

The Old Testament: Our Call to Faith and Justice

Chapter 9 Vocabulary

apocalyptic literature A highly symbolic style of writing in which hidden truths are revealed within a narrative framework. The revelation is often delivered by an angelic or visionary being.

eschatology A study of the “last things,” such as death, judgment, immortality, heaven and hell, and the like.

Hellenistic Relating to the culture, history, or language of Greece after the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BC.

historical psalms Psalms recounting events from the history of Israel such as the covenant with the patriarchs, the Exodus, or the settling of the Promised Land.

parallelism A characteristic common to Hebrew poetry in which two lines express the same or opposite thoughts, one right after the other.

wisdom literature Collections of wise sayings, proverbs, and short stories that offer insights into the proper way to live. Hebrew wisdom literature began to be collected during the Exile and the post-Exilic period.

Septuagint The oldest complete edition of the Old Testament. It is a Greek translation of earlier Hebrew texts, probably written in Alexandria during the time of Ptolemaic rule over Palestine. The word *Septuagint* is Latin for “seventy,” which refers to the

traditional story that seventy scholars from the Holy Land were brought to Alexandria to accomplish the translation.

