

Explain Christian Beliefs about the Devil

6 marks

Some Christians believe that the Devil is a real being. These Christians would point to the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3 where the Devil (embodied as a snake) persuades Eve to eat the fruit that God has told her not to eat. This shows the Devil as a real being not a symbolic one. Another example of Devil is when he tempts Jesus with wealth, power and food in the desert after his baptism in Luke 5:8. A final example they would draw on would be the story of Job in Exodus 34:6 where the Devil persuades God to test Job's faith by letting him bring suffering down upon him, he does this and Job remains faithful for which God rewards him. In all three of these stories the Devil is represent as a real, sometimes physical, being.

However there are those Christians that Believe that the Devil is a symbolic figure, representing their inner struggle between obeying God and their worldly desires. When a Christian is trying to decided between a good and an evil choice they might often ascribe their temptation to defy God to the Devil, a symbol of Evil. They might also say that this is God testing their faith as seen in the story Job where God tests Job's faith. In this story God does not test Job further than he can bare and that God always has a plan for you, in which you will be rewarded for your faith.