

avel

the name given to a bereaved Jewish person after the burial of the deceased has taken place

chuppah

a canopy, usually made from cloth and supported by four poles, under which the marriage service takes place

Conservative
Judaism

a movement that originated in the 19th century and which advocates a midway course between Orthodox and Reform Judaism

covenant

a binding agreement, usually enacted by a more powerful party (i.e. God) and a less powerful one (i.e. Israel)

embalming

to chemically delay a corpse from decaying

enlightenment

an 18th century European movement which celebrated science and philosophy over religion and superstition

eschatology

the doctrine of 'the end times'

euthanasia

a method whereby a terminally sick person is given assistance to die

exegesis

the study and exposition of the scriptures

get

a Jewish writ of divorce

halakha	Rabbinic law i.e. that which is contained in the Talmud
heresy	a belief or teaching that differs from those taught by the orthodox or dominant religion
kaddish	a prayer dating from before the destruction of the temple; often taking the form of a mourner's prayer
ketubbah	a marriage contract dating from the first century BC
kiddushin	the first part of the two marriage ceremonies, including blessings and VOWS

kosher

means 'fit to be eaten'; food that conforms to the stipulations set out in Deuteronomy and Leviticus

mikveh

a ritual water bath taken for purification purposes

mishnah

the first codification of Jewish law, dating from the third century

misnaghim

opponents of the Hassidic movement

mitvot

commandments from God or any obligation which brings one in closer alignment with God's will

niddah

rules that relate to
female and family
purity in marriage

nissuin

the second part of the marriage
ceremony, where the couple are
joined in holy matrimony
beneath a chuppah (or wedding
canopy)

numerology

a system whereby
mystical secrets are
revealed using number
patterns
