

Glossary

The following is a list of words or phrases used in this Module, some of which may not be very familiar to some students or may be used here with a specific meaning. Please feel free to suggest any other terms you think ought to have been included.

Age of Enlightenment

- Beginning in Europe in the late 17th-century, if not earlier, this movement of thought emphasised reason and individual autonomy in the place of tradition and faith. The myth of unending progress was an essential part of the story which was to lead to a grand new order of universal reason, backed by the autonomous intelligence of mankind.

Bible

- The book containing the collection of books recognised as being canonical.
 - The *Hebrew Bible* being the collection of canonical books written primarily in Hebrew and before the time of Christ. This is more commonly known as the *Old Testament* outside Jewish circles.
 - The *Greek Bible* being the entire collection of canonical books either written in or translated into Greek. This would be more commonly spoken of as the *New Testament* along with the *Septuagint*.

Canon

- In this context, 'canon' refers to that list of books that are recognised as having been breathed out by God and are therefore the standard by which his people are to live.

Canonisation

- This is the process of identifying those writings that are to be accepted as the 'revealed' and 'inspired' Word of God. This is the means by which man has come to understand where God has spoken.

Inspiration

- This word is very often used of the process by which God has guided the human writers by his Holy Spirit to ensure that what they have written is his word. This is the means by which God has spoken to mankind.

Manuscript

- A hand written document. This may be an original or a copy.
- In some contexts the word may be used more specifically to refer to a copy of a Biblical text in its original language.

Modernism

- The *Age of Enlightenment* certainly paved the way for Modernism. The former's 'scientific method' essentially became the standard by which all things were to be known, and things of a supernatural or spiritual nature were generally discarded in favour of that which was considered to be rational. As such, all reality established by scientific knowledge must be universal and therefore superior to all other knowledge professed.

Postmodernism

- Rejecting the *Enlightenment* project and its ideals, Postmodernism rejects universalism in favour of individualism. It sees no universal truth, only that recognised by the individual. If the gods of modernism were science and reason, those of the postmodern world are the individual and his or her rights or freedoms.

Revelation

- This is the process by which God has made known himself and his word to mankind.

Scriptures

- Literally meaning the 'writings' but more specifically referring to the writings which have been given by God - the 'Bible'.

Septuagint

- A translation of the *Hebrew Bible* into Greek, completed by the second century B.C. This work will be more thoroughly explored in the module on the *History of Biblical Texts and Manuscripts*.

Version

- Although this term might be used in a number of different ways, in the context of textual transmission it more technically refers to a translation of a document from its original language.