy. Consists of thin parallel walls divided into rooms by cross walls at regular intervals. This technique provided relatively wide and inexpensive curtains around cities or fortresses as well as storage and living space.

catacomb – an underground place for burying the dead, consisting of galleries or passages with recesses for tombs

cavea - auditorium seating of a Greek theater

cella - inner chamber of a temple where the cult statue was kept

challah – braided, sweet bread served on the Sabbath and some festival days

Chancel - the part of a church reserved for the clergy

chert- a stone usually, but incorrectly, called flint, used for manufacturing numerous types of tools; especially useful for its quality of providing sharp and durable cutting edges

chulent – bean casserole

cistern – an underground stone reservoir for collecting and storing water

citadel - fortress

Classical - art of the 5th and 4th century B.C.E. in Greece

Code of Hammurabi - one of the earliest codes of laws discovered, dating to the time of the Babylonian ruler Hammurabi (c. 1728-1686 BC) [*]

codex (codices) – ancient manuscript(s) bound in the form of a book (especially a Bible) rather than a scroll; book of laws in the Byzantine period

collared-rim jar/pithos - large jar of the Late Bronze Age, mainly Iron Age I (at some sites also early Iron Age II), with ridge under the neck, once thought to be indicative of Israelite settlements only

colonnade – row of columns set at regular intervals [*]

Corinthian-column - a column with an ornate capital decorated with scrolls and acanthus leaves

course – each horizontal row of bricks or stones

Crusaders - Christians from western Europe who organized eight major military expeditions to the Holy Land between A.D. 1096-1270. Their objectives were to (1) recover the Holy Land, and (2) protect the Byzantine Empire from the Muslims.

Cuneiform - wedge-shaped script developed by the Sumerians in the third millennium BC and later used by the Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, and others

curtain - term used for defensive walls surrounding a town or city.

Cyrus Cylinder - *baked clay cylinder containing a declaration in the name of the Persian king Cyrus from the sixth century BC, discovered at Babylon. It portrays the Persian system of dealing with conquered peoples in a benevolent way; in this case, Cyrus repatriated displaced peoples and restored the sanctuaries in Babylon

dag - mountain

Dead Sea Scrolls – Scrolls and scroll fragments written in Aramaic, Greek, and Hebrew, were discovered in 1947 and subsequent years in caves near Qumran, near the Dead Sea. They

range in date from the mid-third century BCE to the second half of the first century CE. They include all the books of the Bible except Esther.

decatalogue – a Greek word meaning “the ten words,” designating the Ten Commandments.

decapolis - A federation of 10 Hellenistic cities east of Samaria and Galilee. The Roman historian Pliny the Elder (1st century A.D.) listed the cities of Damascus, Philadelphia (O.T. Beit-Shean), Gadara, Hippos, Dion, Pella, Gerasa, and Canatha. Scythopolis was the chief city of the Decapolis and the only one west of the Jordan River.

Decumanus maximus– The main east-west street of a Roman city. (Wilson)

deir – Arabic for *monastery*

Demos – The representative assembly of citizens in a Greek city. The English word democracy is derived from it: the rule (*kratos*) of the people (*demos*). (Wilson)

denarius (plural, denarii) – a Roman coin worth approximately a full day’s wages for the average worker (Matthew 20:1-16); it was worth four sesterces (Longenecker, p. 266)

Dervish - in the Islamic tradition, a person of the spiritual life, a mystic; from the Persian *darwish* (poor man)

diaspora - the Jews living outside the Land of Israel, especially applied to those scattered during times of exile and after the founding of Israel as a state

dipteros - temple surrounded by a double row of columns

dipylon - a double gateway

dogma – official or authorized doctrines (beliefs)

Doric column - a column with no ornamental base, developed by the Dorian Greeks

drum - one of the cylindrical sections of a column

Druze – an Arab minority of Shi’ite origin who settled mainly in Lebanon, Syria and Golan, the territory annexed by Israel. Their esoteric religion seems to be a syncretism of Islam and Greek and Indian philosophies

Eastern Gate - During Second Temple period times, this gate served as the eastern entrance into the Temple. The original name of this gate during that period was the Shushan Gate, which exists today beneath the present sealed double gate called the Golden Gate or just south of it.

Ebla Tablets - *a collection of complete clay tablets and thousands of fragments discovered in the palace archives in the city of Ebla (in modern-day Syria), dating to 2500-2200 BC

edicule – a special building, generally used as a shrine

en, ein (Hebrew), ain, ayin, ayn - spring of water

ephod - This two-piece, sleeveless linen garment was worn by priests. The high priest's ephod was attached to the body by a woven band and joined at the shoulders by straps (see Exodus 28:6-14). Because the two stones (called Urim and Thummim), used for discerning God's will, were located next to it inside the pouch of the breastplate (Exodus 28:30-31), the ephod may have been thought to possess divining powers (see Judges 8:27; 17:5; 18:14-20).

epigraphy - science of deciphering and explaining inscriptions [*]

'Eretz Israel' (Hebrew for *Land of Israel*) - This Hebrew term is used by Jews to designate the biblical Promised Land, the historical homeland of the Jewish people.

Essenes – The conservative Reform group active in the first century B.C. and first century A.D. With the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Zealots, it was one of the four most influential groups during the time of Christ. The Essenes deplored the corruption of Judaism by pagan elements, but they were not politically activists. Some withdrew into the Judean wilderness, where they lived quietly but with great ceremonial purity, preparing themselves for the final battle between the “Sons of Light” (themselves) and the “Sons of Darkness” (most everyone else). The Dead Sea Scrolls contain many of their writings, along with dozens of copies of biblical texts.

Ethnography - study of individual cultures [*]

exedra - a semicircular seat, such as stone or marble benches

exonarthex - outer vestibule of a church

façade – the vertical face of a building, usually its front

falafel - a deep fried patty of ground chickpeas; also sold as a sandwich filling

farfel - toasted pasta dough

fast wheel - reference to technique of manufacturing pottery on a fast-moving pottery wheel; allows for more creativity in the molding of the clay; became used widely at the beginning of the Middle Bronze Age in Syria-Palestine

Fatah – Founded by Yasser Arafat and others in 1959, it then advocated armed struggle to liberate all of Palestine by Palestinians, while remaining independent of all Arab governments. The movement, the largest and strongest PLO faction, was headed by Arafat from its conception until his death in 2004. Fatah advocates a democratic, secular, multi-religious Palestinian state. Mahmoud Abbas is the present leader of Fatah.

fauna - animals of a given region or time

field - name for a major excavation operation. A field will consist of several areas, and it will usually cover a large section of a tell.

fill - a type of deposit of soil, rocks, etc., found in an excavation. Implied here is a deliberate action by people to use this material for construction above; may be used to level ground for building, or for filling pits

First Jewish revolt – great revolt by the Jews of Palestine (A.D. 67-70) against Rome, culminating in the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in A.D. 70

First Temple Period – period from the building of the Temple in Jerusalem by King Solomon in the tenth century B.C. to its destruction by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 586 B.C.

flagstone – flat, evenly shaped paving stone

flora - plants of a particular region or time

forum – the open-air market or hub of a Roman urban center with public meeting space

four-room house – characteristic Iron Age structure sometimes attributed to the Israelites, consisting of three rooms or pillared spaces around a rectangular fourth space, possibly a courtyard open to the sky

Franciscans - the Catholic order commissioned by the Pope as custodians of the Holy Land

fresco – decorative painting made with pigments on freshly spread, moist lime plaster

frieze - a decorative band above the architrave of a temple

frigidarium - cold-pool room of a Roman bath

Gaza Strip – The territory on the Mediterranean southwest of Israel proper. The Gaza Strip was defended by Egypt in the 1948 war and conquered by the Israelis in the 1967 war. It was home to approximately 2.3 million Palestinians.

Gihon (Hebrew for *gush; burst forth*) - The spring on the eastern slope of the Ophel that served as the chief water source for Jerusalem in the days during the biblical period.

glacis - term for a steep ramp of soil and stone, or crushed stone, set in place on the outside of a curtain wall. The steepness and the depth of a glacis was intended to prohibit an enemy from approaching and destroying the wall.

Golgotha – see Calvary

Goofa (guffa) - a rubber bucket used to haul debris from an excavation site

grand palestra – a public courtyard dedicated to exercise and/or military training and/or gladiatorial training (Longenecker, p. 266)

gymnasium – The area in Greco-Roman cities where naked young men practiced athletics; later it served as a place for lessons, banquets, and meetings. (Wilson)

hacksilver - fragments of silver items used as currency by weight. The earliest traders to use hacksilver in commerce appear to have been the Phoenicians [*]

Hadrian – (A.D. 76-138) Emperor of Rome during the second Jewish Revolt. Established the series of defensive fortifications that historically marked the end of Roman territorial expansion.

hamam - Turkish bath

Hamas – ¹ the name means *zeal* and is an acronym in Arabic for the Islamic Resistance Movement. This extreme terrorist group was created in 1987. It forbids toleration of, peace with, or acceptance of Israel and demands its destruction. It considers that the land of Palestine, once conquered by Moslems, must forever remain in Moslem hands. The Hamas Covenant, published in 1988, states, “Israel exists and will continue to exist only until Islam will obliterate it, as it obliterated others before it.” ² One of the largest and most active militant Islamist resistance movements. Besides using radical and violent means to fight against the occupation and for the liberation of Palestine, Hamas is heavily engaged in humanitarian and educational services to the poor of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Hanukkah – feast of lights

har (Hebrew) - mount, mountain

haredim, haredi (pl.) - an ultra-Orthodox Jew

HaShem – Hebrew for *the name*. Commonly used by modern Jews as a substitute for God’s name, out of reverence for God. Adonai (*my Lord*) is another substitution for God’s name. In Jesus’ time, “heaven” and “the Holy One” were other substitutions.

Hasidism (Hebrew for *righteous, pious*) - a religious movement founded by Israel ben Eliezer Ba’al Shem Tov in the first half of the eighteenth century. Originally it was a religious revivalist movement of popular mysticism that began in West Germany in the Middle Ages.

Hasmoneans – the name of the dynasty founded by the Maccabees (167-63 BCE) and named for Hasmon, an ancestor of the Maccabees

Havdalah – the short, but meaningful service that brings the Sabbath to a close, literally means *separation* of the holy from the profane (common). The ceremony emphasizes the beauty and holiness of the Sabbath, a gift from the Light of the world.

Hellenism - spread of Greek culture

Hellenistic – *that which is characterized by the Greek culture and language that spread throughout the Mediterranean world from the time of Alexander the Great in the fourth century BC to the rise of Rome in the first century BC

Herodian – a term describing any period or architectural structure connected with Herod the Great or the Herodian Dynasty

Herod Antipas – One of Herod the Great's four sons, he was a ruler in Galilee and Perea, who inherited part of his father's kingdom upon his death in 4 BC. He reigned for 42 years from 4 BC to AD 39. He was known as "Herod the Tetrarch" [i.e., ruler of a quarter"] (Kostenberger, p. 213).

Herod the Great – the Roman appointed King of Judea from 37-4 B.C., married to a Hasmonean princess. He constructed theaters, amphitheaters, hippodromes throughout Judea and began rebuilding the Temple in Jerusalem.

hexastyle - temple front with six columns

Hieroglyphics - ancient Egyptian pictographic writing that developed probably by the end of the fourth millennium BC [*]

Hijab – the head covering worn by many Arab women, especially Muslims

high places – centers of Canaanite idol worship. The Israelites often participated in unorthodox ritual at these places (see 1 Kings 14:23) [*]

Hillel – A famous Jewish teacher who was active between 30 B.C. and A.D. 10. He was known for his gentleness and moderation in the interpretation of the law. His school of disciples often debated the disciples of Shammai over their stricter interpretation of Jewish law.

hippodrome - course for chariot races

Hezbollah - Known as the Party of God, it was founded in Lebanon and publicly declared in 1985. Both Syria and Iran help train Hezbollah's fighters in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. Today it receives its funding primarily from Iran. These terrorists periodically shell the northern part of Israel and gained public sympathy when, in 1996, Israel bombed their position located within a Lebanese civilian area.

Holocaust - (Literally means *burnt offering; sacrifice*) - The term applied to the attempted genocide of European Jewry in the ovens of the Nazi death camps during the Second World War. More than six million men, women, and children were systematically exterminated in

hummus – chickpeas ground into a thick sauce mixed with olive oil and spices

Hyksos – a foreign line of Semitic "shepherd kings" who ruled Egypt from about 1720 B.C. to 1560 B.C. Some scholars believe that the last of the Hyksos dynasty coincided with the

arrival of Joseph's family in Egypt: hence their sympathetic welcome and Joseph's emancipation.

hypocaust – A system used in Roman baths for heating rooms; hot air from a furnace was forced to circulate beneath floors supported by small brick piers. (Wilson)

ibex - wild mountain goats with large backward curved horns

icon - a sacred picture or image usually on a panel

iconostasis – a decorated partition or screen that in Eastern Orthodox churches separates the sanctuary – the area around the altar that only the clergy may enter

iconoclast – A person who mocks or attacks something many others believe in

Imam - the prayer leader at a mosque

imperial cult – worship of Roman emperors as gods or demigods [*]

in situ - undisturbed; in its original “site” of place; in archaeology it was not moved from its original place where it was found

insula (plural, *insula*) – an urban block (literally, “island”) composed of residences, commercial premises, workshops, and public buildings, in various concentrations (Longenecker, p. 266)

Intifada (Arabic, “uprising, strike”) – ¹ The Palestinian revolt against Israeli rule in the so-called “occupied territories” that began in 1987 and was abated temporarily after the signing of the Declaration of Principles on September 13, 1993, between Israel and the PLO. ² An Arabic word that literally means *to shake off*, it is used to express the Palestinian revolt or rebellion against Israeli occupation.

Inundation of the Nile - *the annual rise of the waters of the Nile River, normally in August, covering most of the valley floor into late September. When the waters fell, they deposited a rich layer of silt, and crops were sown in the valley in October and November. In antiquity, agriculture was possible in much of the Nile Valley because of the deposition of the river. The Egyptians believed the inundation to be a deity, which they called Hapi.

Ionic column - a column of uniform thickness, with ornamental base and volute capital

Islam - A monotheistic religion whose only deity is ‘*Allah* (“God”) and whose prophet is Mohammed. It venerates certain Old Testament figures and traditions and accepts some traditions about Jesus, who is considered a lesser prophet. Its primary religious text is the Koran, a set of divine revelations made to Mohammed.

Islamic Jihad - With roots in Egypt, the Jihad was founded in 1960 and reorganized in 1993 as the New Jihad. Its headquarters is in Gaza. As the name Jihad implies, members value holy war as essential and “shahada” (martyrdom) as supreme. It fell out of popularity when Hamas began in 1987, but still remains a source of concern.

isodomic - regular horizontal courses of masonry

Israel Defense Forces (IDF) – Founded in 1948, the armed forces of the IDF encompass Israel’s land, sea and air defenses. Most Israelis, both men and women, begin their compulsory military services at the age of 18 and serve at least three years. Men must stay in the reserves until they are 55, serving up to 45 days a year active duty. Arabs and the ultra-orthodox Jews are exempt. A number of retired senior officers have gone on to become important political figures.

Israeli – A citizen of the State of Israel

Israeli Arabs – Palestinians who are citizens of the State of Israel. These are Arabs who were not forced out of Israel proper during the wars of 1948 and 1967 (although some had been internally displaced). And their descendants have remained in Israel proper and retained Israeli citizenship.

Israeli independence - 1948

Jebel – Arabic for *mountain* as in *Jebel Musa* for “Mount Moses” (i.e., Mt. Sinai)

Jebusites - The original Canaanite inhabitants of Jerusalem at the first conquest of the city by Joshua (Joshua 10:23; 12:10) and the second, and complete, conquest of the city by David (2 Samuel 5:6-8; 1 Chronicles 11:4-9). The water shaft entered by David and his men to breach the walls, which was later connected by Solomon and others to reach the upper city by tunnels, was of Jebusite origin.

Jew - A person born of a Jewish mother or who converted to the Jewish faith. It is worth noting that in recent years, in order to facilitate family reunifications (particularly large-scale Russian immigration), Israel’s “law of return” has been extended to any person who has a least one grandparent on either side who meets this definition. The whole issue of “who’s a Jew,” especially regarding the validity (or not) of non-Orthodox conversions, is a perennial one in Israeli society.

Jihad – ¹ a holy war against the infidels who possess the land of Allah. Anyone, Jew or Arab, who collaborates with Israel faces the threat of execution. ² An Arabic word that means “struggle.” Jihad is sometimes interpreted as “holy war,” but in fact it means *any* struggle against evil, either in society or within an individual. In Islam, the “inner Jihad,” the struggle against one’s own evil, is said to be the most important struggle.

Jordan Valley – the section of the Rift Valley stretching from the Sea of Galilee in northern Israel to the Dead Sea in the south

Josephus Falvius (A.D. 37-100) - Jewish commander of Galilee at the outbreak of the First Jewish Revolt against Rome (66 A.D.) and historian, whose writings (*Antiquities* and *The Jewish War*) represent the chief examples of Jewish-Hellenistic literature.

Judaism's Branches:

Reform	Conservative	Orthodox	Reconstructionist
Autonomy of the individual is a key principle; do not endorse a single belief or practice; say meaning of Jews' heritage is evolving	Traditional in emphasis but vary greatly in practice. Believe scriptures have a human element and that Jewish law should change and adapt.	Follow Jewish law, a body of biblical commandments, rabbis' judgments, and Jewish custom. Chasidic and Yeshivas Jews are minorities within Orthodox belief.	In ways an outgrowth of Conservative. Believe that Judaism is an "evolving religious civilization"; deny that a personified deity is active in history.

kale (kalesi) - castle or fortress

kebabs – pieces of lamb cooked on a skewer

kefar – village

Keffiyeh – the black and white or red and white head covering worn by many Arab men

Khirbeh (Khibet) - Arabic word used to describe ancient ruins with remains visible on the surface. When used as part of a placename, the final *h* changes to a *t*, as in Khirbet Qumran.

kibbutz, kibbutzim (pl.) - collective communities, with common ownership of property, means of production, joint purchasing, and marketing

King's Highway - major trade route that runs the length of Transjordan from the Gulf of Aqaba/Eilat to Damascus. One of the two most important highways that connected Egypt with Mesopotamia, crossing Transjordan from north to south, close to the desert's edge.

kiosk - small stand/store which sells produce/souvenirs

Knesset - parliament of Israel with several political parties

knish - a pocket of dough filled with choice of potatoes, cheese, onions, pineapple

koch, kochim (pl.) - see "loculus"

Koran (also *Qur'an*, Arabic, "recitation") - The most holy book in Islam, believed by Muslims to be 114 chapters dictated by the archangel Gabriel to the prophet Mohammed at Mecca and Medina.

kosher – food permissible according to Jewish law

krater - a two-handled jar for mixing water and wine

kreplach - a pastry pocket stuffed with meat

kugel - noodle pudding

lathes – potato cakes

lechem – Hebrew word for “bread,” which also refers to food or nourishment in general.

Levant – area on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea usually considered to encompass the modern lands of Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria [*]

Likud Party – Likud was founded in 1973 out of an alliance of right-wing parties. It has fought to hold onto the Occupied Territories, and it maintains a hawkish stance on matters of national security. On the economic front, it supports privatization and other neo-liberal economic policies.

lintel - horizontal beam above a door or a window opening or between two columns or piers

lira – the Turkish monetary unit

lithics – primarily stone tools

loculus, loculi (pl.), AKA, koch, kochim (pl.) - an elongated cavity cut into the wall of a tomb chamber (perpendicular to its face) to hold the body of the deceased in the initial burial; typically, 6' deep, 1.5-2' wide and 2' high

locus, loci - smallest coherent unit of stratigraphy; a three-dimensional entity. Ex: a wall (having three dimensions and being coherent). Used in archaeology for convenience in recording and discussing different elements, e.g., of a house.

loom-weights – often found in archeological excavations, these were metal or stone weights used in looms to stretch the warp [*]

lox - smoked salmon; regular (salty) or nova (less salty); often eaten in a bagel with cream cheese, onion, and tomato slices

ma'adar - a hoe-like tool with a spade-shaped blade and mid-size wooden handle used to remove soil between stones

Maccabees – *family that led a Jewish rebel army that took control of Judea in 167-166 BC. This family founded the Hasmonean dynasty, which ruled until 63 BC, when Rome captured Judea

Macellum – meat/fish market of a Greco-Roman city

Madaba Map – a mosaic map of Byzantine Jerusalem and the Land of Israel found at Madaba in Jordan

Mamluks (mamelukes) – a military force of former Circassian slaves who became the rulers of Egypt and who ruled the Holy Land from A.D. 1250 – A. D. 1517

marak teimara – a dish consisting of meat soup

martyrium - shrine of a Christian martyr

massebah, masseboth - Hebrew word for standing stone pillars. Found in Old Testament in, e.g., the Sinai covenant ceremony (Book of Exodus).

matzah – unleavened bread eaten at Passover

matzo balls - dumplings made of unleavened meal, water and eggs

Medrese (medresesi): Islamic school of learning

menorah (Hebrew, “lamp”; pl. *menorot*) - A term used for the seven-branched oil lamps, or candelabrum, used in both the Tabernacle and the Temple

Mesopotamia – the land between the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers. It means “between the rivers.”

Messianic Jews – ¹ Orthodox Jews who believe the messianic times are imminent. Most messianic Jews in Israel are actively preparing for the Messiah’s coming through the adoption of more biblical lifestyles and in research and activism toward rebuilding the Temple. In the United States, the term is used of Jewish Christians, or Jews who believe Jesus is the Messiah. ² A Jew who accepts *Yeshua* (Jesus) as his/her Messiah while continuing to maintain a Jewish identity and observe Jewish customs and traditions.

mezuzah – rectangular container of biblical verses, affixed to doorposts of homes in accordance with religious law

midden - archaeological term for a garbage or refuse deposit; may be the town dump, kitchen refuse pit, etc.

Middot – a portion of the Mishnah

Midrash (Hebrew, “interpretation”) – A rabbinic explanation or commentary on the biblical text. In later centuries, it often expanded biblical stories with legends about the characters in order to explain the text. *Midrash* can also refer to a compilation of commentaries on the text. *Midrashim* (pl) date from as early as 400 B.C. up to the Middle Ages. These commentaries were handed down orally and later compiled in written form. The *midrashim* are extensively quoted in the Talmud.

Mikveh, mikvot - a ritual bath taken for purification

minaret - slender tower of a Muslim mosque, from which a crier (muazzin) issues call to prayer five times a day

Mishnah (Hebrew, “learning, repetition”) - The earliest written collection of Jewish oral law (that is, Jewish religious and legal teachings handed down orally). It was compiled about A.D. 200 by Rabbi Judah ha-Nasi (“the Prince”). It comprises the first part of the Talmud and appears in the form of homiletical discourses by the Jewish sages.

mitzvah (Hebrew, “commandment,” pl. *mitzvot*) - the term for a religious and moral obligation, whether one of the 613 Biblical commandments or any other traditional ordinance, observance, teaching, or statute

Mohammed (from Arabic *hmd*, “to praise,” also *Muhammed*) - The founder and prophet of Islam, who was born in A.D. 570 and died at Medina in A.D. 632.

Monolithic – formed of a single stone block. (Wilson)

mosaic – a picture or inscription made by piecing together small cut stones of different shapes and colors

Moslem era – 638-1099 A.D.

mosque - a Muslim place of worship

Mossad – Israel’s National Intelligence agency; parallel of the U.S. Homeland Security

mound - see tell

muazzin - man who delivers the call to prayer from the minaret of a mosque

mufti – an expert who gives advice on a point of Muslim law

mummification – a process of preserving the mortal remains of a corpse through a complex procedure involving the removal of bodily fluids and organs and the application of various spices and wrappings. This process is thought to have originated with the Egyptians.

Muslim (from Arabic ‘*aslama*, “to submit, convert to Islam”) - a believer or follower of Islam

Mycenaean culture - Greek culture from 1580 to 1150 B.C.E. named after Mycenae, where it developed

Nabateans – an Arab people located in Petra. They occupied agricultural settlements south of Hebron as well as in Edom and Moab between the 6th and 4th centuries B.C. By NT times, their territory stretched from the Mediterranean and the Red Sea right across eastward to the Euphrates.

Nakba – Arabic for *catastrophe*; “... the Nakba was 530 Palestinian towns and villages being destroyed and removed from the face of the earth. For Israel to become a reality, 750,000 Palestinians were expelled from their homes and became refugees, and thousands were killed. Israel was created on 78 percent of historical Palestine.” (Isaac, p. 23-24)

Naos - inner area within a Greek temple containing a statue of the god [*]

Narthex – The entrance or lobby of a basilica located at the end of a nave. (Wilson)

nave - central lengthwise aisle of a church

Necropolis – Greek for *cemetery* (literally, “city of the dead”); used mainly to denote large and important cemeteries outside the city walls

Negeb (or Negev) – Israel’s southern desert, located between the Judean Wilderness and the Sinai Desert

niche – hollowed recess in a wall to hold, for example, a Torah ark (in a synagogue), a statue, and interment (in a tomb), or for decorative purposes

Nile Delta – the delta-shaped area of Lower Egypt where the Nile River splits into numerous channels as it flowed north into the Mediterranean Sea; in antiquity annual Nile inundations deposited layers of highly fertile silt that allowed remarkable agricultural production; however, both high and low Nile flows could be disastrous; abundant water was managed by a complex system of canals (Collins, p. 41)

NIS – New Israeli Shekel

Nuzi Tablets - *more than 5,000 clay tablets from the Late Bronze Age (15th-14th centuries BC) uncovered in excavations at the Hurrian site of Nuzi in modern northern Iraq. The archive provides evidence and insight into the legal, social, economic, and religious institutions of the Hurrians.

Nymphaeum - in ancient Greece and Rome, a sanctuary dedicated to water nymphs, often containing fountains, mosaics, and an arboretum [*]

Occupied Territories – The land seized and occupied by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War. They include East Jerusalem (annexed by Israel and included within Jerusalem’s municipal boundaries). The West bank, the Gaza Strip (until the 2005 withdrawal), and the Golan Heights. UN Resolution 242 calls for Israel to withdraw from these territories.

Odeion (odeum, pl) – a small Greek or Roman theatre for musical concerts, dramas and presentations by orators

‘Ophel (Hebrew for *hill, mound*) - The southeastern spur north of the City of David that is the oldest known part of Jerusalem. It is the section of Jebusite territory captured by King David and was the site of the Tabernacle during his days.

Orthodox (Greek, “straight”) - Those holding to religious views that have been traditionally accepted and taught. Orthodox Jews are those accepting the Tanakh (Old Testament) as divine revelation, and the Talmud as divine direction for the interpretation of the Tanakh, and are observant (practitioners) of Jewish law. There are many different divisions within orthodox Judaism today.

oratory – a small chapel, a place for prayer.

Orthostat - a large, vertical block of stone in the lower part of a wall

ossuary - customary among Jews in Jerusalem during the later part of the 2nd Temple period to re-bury the deceased about a year after their initial burial. The bones were placed in a small limestone box called an “ossuary”; typically, 1.5-2.5’ long, 5’ wide and 1.5’ high; some had 4 small pedestals, and many are inscribed with the name of the deceased; sometimes loculi were used as repositories for ossuaries.

ostrakon (ostraca, pl) - Greek for “potsherd”; used by archaeologists to describe any fragment of pottery, bone, or wood that has writing on it. Because papyrus was expensive, ostraca were commonly used in Egypt and Palestine for everyday writing purposes in the local cursive scripts, but not the cuneiform script.

Ottomans – the Turkish Empire founded by Othman the Ottoman Turks defeated the Mamluks and ruled the Holy Land from 1517 until 1917.

Palestine - A pejorative term for the country west of the Jordan River, first coined by the Greeks and Romans after the word *Philistine*, the enemies of Israel who inhabited the Mediterranean coastal plain. The Bible refers to the same territory as *Canaan*, after its pre-Israelite inhabitants, though Jews have always called it ‘*Eretz Yisrael* (“Land of Israel”).

Palestinian Arab – An Arab native to historic Palestine, and his/her descendants. This definition thus includes Palestinians both inside and outside the Green Line. For many Israeli Arabs, however, especially younger generations removed from the events of 1948, the use or non-use of the label “Palestinian” is a question of individual self-identification.

Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) – ¹ Better known as the PLO, this well-known group was founded in 1964. The group settled in Jordan but was violently expelled in 1970. Lebanon became its new abode until Israel invaded and severely weakened it in 1982. In 1993, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed a peace treaty with Yasser Arafat that led to limited Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip, Jericho, and several West Bank cities. The PLO’s primary goal has been the destruction of the State of Israel. ² Founded in 1964 by 422 Palestinian national figures. The PLO was taken over by Yasser Arafat’s Fatah movement in 1969, becoming an umbrella organization for many Palestinian factions and establishing a number of bodies for civil society. The UN acknowledged the PLO in 1974 as the representative of the Palestinian people, and in 1988 the PLO recognized Israel’s right to exist, at the same time declaring Palestinian independence.

Palaestra - school in ancient Greece or Rome for wrestling and gymnastics [*]

Pan – *Myth*. A god of field, forests, wild animals, flocks, and shepherds, represented with the legs (and, sometimes, horns and ears) of a goat; identified with the Roman god Faunus

Panhellenic - “all Greece” games or festivals

Papyrus (pl. Papyri) – thick paper made from the pith (stem tissue) of the papyrus plant, an aquatic plant native to Africa. The ancient Egyptians used it as writing material as early as the third millennium BC [*]

parchment – refers to writing paper that, in ancient times, was made from animal skins or vellum

Pax Romana – the “peace” that Rome was rumored to have effected throughout its empire (Longenecker, p. 267)

pediment - the triangular termination of a ridge roof

peristyle – in Greco-Roman architecture, a columned porch surrounding a building’s internal garden [*]

Persia – generally speaking, the same area as the modern country of Iran

Persian Royal Road - ancient highway running from Susa, the capital of Persia, across modern-day Turkey (Anatolia) to the Aegean Sea. It was built to its full extent by Darius I to facilitate rapid communication throughout the Persian Empire [*]

Pesach (Hebrew, “Passover”) - The Hebrew term for the festival of Passover, which commemorates the Israelite exodus from Egypt (Exodus 12:1-36) and was celebrated at the last great reform of the Second Temple, during which the Ark was reinstalled (2 Chronicles 35:1-3). Prophetically, it looks toward the final exodus of God’s people under Messiah (see 1 Corinthians 5:7; Revelation 15:3-4; cf. Exodus 15).

Pharisees – lit. “the separated ones” or “separatists” – The roots of this sect can be traced to the second century B.C. Unlike the aristocratic Sadducees, most were common laborers who devoted their spare time to study and teaching. Pondering the lessons of exile and persecution, they concluded that the best hope for the future lay in devotion to God. They carefully studied the Torah to discover how best to live according to the law. As one of the most influential groups in the New Testament period, they determined the character of rabbinic Judaism after the fall of the temple in A.D. 70.

Philo (25 BC-AD 50) – Hellenistic Jewish philosopher who lived in Alexandria, Egypt; perhaps best known for his allegorical exegesis of the Hebrew Bible, which attempted to harmonize Greek and Jewish ways of thinking [*]

phylacteries – two small black leather boxes. Attached to these 1-2” cubes are long leather straps 2-3’ in length. One box is placed on the forehead (shel rosh) and the other is placed on the arm (shel yad). The shel yad contains passages of scripture written by a scribe on one piece

of parchment. These passages, taken from the Torah, are Exodus 13:1-16 and Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 11:13-21.

pita – round flat bread often stuffed with vegetables and falafel

pithos – large storage jar.

Pliny the Elder (AD 23-79) – Roman soldier, philosopher, and author well known for his 37 volume *Natural History*, an encyclopedic collection of much of the knowledge of his day [*]

Pliny the Younger (AD 61-113) – nephew of Pliny the Elder and a Roman author, lawyer, and magistrate who wrote hundreds of letters that yet survive; probably best known for his letter to Trajan concerning the Christian religion [*]

Polytheism - belief in more than one God [*]

Portico - a colonnaded porch, with a roof supported on at least one side by columns

potsherds – broken pieces of ceramic pottery found in excavations. It is typically the most abundantly preserved evidence in archaeological remains.

Praetorium – Pilate’s official headquarters in Jerusalem, a fortress within a Herod’s palace. A raised Stone Pavement (Aramaic *Gabbatha*) was the place of official judgements (see Matt. 27:27; Mark 15:16; John 18:28, 33; 19:9) (Köstenberger, p. 216).

prostyle - temple with columned portico in front

Rabbi (Hebrew, “master”) - Derived from the Hebrew verb *rabab*, “to be great,” the term is an honorable title for an ordained Jewish teacher of the Law or a leader of a Jewish community. Roughly equivalent to Christian “pastor” or “bishop.”

rampart – raised earth mound or embankment used as a fortification or fortification wall.

Red Russian Orthodox and White Russian Orthodox – Following the Bolshevik revolution in 1917 the Russian Orthodox became divided into two groups according to their political allegiance. “Red Russian” Orthodox are those whose allegiance was to the Communist regime; “White Russian” Orthodox generally left for the diaspora. The White Russians’ principal headquarters are in New York.

repository - place, building, room, or container where things may be stored

Residency - name applied to certain style house (thought by some to be associated with Egyptian regional governors in Palestine). The style is found universally in Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, Crete, Hatti, etc. Consists of a large room surrounded on all four sides by smaller rooms.

Revisionists - founded in 1925, this movement strongly advocates political Zionism

Rift Valley - A valley found when the earth collapses between two parallel faults or cracks in the rock layers below the earth's surface. The Jordan Valley and Wadi Arabah are part of a great rift that extends from Syria to Mozambique in southeast Africa.

Roman Era – from Pompey's conquest of Jerusalem (63 B.C.) to the Christian Byzantine Empire

Rosh Hashanah (Hebrew, "head of the year") - The Jewish festival of the civil New Year celebrated on the first and second days of the month Tishri (equivalent to September/October on the Julian [Christian] calendar).

Royal Stoa - a magnificent and immense columnar hall built by Herod which extended across the entire southern end of the Temple Mount; built in the style of a Roman basilica; the largest structure on the Herodian Temple Mount with two rows of huge columns; the place where the Sanhedrin met

rugalach - pastries filled with raisins, prunes, poppy seeds, almonds, etc.

sabra – the Hebrew word for the fruit of the prickly pear (soft beneath its prickly exterior) and a metaphor for the Jews born in Israel

Sadducees – Members of the Sadducees came primarily from the ruling priestly and aristocratic classes. They controlled the temple worship. Many people resented them for fattening their purses and securing their position by collaborating with the Romans. Unlike the Pharisees, they did not believe in the resurrection of the dead, and they considered only the Written Torah as binding. Their influence ceased with the destruction of the temple in A.D. 70.

Saladin – Also known as Salah-a-din, ruler of Egypt and Syria who defeated the Crusaders in 1187.

Sanhedrin - The assembly of ordained Jewish scholars that functioned both as a supreme court and as a legislature in Israel before A.D. 70. With the destruction of the Temple and the end of Jewish independence, the Sanhedrin ceased to function.

sarcophagus – stone casing or box in which wooden or metal coffins were placed [*]

scarab - beetle-shaped stamp seal; mainly Egyptian

Scriptorium – place where books were written or copied

Sea peoples - migratory groups from the Aegean Sea area that attempted to settle in the eastern Mediterranean basin in the thirteenth century BC. One of these groups was the Philistines, who settled on the southern coastal plain in Canaan [*].

Second Temple Period – period in Israel beginning with the return of the Babylonian exiles in 536 B.C. and ending with the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in A.D. 70.

section - a scale-drawing of a balk done to show the vertical relationships of the loci excavated within an area.

seder – Hebrew meaning “order.” The term used for the “order” of the Passover service, during which the account of the Israelite exodus from Egypt is recounted (*magid*) and a ritual meal is consumed.

Semitic - relating to a family of languages that includes Hebrew, Aramaic, Arabic, Ugaritic, Akkadian, and Ethiopic, or to the peoples who spoke those languages [*]

Sephardic, sephardim - Jews descended from those expelled from Spain and Portugal, using Ladino as vernacular

Septuagint – pre-Christian third-century B.C. Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible, written, according to legend, by 70 scholars in 70 days; the first vernacular translation. It included the Apocrypha.

sesterce (plural, *sesterces*) – a Roman coin worth one quarter of a denarius (Longenecker, p. 267)

Settlement – Built-up areas in the West Bank (and formerly the Gaza Strip) where Jewish-Israeli communities have been planted, mostly with the permission, direct assistance and military protection of the Israeli government. Although often referred to as “settlements,” the word “colony” more accurately reflects the reality, that the Israelis residing in the West Bank are living on someone else’s land.

Shabbat – Hebrew for “Sabbath,” meaning “to cease, stop, rest.” A time of ceasing from labor, according to the Bible. Jews observe Shabbat from Friday sunset until Saturday sunset.

Shammai – Famous Jewish scholar of the first century B.C. who was known for his strict approach to interpreting the laws of the Torah. His school of disciples often debated the more moderate disciples of Hillel during the first century, and these debates shed light on the context of Jesus’ sayings.

shalom – Hebrew for “peace”

Sharon Plain – the coastal Plain of Israel

Shavuot – Hebrew word for the feast that in Greek is called *Pentecost*, meaning “fiftieth day.” Seven weeks are counted off after the Feast of Firstfruits to arrive at the day. Commemorates God’s giving of His law and covenant on Mount Sinai. The Holy Spirit was poured out on the new believers on this day, as a sign of the new covenant, in which God would put his law in our hearts (Jeremiah 31:31).

shekel – an ancient unit of weight used by the Babylonians, Phoenicians, Jews, and other peoples of the Ancient Near East. Also a coin of the weight, especially the main silver coin of the Jews; used between the second century B.C. and second century A.D. in Syria-Palestine. Today, it is the basic unit of Jewish money. One shekel equals 100 agarot.

Shema – (Hebrew, lit. “hear”) Three Bible passages recited morning and evening by Jews over the millennia, since before Jesus’ time. They are Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 11:13-21; and Numbers 15:37-41. The first word of Deuteronomy 6:4, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.” *Shema* means “hear,” but it implies action, also meaning “take heed” and “obey.” To pray the *Shema* is to commit one’s self to loving God and obeying his laws.

Shephelah – literally, “lowland”; the hilly region between Israel’s southern coastal plain and the Judean foothills.

sherd - a broken piece of pottery; potsherd

sherut - a shared taxi or van for public transportation between cities

shouk – a Jewish marketplace

shofar – A ram’s horn that is blown as a trumpet. In biblical times it was sounded for a variety of purposes, but now it is blown on the day of *Rosh Hashanah*, the Jewish new year, and at the end of *Yom Kippur*, the Day of Atonement.

Shwarma - thin slices cut from grilled meat (lamb or turkey) on an upright spit; eaten in pita

siddurim, siddurs - special prayer books used by Orthodox Jewish men

Simchat Torah - “Rejoicing in the Torah” it is a celebration of the completion of the annual cycle of Scripture readings. The scrolls are carried around the synagogue seven times amid singing and dancing. The concluding section of Deuteronomy is read followed by the beginning of Genesis, to celebrate the lifelong study of God’s Word.

Six-Day War - The war that occurred June 5-10, 1967, when Israel reacted to Arab threats and blockade by defeating the Egyptian, Jordanian, and Syrian forces. The Sinai Peninsula, the West Bank, and the Golan Heights fell to Israel in this conflict. The Sinai was returned to Egypt in 1979 as a condition of the Camp David Peace Treaty. For Jerusalem the war was a three-day conflict, June 5-7, that resulted in the liberation of East Jerusalem and the temple Mount from Jordan.

slip - finish of very fine clay applied to the outside of a pottery vessel before firing.

souk – shopping area in Jerusalem’s Arab section

square - part of the grid system of an excavation. Each area of a dig is divided into individual squares (usually 5 by 5 meters). This is the framework for the excavation in which balks are left between squares to show earth layers [*]

stadium (stadion) - a measure of length, 600 feet, or a running track of the same length

stela (Stelai, pl) – an upright slab or stone pillar used for inscriptions, reliefs, and tombstones.

Stelai served a variety of purposes in the ancient world: as funerary monuments, as monuments commemorating royal victories, and for dedications to gods.

Stoa - a covered walkway with columns in front, often with shops or offices behind

Strabo (63 BC-AD 24) - *Greek philosopher, historian, and geographer most noted for his *Geographica*, which provides a descriptive history of peoples and places of his day and thus serves as an important source of information for understanding the ancient Roman world

Stratigraphy - the analysis of stratified material; specifically, the analysis of sequence of layers, buildings and other features as they come into existence in the formation of a tell

stratum (strata, pl) – a layer of soil containing artifacts and debris representing a particular time and culture at a site; the combination of all loci belonging to one construction, habitation, and destruction cycle, representing one historical/cultural period of habitation at a site; usually distinguished from one another by differences in soil makeup, architecture, artifacts, etc.

sukkot (Hebrew, “booths”) - The Hebrew term for the one-week Feast of Tabernacles; the last of the three pilgrim festivals that begins on the fifteenth of Tishri (approximately September/October on the Julian [Christian] calendar). The word *sukkot* is the plural of *sukkah*, a booth or tabernacle that the Israelites dwelt in during their time of wandering in the wilderness (Leviticus 23:42).

Sultan - a Muslim ruler, especially from the former Ottoman Turkish Empire

Synagogue (lit. “assembly”) – A local community center that is the place of prayer and study of Scripture. It likely arose during the exile in Babylon when Jews were unable to worship at the temple. In the first century, all kinds of meetings were held there – school during the week, and prayer and study of the Torah on the Sabbath.

tahina – sesame purée with tomatoes and onions

tallit (talitot, pl) – In modern Jewish usage, a *tallit* is the prayer shawl, a ceremonial shawl to which tassels are attached. In Jesus’ day, the *tallit* was the outer woolen mantle, a rectangle of heavy cloth that bore tassels on its four corners. It was worn in public at all times and could be used as a blanket for sleeping. Underneath was the *haluk*, a linen undergarment. Nowadays, Hasidic Jews and some Orthodox Jews wear a small *tallit* (a *tallit katan*, a rectangular cloth carrying the tassels, with a hold for the head) underneath their shirts in order to wear tassels all the time.

Talmud (Hebrew for *teaching*) - The entire corpus of Jewish oral law including the Mishnah together with a written compendium of discussions and commentary on the Mishnah called *Gemara*. Its teachings and rulings span a period between Ezra in the Old Testament (c. 440

B.C.) and the middle of the Roman period (c. A.D. 550). Because it includes rulings made by generations of scholars and jurists in many academies in both Palestine and Babylon it exists in two versions: The *Jerusalem* (discussions in the Jerusalem academies) and the *Babylonian* (discussions in the Babylonian academies).

Tanach – The Jewish term for the Bible. It includes the same books as in the Protestant “Old Testament.” *Tanach* is actually an acronym of the first letters that start each of the three main sections. These are the:

- *Torah* (Pentateuch): Five books of Moses (the covenant and laws)
- *Nevi'im* (lit. “prophets”): Joshua, Judges, 1-2 Samuel, other historical books; Isaiah, Jeremiah, and other prophets
- *Ketuvim* (lit. “writings”): Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Ruth, and others

Targum - ancient Aramaic commentary on the Hebrew Bible dating from as early as the first century AD [*]

tefillin – Phylacteries, leather boxes containing Scriptures that were worn on the forehead and left arm to fulfill the command in Deuteronomy 6:8: “Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.” In Jesus’ time, these were worn most of the day, but now they are worn only during prayer on weekdays.

tekke - dervish lodge or monastery

tell - the Arabic word (with one *l* in Hebrew) used in reference to the unnatural mounds created by the repeated destruction and rebuilding of ancient cities and villages on the same site. The word is now used in most languages for such mounds throughout the Near East. This same word appears in the Hebrew text of Joshua 11:13: “cities that stood on their tells.”

temenos - the sacred enclosure or precinct of a temple

Tepidarium – The warm room of the bathhouse in which bathers would cover their bodies with oil to loosen the dirt and then have a slave or attendant use a curved metal tool called a strigil to wipe the oil, sweat, and dirt from the body. (Wilson)

terra cotta - typically reddish, unglazed ceramic (earthenware) material

terrea - a short, handled hoe with a broad head used to shovel debris into a goafa bucket

tesserae - cubes used to compose a mosaic, made either of naturally colored rock or of painted glass

theatre - this half-circle tiered entertainment facility had a stage as the focal point

todah – Hebrew for *thanks*

toga – a wool robe that distinguished an adult male as a Roman citizen (Longenecker, p. 267)

topography (Greek, “study of place”) -The description of a particular place, including its physical structures and elevation.

Torah (“teaching”, “instruction”) – Refers to the first five books of the Bible, also called the Pentateuch. Christians often translate Torah as “law”, while Jewish translations usually render it “teaching.”

traditional site - usually means this cannot be validated as an “authentic site.” *Oral tradition* ascribes this location as a place where significant biblical events occurred.

Transjordan - The high plateau east of the Rift Valley that extends from the Yarmuk River (southeast of the Sea of Galilee) to the Gulf of Elat/Aqaba; the Old Testament territories and kingdoms of Edom, Moab, Ammon and Gilead

triclinium (triclinia, pl) – a dining room; the name arose from the Roman practice of installing three banqueting couches together in a “U” shape around a table

Trireme - a 150-oared Greek war gallery, with the oars grouped in threes

Tumulus - artificial, ancient burial mound found throughout much of the ancient world. Also known as a barrow [*]

turia - a hoe-like instrument with a mid-size, wooden handle used for scraping large, flat surfaces, digging into soft fills, or just cleaning up loosed material

Turkish coffee - If you visit an Arab home or tent, you’ll be invited to drink coffee--strong and pungent. The first cup means welcome, the second friendship, and the third protection. And if it’s filled to the brim, it means quickly drink your coffee and go--you’re not welcome!

Typology - study and classification of types (groups of objects or other cultural characteristics which share certain important features); most frequently used in connection with ceramics: pottery typology

Tzitzit – Tassels attached to the hem of a garment, called a *tallit*, in accordance with the command to wear tassels in Numbers 15:37-41.

veneration - some religious traditions make a site a holy place to revere, show respect for or worship

Via Ignatia - main road connecting Rome to Byzantium, constructed in the second century BC [*]

Via Maris - international highway/trade route first used in the Early Bronze Age, linking Egypt to the nations of the north/northeast. The route runs along the Mediterranean coast and is often referred to as the Great Trunk Road [*].

villa – a private residence of unusually large proportion, often beyond the walls of an urban center; some were working villas dedicated to harvesting agricultural produce (Longenecker, p. 267)

Vulgate – the Latin translation of the Hebrew Scriptures in the fourth century by St. Jerome
wadi - Arab name for a ravine, dry river bed; usually dry except for rushing water or floods during rainfall

Wakf – Muslim religious authorities

wash - finish of fine clay (often white) applied to the outside of a pottery vessel after firing.

Way of the Cross or Via Dolorosa – the traditional route in Jerusalem that Jesus followed to Golgotha

W.C. – “water closet”, restroom ☺

West Bank – The territory west of the Jordan River defended by the Kingdom of Jordan in the 1948 war, defined by the so-called “Green Line,” and conquered by the Israelis in the 1967 war. Jordan officially gave up its claims to the area in 1988. The West Bank is home to approximately 2.4 million Palestinians.

World War I – Jerusalem conquered by Britain in 1917.

yarmulke – A fabric skullcap worn traditionally by Jewish men. Some men wear one at all times, while others wear it only for religious occasions.

Yeshiva (Hebrew for *sitting*) - A Jewish traditional academy, or school, devoted primarily to the advanced study of the Talmud and rabbinic literature, roughly equivalent to a Christian seminary.

Yeshua – Jesus’ name as it would have been said in Hebrew. It is a shortened form of *Yehoshua*, which in English is “Joshua.” Both mean “God’s salvation,” which is why the angel said, “You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

Yom Kippur (“Day of covering”) – Day of Atonement. The most holy day of the year for Jewish people, when they fast and pray for forgiveness of sins. In biblical times the sins of the nation were laid on the head of a scapegoat, which was then driven into the wilderness, and the high priest entered the Most Holy Place of the temple to make atonement for the sins of the nation.

Zealots – The Zealots originated during the reign of Herod the Great. A political party with religious underpinnings, this group advocated the violent rebellion of Israel against Rome. The Galilee region where Jesus lived and taught was a Zealot stronghold. This movement came to the forefront in the Jewish revolt against Rome in A.D. 66-70 and disappeared afterward.

Zion (Hebrew meaning disputed) - Originally the hill area north of Jerusalem, the ‘*Ophel*, where the Tabernacle resided. Through poetic usage it became a synonym for the city of Jerusalem and Israel itself, and spiritually as the eschatological ideal of God’s chosen place on earth.

Zionism - movement with the goal of returning Jews to the land of Israel

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