

## EBR Spellings and Capitalizations

For further spelling examples, see B. J. Collins et al. (eds.), *The SBL Handbook of Style* (Atlanta, Ga. 2014) § 4.3.6. (p. 37-52).

BUT note that differences exist between EBR and SBL spellings.

### A) Basic Rules

- *Spelling of biblical names* should follow the *New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*.
- *Spelling of non-biblical names* should follow “common usage” (check with editors) and/or “Merriam-Webster” online dictionary ([www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary)).
- *Arabic names with “al-”* should retain this in their short form (e.g., always “al-Tabari”, not “Tabari”).
- *Genitive of words ending in “s”* have apostrophe only (e.g., “Abraham’s horse” but “Amos’ horse”).
- *Note use and absence of hyphen* (e.g., “in the 17th century” but “in the 17th-century texts”).

### B) Some Common Spellings and “In-Text” Capitalizations

|  |  |
|--|--|
| aggadah (except for Passover haggadah) | [ <i>not</i> : haggadah; agadah]             |
| aggadic                                | [ <i>not</i> : haggadic; agadic]             |
| ‘am ha-arets                           | [ <i>not</i> : am haarez; ‘am ha-arets]      |
| amoraim                                |  |
| amphitheater                           | [ <i>not</i> : amphitheatre]                 |
| ancient Near East                      | [ <i>not</i> : Ancient Near East]            |
| ancient Near Eastern                   | [ <i>not</i> : Ancient Near Eastern]         |
| Antichrist, the                        | [ <i>not</i> : antichrist, the]              |
| antiquity                              | [ <i>not</i> : Antiquity]                    |
| antisemitic                            | [ <i>not</i> : anti-Semitic; anti-semitic]   |
| antisemitism                           | [ <i>not</i> : anti-Semitism; anti-semitism] |
| Apocrypha, the                         | [ <i>not</i> : apocrypha, the]               |
| apocryphal                             | [ <i>not</i> : Apocryphal]                   |
| apostle(s), the                        | [ <i>not</i> : Apostle(s), the]              |
| Aqedah                                 | [ <i>not</i> : Akedah; aqedah]               |

|   |                          |   |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| archaeology   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : archeology]                              |
| Aramaean  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Aramean]                                 |
| ark (Noah's)  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Ark]                                     |
| ark of the covenant                                       |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Ark of the Covenant]                     |
| bar/bat mitzvah   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : bar/bat mitzvah; mitzwah; mitzwah]       |
| Baroque   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : baroque]                                 |
| beatitudes  | (general)                | [ <i>not</i> : Beatitudes]                              |
| Beatitudes, the   | (NT sayings)             | [ <i>not</i> : beatitudes, the]                         |
| Bible   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : bible]                                   |
| biblical  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Biblical]                                |
| biblicist   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Biblicist]                               |
| catalogue   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : catalog]                                 |
| center  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : centre]                                  |
| Christology   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : christology]                             |
| christological  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Christological]                          |
| commandment (first, second, etc.; but "Ten Commandments") |                          |   |
| creation, the   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Creation, the]                           |
| Creator, the  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : creator, the]                            |
| crusader  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Crusader]                                |
| Crusades  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : crusades]                                |
| Davidic   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : davidic]                                 |
| Day of Atonement  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : day of atonement]                        |
| day of judgment   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Day of Judgment; day of judgement]       |
| day of Pentecost  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Day of Pentecost]                        |
| Day of the Lord   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : day of the Lord]                         |
| deity   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Deity]                                   |
| deuterocanonical  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Deuterocanonical]                        |
| Deuteronomic  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : deuteronomic]                            |
| Diaspora  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : diaspora]                                |
| divine  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Divine]                                  |
| Divine Warrior  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : divine warrior]                          |
| early antiquity   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Early Antiquity]                         |
| early church  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Early Church]                            |
| emperor, the  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Emperor, the]                            |
| Emperor Nero  | (but "the emperor Nero") |   |
| empire, the   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Empire, the]                             |
| Empire, Roman/Assyrian etc.                               |                          | [ <i>not</i> : empire, Roman/Assyrian etc.]             |
| Epistle to the Romans (etc.)                              |                          |   |
| Erets Israel  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Eretz Israel; erets Israel; erez Israel] |
| Eucharist   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : eucharist]                               |
| eucharistic   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Eucharistic]                             |
| exile, the  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Exile, the]                              |
| exodus, the   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Exodus, the]                             |
| fall, the (theological concept)                           |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Fall, the]                               |
| First Temple  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : First temple; first temple]              |
| flood, the  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Flood, the]                              |
| footwashing   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : foot-washing]                            |
| garden of Eden  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Garden of Eden]                          |
| genizah, a  | (but "Cairo Genizah")    | [ <i>not</i> : geniza]                                  |

|                             |                          |  |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Gentile(s)                  | (noun and adj.)          | [ <i>not</i> : gentile(s)]                           |
| gnostic                     |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Gnostic]                              |
| Gnosticism                  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : gnosticism]                           |
| golden calf, the            |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Golden Calf, the]                     |
| gospel                      |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Gospel]                               |
| Gospel of [title]           | (but “Mark’s gospel”)    |  |
| gospels                     | (generically)            |  |
| Gospels, the                | (division of the canon)  |  |
| Greco-Roman                 |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Graeco-Roman; greco-roman]            |
| Ḥadīth                      |                          | [ <i>not</i> : ḥadīth; hadith; Hadith]               |
| haggadah                    |                          | [ <i>not</i> : aggadah]                              |
| halakhah                    |                          | [ <i>not</i> : halakah; halakha; halacha]            |
| halakhic                    |                          | [ <i>not</i> : halakic; halachic]                    |
| halakhist                   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : halakist; halachist]                  |
| Hanukkah                    |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Chanukkah; Chanukah]                  |
| Hasidic                     |                          | [ <i>not</i> : hasidic]                              |
| Hasmonean                   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Hasmonaeen]                           |
| he / him / his (God)        |                          | [ <i>not</i> : He / Him / His]                       |
| heaven                      |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Heaven]                               |
| Hellenism                   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : hellenism]                            |
| Hellenistic                 |                          | [ <i>not</i> : hellenistic]                          |
| hellenize                   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Hellenize]                            |
| high priest                 |                          | [ <i>not</i> : High Priest]                          |
| holy of holies              |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Holy of Holies]                       |
| house of David              |                          | [ <i>not</i> : House of David]                       |
| intertestamental            |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Intertestamental; inter-testamental]  |
| Islamic                     |                          | [ <i>not</i> : islamic]                              |
| Jordan River, the           | (but “the river Jordan”) |  |
| Judea                       |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Judaea]                               |
| Judean                      |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Judaeen]                              |
| judgment                    |                          | [ <i>not</i> : judgement]                            |
| Kabbalah                    |                          | [ <i>not</i> : kabbalah]                             |
| kabbalist / kabbalistic     |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Kabbalist / Kabbalistic]              |
| king, the                   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : King, the]                            |
| King David                  | (but “the king David”)   |  |
| kingdom of God / heaven     |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Kingdom of God / Heaven]              |
| last days                   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Last Days]                            |
| Last Judgment               |                          | [ <i>not</i> : last judgment; Last Judgement]        |
| late antiquity              |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Late Antiquity]                       |
| Latter-day Saints           |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Latter-Day Saints; Latter day Saints] |
| law                         | (generically)            |  |
| Law, the                    | (division of the canon)  |  |
| Letter to the Romans (etc.) |                          |  |
| Levitical                   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : levitical]                            |
| Maccabean                   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Maccabaeen]                           |
| Maccabeus, Judas            |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Maccabee/Maccabaeus, Judas/Judah]     |
| Masorah                     |                          | [ <i>not</i> : masorah]                              |
| Masoretes                   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : masoretetes]                          |
| masoretic                   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Masoretic]                            |

|                       |                               |   |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Masoretic Text        |                               | [ <i>not</i> : masoretic text]                      |
| Mecca                 | (technical usage = Makka)     |   |
| medieval              |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Medieval; mediaeval]                 |
| Medina                | (technical usage = Madina)    |   |
| messiah               | (in general)                  | [ <i>not</i> : Messiah]                             |
| Messiah, the          | (specific)                    | [ <i>not</i> : messiah]                             |
| messiahship           |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Messiahship]                         |
| messianic             |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Messianic]                           |
| Middle Ages           |                               | [ <i>not</i> : middle ages]                         |
| Middle East           |                               |   |
| midrash               | (in general)                  | [ <i>not</i> : Midrash]                             |
| Midrash               | (part of the title of a work) | [ <i>not</i> : midrash]                             |
| midrashic             |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Midrashic]                           |
| midrashim             |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Midrashim]                           |
| miqwa'ot              |                               | [ <i>not</i> : mikva'ot; mikvaot; miqvaot; miqwaot] |
| miqweh                |                               | [ <i>not</i> : mikveh; miqweh; mikweh]              |
| Mishnah               |                               | [ <i>not</i> : mishnah]                             |
| mishnaic              |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Mishnaic]                            |
| Muḥammad              |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Muhammad; Mohammed]                  |
| Muslim                |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Moslem]                              |
| Mu'tazilite/s         |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Mutazilite]                          |
| Near East             |                               |   |
| Negev                 |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Negeb]                               |
| Neo-Assyrian period   | (but "Neo-Assyrian Empire")   |   |
| Neo-Babylonian period | (but "Neo-Babylonian Empire") |   |
| neoplatonic           |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Neoplatonic; neo-platonic]           |
| neoplatonism          |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Neoplatonism; neo-platonism]         |
| neoplatonist          |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Neoplatonist; neo-platonist]         |
| northern Israel       |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Northern Israel]                     |
| northern kingdom      |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Northern Kingdom]                    |
| Northwest Semitic     |                               | [ <i>not</i> : northwest Semitic]                   |
| paleography           |                               | [ <i>not</i> : palaeography]                        |
| patriarchal           |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Patriarchal]                         |
| patriarchs, the       |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Patriarchs, the]                     |
| patristic(s)          |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Patristic(s)]                        |
| <i>Pax Romana</i>     |                               | [ <i>not</i> : pax Romana]                          |
| Pentateuch            |                               | [ <i>not</i> : pentateuch]                          |
| pentateuchal          |                               | [not: Pentateuchal]                                 |
| pharaoh, the          |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Pharaoh, the]                        |
| Pharaoh               | (as proper name)              |   |
| Pharisaic             |                               | [ <i>not</i> : pharisaic]                           |
| pope, the             |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Pope, the]                           |
| Pope John XXIII       | (but "the pope John XXIII")   |   |
| postbiblical          |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Postbiblical; post-biblical]         |
| postexilic            |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Postexilic; post-exilic]             |
| post-Nicene           |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Post-Nicene; postnicene; Postnicene] |
| potsherd              |                               | [ <i>not</i> : potshard]                            |
| preexilic             |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Preexilic; pre-exilic]               |
| priesthood            |                               | [ <i>not</i> : Priesthood]                          |

|                           |                          |  |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Priestly Code/Document    |                          | [ <i>not</i> : priestly code/document; Priestly code/etc.] |
| Priestly source           |                          | [ <i>not</i> : priestly source; Priestly Source]           |
| priestly writings         |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Priestly Writings; Priestly writings]       |
| promised land             |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Promised Land]                              |
| prophets                  | (generically)            |  |
| Prophets, the             | (division of the canon)  |  |
| pseudepigrapha            | (generically)            |  |
| Pseudepigrapha, the       | (body of literature)     |  |
| pseudepigraphic           |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Pseudepigraphic]                            |
| Qurʾān                    |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Qurʾan; Qurʾan; Qurʾān; Koran]              |
| qurʾānic                  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : qurʾanic; qurʾanic; Qurʾanic; Koranic]      |
| rabbi(s)                  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Rabbi(s)]                                   |
| rabbinic                  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Rabbinic]                                   |
| Rasta                     |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Rastafarian]                                |
| Rastas/Rastafari          |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Rastafarian]                                |
| Rastafarian movement      |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Rastafarianism]                             |
| Rebekah                   |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Rebecca]                                    |
| Renaissance               |                          | [ <i>not</i> : renaissance]                                |
| river Jordan, the         | (but “the Jordan River”) |  |
| Saadia Gaon               |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Saʿadiah Gaon]                              |
| Sabbath, the              |                          | [ <i>not</i> : sabbath, the]                               |
| Scripture                 | (Bible as canon)         | [ <i>not</i> : scripture]                                  |
| scriptural                |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Scriptural]                                 |
| Second Temple             |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Second temple; second temple]               |
| Second Temple period      |                          | [ <i>not</i> : second temple period]                       |
| Septuagint                |                          | [ <i>not</i> : septuagint]                                 |
| Sermon on the Mount/Plain |                          | [ <i>not</i> : sermon on the mount/plain]                  |
| Son of God                | (title)                  | [ <i>not</i> : son of God]                                 |
| sons of God               | (general)                | [ <i>not</i> : Sons of God]                                |
| Son of Man                |                          | [ <i>not</i> : son of man]                                 |
| southern kingdom          |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Southern Kingdom]                           |
| Spirit, the               |                          | [ <i>not</i> : spirit, the]                                |
| spirit of God             |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Spirit of God]                              |
| sūra                      |                          | [ <i>not</i> : sura; Sūra; Sura]                           |
| synoptic                  | (adjective)              | [ <i>not</i> : Synoptic]                                   |
| Synoptic Gospels, the     |                          | [ <i>not</i> : synoptic gospels, the]                      |
| Synoptic Problem, the     |                          | [ <i>not</i> : synoptic problem, the]                      |
| Synoptics, the            |                          | [ <i>not</i> : synoptics, the]                             |
| tabernacle                |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Tabernacle]                                 |
| Talmud                    |                          | [ <i>not</i> : talmud]                                     |
| talmudic                  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Talmudic]                                   |
| talmudist                 |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Talmudist]                                  |
| Tanakh                    |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Tanak]                                      |
| tannaim                   |                          |  |
| Targum                    |                          | [ <i>not</i> : targum]                                     |
| targumic                  |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Targumic]                                   |
| targumist                 |                          | [ <i>not</i> : Targumist]                                  |
| temple, the               | (Solomon’s temple, etc.) | [ <i>not</i> : Temple, the]                                |
| Temple Mount              |                          | [ <i>not</i> : temple mount]                               |

|                                    |                         |  |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Ten Commandments                   |                         | [ <i>not</i> : ten commandments]                     |
| tent of meeting                    |                         | [ <i>not</i> : Tent of Meeting]                      |
| testament                          | (generically)           | [ <i>not</i> : Testament]                            |
| Testaments, both                   | (HB/OT and NT)          | [ <i>not</i> : testaments, both]                     |
| theater                            |                         | [ <i>not</i> : theatre]                              |
| Third Temple                       |                         | [ <i>not</i> : Third temple; third temple]           |
| Tiglath-pileser                    |                         | [ <i>not</i> : Tiglath-Pileser]                      |
| torah                              | (generically)           |  |
| Torah, the                         | (division of the canon) |  |
| tosafist                           |                         | [ <i>not</i> : Tosafist]                             |
| Tosefta                            |                         | [ <i>not</i> : tosefta]                              |
| tower of Babel                     |                         | [ <i>not</i> : Tower of Babel]                       |
| transfiguration, the               |                         | [ <i>not</i> : Transfiguration, the]                 |
| Twelve, the                        | (apostles)              | [ <i>not</i> : twelve, the]                          |
| twelve apostles                    |                         | [ <i>not</i> : Twelve Apostles]                      |
| twelve tribes                      |                         | [ <i>not</i> : Twelve Tribes]                        |
| unchristian                        |                         | [ <i>not</i> : Unchristian; un-Christian]            |
| underworld                         | (adj.)                  | [ <i>not</i> : Underworld]                           |
| Underworld, the                    |                         | [ <i>not</i> : underworld, the]                      |
| united kingdom                     | (Israel and Judah)      | [ <i>not</i> : United Kingdom]                       |
| united monarchy                    |                         | [ <i>not</i> : United Monarchy]                      |
| Upper Egypt                        |                         | [ <i>not</i> : upper Egypt]                          |
| upper Galilee                      |                         | [ <i>not</i> : Upper Galilee]                        |
| Urim and Thummim                   |                         | [ <i>not</i> : urim and thummim]                     |
| virgin                             | (general)               | [ <i>not</i> : Virgin]                               |
| Virgin, the                        | (Mary)                  | [ <i>not</i> : virgin, the]                          |
| virgin birth, the                  |                         | [ <i>not</i> : Virgin Birth; Virgin birth]           |
| vis-à-vis                          |                         | [ <i>not</i> : vis-a-vis]                            |
| West Semitic                       |                         | [ <i>not</i> : west Semitic]                         |
| Western church                     |                         | [ <i>not</i> : western church]                       |
| Western text                       |                         | [ <i>not</i> : western text]                         |
| wisdom                             | (movement, quality)     | [ <i>not</i> : Wisdom]                               |
| Wisdom                             | (personified)           | [ <i>not</i> : wisdom]                               |
| Wisdom literature                  |                         | [ <i>not</i> : wisdom literature; Wisdom Literature] |
| wisdom tradition                   |                         | [ <i>not</i> : Wisdom tradition]                     |
| wise men                           |                         | [ <i>not</i> : Wise Men]                             |
| Word, the                          | (= Jesus)               | [ <i>not</i> : word, the]                            |
| word of God                        |                         | [ <i>not</i> : Word of God]                          |
| worship / worshipper / worshipping |                         | [ <i>not</i> : worshiper / worshipping]              |
| Writings, the                      | (division of the canon) |  |
| Yahwist                            |                         | [ <i>not</i> : Jahwist]                              |
| yeshivah                           |                         | [ <i>not</i> : yeshiva]                              |
| YHWH                               | (or Yahweh)             | [ <i>not</i> : Jahweh]                               |
| Yom Kippur                         | (Day of Atonement)      |  |
| Zealots, the                       |                         | [ <i>not</i> : zealots, the]                         |

- *Further examples to be found in SBL-HS<sup>2</sup> (§ 4.3.6. [p. 37-52]), though note that differences exist between EBR and SBL spellings. The EBR spellings here take precedence over those in SBL-HS<sup>2</sup>.*