

YEAR 7 TERM 1: The Existence of God and Revelation

Key beliefs

Christianity is a **monotheistic** religion – they believe in **ONE** God.

Christians believe God is:

Omnipotent (all powerful)

Omniscient (all knowing)

Omnipresent (everywhere)

Benevolent (loving)

Transcendent (beyond understanding)

Immanent (personal)

Eternal (no beginning and no end)

Forgiving (he will forgive sins)

Revelation (the Divine reveals truths to the people)

Special Revelation (direct personal experience)



The Design Argument

Our world is too **complicated** and full of intricate working systems, to have just happened by chance. If we came across a watch, we would assume it has been 'designed' due to its **complexity**. Like the watch, some assume our world had a designer.

Reasons for believing in God

Criticisms

God cannot be the designer. A designer has to be able to correct the faults. There are too many faults on the Earth, and yet God has not tried to correct them. Therefore he cannot exist.

Evolution has given the illusion of Design. The change and adaptation of species to suit the environment is not design but survival.



The Cosmological Argument

We live in a world of **'cause and effect'**. Something must have 'caused' our world to have come into existence. The only being powerful enough to do this is God – the 'uncaused cause'.

Criticisms

The Big Bang has more logic for a spontaneous cause. If everything has to be caused then God must have been caused to exist. Who made God?

The problem of evil

Evil exists

God is benevolent

God is omnipotent

Moral evil = suffering caused by humans

Natural evil = suffering caused by nature

Responses:

1. Suffering is a **necessary** part of life
2. Suffering is **temporary**
3. Suffering is a punishment for **sin**
4. Suffering is caused by humanity's **free will**
5. Suffering is a part of God's **plan**
6. Suffering is a **test of faith**

Christians believe they will be **judged** on their actions in this life on judgement day – **Parousia**.



Miracles

Miracles are events that break the laws of nature, they have no logical explanation. So clearly a reasonable explanation for miracles is God. Miracles are linked to God and were performed through Gods power. Jesus performed Miracles as a way to prove he was the son of God.

David Hume 18th Century Philosopher refused to use miracles as evidence for God, as he believed that the lack of evidence and witnesses made them unreliable.

Coincidence and Luck can be used to explain miracles away. Some logic can be found.

Can we really trust the eyewitness, or is it lies and attention seeking.?

Revelation

General Revelation

God has revealed himself to the people on a mass scale. This is learning about God through- Worship, Reading Scriptures, Public Prayer, study of Scripture.

Special Revelation

God reveals himself on a personal level to the people. This can be through Visions, Miracles, Prayers being answered or specific key passages through scripture.

Most common is through Vision.

Examples of SPECIAL REVELATION:

Jesus as the Incarnation of God
Moses and the Burning Bush
Sauls Conversion to Paul
St Bernadette.

“Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith”

Keywords

10 Commandments; Abrahamic Covenant; Bible; Birth right; Blessing; Christianity; Covenant; Curse; Decedents; Interpretation; Islam; Judaism; Liberal; Literal; Messiah; Oath; Old Testament, Original Sin; Promised Land, Prophethood; Qur'an; Sin; Sinai Covenant, Symbolism; Torah

YEAR 7 TERM 1: The Children of Abraham



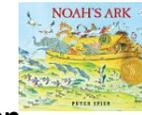
Adam and Eve

In the [Book of Genesis](#) God created humankind in [God's image](#) and instructed them to multiply and to be [stewards](#) over everything else that God had made, God fashions [Adam](#) from dust and places him in the [Garden of Eden](#). Adam is told that he can eat freely of all the trees in the garden, except for a [tree of the knowledge of good and evil](#). Subsequently, [Eve](#) is created from one of Adam's ribs to be Adam's companion. A [serpent](#) deceives Eve into eating fruit from the forbidden tree, and she gives some of the fruit to Adam.

The Children of Abraham

Noah

Noah was a righteous man and walked with God. Seeing that the earth was corrupt and filled with violence, God instructed Noah to build an ark in which he, his sons, and their wives, together with male and female of all living creatures, would be saved from the waters.



Joseph

- Favored by his father Jacob
- Sold as a slave by his brothers.
- Sent to prison for an act he didn't do
- Became advisor to Pharaoh
- Governor in Egypt.



Moses



1300 BCE - the beginning of a religion

Over a thousand years after Abraham, the Jews were living as slaves in Egypt. Their leader was a prophet called Moses. Moses led the Jews out of slavery in Egypt and led them to the Holy Land that God had promised them.

The escape of the Jews from Egypt is remembered by Jews every year in the festival of Passover. The Jews were helped on their journey by God; the same God who'd promised Abraham that he would look after the Jews. God parted the Red Sea to help them escape and helped them in many other ways. When they reached a Mount Sinai, in present day Egypt, God spoke to Moses high on the mountain slopes and made a deal (called a covenant) with the Jews that renewed the one he had made with Abraham. At the same time, God gave the Jews a set of rules that they should live by.

Abraham



Abraham is a significant character in other religions - not only Christianity but Islam too. Muslims know Abraham as Ibrahim, and regard his as an important prophet of their faith. Ibrahim's first son Ishmael, known as Isma'il, is regarded as the father of the Arab people

The history of the Jewish people begins in Bronze Age times in the Middle East when God promised a nomad leader called Abram that he would be the father of a great people if he did as God told him. Jews regard Abraham (as he was later called) as the first Patriarch of the Jewish people. Abraham was the first person to teach the idea that there was only one God; before then, people believed in many gods. Ironically, Abraham's father, Terach, had made his living selling idols of various gods.

Significance

What is the point of these stories?
What do we learn from them?



"Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith"

YEAR 7 TERM2: Christian Beliefs & teachings:

The suffering of Christ

One of the most detailed stories we have from the whole of Jesus' life is the account of how he died. He was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor, and his death was to be by crucifixion.

Even though Christians believe that Jesus was the son of God, it does not mean that he was somehow spared the pain and horror of his crucifixion.

There are several ways in which the crucifixion affects Christians today:

- It gives them **confidence** that if they accept Jesus' sacrifice, sin can no longer destroy their loves because God forgives those who faithfully ask for forgiveness
- They believe that suffering is a part of life, just as it was a part of Jesus' life and that, having experienced it, **God understands** what the sufferer is going through.

Incarnation

Christians believe Jesus is the Son of God. He is God in **human form**, or God **'incarnate'**.

"The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us"

- Jesus gave humanity an **example** to follow.
- Even though Jesus is God in human form, he valued everyone equally: **"For you are all one in Christ"**.
- God **sacrificed** himself on the cross to take away the sins of human beings: **"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son"**
- Jesus is both immanent and personal

'Jesus'



Jesus' resurrection & ascension

Matthew 28:1-7; Mark 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-9



According to the accounts of Jesus' burial in the NT, he was placed in a tomb late Friday afternoon (Good Friday). How long he remained there is unclear, but we know that some of Jesus' female followers went to the tomb to anoint the body. Though details of the story vary between the 4 gospel accounts, they all make it clear that Jesus was nowhere to be found. The belief that Jesus rose from the dead is known as the **resurrection** and is a key teaching in the Christian faith. For Christians, it is **significant evidence** of the divine nature of Jesus.

Only Mark and Luke's gospels finish off their story by telling their readers that, after meeting his disciples and asking them to carry on his good work, Jesus left them for the last time and **ascended**, body and soul, into Heaven.

Salvation

Salvation means **'to be saved from a bad situation'**. In Christianity, this bad situation is sin, and the consequences of sin.

Sin has separated humans from God, and salvation enables humans to get close to God again.

Christians believe that Jesus' death makes up for the **original sin** committed by Adam & Eve and so can bring people back to god.

Jesus knew his death was **necessary** to restore the relationship between god and the believers and make the opportunity for salvation available to all people.

Jesus (as the Son of God) could have easily avoided being crucified. His crucifixion was the result of human evil against an innocent man. It needed to happen, in order to **atone** for the sins of humanity.

"Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith"

Parables

A story used to teach a lesson or a moral

The Good Samaritan
"Love your neighbour"



The sheep & the goats
"Whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me"



Miracles

An act which seems to break the laws of nature

Calming the storm

This is a miracle over **NATURE**

Water into wine

This was Jesus' **first** miracle

Healing a paralysed man

This is a **HEALING** miracle