

1.1 Religious texts: The Bible

The Bible is the Holy Book for Christians. It is made up of the Old Testament (39 books) and the New Testament (27 books). It is a series of eyewitness accounts made by over 44 authors.

The Bible is the word of God; it tells Christians how to live their lives and describes the start of Christianity. It has rules such as the 10 commandments. The Bible teaches lessons through parables. Parables are stories with a meaning.

The Bible states that Jesus is the Messiah. It is God's rescue plan for humanity. The authors of the 66 books were told by Angels what to write.

However, since there were so many books, a group of Romans came together to choose which books were actually a part of the Bible.

Old Testament

→ Due to the fact that Jesus was a Jew, the Old Testament is very important to Christians & Jesus as this meant his followers were also Jewish.

→ It contains history, law, poetry & prophecy.

→ One of the major themes of the Bible is the relationship between God & humanity. The prophets wrote about the coming of a Messiah, who would bring peace to the Earth.

A liberal would believe that this is an analogy for Jesus' power and a lesson on how people should always give to the needy. They believe that the Bible is a collection of analogies, symbols and metaphors.

A conservative would believe that the 5000 was exaggerated as they believe that the Bible was written by humans who were inspired by God. They follow its teachings but not word for word.

Miracle definition: An extraordinary and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore attributed to divine agency.

The Ten commandments

1. No other gods
2. No idols
3. ~~No~~ No Blasphemy (using Lord's name in vain)
4. Keep the Sabbath
5. Honour / respect your mother & father
6. No murder
7. No adultery
8. No thievery Don't Steal
9. Don't Lie
10. Don't covet (wanting or jealousy)

Sources of authority

- Pope (for some)
- Jesus (for all)
- Bishops
- Priests/ Preacher/ Vicar/ Minister
- Archbishops
- God
- Deacons
- Disciples
- Founders e.g. Smith
- community
- personal experience
- conscience
- Monks
- Cardinals
- parents
- Mary
- The Bible
- 12 apostles
- congregation
- Sacred texts
- Religious principles & rules
- family & friends
- thinking

Religious authority

Personal authority

Conscience

Conscience: A person's moral sense of right and wrong, viewed as acting as a guide to one's behaviour.

Your conscience can be described as a sense of right and wrong. Christians believe that it is the voice of God. However, your conscience can and must be educated through scripture, prayer and experience. The conscience is something you should follow, even if you are not religious. Christians believe that God is revealed to them by reason. However, it can pose a problem as some Christians may be unsure of how to interpret God's voice.

The birth of Jesus Christ (Christmas)

The exact day Jesus was born is unknown but it is celebrated on the 25th of December also known as Christmas. Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem into a Virgin mother. He was born as a Jew as his mom was Jewish but was later baptised by John the Baptist. After he was born, 3 people came to give him gifts (3 wise men, Magi). There was a star above where he was born.

The life of Jesus Christ

Throughout his life he performed miracles such as feeding the 5000 & "ascending to heaven". Along with this he was crucified.

John the Baptist

John the Baptist was a prophet born in the first decade B.C.E. He baptised Jesus Christ and had disciples. He died between 28-36 C.E.

Why is baptism important?

It shows that Jesus was also a servant of God like them, making people want to follow in his steps. Along with this, it shows that Jesus also followed the sacraments like others. Additionally, the baptism proved that Jesus was the son of God. Also, 3 of the Gospels acknowledge that he was baptised.

The temptation of Jesus

After Jesus was baptised and shown to be the son of God, the Holy Spirit led him into the desert where he fasted for 40 days & nights. During this time, the devil tempted him.

>> He ~~was~~ was tempted to turn the stones around him into bread to satiate his hunger but he recited the word of God saying "Men cannot live on bread alone"

>> He was tempted to jump off a building to test the word of God. Jesus said that he would save his angels but Jesus simply recite "Thou Shalt not tempt the Lord thy God". This basically means "don't test the word of God"

>> Finally, he was tempted with control and dominion over all earthly Kingdoms by "you shall down and do an act of worship to me". Jesus ~~rejected~~ rejected and told Satan "You shall worship the Lord your God and only him you shall serve". This references the 1st commandment "No other Gods". Since Jesus passed God's tests, Satan departed and angels tended to Jesus.

Lessons of Jesus

Parable definition — A simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson, as told by Jesus in the Gospels.

Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)

Jesus went up a mountain and gathered his disciples around him. The rest of the followers stood pale beneath him. During this talk he spoke to his disciples about what it means to follow him; he taught about what it means to be a follower. Along with this he taught subjects such as prayer, justice, care for the needy etc. To end, he stated how his followers should live differently to other people.

Parables

A Parable is a story with a meaning (also called an allegory). Jesus used them frequently while teaching. Parables appear in both testaments but are more easily recognizable in the ministry of Jesus.

As many people rejected Jesus as the Messiah, Jesus used Parables to explain that those who sought God would grasp the deeper meaning.

Jesus taught heavenly truths through earthly stories. The way that parables are taught make it impossible for the listener to escape the truth.

35% of Jesus' spoken words were parables.

The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)

This parable tells the story of a father and his two sons. The younger son asks for his inheritance early and quickly spends it all by living a life of indulgence. Ashamed, he returns home hoping to work as a servant. To his surprise, his father welcomes him with open arms and holds a feast to celebrate his return. The older brother is upset as he has always been obedient & worked ~~diligently~~ diligently. The father represents grace and his unconditional love and forgiveness and how people should not hold grudges. The younger son represents sinners who wish to repent.

The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

This parable tells the story of a traveller who was robbed, stripped of his clothes, and beaten and left half-dead by the road. A Jewish priest and a Levite both pass him and ignore him. Finally a Samaritan comes and helps him despite the rift between Jews & Samaritans. It shows how you should love your neighbours yourself and stresses the importance of showing compassion for those in need.

Two examples of Jesus' healing

1. A Roman soldier asked Jesus to heal his paralyzed servant. Jesus was shocked and called him the holiest man in Israel as his asking proved he had faith. When the soldier returned, the servant could move.
2. Jesus & his disciples found a man who was born blind & people thought it was simply God's will. Since Jesus saw their faith, he mixed mud with his spit. When the man put it in his eyes & washed it, he was able to see.