

HCSB BULLET NOTES

HCSB *Bullet Notes* are one of the unique features of the *Holman Christian Standard Bible*®. These notes explain frequently used biblical words or terms. These “bullet” words (for example: •abyss) are normally marked with a bullet only on their first occurrence in a chapter of the biblical text. However, certain important or easily misunderstood terms, such as •Jews or •slaves, will have more than one bullet per chapter. Other frequently used words, like •gate, are marked with bullets only where the use of the word fits the definitions given below. A few words in footnotes, like •acrostic, also have a bullet.

Abaddon	Either the grave or the realm of the dead	Asherah(s)	A Canaanite fertility goddess, who was the mother of the god Baal; also the wooden poles associated with the worship of her
<i>Abba</i>	The Aramaic word for “father”		
abyss	The <i>bottomless pit</i> or <i>the depths</i> (of the sea); the prison for Satan and the demons	Ashtoreth(s)	A Canaanite goddess of fertility, love, and war, who was the daughter of Asherah and consort of Baal; the plural form of her name in Hebrew is <i>Ashtaroth</i> .
acrostic	A device in Hebrew poetry in which each verse begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet	Asia	A Roman province that is now part of modern Turkey; it did not refer to the modern continent of Asia.
advocate	(see “Counselor/advocate”)	asleep	A term used in reference to those who have died
Almighty	(see “God Almighty”)	atone/ atonement	A theological term for God’s provision to deal with human sin. In the OT, it primarily means purification. In some contexts forgiveness, pardon, expiation, propitiation, or reconciliation is included. The basis of atonement is substitutionary sacrifice offered in faith. The OT sacrifices were types and shadows of the great and final sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.
Alpha and Omega	The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet; it is used to refer to God the Father in Rv 1:8 and 21:6, and to Jesus, God the Son, in Rv 22:13.	Baal	A fertility god who was the main god of the Canaanite religion and the god of rain and thunderstorms; also the Hebrew word meaning “lord,” “master,” “owner,” or “husband”
Amen	The transliteration of a Hebrew word signifying that something is certain, valid, truthful, or faithful; it is often used at the end of biblical songs, hymns, and prayers.	Beelzebul	A term of slander, which was variously interpreted “lord of flies,” “lord of dung,” or “ruler of demons”; 2 Kg 1:2; Mk 3:22
Arabah	The section of the Great Rift in Palestine, extending from the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqabah. The Hebrew word can also be translated as “plain,” referring to any plain or to any part of the Arabah.		
Asaph	A musician appointed by David to oversee the music used in worship at the Temple; 12 psalms are attributed to Asaph.		
Asherah pole(s)	(see “Asherah(s)”)		

burnt offering(s)	Or <i>holocaust</i> , an offering completely burned to ashes; it was used in connection with worship, seeking God’s favor, expiating sin, or averting judgment.	divination	An attempt to foresee future events or discover hidden knowledge by means of physical objects such as water, arrows, flying birds, or animal livers
cause the downfall of/ causes to sin	The Greek word <i>skandalizo</i> has a root meaning of “snare” or “trap,” but has no real English counterpart.	engaged	Jewish engagement was a binding agreement that could only be broken by divorce.
centurion	A Roman officer who commanded about 100 soldiers	ephod	A vestlike garment, extending below the waist and worn under the breastpiece, which was used by both the priests and the high priest
Cephas	The Aramaic word for <i>rock</i> ; it is parallel to the Greek word <i>petros</i> from which the English name Peter is derived; Jn 1:42; 1 Co 1:12.	everyone/ human race	Literally, <i>sons of man</i> or <i>sons of Adam</i>
cherubim	A class of winged angels, associated with the throne of God, who function as guardians and who prevented Adam and Eve from returning to the garden of Eden	family redeemer	A family member who had certain obligations of marriage, redeeming an estate, and punishment of a wrongdoer
chief priest(s)	A group of Jewish temple officers that included the highpriest, captain of the temple, temple overseers, and treasurers	fear(s) God or the LORD/ the fear of the LORD	No single English word conveys every aspect of the word <i>fear</i> in this phrase. The meaning includes worshipful submission, reverential awe, and obedient respect to the covenant-keeping God of Israel.
company/ regiment	Or <i>cohort</i> , a Roman military unit that numbered as many as 600 men	firstfruits	The agricultural products harvested first and given to God as an offering; also the first of more products to come
completely destroy	(see “set apart for destruction/ completely destroy”)	fellowship sacrifice(s) or offering(s)	An animal offering was given to maintain and strengthen a person’s relationship with God. It was not required as a remedy for impurity or sin but was an expression of thanksgiving for various blessings. An important function of this sacrifice was to provide meat for the priests and the participants in the sacrifice; it was also called the <i>peace offering</i> or the <i>sacrifice of well-being</i> .
Counselor/ advocate	The Greek word <i>parakletos</i> means one called alongside to help, counsel, or protect; it is used of the Holy Spirit in Jn and 1 Jn.	cubit	An OT measurement of distance that equaled about 18 inches
Cush/ Cushite	The lands of the Nile in southern Egypt, including Nubia and Northern Sudan; the people who lived in that region	gate(s)	The center for community discussions, political meetings, and trying of court cases
Decapolis	Originally a federation of 10 Gentile towns east of the Jordan River	Gittith	Perhaps an instrument, musical term, tune from Gath, or song for the grape harvest
denarius	A small silver Roman coin, which was equal to a day’s wage for a common laborer	God Almighty	The Hebrew word is <i>El Shaddai</i> ; <i>El</i> = “God,” but the meaning of <i>Shaddai</i> is disputed; traditionally it is translated “Almighty”.

grain offering(s)	An offering given along with animal sacrifices or given by itself. A portion was burnt and the priests and participant ate the remainder.	Herodians	Political supporters of Herod the Great and his family
Hades	The Greek word for the place of the dead; it corresponds to the Hebrew word <i>Sheol</i> .	<i>Higgaion</i>	Perhaps a musical notation, a device denoting a pause in an instrumental interlude, or a murmuring harp tone
Hallelujah!	Or <i>Praise the LORD!</i> ; it literally means <i>Praise Yah!</i> (a shortened form of <i>Yahweh</i>)	high place(s)	An ancient place of worship most often associated with pagan religions, usually built on an elevated location
headquarters /palace	The Latin word <i>Praetorium</i> was used by Greek writers for the residence of the Roman governor; it may also refer to military headquarters, the imperial court, or the emperor's guard.	horn	A symbol of power based on the strength of animal horns
Hebrew	Or <i>Aramaic</i> ; the translation of this word is debated since some claim Aramaic was commonly spoken in Palestine during NT times. More recently others claim that Hebrew was the spoken language.	<i>Hosanna</i>	A term of praise derived from the Hebrew word for <i>save</i>
hell/hellfire	Greek <i>Gehenna</i> ; Aramaic for Valley of Hinnom on the south side of Jerusalem; it was formerly a place of human sacrifice and in NT times a place for the burning of garbage; the place of final judgment for those rejecting Christ.	Hosts/hosts	Military forces consisting of God's angels, sometimes including the sun, moon, and stars, and occasionally, Israel
Herod	The name of the Idumean family ruling Palestine from 37 B.C. to A.D. 95; the main rulers from this family mentioned in the NT are:	human race	(see "everyone")
Herod I	(37 B.C.–4 B.C.) also known as Herod the Great; built the great temple in Jerusalem and massacred the male babies in Bethlehem	I assure you	This is a phrase used only by Jesus to testify to the certainty and importance of His words; in Mt, Mk and Lk it is literally <i>Amen, I say to you</i> , and in Jn it is literally <i>Amen, amen, I say to you</i> .
Herod Antipas	(4 B.C.–A.D. 39) son of Herod the Great; ruled one-fourth of his father's kingdom (Galilee and Perea); killed John the Baptist and mocked Jesus	Jew(s)	In Jn the term <i>Jews</i> usually indicates those in Israel who were opposed to Jesus, particularly the Jewish authorities in Jerusalem who led the nation.
Agrippa I	(A.D. 37–44) grandson of Herod the Great; beheaded James the apostle and imprisoned Peter	Leviathan	Or <i>twisting one</i> ; a mythological sea serpent or dragon associated with the chaos at creation. Sometimes it is applied to an animal such as a crocodile.
Agrippa II	(A.D. 52–c. 95) great-grandson of Herod the Great; heard Paul's defense	life/soul	The Greek word <i>psyche</i> can be translated life or soul.
		mankind	Literally <i>sons of man</i> or <i>sons of Adam</i>
		Mary Magdalene	Or <i>Mary of Magdala</i> ; Magdala was probably on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee, north of Tiberias.
		<i>Maskil</i>	From a Hebrew word meaning <i>to be prudent</i> or <i>to have insight</i> ; possibly a contemplative, instructive, or wisdom psalm
		men	Literally <i>sons of man</i> or <i>sons of Adam</i>

mercy seat	Or <i>place of atonement</i> ; the gold lid on the ark of the covenant, first used in the tabernacle and later in the temple	One and Only	Or <i>one of a kind</i> , or <i>incomparable</i> , or <i>only begotten</i> ; the Greek word can refer to someone's only child such as in Lk 7:12; 8:42; 9:38. It can also refer to someone's special child as in Heb 11:17.
Messiah	Or <i>the Christ</i> ; the Greek word <i>Christos</i> means "the anointed one".	oracle	A prophetic speech of a threatening or menacing character, often against the nations
<i>Miktam</i>	A musical term of uncertain meaning, possibly denoting a plaintive style	overseer(s)	Or <i>elder(s)</i> , or <i>bishop(s)</i>
Milcom	An Ammonite god who was the equivalent of Baal, the Canaanite storm god	palace	(see "headquarters/palace")
Molech	A Canaanite god associated with death and the underworld. The worship ritual of passing someone through the fire is connected with him. This ritual could have been either fire-walking or child sacrifice.	Passover	The Israelite festival celebrated on the fourteenth day of the first month in the early spring. It was a celebration of the deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt, commemorating the final plague on Egypt when the firstborn were killed.
Most High	The Hebrew word is <i>Elyon</i> . It is often used with other names of God, such as <i>El (God)</i> or <i>Yahweh (LORD)</i> ; it is used to refer to God as the supreme being.	people	Literally <i>sons of man</i> or <i>sons of Adam</i>
Mount of Olives	A mountain east of Jerusalem, across the Kidron Valley	perverted men	(see "wicked men/perverted men")
Mystery	Transliteration of the Greek word <i>mysterion</i> ; a secret hidden in the past but now revealed	Pharisee(s)	In Judaism a religious sect that followed the whole written and oral law
Nazarene	A person from Nazareth; growing up in Nazareth was an aspect of the Messiah's humble beginnings; Jn 1:46.	Pilate	Pontius Pilate was governor of the province of Judea A.D. 26–36.
Negev	An arid region in the southern part of Israel; the Hebrew word means "south".	Pit	Either the grave or the realm of the dead
offend	(see "cause the downfall of/cause to sin")	proconsul	The chief Roman government official in a senatorial province who presided over Roman court hearings
offspring/seed	This term is used literally or metaphorically to refer to plants or grain, sowing or harvest, male reproductive seed, human children or physical descendants, and also to spiritual children or to Christ (Gl 3:16).	proselyte	A person from another race or religion who went through a prescribed ritual to become a Jew
		Rabbi	The Hebrew word <i>Rabbi</i> means <i>my great one</i> ; it is used of a recognized teacher of the Scriptures.
		Rabshakeh	The title of a high-ranking Assyrian official who was the chief cupbearer to the king

Rahab	Or <i>boisterous one</i> , a mythological sea serpent or dragon defeated at the time of creation. Scripture sometimes uses the name metaphorically to describe Egypt.	set apart for destruction/ completely destroy	In Canaan or its neighboring countries, this was the destruction during war of a city, its inhabitants, and their possessions, including livestock.
Red Sea	Literally <i>Sea of Reeds</i>	shekel(s)	In the OT the <i>shekel</i> is a measurement of weight that came to be used as money, either gold or silver.
regiment	(see “company/regiment”)		
restitution offering(s)	An offering that was a penalty for unintentional sins, primarily in relation to the tabernacle or temple; traditionally <i>trespass</i> or <i>guilt offering</i>	<i>Sheminith</i>	A musical term meaning instruments or on the <i>instrument of eight strings</i>
sackcloth	Garment made of poor quality material and worn as a sign of grief and mourning	Sheol	A Hebrew word for either the grave or the realm of the dead
sacred bread	Literally <i>bread of presentation</i> ; 12 loaves, representing the 12 tribes of Israel, put on the table in the holy place in the tabernacle, and later in the temple. The priests ate the previous week’s loaves; Ex 25:30; 29:32; Lv 24:5-9.	Shinar	A land in Mesopotamia, including ancient Sumer and Babylon; modern Iraq
Sadducee(s)	In Judaism a religious sect that followed primarily the first 5 books of the OT (Torah or Pentateuch)	sin offering(s)	Or <i>purification offering</i> ; the <i>sin offering</i> was the most important OT sacrifice for cleansing from impurities. It provided purification from sin and certain forms of ceremonial uncleanness.
Samaritan(s)	People of mixed, Gentile/Jewish ancestry who lived between Galilee and Judea and were hated by the Jews	slave	The strong Greek word <i>doulos</i> cannot be accurately translated in English by “servant” or “bond servant”; the HCSB translates this word as “slave,” not out of insensitivity to the legitimate concerns of modern English speakers, but out of a commitment to accurately convey the brutal reality of the Roman empire’s inhumane institution as well as the ownership called for by Christ.
Sanhedrin	The supreme council of Judaism with 70 members, patterned after Moses’ 70 elders	Son of Man	The most frequent title Jesus used for Himself; Dn 7:13
scribe(s)	A professional group in Judaism that copied the law of Moses and interpreted it, especially in legal cases	song of ascents	Probably the songs pilgrims sang as they traveled the roads going up to worship in Jerusalem; Pss 120–134
seed	(see “offspring/seed”)	soul	(see “life/soul”)
<i>Selah</i>	A Hebrew word whose meaning is uncertain; various interpretations include: (1) a musical notation, (2) a pause for silence, (3) a signal for worshipers to fall prostrate on the ground, (4) a term for the worshipers to call out, and (5) a word meaning “forever”	stumble	(see “cause the downfall of/cause to sin”)
		synagogue	A place where the Jewish people met for prayer, worship and teaching of the Scriptures
		tabernacle	Or <i>tent</i> , or <i>shelter</i> ; terms used for temporary housing

take offense	(see “cause the downfall of/cause to sin”)	wadi	A seasonal stream that flows only in the rainy season
tassel	Fringe put on the clothing of devout Jews to remind them to keep the law; Nm 15:37-41	walk	A term often used in a figurative way to mean “way of life” or “behavior”
temple complex	In the Jerusalem temple, the complex included the sanctuary (the holy place and the holy of holies), at least 4 courtyards (for priests, Jewish men, Jewish women, and Gentiles), numerous gates, and several covered walkways.	wicked men/ perverted men	Literally <i>sons of Belial</i> ; the basic meaning of <i>Belial</i> in Hebrew is “worthless”.
testimony	A reference to either the Mosaic law in general or to a specific section of the law, the Ten Commandments, which were written on stone tablets and placed in the ark of the covenant (also called the ark of the testimony)	wise men	The Greek word is <i>magoi</i> ; the English word “Magi” is based on a Persian word. They were eastern sages who observed the heavens for signs and omens.
Topheth	A place of human sacrifice outside Jerusalem in the Hinnom Valley; Jr 7:31-32; see “hell/hellfire”	woman	When used in direct address, “Woman” was not a term of disrespect but of honor.
Unleavened Bread	A seven-day festival celebrated in conjunction with the Passover; Ex 12:1-20	world	The organized Satanic system that is opposed to God and hostile to Jesus and His followers. The non-Christian culture including governments, educational systems, and businesses
Urim & Thummim	Two objects used by Israelite priests to determine God’s will	wormwood	A small shrub used as a medicinal herb, noted for its bitter taste
		Yah	(see “Yahweh”)
		Yahweh	Or <i>The LORD</i> ; the personal name of God in Hebrew; “Yah” is the shortened form of the name.