

GCSE



CCEA GCSE GLOSSARIES

# Religious Studies

Unit 3: The Revelation of God and the  
Christian Church



For first teaching from September 2017



## GCSE Religious Studies Glossary

<b>Abraham</b>	The 'father of the Jewish people'; Old Testament figure.
<b>Adoration</b>	To worship, glorify, praise and exalt God in prayer.
<b>Adultery</b>	Voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and a person who is not their spouse (husband or wife).
<b>Advent</b>	Literally means 'coming'; a time to reflect on the coming of Christ into the world at his birth; part of the church calendar; it starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas.
<b>Allegory</b>	A type of parable in which every person, place or thing has a spiritual meaning.
<b>Altar</b>	A table, usually made of marble or stone, where bread and wine are blessed during a Mass or Eucharist.
<b>Angel</b>	A celestial being; a messenger of God.
<b>Annunciation</b>	The time when Mary was told she would give birth to the Messiah; a special feast day in the Roman Catholic church (26 March).
<b>Ascension</b>	The time when Jesus was taken up to heaven after his resurrection; celebrated in the Christian Church 40 days after Easter Sunday.
<b>Aramaic</b>	Language spoken in Palestine at the time of Jesus.
<b>Baptism</b>	A ceremony of initiation; carried out by the sprinkling or pouring of water over a person, or by full immersion in water.
<b>Baptistery</b>	A sunken receptacle (similar to a large bath or small swimming pool) used for baptism by total immersion.
<b>Believer's Baptism</b>	Baptism of a person who has made a personal decision to become a Christian.
<b>Birth narratives</b>	The stories of the birth of Christ as found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.
<b>Blasphemy</b>	False claims to be God; irreverent words about God.
<b>Breaking of bread</b>	A term used for the celebration of communion.
<b>Caiaphas</b>	The High Priest at time of the death of Jesus.
<b>Caesar</b>	A title used for Roman Emperors.
<b>Catholic</b>	This term is used as an abbreviation of 'Roman Catholic'.
<b>Chief Priest</b>	Jewish religious leader at the time of Jesus.
<b>Chosen people</b>	The Jewish belief that Jews are God's specially chosen people.
<b>Christ</b>	The Greek word for 'the anointed one'. Messiah in Hebrew. Christians believe Jesus to be the Messiah predicted in the Old Testament.

<b>Christmas</b>	The annual Christian festival celebrating Christ's birth, held on 25 December in the Western Church.
<b>Church</b>	The people of God; a building used for worship; members of a denomination.
<b>Communion</b>	A ceremony where Christians celebrate the significance of the death and resurrection of Jesus; involves the taking of bread and wine; also called Eucharist, Mass or Lord's Supper.
<b>Confession</b>	In prayer - the act of admitting that you have done something wrong and asking for forgiveness from God.
<b>Crucifixion</b>	A cruel method of capital punishment which involves the victim being nailed to a cross by hands and feet.
<b>Disciples</b>	Follower of Jesus.
<b>Elijah</b>	An Old Testament prophet.
<b>Epiphany</b>	Christian festival which marks the visit to the baby Jesus by the Magi, (also widely referred to as the three Kings, or Wise Men). The word ' <b>Epiphany</b> ' comes from Greek and means 'manifestation'.
<b>Eucharist</b>	Comes from a Greek word meaning 'thanksgiving'; refers to the ceremony where Christians celebrate the significance of the death and resurrection of Jesus; also called Communion, Mass or Lord's Supper; involves the taking of bread and wine.
<b>Font</b>	A piece of church furniture which holds water for use in baptisms or where holy water is kept.
<b>Frankincense</b>	A resin burned during Temple worship. One of the gifts the magi brought when Jesus was born.
<b>Garden of Gethsemane</b>	A garden at the foot of the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. This is where Jesus went to pray on the night he was arrested.
<b>Gentile</b>	A non-Jew.
<b>God-fearer</b>	A non-Jew who followed the teachings of the Jews but does not undergo circumcision or become a full member.
<b>Golgotha</b>	Also called 'The Place of the Skull'; it is where Jesus was crucified.
<b>Harvest</b>	A Christian celebration that is held in the autumn to give thanks to God for food and crops.
<b>High Priest</b>	The religious leader of the Jews; the chief priest of the Sanhedrin.
<b>Holy Spirit</b>	Third person of the Trinity.
<b>Hymns</b>	Songs of praise to God.
<b>Hypocrite</b>	Someone who does not practise what they preach.
<b>Idolatry</b>	Worship of false gods.

<b>Immanuel</b>	Hebrew word meaning ‘God is with us’.
<b>Incarnation</b>	Belief that God came to earth in human form (in the person of Jesus).
<b>Infant baptism</b>	The baptising of babies.
<b>Intercession</b>	Praying to God on behalf of others.
<b>Israel</b>	The name used for the Jewish people.
<b>Kingdom of God</b>	The rule of God.
<b>Lectern</b>	A small reading desk in a church.
<b>Lent</b>	A 40-day period of fasting and penitence observed by many Christians in preparation for Easter. In Western churches, Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday until Easter, excepting Sundays.
<b>Leprosy</b>	A skin disease which affects the nerves in the hands and feet and the mucous membranes of the nose throat and eyes.
<b>Liturgy</b>	Worship/service which includes set prayers, creeds and Scripture readings.
<b>Lord's Supper</b>	The name used by some Protestant Churches for the service of communion.
<b>Mass</b>	The Roman Catholic service of the Eucharist.
<b>Magi</b>	A name for the wise men who visited the infant Jesus.
<b>Magnificat</b>	Mary’s Song of Praise which she sang when she found out she was pregnant with Jesus.
<b>Miracle</b>	A remarkable and inexplicable act or event, e.g. a healing which is believed to be an act of God.
<b>Moses</b>	A leader, prophet and lawgiver in the Old Testament. Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and received the Ten Commandments from God.
<b>Myrrh</b>	A sticky brown substance that comes from trees, that has a sweet smell. It formed part of the gifts brought by the wise men from the east, who came to worship the infant Jesus. It was used in embalming dead bodies.
<b>New Testament</b>	The second part of the Christian Bible; tells the story of Jesus and the early church, and includes early Christian letters and literature.
<b>Nunc Dimittis</b>	The prayer of praise sung by Simeon when he saw the baby Jesus in the Temple; Nunc Dimittis are the opening words of the prayer.
<b>Old Testament</b>	The Books of the first part of the Bible, comprising thirty-nine books.
<b>Oath</b>	A solemn promise.
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	The Sunday before Easter Sunday when Christians remember Christ on a donkey being welcomed into Jerusalem.

<b>Parable</b>	A form of teaching used at New Testament times; a story which has a spiritual meaning or conveys spiritual truth.
<b>Paschal Candle</b>	A candle which is lit during Easter and at baptisms in the Roman Catholic Church.
<b>Passion</b>	The Passion of Christ is the story of Jesus Christ's arrest, trial and suffering. It ends with his crucifixion.
<b>Pentecost</b>	A Jewish festival, also called the Festival of Weeks, which occurs 40 days after Passover; the Christian festival which celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' followers on the first Pentecost after Jesus' death.
<b>Petition</b>	A prayer of focused on personal needs or requests.
<b>Pharisee</b>	A member of an ancient group of Jews, written about in the Bible, who believed in rigorously obeying religious laws and separated themselves from the ordinary people. Pharisee means 'Separated one'.
<b>Phylacteries</b>	A small leather box containing Hebrew texts on vellum, worn by Jewish men at morning prayer as a reminder to keep the law.
<b>Pontius Pilate</b>	Governor of Judea from AD26-36.
<b>Prayer</b>	Talking to God; praise, thanksgiving; petition; intercession and contrition.
<b>Prophecy</b>	The foretelling or prediction of what is to come. Something that is declared by a prophet.
<b>Prophet</b>	A person chosen by God to give a message or warning.
<b>Protestant</b>	The name usually given to the denominations which broke away from the Roman Catholic Church during the period known as the Reformation when Christians such as Martin Luther protested against the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.
<b>Pulpit</b>	A large piece of church furniture in a church where the minister or priest stands to address the congregation.
<b>Rabbi</b>	A Jewish teacher.
<b>Resurrection</b>	Christian belief that Jesus rose again three days after he died.
<b>Roman Centurion</b>	A Roman officer in command of one hundred soldiers.
<b>Sadducee</b>	A member of a Jewish sect or party of the time of Christ that did not believe in life after death or the existence of spirits. They did not follow the oral law, only the written law.
<b>Sacrament</b>	Outward sign or symbol of inner, invisible grace: the Roman Catholic Church believes there are 7 sacraments; only Baptism and Communion are regarded as sacraments (or ordinances) by Protestants.

<b>Salvation</b>	The belief that humankind can be saved and reconciled with God through the death of Christ.
<b>Sanhedrin</b>	The highest Jewish council at the time of Jesus; it had responsibility for religious and legal matters.
<b>Samaritans</b>	A mixed race, partly Jewish, who were seen as enemies of the Jews and treated with contempt.
<b>Salvation</b>	The belief that humankind can be saved and reconciled with God through the death of Christ.
<b>Scribe</b>	A teacher of the Law; someone who copied out the scriptures.
<b>Seder</b>	Another name for the Passover.
<b>Sermon on the Mount</b>	Jesus' teaching which can be found in Matthew Ch.5-7.
<b>Synagogue</b>	Means 'bringing together'; refers to the building where Jews meet for worship on the Sabbath.
<b>Tabernacle</b>	A special decorative box in the Roman Catholic Church where consecrated bread not used during Mass is reserved for future use.
<b>Transubstantiation</b>	The Roman Catholic belief that during the Mass the bread and wine are transformed into the actual body and blood of Christ.
<b>Temple</b>	The building in Jerusalem where Jews worshipped and offered sacrifices to God; the Temple was destroyed in AD70.
<b>Torah</b>	The Jewish Law, found in the first five books of the Old Testament.
<b>Transfiguration</b>	Describes a change or transformation in shape or appearance; refers to the event described in Matthew Ch. 17 when Jesus' appearance changed in front of his disciples.
<b>Trinity</b>	The doctrine that God is three persons, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in one being.
<b>Universalism</b>	The belief that God is for everyone, not just the Jews.
<b>Virgin Birth</b>	The belief that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was a virgin when she gave birth to Jesus; Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.
<b>Worship</b>	To show adoration, admiration and affection to God through words and actions.