**Term List 3**


**Moses**: leads the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. Gives the commandments of God to the Israelites, organizes their system of worship and sacrifice.

**Passover**: Jewish feast day; commemorates the deliverance from Egypt as the angel of death “passes over” the Israelite homes.

**Atonement**: a “covering over” of sins; the animal sacrifices of the Israelites “atoned for” the sins of the people.

**P source, D source, E source, J source**: possible sources, along with Moses, for the books of the Torah. P stands for “Priestly Code” (most of Leviticus, for example); D stands for “Deuteronomic” (most of Deuteronomy); E stands for “Elohistic” (a writer in Genesis who consistently refers to God as Elohim); J stands for “Jehovistic” (a writer in Genesis who consistently refers to God as Yahweh).

**Redactor**: a sacred editor; one who organizes the different sources of the Torah into a single coherent, inspired narrative.

**Theocracy**: political rule by a religious authority. Ancient Israel, for example, was a theocracy.

**Shema**: the Shema Israel, “Hear O Israel” prayer, of Deuteronomy 6:4-5. The most important and common of Jewish prayers.

**Ten Commandments**: the first commandments given to the Israelites by God through Moses. Listed in Exodus 20:1-17.

**Decalogue**: the “Ten Words” or “Ten Writings”; another name for the Ten Commandments.

**Deuteronomy**: The fifth book of the Torah, Deuteronomy literally means “second law.” It is presented as a very long sermon by Moses, which re-states and emphasizes the Law of Moses in the first four books of the Torah.