

The Afterlife - Judgement

Particular Judgement - afterlife begins upon death. Souls are judged on their good & bad deeds.

General Judgement - a day of judgement when Jesus will return (parousia) and judge the living and the dead.

The Parable of the Sheep & Goats

'Goats'

- Represent people who have not followed Jesus' examples
- People who have not obeyed God's laws.
- Sent to hell

'Sheep'

- Represent people who have accepted Jesus & his teachings.
- Performed good deeds and helped others.
- Recorded in heaven

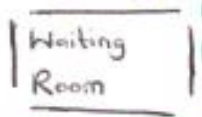
Heaven



Eternal life with God with no pain or suffering.

- Some Christians believe it is physical place beyond the clouds. God sits on a throne and angels fly around.
- A chance to be with family and friends again
- Some Christians believe heaven is more a spiritual existence of peace & happiness
- Some Christians believe only those who followed Jesus will be with God in heaven.

Purgatory



Roman Catholic belief.

The intermediate state where souls are cleansed in order to enter heaven.

- No one can live a sin free life so souls need cleansing before heaven.
- Prayers are said by living for purged souls.
- Influence of these beliefs today:**
 - Reassure Christians death is not the end.
 - Feel grateful that Jesus died for their eternal life.
 - Encourage Christians to live a good life.
 - Encourage conversion or people can go to heaven.

Hell



A place of eternal suffering or state of being without God.

- Seen as the opposite of heaven.
- Often shown as a place of eternal suffering, terror, fire and torture ruled by the devil.
- Some Christians believe it is a spiritual existence without God.
- Other Christians see Hell as the complete annihilation of the soul.



Christian Beliefs about Creation



Literal Interpretations - the story is literally true. God created the world in 7 days (24 hours)



liberal Interpretations - the story is metaphorical (holds symbolic truth). God could have created all started the Big Bang.



Dominion - control over something
Stewardship - managing resources in a responsible way



Role of the Spirit in Creation

'the spirit of God' hovering over the waters. Suggests the presence of the Holy Spirit at the beginning of creation.

Role of Jesus in Creation

John 1:1-18 - 'in this extract experts believe 'The Word' is referring to God the Son (Jesus)

Influences of the Creation Story today...



• Literal readings - hard to trust science



• Liberal account emphasises God's power.

• Metaphorical readings can see science & religion complementing themselves.

• If people see God as creating the world for humans they may feel they can do what they want with it (dominion).
• Other may feel they need to look after it on behalf of God (stewardship)

Sin

Sin is an action or thought that is against God's will.

- Sinful thoughts can lead to sinful actions
- All humans sin - no one is perfect.
- Consequences of sin - death & hell unless they are confessed and forgiveness is asked for.

Original Sin - human beings are born with an in-built tendency to do wrong

Adam & Eve: The Fall

Disobeyed God's instruction not to eat from the Tree of Knowledge and became aware of sin.



- As punishment God banished them from the Garden of Eden.
- Humans became mortal.
- This original sin was passed on through generations.

Literal Interpretations

- The story is 100% true.
- The snake was the devil in disguise.
- It is the devil who tempts people to do wrong
- The was the beginning of man's fall (separating from God).

liberal Interpretations

- Teaches Christians the God gave humans free will.
- If sinful actions chosen they will be separated from God & punishment served.
- Good actions are rewarded.
- More a moral teaching

CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

Nature of God
What Christians believe
God to be like...



- Monothelists - the belief in ONE God.
- Atheists - someone who does not believe in God(s)
- Agnostic - someone who is unsure about God's existence
- Theist - someone who believes in God(s).


Omnipotent - all powerful 

Omnipresent - all present (everywhere)


Omnibenevolent - all loving 

Omniscient - all knowing 

Just - fair and forgiving 

Creator Ex Nihilo - creator out of nothing 

Eternal - never ending / never dies

Transcendent - outside time & space. 

The Trinity
• There is only one God.
• Each person of the Trinity is fully God.
• The persons of the Trinity are not the same.


Holy Trinity
Three persons, all of which are God



God the Father - creator of the Earth & everything in it.

God the Son - God incarnate (in human form), in the form of Jesus.

God the Holy Spirit - once Jesus left the Earth the Holy Spirit guides & influences people today.

 Three separate leaves - but really one leaf.

The Problem of Evil & Suffering
"If God is all powerful, loving and just, then why does he allow evil & suffering?"
Can God stop evil & suffering?
Does he care that humans suffer?
Has God abandoned humans?



Natural Evil
Natural disasters, droughts, floods - pain & suffering caused by events out of human control.

Moral Evil
Murder, stealing, cheating - pain & suffering caused by human choices.

Christian Responses to explain Evil & Suffering

• Many people are able to do evil things because God gave humans free will. It is more loving to allow freedom of choice.



• God is being fair & just in allowing suffering as humans deserve punishment for their sins 

• When people go through hard times, some Christians believe God is testing their faith, like the story of Job.



Incarnation - becoming flesh, taking human form

- Gospel of Matthew & Luke - state clearly that Mary did not conceive Jesus sexually.
- Immaculate conception - evidence of Jesus being fully God & fully human.
- Jesus as God in human form made it easier to accept his teachings

Jesus' God-like qualities

- Miracles
- Authority to forgive
- Resurrection - power over death.

Jesus' human qualities

- Ate, slept & cried when his friend died.
- Suffered pain leading to his death.

The Life of Jesus



Crucifixion - when Jesus was put to death on the cross

- Sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate
- Crucifixion - death by asphyxiation (not being able to breathe).
- Jesus suffered the pain of his crucifixion.



Importance today...

- Accept Jesus' sacrifice: sin can no longer destroy their lives.
- Suffering is a part of life - God understands what the sufferer goes through.
- Sacrifice remembered through the Eucharist (Holy Communion).



Resurrection - rising from the dead.

- Jesus was laid to rest in a tomb on Good Friday.
- Early Sunday morning some of Jesus' female followers went to prepare his body for burial but it was not there.
- Two angels are said to have told them Jesus had risen from the dead.

Importance today.

- Shows Jesus' divinity - overcome death.
- Power of good over evil.
- Reassures Christians God will forgive them if they accept Jesus.

Ascension - 40 days after resurrection Jesus returned to heaven.

- Jesus told his disciples to carry on his work before he ascended up to heaven.

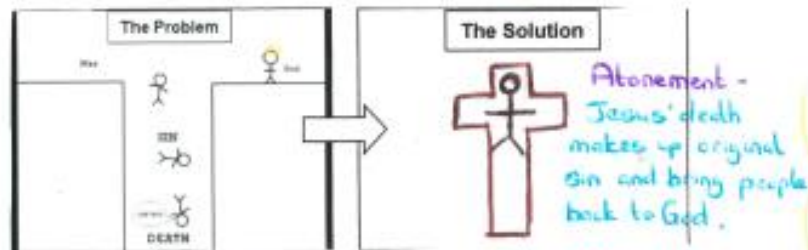
Importance today...

- Paves the way for the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus watching over Christians from heaven.



Salvation - to be saved from sin and the consequences of it.

- Sin has separated humans from God, salvation enables humans to get close again.
- Salvation through good works - obeying God's laws.
- Salvation through grace - given by God through faith in Jesus.



Salvation is what Christians believe Jesus brought them.
Atonement refers to how he did it - dying as a sacrifice.