

Knowledge organiser - The Fall

Topic Top Ten	
Baptism	A ceremony that starts you in a new life as a Christian
Confession	For Christians, telling God your sins and asking for forgiveness,
Creation	How the world began
The Fall	The moment when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and were punished by him
Misogyny	Prejudice against women
Original sin	The belief that humans are all born sinful as we have inherited sin from Adam and Eve
Salvation	Being saved from sin. Christians believe Jesus died to pay for our sins so we can be saved
Sexism	Treating one gender differently from another
Sin	An action that goes against God's laws and affects your relationship with him
Spiritual	Holy, having a soul or non-physical side to your existence, linked to thoughts and feelings

Creation

- There are two versions of the Christian creation story in the **Book of Genesis** in the Bible.
- Scholars think they are based on different stories handed down from thousands of years ago. Both were originally written in the **Hebrew** language.
- In the first version, God is referred to as **Elohim**. He is shown to be remote and powerful.
- In the second version, God is referred to as **Yahweh**. He is shown to be more involved with the world and as someone we have a relationship with.
- In both versions, God created the world from nothing and humans were the last things he created. God gave humans a beautiful world to live in and enjoy.

The image of God

The first version of the Creation story tells us that humans were made in the image of God. Christians believe this means we have a special connection with God and share some of his qualities, such as the ability to be creative and caring, and that we have a spiritual side to our nature - we are more than just physical beings.

For example

We create beautiful artwork, architecture, music and literature.
We invent things to make our lives better.
We care for each other and for other living things.
We wonder about life's big questions.

Glory and wretchedness

The philosopher Blaise Pascal said that humans are capable of both **glory** and **wretchedness**. As well as all the good things we do (the **glory**) we also do bad things (the **wretchedness**) such as be unkind or selfish, fight wars and invent things which are harmful to ourselves and the planet.

IF WE ARE MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE, WHY ARE WE SOMETIMES BAD?

The Fall

God told Adam and Eve they would live in the Garden of Eden where life would be perfect, but told them they must not eat the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. But the Devil in the form of a snake tempted them to eat the fruit and disobey God.



When they ate the fruit, they were ashamed of their nakedness and made themselves clothes. They hid from God but he found them and punished them.

The snake was punished by being made to crawl on the ground and be the enemy of humans.

Eve was punished by being made to suffer in childbirth and to have to obey Adam.

Adam was punished by being made to suffer and work hard to provide for his family.

They were expelled from the Garden of Eden and their lives would no longer be easy and perfect.

Christians call Adam and Eve's disobedience the **Original Sin**. It was the first time humans broke God's rules. It shows that humans are not perfect and are capable of doing bad things. Christian scholars understand the impact of the Fall in different ways

St Augustine said

The world was perfect and humans spoiled it by being tempted to sin.

We deserve to suffer as a fair punishment and do not deserve to go to Heaven.

Some of us can go to Heaven thanks to Jesus

Irenaeus said

We have the potential to be like God, but we have to develop into fully being in his likeness.

Suffering helps us to learn to become better people, so we all still have a chance to go to Heaven.

The effect of the story of the Fall on women

In the past, Christians have blamed Eve for the Fall and as a result, claimed that women could not be trusted and men must be in charge.

This has led to **sexism** and **misogyny**. Women have been treated less well than men. They have been expected to stay at home and obey their husbands and fathers. Their opinions have not been valued and they have been subjected to abuse.

Why are we sometimes good and sometimes bad? Some explanations

Christians - we can be good because we are made in God's image, but we have inherited a sinful human nature from Adam and Eve so we are sometimes bad.

Psychologists - our impulses sometimes tell us to be bad. We can learn from our upbringing and experiences to override our bad impulses sometimes.

Sociologists - Whether we are good or bad depends on our relationships with others and on our society.

Evolutionary scientists - Whether we are good or bad depends on what is best for our survival.

