

## Capitalization Glossary<sup>1</sup>

Abrahamic Covenant Age

AD (Latin abbreviation for “in the year of our Lord”) goes before the date (AD 2014)

Apostolic Age

Bronze Age

church age

Iron Age

Stone Age

Almighty God

amillennial, amillenarian

Ancient Near East the

Antichrist anti-Christian

antichrists (many)

the Apocrypha (but: apocryphal)

apostle(s) (but: the Twelve Apostles, the Twelve)

apostolic

archaeology

ark (any reference)

Ascension (specific biblical event)

Atonement (of Christ)

BC (English abbreviation for “before Christ”) goes after the date (586 BC)

Beatitudes

believer-priests

Bible

biblical

black theology

body of Christ Book of books (Bible)

book of Job

a book of the Bible

book of life (mentioned in Rev. 20:15)

Bread of Life

bride of Christ

Calvary

Captivity (the Babylonian; others, lowercase)

Catholics

Catholicism (but: catholic, meaning universal)

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<sup>1</sup> For additional resource, see “Appendix A: Capitalization and Spelling Examples,” in *The SBL Handbook of Style: For Eastern, Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early Christian Studies* (Peabody, MA: Henrickson Publishers, 1999), 154-65.

chapter (general term) Chapter 6 (specific chapter)  
charismatic  
chief priest(s)  
children of Israel  
Christ Child  
Christian education (but: Department of Christian Education)  
Christlike  
Christological  
Christology  
Christ's kingdom  
church (both universal and local)  
the early church fathers (but: the Fathers)  
the commandments (capitalize only when referring to the whole Decalogue: Ten Commandments, but: first commandment)  
commencement  
communion (the ordinance)  
communists, communism (when referring to the political system)  
covenant (but: Old Covenant and New Covenant)  
Creation (the original)  
the Creator  
the Cross (figurative sense of Christ's sacrifice and redemption)  
cross (the wooden object)  
the Crucifixion (when referring to Calvary in its total significance)  
curriculum (plural: curricula, not: curriculums)

Davidic Covenant  
Day of Atonement  
Day of Pentecost Day  
of the Lord  
the Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS)  
Decalogue  
Department of Historical Theology (but: the Historical Theology department)  
deity pronouns<sup>2</sup>  
devil  
disciple(s) (but: the Twelve)

Easter Day  
Epistle (when used in connection with the biblical letters, as "the Epistle to the Galatians," "the Epistles," "the Epistles of Paul," "the Pauline Epistles," "the Pastoral Epistles"; but Paul's epistles)

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<sup>2</sup> As a form of respect and less ambiguous reading between human and divine antecedents, all pronouns (i.e. He, Him, His) referring to the Christian God (God, Yahweh, Father, Jesus Christ, Jesus, Christ, Holy Spirit, etc.) should be capitalized.

eternal God  
Eucharist  
Exile (biblical event)  
Exodus (biblical event)

Fall (of man, biblical event)  
fall season  
Father  
the Father (God)  
the Fathers (meaning the church fathers)  
Feast of Tabernacles  
Flood (biblical event—but: the flood of Noah's day)  
fundamentalism, fundamentalist

Garden of Eden  
Garden of Gethsemane  
Gentile  
gnostic (when used as an adjective)  
Gnostic(s), Gnosticism  
Godhead  
godless  
godly  
God-Man  
gods (plural)  
God's Word  
Golden Rule  
the Good Shepherd  
gospel (when referring to the evangelical message)  
Gospel (one of the first four New Testament books)  
Gospels (two or more of the first four New Testament books)  
Great Commission  
great white throne judgment

handbook  
hell  
High Priest (for Jesus, otherwise lowercase)  
Holy Land  
holy of holies, holy place, most holy place (in the tabernacle and temple)  
Holy One (God)  
Holy Ghost, Holy Spirit

the Incarnation

the Intertestamental period  
Jehovah (but: Yahweh is preferred)  
judgment seat of Christ  
the Just  
for the unjust

King of kings  
the kingdom  
kingdom of Christ  
kingdom of God

Lamb of God  
Last Supper  
Law (Pentateuch or the Ten Commandments; lowercase for any other reason)  
Law of Moses  
liberation theology  
Living Water (Jesus)  
“living water” (salvation)  
Lord of lords  
Lord’s Day (Sunday)  
Lord’s Prayer (specific prayer taught by Jesus)  
Lord’s Supper  
Lord’s Table  
lordship

Majority Text  
Markan priority  
marriage supper of the Lamb  
Masoretic Text (when used as a singular proper noun)  
the Master (Jesus)  
Mediator (Christ)  
mercy seat  
Messiah  
messiahship  
messianic  
midrash (as a body of rabbinic literature; specific works within the collection would be capitalized and italicized such as *Genesis Rabbah*) midrashim (plural) midrashic (adjective)  
millenarian  
millenarianism  
millennial  
millennium  
Mosaic Covenant

Mosaic Law  
Most High (name of God)  
most holy place

New Covenant  
New Jerusalem  
New Testament  
Nicene fathers  
Noah's ark  
non-Christian  
Northern Kingdom (Israel)

Old Covenant  
Old Testament  
parable of the prodigal son (and other parables)  
Passover feast (Feast of the Passover)  
the person and work of Christ  
the personhood of Christ  
Person (if referencing one of the Trinity) e.g. The third Person of the Trinity  
postmillennial postmillenarian  
premillennial premillenarian  
Prince of Peace  
Promised Land  
prophet (the prophet Amos)  
the Prophets (Hebrew division of the Old Testament)  
Protestant  
Protestantism  
proto-Mark, proto-Luke, proto-Matthew  
Psalm (specific song or chapter in the Psalms—Psalm 1; but: this psalm)  
psalmist (psalmist David)  
the psalms (general reference)  
Psalms (the biblical book)

rabbi  
rabbinical (but: Rabbinical Judaism)  
rapture  
the Redeemer  
the Reformation  
registration  
the Resurrection (Jesus'; otherwise lowercase)  
Righteous One  
River Jordan

Sabbath Day  
Sadducees  
Sanhedrin  
Satan  
satanic  
satanism  
Savior  
scribes  
scriptural  
Scripture (when referencing the Bible, otherwise scripture)  
the Second Advent  
the Second Coming (biblical event; but: Christ's second coming)  
the Second Temple period  
Septuagint  
Sermon on the Mount  
Shekinah  
Sin-bearer (Christ)  
Son of Man  
sonship  
Southern Kingdom (Judah)  
the Spirit of God  
the Spirit of Truth  
spring season (summer, fall, winter, spring)  
Stoic(s) (member of the philosophy begun by Zeno)  
stoic (an attitude)  
suffering  
Servant (Christ)  
Sunday school  
Synoptics  
Synoptic Gospels  
systematic theology (unless used as a proper noun such as for a course, Systematic Theology)

tabernacle  
Talmud  
temple  
the Ten Commandments (but: the first commandment)  
the two-source (or document) hypothesis (or theory)  
Theology  
theological  
third world (preference: two-thirds world)  
throne of grace  
Thy holy name

Transfiguration (any biblical event)  
Tribulation  
the Tribulation  
the Great Tribulation  
Trinitarian  
Trinity  
Triumphal Entry  
triune  
TV (not T.V.)  
the Twelve (referring to the apostles)

unbiblical  
unchristian (but: un-Christlike, non-Christian)  
Upper Room

white (Caucasian)  
wise men (biblical)  
Wonderful One (title of God)  
the Word (Bible or Christ)