

## Glossary of Terms

**aliyah** – the Hebrew word that means “to go up” and used to refer to immigration to Israel.

**Allahu akbar** (Islam) – means “God is greater” – greater than any conception of “God,” or any way of knowing “God.”

**Amalek** – the ancient group of people that attacked the Israelites on their journey from Egypt to the Promised Land and the Torah commanded the Jews to blot out the memory of Amalek. With respect to the evil of *Amalek*, *Am Lak* means under rabbinic teaching a people who lick blood.

**Ani maamin** – the collection of the thirteen principles of faith written by Maimonides.

**Ashkenazis** – people whose countries of origin were in German speaking countries and Eastern Europe.

**Chevlei Moshiach** – birth pangs of the Messiah, the agony and suffering preceding the coming of the Moshiach, which are likened to those of a woman in labor.

**Chofetz Chaim** – Rabbi Yisroel Meir Kagan of Radin (5598-5693; 1835-1933).

**Deicide** – the murder of God, the anti-Semitic believe that the Jews killed Christ.

**Diaspora or galut** (exile) – originally the Greek term used by Hellenistic Jews for all Jewish settlements outside of *Eretz Yisrael*; all lands of dispersion outside of the land of Israel.

**Dhimmi** – from the Arabic word for “protected,” denotes the inferior status of religious minorities under Sharia law.

**Edom** – Esau and the descendants of Esau – Esau’s descendants were products of incest and illegitimacy. Greed, gluttony and depravity were the values characterized by him. The roots of Edom evolved into Rome, the perpetual enemy of Israel. Edom since the establishment of the Church in Rome has signified Christendom.

**Einsatzgruppen** – “task force” - mobile killing units composed of Security Police (Sipo) and Security Service (SDF) personnel assigned to Poland and the Soviet Union to apprehend and execute enemies of the Nazis - Jews. After the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941, the Einsatzgruppen murdered an estimated million and a half Jews.

**Eretz Yisrael** – the Land of Israel.

**Eschatology** – study of the End of Days.

**Gemora** – the commentaries on the *Mishnah* and part of the *Talmud*.

**Haganah** – “defense organization,” underground Jewish fighting force during the British Mandate period and during the 1948 War of Independence, later becoming the IDF.

**Halacha** – means “the walking,” or “the way,” – the Jewish Way of Life - Jewish religious laws, faith, rituals and observances rooted in the Bible, the Talmud, Rabbinic sages and other components of Judaism.

**Hamas** – acronym of the Arabic initials for “The Islamic Resistance Movement,” which was formed in 1987 as an extension of the Muslim Brotherhood and the Islamic-religious struggle to liberate all of Palestine.

**HASHEM** – “the Name,” refers to God. The four-letter name of HaShem indicates that God is timeless and infinite, since the letters of this Name in Hebrew are those of the words *He was, He is, and He will be*.

**HASHEM ELOKEINU** – **HASHEM**, our God.

**Hizballah** – the Shi’ite-Iranian extension in Lebanon.

**Jihad** – Arabic word for holy war - to strive in the path of Allah, consisting of military action with the object of the expansion of Islam.

**Kabbalah** – means “received tradition,” that is the reception of an oral tradition going back to Mount Sinai, including the *Mishnah*, *Midrash* and the Oral Torah, as Moses taught to Joshua, Joshua to the Elders, the Elders to the Prophets and the Prophets to the Great Assembly. It refers to a “hidden wisdom” or “hidden teaching.”

**Kaddish** - a special prayer recited at every prayer service when a *minyan* (quorum of 10 Jewish men) is present.

**Kaf hakela** – certain souls, the enemies of God, are doomed as the souls are hurled into eternal pain as *one shoots a stone from a slingshot. I Samuel 25:29*.

**Kotel** – Western Wall, the surviving remnant of the outer wall of the Temple in Jerusalem believed by the Orthodox never to have been abandoned by the presence of God, the *Shekhinah*.

**Ladino** – a variation of medieval Spanish spoken by the Sephardis.

**Maimonides, Moses (Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon, also known as the Rambam)** – Jewish philosopher born in Córdoba, Spain in 1135 and died in Egypt in 1204 and buried in Tiberias. His most important works were the *Mishneh Torah* of 1180, a compilation and systematization of Jewish law, and the *Guide of the Perplexed* of 1190, a philosophy book of metaphysics reconciling religion with philosophy.

**Masorah** – body of traditions regarding the correct spelling, writing and pronunciation of the Hebrew Bible.

**Midrash** – the oral interpretation, which explains and elucidates aspects of the Torah.

**Mishnah** – first codification of Jewish Oral Law and later combined with the *Gemara* to form the Talmud.

**Moshiach** – Messiah, the king who will lead the Jews in the Final Redemption.

**Pale of Settlement** – 25 Russian provinces where the czarist authorities permitted Jewish settlement

**Qur'an** – (Islam bible) means “recite”

**Ramban** – the Jewish sage from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Nahmanides.

**Rashi** – an acronym for Rabbi Solomon ben Issac of Troyes (1040-1105), a great Jewish commentator on the Bible and the Talmud.

**Sephardis** – Jews descended from those who had been expelled from Spain in 1492.

**Siddur** – the Hebrew word meaning “order” and is the Hebrew term for the Jewish prayer book.

**Shema** - a Hebrew word meaning “Hear!” and the **SHEMA** is the name of the Jewish liturgy that declares faith in God and God’s oneness.

**Shia Islam** – followers of “Shiat Ali,” Muhammad’s nephew and son-in-law was slain while praying in a mosque in 661, believe that only Ali’s descendants can be true Caliphs. In 680 Ali’s son and heir, Hussein, was decapitated at the battle of Karbala.

**Sin’at Yisrael** - hatred of Israel.

**Talmud** – the oral explanations of the written Torah in a multi-volume classical Torah work bringing together the teachings of the great Torah scholars from 247-500 C.E. (Also referred to as the **Gemora**); a Hebrew word meaning “teaching.” The Talmud exists in two versions: the *Jerusalem Talmud* composed in Palestine and the *Babylonian Talmud*.

**Tanach** – includes the Torah (Five Books of Moses), Prophets (*Neviim*), and the Writings (*Kesuvim*).

**Tefilla** - prayer

**Teshuva** - repentance.

**Tishri** – first month of the Hebrew year, around September-October

**Torah** – the Five Books of Moses: Genesis (*Bereishis*), Exodus (*Shemos*), Leviticus (*Vayikra*), Numbers (*Bamidbar*) and Deuteronomy (*Devorim*).

**Tzedoka** – charity

**Yad Vashem** – established in 1953 in Jerusalem as a memorial to European Jews who perished during World War II.

**Yiddish** – variation of medieval German mixed with Hebrew words

**Yiddishkeit** - searching for one’s Jewishness.

**Yom Kippur, Yom ha-Kippurim** – Day of Atonement, a day of fasting and prayers on the 10<sup>th</sup> of **Tishri**

**Zion** – one of the hills of Jerusalem, by extension, Jerusalem itself or the entire of Israel

**Zionism** - represents the ingathering of the Jewish people in its historic homeland, *Eretz Israel*, from all countries and the re-establishment of the nation-state of Israel with Jerusalem (Zion) as its capital.