

GLOSSARY: TERMS

Abbassid Caliphate. The period [750-1258 CE] when the Arab Empire was ruled from **Baghdad**. In 909, the Abbassid Caliphate was succeeded in the **Holy Land** by the **Fatimids**.

Acts, Book of. The fifth book of the **New Testament**, properly titled The Acts of the Apostles, which records the activities of **Paul** and other apostles from the third to the sixth decades of the first century. It was probably written by the author of the **Gospel of Luke**. (See **Luke, Gospel of**).

Age of Discovery. The period beginning in the fifteenth century when Portuguese, Spanish, English, and Dutch maritime explorers began to map the world as they sought a water route from Europe to the Orient.

Al-Aqsa Intifadeh. The resistance movement started in September 2000 by stone-throwing **Palestinians** protesting the presence of Israeli Defense Minister **Ariel Sharon** (See **Sharon, Ariel**) on the **Haram al-Sharif** in front of the **Al-Aqsa Mosque**. The Al-Aqsa Intifadeh was soon co-opted by militant Palestinian groups, whose suicide bombings in **Israel** have been followed by Israeli retaliation. As of the date of publication, the Al-Aqsa Intifadeh has not abated.

Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade. Palestinian terrorist organization founded by **Yasser Arafat** (See **Arafat, Yasser**) in January, 2001 and under his control.

Al-Aqsa Mosque. The **mosque** located on the **Haram al-Sharif** in **Jerusalem** that dates to the seventh century CE.

Allah. Common rendering in English of the Arabic word **al-Lah**, the **Muslim** word for God. Before **Muhammed**, the name of the god worshipped in the vicinity of **Mecca**.

Al-Lah. A god worshipped in the vicinity of **Mecca** from ancient times. Its name was appropriated by **Muhammed** to mean the One God, which **Muhammed** understood to be also the God of the **Jews** and the **Christians**.

Al-Qaeda. The international movement founded by **Osama Bin Laden** (See **Bin Laden, Osama**) that promotes terrorism in order to destabilize existing governments that it opposes.

American Jewish Congress. The Jewish organization in the United States, particularly active after World War II, that advocated an alternative to **Zionism** for resettlement of Jewish refugees.