

World Religion Vocabulary

Sept. 3, 2013

Religion: Belief in and reverence for a supernatural power or powers regarded as creator and governor of the universe

Miracle: An event that appears inexplicable by the laws of nature and so is held to be supernatural in origin or an act of God

Saint: person of exceptional holiness

Scripture: any writing that is regarded as sacred by a religious group

Relic: an antiquity that has survived from the distant past

Prophet: an authoritative person who divines the future

Belief: a vague idea in which some confidence is placed

Sect: a subdivision of a larger religious group

Angel: spiritual being attendant upon God

Theology: the rational and systematic study of religion and its influences and of the nature of religious truth. Also: the learned profession acquired by specialized courses in religion

Missionary: someone who attempts to convert others to a particular doctrine or program

Ritual: any customary observance or practice

Myth: a traditional story accepted as history; serves to explain the world view of a people

Martyr: someone who suffers or is killed because of their religious or political beliefs

Excommunicate: oust or exclude from a group or membership by decree