

Glossary to Support the 'John' Series

Cast lots

A method used by people to determine the will of God, or fate. Lots could be sticks with markings, stones with symbols, etc., that were thrown into a small area and then the result was interpreted.

Crucifixion

A Roman form of execution by nailing or binding a person to a cross designed to slowly execute a person through torture while humiliating them.

Daughter of Zion

This phrase does not refer to a specific person. It's a metaphor for Israel and the loving, relationship God the Father has with His chosen people.

Disciple

A student or a pupil – from the word meaning 'to learn'.
A personal follower of Jesus, especially one of the twelve.

Glorify

To reveal or make clear the glory and power of God by your words and actions.

Gospel

Jesus' teaching, the word of God, the good news.
In the New Testament the record of Jesus' life and teaching in the first four books of the New Testament.

High Priest

The chief religious official of Israelite religion. The high priests belonged to the Jewish priestly families that trace their paternal line back to Aaron, the first high priest and elder brother of Moses.

Hosanna

An expression of adoration, praise, or joy.
Abbreviation from the Hebrew word meaning, 'save we pray.'

Jerusalem

The Bible states that King David conquered the city of Jerusalem and made it the capital of Israel, and his son, King Solomon, commissioned the building of the First Temple there.

Kingdom of God

This is understood to mean, 'God's rule.' In the New Testament it is linked with the person and ministry of Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection, his return, and the rise of the Church in history.

Passover

Every year, Jews celebrate the Feast of Passover to remember the liberation of the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt, as commanded by God in Exodus 13.

Pentecost

The Jewish festival of Pentecost is a harvest festival that commemorates the giving of the Torah. Christians celebrate the festival as the time when the early church received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Pharisees

A member of an ancient Jewish group, they were known for a strict observance of the Jewish traditional and written law.

Prophecy / Prophet

A prediction or forecast of what will happen in the future. A prophet is a spokesman for God, a person chosen to speak to people on His behalf and convey a message or teaching. The word prophet, comes from the Hebrew term meaning "fruit of the lips," which emphasises the prophet's role as a speaker.

Resurrection

Comes from the word meaning, 'to rise again.' In John's gospel it refers to Jesus coming back to life after his death on the cross.

Roman Governor or Prefect - Pontius Pilate

He was the fifth prefect of the Roman province of Judea from AD 26-36. As a Roman prefect, Pontius Pilate was granted the power of a supreme judge. His main role was to maintain law and order and he had the sole authority to order a criminal's execution.

Sabbath

The seventh day of the week was kept as a special day and a day of rest. This was a sign between God and His earthly people, based upon the fact that after the six days of creation He rested

Sacrifice

An offering made to God as a sign of repentance or an agreement in law. The image of Jesus' death as a sacrifice is the most popular in the New Testament. Christians believe that God presented Christ as a sacrifice of forgiveness - bringing God and people together again.

Son of Man

This is a phrase that Jesus uses of himself. It points back to a prophecy in Daniel 7:13-14, “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”