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Aaron (AIR-un) *proper noun*:

Aaron was the older brother of Moses. He was also a brother of Miriam. God chose him and his descendants to be the priests for the Hebrew people.

Exodus 4:10-17; 28:1-43

See Hebrew, Miriam, Moses, priest, tabernacle, temple

Abel (AY-bul) *proper noun*:

Abel was the second son of Adam and Eve. He was the first shepherd. He was killed by his brother Cain who hated him. He was also a brother of Seth.

Genesis 4:1-9; Hebrews 11:4

See Abel (time line), Adam, Cain, Eve, Seth, shepherd

Abijah (uh-BIE-juh) *proper noun*:

1. Abijah was the name of several biblical persons, both male and female. For example, Abijah was a son of the prophet Samuel (1 Samuel 8:1-2). Abijah was also the mother of King Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:1-2).

2. Abijah was the second king of Judah, the Southern Kingdom. He was also called Abijam. He was the son of Rehoboam and the father of Asa. He was an evil king just as his father, Rehoboam, was (1 Kings 14:31; 15:1-8).

See Abijah (time line), Asa, biblical, god, Hezekiah, Judah, king, Rehoboam, Samuel

abomination (uh-BAHM-uh-NAY-shun) *noun*:

An abomination is an act or thing that is very sinful or unclean. It offends and disgusts God and believers. Idols and false worship are examples of abominations. Places that were made unclean by abominations had to be cleansed or destroyed.

Deuteronomy 7:25; Proverbs 28:9; Revelation 17:4-5

See abomination of desolation, cleanse, God, idol, unclean, worship

abomination of desolation (uh-BAHM-un-NAY-shun uv DES-uh-LAY-shun) *noun phrase*:

Abomination of desolation was the name given an idol someone placed in the Temple. Any idol was an abomination to God. This idol was called an *abomination of desolation* because it made the Temple unclean. The Temple had to be cleansed before the people could worship there again.

The phrase *abomination of desolation* is found in the Book of Daniel. Daniel predicted that the Temple would become unclean. This happened in 168 B.C. An evil king of Syria placed an idol in the Temple. But the Temple was made clean again by the Maccabees a few years later. The Jewish people still celebrate this cleansing during the Festival of Dedication or Hanukkah.

Abraham • abstinence

The phrase *abomination of desolation* is also used in the Gospels. Jesus predicted that the Temple would be made unclean again. He said that God would cause the Temple to be destroyed. This would be His judgment for the sins of the people of Israel. The soldiers of Rome entered the Temple and destroyed it in A.D. 70.

Daniel 8:13; 9:27; 11:31; 12:11; Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14

See abomination, dedication, festival, God, Hanukkah, idol, Maccabees, prophesy, Syria (map 9), temple, unclean

Abraham (AY-bruh-HAM) *proper noun*:

Abraham was the great ancestor of the Hebrew people. He was one of the patriarchs. He lived about 2000 B.C. The name Abraham meant “father of many people.” God gave him the name Abraham when he had no children. Abraham and his wife Sarah had their son, Isaac, when they were very old. Abraham trusted the promise of God. God considered him a righteous man.

The New Testament often uses Abraham as the example of a man of faith. Paul said that people who trust in God alone for salvation are *sons of Abraham*.

Genesis 12:1-20; John 8:31-59; Romans 4:1-25; Hebrews 11:8-12

See Abraham (time line), Chaldea, faith, Hebrew, Isaac, Jew, Moriah, patriarch, Paul, righteous, Sarah

Abraham’s bosom (AY-bruh-HAMZ BOO-zum) *noun phrase*:

Abraham’s bosom is a phrase used to describe the comfort God gives in heaven. The bosom is the chest of a person. To be in *Abraham’s bosom* was to be close to Abraham. This was a great honor.

Jesus used *Abraham’s bosom* in the story of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31). Jesus said that poor Lazarus died and went to heaven. There, he sat next to Abraham at a feast. He received comfort from Abraham.

See Abraham, heaven, Lazarus

abstain (ab-STAYN) *verb*:

To abstain is to do without or avoid something. Christians are told in the Bible to abstain from all evil.

Acts 15:20, 29; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 5:22; 1 Timothy 4:3; 1 Peter 2:11

See abstinence, Christian, evil

abstinence (AB-stuh-nuns) *noun*:

Abstinence is choosing to do without or to avoid something. Christians are to avoid all evil. This is one form of abstinence. A person may also abstain from something that is not evil. That is, people may deny themselves of something as a spiritual discipline. A person might do without food for a time. This abstinence is called fasting. Total abstinence is the practice of refusing to drink any alcohol.

Acts 27:21

See **abstain, discipline, fast, temperance, wine**

abyss (uh-BIS) *noun*:

An abyss is a deep pit. The Bible uses the word *abyss* to describe where wicked people go when they die. Thus it is a term for hell.

Luke 8:31; Romans 10:7; Revelation 9:1-11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1-3

See **Hades, heaven, hell**

accursed (uh-KERST)

1. *adjective*: Accursed describes something that God will destroy. People in the Old Testament sometimes destroyed things that they took in war. They burned these things as a sacrifice to God. The things that they took were said to be accursed.

2. *noun*: The accursed are people who will be separated from God in hell unless they repent.

Joshua 6:17; Romans 9:3; 1 Corinthians 12:3; Galatians 1:8-9

See **curse, God, hell, judgment, repent, sacrifice**

Acts (AKTS) *proper noun*:

Acts is the name of a book in the New Testament. Its full title is the Acts of the Apostles. The book tells the story of the Early Christian Church. It especially stresses the work of the Holy Spirit through the Church.

Peter and Paul are the most important human characters in the story. The book starts with the return of Jesus back to heaven. It tells how the Church carried out its mission of witnessing for Jesus. It ends with Paul in prison in Rome. Most scholars say that Luke wrote Acts.

See **apostle, ascension, Christian, Holy Spirit, Luke, Paul, Peter**

Adam (Ad-um) *proper noun*:

Adam was the name of the first man God created. The name Adam means “man” in Hebrew.

Genesis 2:4—5:5

See **Adam (time line), creation, Hebrew, man, Old Testament**

admonish (ad-MAHN-ish) *verb*:

To admonish is to warn someone kindly. The purpose of admonishing is to warn against error and harm. The Bible admonishes Christians to avoid everything that would harm their faith in Christ.

Acts 20:31; Romans 15:15; 1 Corinthians 4:14; Colossians 1:28; 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:12, 14; 2 Thessalonians 3:15

See **disciple, faith, obedience, righteousness**

Adonai (AD-uh-NIE) *proper noun*:

Adonai is one of the names for God in the Old Testament. The word *Adonai* comes from a Hebrew word that means lord. In the Old Testa-