

The Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms

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Donald K. McKim

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Irish Articles of Religion (1615) The 104 articles of faith accepted by the Irish Episcopal Church, which leaned more strongly in the direction of Calvinism than did the Thirty-nine Articles of the Church of England (1562).

irony (Gr. *eironeia*, "dissimulation") Statement of one thing when another thing (often the opposite) is meant. Examples in Scripture are 2 Sam. 6:20; Job 12:2; John 11:50.

irrationalism A philosophy that does not value the place of reason. For example, existentialists highly value that which stands against reason. *See also* rationalism.

irregularity In the canon law of the Roman Catholic Church, a legal obstacle or a permanent impediment that prevents the reception of holy orders or the exercise of holy orders already received. *See also* canon law.

irresistible grace (Lat. *gratia irresistibilis*) A view stressed in Reformed theology that God's grace as it works for the salvation of an individual will accomplish its purpose and will not be thwarted. It was one of the five canons of the Calvinistic Synod of Dort and part of TULIP.

isagoge (Gr., from *eisagōgein*, "to introduce") Preliminary study of the Bible in terms of its literary history prior to the study of its interpretation.

Islam (Arabic, "submission [to the will of Allah]") The religion associated with the prophet Muhammad (570–632) begun in west-central Arabia and relating itself to the traditions of Judaism and Christianity. Chief tenets include belief in one God, prophets (including a number of biblical figures, including Jesus), the holy book called the Qur'an (Koran) revealed to Muhammad, and judgments according to deeds with an after-life in paradise or hell.

Israel The nation of Hebrews descended from Abraham through Jacob (Gen. 32:28), after whose twelve sons the twelve tribes of Israel were named (Gen. 49).

Israel, new A theological term for the Christian church.

Israel, restoration of The view that in the future the historical nation of Israel will be restored to a special place of prominence with God.

Israelology The study of the nation of Israel as a clue to biblical prophecies.

Ite, missa est (Lat. "Go, this is the dismissal") The concluding formula of the Roman Catholic Mass for centuries. The most common contemporary English dismissal formula is: "The Mass is ended, go in peace." *See also* Mass.

I-thou relationship A term popularized by the Jewish theologian Martin Buber (1878–1965) in *I and Thou* (1923) and used by Christian theologians to indicate the personal nature of God's self-revelation. Humans should seek "I-thou" relationships with others instead of "I-it."

itinerancy/itinerant preachers A common practice on the American frontier of ministers preaching in churches from place to place on an irregular basis. Also the system of assigned placement of ministers by bishops in Methodist traditions. *See also* Methodism.

J

J A tradition source (Yahwist) in the Pentateuch that uses the name "Yahweh" ("Jahweh" is the German spelling of this name) for God. In English Bibles, "Yahweh" is translated by the term "Lord." It is considered to be a Judean source from the 10th century BCE and to have been combined with the Elohist, Deuteronomist, and Priestly sources over a long period of time to form the Pentateuch.

Jacob's ladder A dream of Jacob's in which a ladder extended from earth to heaven with angels ascending and descending (Gen. 28:12). It was a divine manifestation and was accompanied by a divine promise of land and many descendants (28:13–15).

Jacobites Syrian Monophysite followers of Jacob Baradaeus (c. 500–578) who denied the "two natures" (divine and human) of Christ. Also a name for many Roman