

# *The Old Testament: Our Call to Faith and Justice*

## **Chapter 2 Vocabulary**

**Asherah** The Canaanite goddess sometimes called the “Queen of Heaven.” She was the consort of Baal and the goddess of fertility. The practice of sacred prostitution was connected with the worship of Asherah.

**context** The historical, cultural, social, or political circumstances surrounding an event or record.

**diaspora** A group migration or flight away from the homeland into one or more other countries. The word can also refer to people who have maintained their separate identity (often religious, but occasionally ethnic, racial, or cultural) while living in those other countries after the migration.

**hieroglyphic writing** An ancient form of Egyptian writing, more stylized than pictograms but not based on an alphabet.

**pictograms** The earliest form of writing, in which pictures represented words or ideas.

**prehistoric** A term that refers to events or objects that date to a time before the development of writing and the existence of written records.

**primeval history** Stories or myths about the origins of the earth, humans, other creatures, languages, and cultures.

**scribes** People trained to write using the earliest forms of writing before literacy was widespread.

**syncretism** A blending of two or more religious traditions.