

# GLOSSARY

**Amanuensis** A person who assists another in writing a letter, ranging from taking dictation to a more creation role

**Anathema** A curse pronounced against a person (Gk. lit. suspended, set aside)

**Antilegomena** (“Disputed writings”) Term given by Eusebius to writings in the early church that were disputed with respect to their canonical status

**Aramaic** Language spoken widely in the Middle East, rivaling Greek as the lingua franca of the eastern part of the Roman empire.

**Anti-Marcionite Prologues** Short Prologues prefixed to the gospels of Mark, Luke and John in some forty manuscripts of the Vulgate

**Augustine** Christian theologian and Bishop of Hippo Rhegius in North Africa (354-430)

**Augustinian Hypothesis** The hypothesis that Mark used Matthew as a source and that Luke used both Matthew and Mark as sources

**BCE** Abbreviation of the phrase “Before Common Era,” referring to the period before Christ (B.C.)

**Benediction** Invocation of divine blessing, often included in a New Testament letter

**Canon** (“Rule”) List of writings regarded as scripture

**CE** Abbreviation of the phrase “Common Era,” referring to the period after Christ (A.D.)

**Clement of Alexandria** (Titus Flavius Clemens) Early church father associated with the church in Alexandria whose major works are *Address to the Greeks (Protrepticus)*, the *Tutor (Pedagogus)* and the *Miscellanies (Stromateis)* (c. 150-c.215)

**Docetism** Early Christological heresy in which Jesus is conceived as divine being who only had the “appearance” of being human.

**Double tradition** Term for the gospel traditions that Matthew and Luke have in common but are absent from Mark

**Doublet** A second, literarily independent version of a same gospel tradition

**Epexegetic** Explanatory or clarifying of

**Eschatological** Of or pertaining to Israel's decisive and irreversible salvation and the day of God's final judgment;

**Eusebius** Bishop of Caesarea from c. 315 and author of *Ecclesiastical History (H.E.)*, a work that preserves quotations from many older writings now no longer in existence (c. 260-c. 340)

**First Enoch** A collection of Jewish texts from the Second-Temple period organized into five “books” that they have all been attributed to the antediluvian Enoch in some way

**Gnosticism** Second century heresy with an emphasis on the saving function of “knowledge” that viewed Jesus docetically and salvation as liberation from the evil, material world.

**Griesbach hypothesis** The older name for the hypothesis that Luke used Matthew as a source and that Mark used both Matthew and Luke as sources, now known as the Two Gospel Hypothesis

**Halakah** Jewish Interpretation and/or supplement of the biblical laws

**Hapaxlegomenon** A word that occurs only once in the works of an author or in a single text

**Hebraism** A word or phrase from the Hebrew language that has been translated more or less directly into another language, in particular Greek.

**Hegesippus** Second century church historian who wrote five books of “Memoirs” against Gnostics, fragments of which survive as quotations in the works of others

**Hellenistic** Of or pertaining to the Greek cultural or religious world

**Irenaeus** Greek theologian, bishop of Lyons, who wrote *Against Heresies (Adv. Haer.)* (130–200)

**Itinerant** Characterized by traveling from place to place, in particular in the performance of one’s work or duty

**Jerome** Christian theologian who wrote many commentaries on the Bible and translated most of the Bible into Latin (c. 342-420)

**Johannine** Of or pertaining to the apostle John, the son of Zebedee

**Justin Martyr** Christian apologist and martyr, who wrote the *Apology Dialogue with Trypho.* (c. 100-165)

**Kerygma** (“Proclamation”) Term used for the early Christian proclamation about Christ

**LXX** (“Seventy”) Abbreviation for Septuaginta

**Massoretic Text (MT)** Version of Hebrew text of the Bible produced by the Massoretes from the sixth to tenth centuries

**Minor agreement** Name given for literary agreements between Matthew and Luke against Mark in the triple tradition

**Monarchian Prologues** Short introductory narrative passages prefixed in many manuscripts of the Vulgate to the gospels

**MT (Masoretic Text)** Hebrew text of the Old Testament compiled, edited and distributed by a group of Jews known as the Masoretes between the seventh and tenth centuries CE that forms basis of many translations of the Old Testament

**Muratorian canon** List of canon of the New Testament in Latin from the second century with brief explanatory comments.

**Origen** (Origines Adamantius) Christian philosopher and scholar who became head of the catechetical school of Alexandria, but later went to Caesarea after being banished from Alexandria (185-254)

**Papias** (63-130) Early Christian theologian said to have been bishop of Hieropolis and an associate of Polycarp, who wrote a five-volume work entitled *Explanations of the Sayings of the Lord* that survives only in fragments quoted by Eusebius and Irenaeus.

**Parousia** (“Presence”) Term used for the second coming of Christ

**Peloponnesus** Peninsula forming part of the mainland of Roman province of Achaia

**Pericope** A self-contained literary unit, often identified with an originally oral unit of gospel tradition

**Petrine** Of or pertaining to the apostle Peter

**Polycarp** Bishop of Smyrna (69-155)

**Preterist** The term preterist derives from the Latin *praeteritus*, which means “that which has past.” The term is used of the Book of Revelation to refer to the interpretive approach that seeks to explain the symbolism of the book as referring to events contemporary with the author.

**Prima facie** Latin phrase meaning “at first appearance”

**Proconsul** Roman official invested with consular authority and who commanded an army in a Roman province

**Proselyte** Gentile convert to Judaism

**Pseudepigrapha** (“False writings”) Writings ascribed to another author, usually to give the text an authority it would not otherwise have.

**“Q”** The name given to the hypothetical source of sources used independently by Matthew and Luke, being an abbreviation of German word *Quelle* (= “source”)

**Redactor** A person who edits a text often integrating into it other sources

**Septuaginta (LXX)** The most influential of the Greek versions of the Hebrew Bible allegedly translated in the 3rd century BCE

**Strabo** Greek geographer and historian (c. 63 BCE-c. 19 CE)

**Suetonius** Roman historian (c. 69-c. 140)

**Terminus a quo** Latin expression meaning “point from which” used of the earliest possible date of a text or event.

**Terminus ad quem** Latin expression meaning “point towards which” used of the latest possible date of a text or event.

**Theophilus of Antioch** Bishop of Antioch Second century bishop of Antioch and apologist

**Triple tradition** Gospel traditions that Matthew, Mark and Luke have in common

**Two Gospel Hypothesis** The hypothesis that Luke used Matthew as a source and that Mark used both Matthew and Luke as sources, formerly called the Griesbach hypothesis

**Two Source hypothesis** The hypothesis that Matthew and Luke independently used Mark as a source and another source or sources often identified as “Q” (*Quelle* = source)

**Vaticinium ex eventu** Latin phrase meaning “prophecy after the event” used to describe an alleged prophetic prediction that is made after the fact

**Verbatim agreement** Word for word agreement between two or more versions of the same tradition