

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).
- *Arabic names with “al-”* should retain this in their short form (e.g., always “al-Tabari”, not “Tabari”).
- *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)	[not: haggadah; agadah]
aggadic		[not: haggadic; agadic]
‘am ha-arets		[not: am haarez; ‘am ha-arets]
amoraim		
amphitheater		[not: amphitheatre]
ancient Near East		[not: Ancient Near East]
ancient Near Eastern		[not: Ancient Near Eastern]
Antichrist, the		[not: antichrist, the]
antiquity		[not: Antiquity]
antisemitic		[not: anti-Semitic; anti-semitic]
antisemitism		[not: anti-Semitism; anti-semitism]
Apocrypha, the		[not: apocrypha, the]
apocryphal		[not: Apocryphal]
apostle(s), the		[not: Apostle(s), the]
Aqedah		[not: Akedah; aqedah]
archaeology		[not: archeology]
Aramaean		[not: Aramean]
ark (Noah’s)		[not: Ark]
ark of the covenant		[not: Ark of the Covenant]

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

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

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

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

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

- Further examples to be found in *SBL-HS*² (§ 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*².