

THE NATURE OF GOD ACCORING TO CHRISTIANS

A Summary

The nature of the Christian God

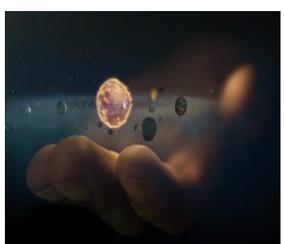
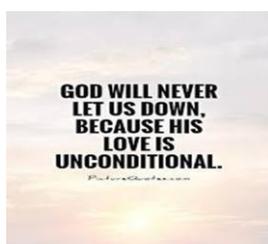
Christians are monotheists. This means that they believe there is **only one God**. It is very difficult to describe God, because everyday language is always about ordinary things, but God is not ordinary. Christians therefore use a variety of different **key terms** to describe the characteristics of God.

Add a symbol to help you remember and revise each of the key characteristics.



Christians believe the nature of God is revealed through God's actions.

Task: Under each image, try to add three keyterms which you believe describe the nature of God.



-
-
-

-
-
-

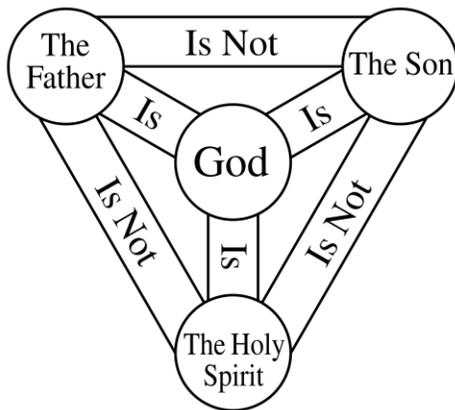
-
-
-

-
-
-

-
-
-

THE TRINITY

The Trinity is a way of describing the three ways of being God – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. It describes the relationship between these three 'persons' which are all part of the one God. Statements about the Trinity are found in the Nicene Creed (the Christian statement of faith):



God the Father
in Heaven

God the Son -
Jesus

God the Holy
Spirit – God active
in the world

1. **Label the diagram with a 'snippet' quote from the Nicene creed.**
2. **Look at the images below. Which part of the trinity are they referring to? Label below.**



THE NICINE CREED

Christians say this in Church as a declaration of their faith and belief in God as three parts:

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth...

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father...

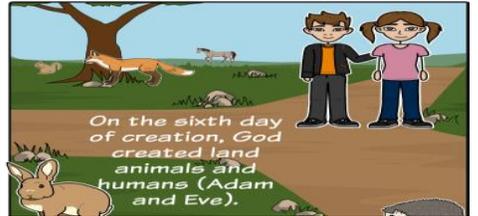
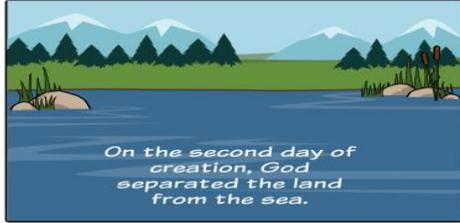
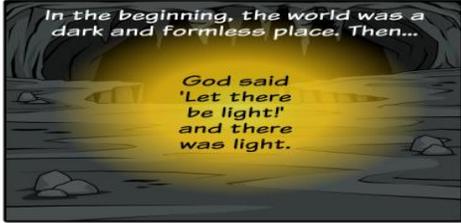
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

CREATION

Which of the key terms to describe the nature of God would you link to the creation?

Christians believe God is the creator of the world and universe.

Details of creation are found in the book of Genesis (Old Testament – the first book of the Bible.)



How does the Genesis story influence Christians today? (4m questions)

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image"

"Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and everything that creeps upon the earth."

"Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it."

This would influence a Christian to..

For example,

This would influence a Christian to..

For example,

This would influence a Christian to..

For example,

The Gospel of John

The New Testament also contains stories of the Creation of the Earth (around 600 years after the Genesis story was written. Here is an extract from the Gospel of John:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made."

What does John's Gospel tell us about God's word?
.....

What does John's Gospel tell us about the nature of God?
.....

Can you give an example of the power of 'God's word' being shown in the Genesis story?
.....

GOD AS JUST

What does it mean to be 'just'?

To be 'just' means to be fair, to operate in a way which gives everyone equal value and equal rights, rather than being discriminatory.

Christians believe that God treats people with justice and fairness. He will also judge people with justice and fairness after they die.



God's plans will always be greater and more beautiful than all your disappointments.

What does the Bible advise Christians about? (5m questions)
Include an explanation for each of the quotes.

For I the Lord love justice.

This means...

For the LORD loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones.

This means...

His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice

This means...

How are Christians influenced by a belief in a just God? (4m questions)
Include an explanation for each of the images.



This would influence Christians to...

This shows justice because...

This would influence Christians to...

This shows justice because...

This would influence Christians to...

This shows justice because...

This would influence Christians to...

This shows justice because...

RESSURECTION

The importance of the resurrection for Christians.

1. First, the resurrection shows the immense power of God Himself. To believe in the resurrection is to believe in God. If God exists, and if He created the universe and has power over it, then He has power to raise the dead. If He does not have such power, He is not worthy of our faith and worship.
2. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is also important because it proves who Jesus claimed to be, namely, the Son of God and Messiah. According to Jesus, His resurrection was the "sign from heaven" that proved his claim to be the son of God.
3. According to belief, Jesus Christ died, was buried, and rose the third day according to the Bible. Christians therefore believe they can have the same fate if they worship God.

Task: Summarise each of these three reasons in a tweet:

an we do next time?



@ _____ # _____



@ _____ # _____



@ _____ # _____

So Christians believe, the resurrection enabled sins to be forgiven and to be able to access heaven. How might this influence their actions?



RESURRECTION TIMELINE

Jesus was placed in a tomb. A large stone covered the entrance and soldiers guarded the sealed tomb.

On the third day, a Sunday, several women including Mary Magdalene went to the tomb at dawn to anoint the body of Jesus.

A violent earthquake took place as an angel from heaven rolled back the stone. The angel announced to the women that Jesus who was crucified was no longer in the tomb, "He is risen, just as he said." Then he instructed the women to inspect the tomb and see for themselves.

Next he told them to go inform the disciples. With a mixture of fear and joy they ran to obey the angel's command, but suddenly Jesus met them on their way. They fell at his feet and worshiped him.

Jesus then said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee. There they will see me."

After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to the women near the tomb and later to the disciples while they were gathered at a house in prayer.

He visited two of the disciples on the road to Emmaus and he also appeared at the Sea of Galilee while several of the disciples were fishing.

Ascension

The Ascension Bible story:

During the 40 days after Jesus' resurrection, (being raised from the dead), he appeared to his disciples from time to time. He took them to the Mount of Olives and spoke to them about the kingdom of God.

Once he told them to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the gift he would send them. That gift would be the Holy Spirit. He would live in them and guide them so they could spread the word. He would be a Comforter to them. Jesus wanted them to tell everyone on earth that he had died for them. He told them to teach and to baptize those who believed.

After Jesus said this, he was taken up to heaven right in front of their eyes. A cloud hid him from their sight and two angels, who looked like men dressed in white, came and stood beside them.

The angels said, "Why are you looking up in the sky? This same Jesus who has been taken up into heaven will come back some day in the same way you have seen him go into heaven

Task: Complete the mindmap using the information from the Bible story to help you.

Who?

Why?

What?

Where?

How?

When?

A quote to remember:



The importance of the Ascension

The importance of the Ascension helps reaffirm to Christians that Jesus was the son of God. How did the ascension do this?
.....

The ascension prompted role of the disciples in spreading Jesus' message and life story. How might this influence Christians?
.....

Can you link this to 'the Good news' and evangelism?
.....

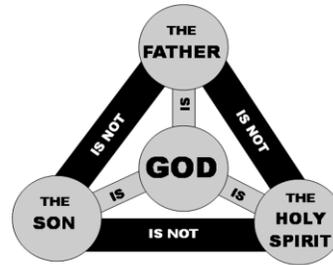
THE INCARNATION

Incarnation – becoming flesh, taking a human form.

Comes from the Latin term ‘carne’, which means flesh. This idea is different to being conceived and born normally as it suggests Jesus already existed before birth.

God the Son

- **God the Son** – the incarnation of God as a human being, Jesus Christ, on Earth.



According to Christian belief, Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the time of Herod the Great to a virgin whose name was Mary. The angel Gabriel told Mary that a child would be born to her and she was to name him **Jesus**, for he would be the son of God.

The most important belief about the incarnation is that Jesus was fully divine (God) and fully human. This is central to the idea of the trinity, because Jesus is part of God, but also man on earth.

Identify whether the statements are referring to Jesus as divine, human or both:

Jesus experienced many emotions. He felt fear when he was about to die, he felt hunger when he fasted in the desert, he felt pain when he was put to death: _____

According to the Bible, Jesus performed many miracles. He enabled a blind man to see, turned water into wine and walked on water: _____

According to Christian belief, Jesus resurrected and appeared to many people, he also ascended into heaven in front of his disciples carried by angels: _____

Jesus became so angry at the merchants who used the temple (holy place) as a trading/market place that he turns over the tables of the men with the money and scatters their coins. _____

The Nicene Creed advises Jesus is now ‘seated at the right hand of the father.’ _____

SALVATION

Key terms:

Sin: Any action or thought that displeases or weakens the relationship with God; behaviour which is against God's rules or principles of being a good person.

Salvation: saving the soul, deliverance from sin and admission to heaven brought about by Jesus.

Grace: The quality of love and forgiveness for all through believing in God.

Getting to heaven is possibly the most important aspect of all belief; this is called salvation (being saved by God). Jesus died so that Christians could achieve heaven but this has to be earned; Christians are provided with free will which enables them to be faithful or unfaithful to God. Christians believe that earth is temporary, but the afterlife is permanent. Heaven is a place of blissful paradise, whereas hell is a place of eternal torture. Christians vary differently on however on how they believe salvation is to be achieved. There are however three main types of salvation.



Original sin: Genesis 2 advises us that the earth was perfect and without sin. Eve, however, cast sin into the world by disobeying God and eating the fruit. Now all humans are born with original sin. The tendency to disobey God. EG – lying/stealing. Part of being a Christian involves overcoming these urges to please God. This is why life is considered a test.

Salvation by Grace	Salvation by deeds	Salvation by law
To achieve salvation only through faith in God/Christianity and reliance on God's grace (will), not through good deeds or actions. This means only Christians can achieve heaven.	To achieve salvation by our acts or endeavors. Namely, how well we treat others or the environment we live. This often is interpreted that everyone can achieve heaven if they're good.	This means being saved on the basis of a Christian faith. St Paul advised, "By grace you are saved through faith; and not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."
<u>How might this influence an individuals' actions/thoughts or behavior?</u>		
<u>Positive aspects of this belief</u>		
<u>Negatives aspects of this belief</u>		

EXAM QUESTIONS

The Nature of God:

Which of the following refers to the Christian belief that God is powerful? (1 mark)

- a. Omniscient b. Omnipotent c. Omnibenevolent d. Just

Explain two ways Christians would describe the nature of God (2 marks)

-
- Explain two ways Christians would be influenced by the belief in an omnibenevolent God. (4 marks)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Explain two Christian beliefs about the nature of God. Refer to scripture in your answer. (5 marks)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Trinity

Which of the following is the religious idea that God is three in one?

- b. Sacrament b. Incarnation c. Liturgy d Trinity

Name two parts of the trinity:

-
-

Explain two ways that the trinity may influence Christians today. (4 marks)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Explain two Christian beliefs about the trinity. Refer to scripture in your answer. (5 marks)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Creation:

The story of Creation can be found in which Old testament book? (1 mark)

- a. Exodus
- b. Leviticus
- c. Genesis
- d Gospel of John

Name two parts of creation outlined in the book of Genesis (2 mark)

-
-

Explain two ways that 'Gods word' as told in the Gospel of John may influence Christians today (4m)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Explain two Christian beliefs about creation. Refer to scripture in your answer. (5 marks)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

God as just/salvation:

The act of being saved and being granted access to heaven is known as what? (1 mark)

- b. Forgiveness
- b. Incarnation
- c. Salvation
- d Sin

Explain two ways Christians may demonstrate just behaviour. (2 marks)

-
-

Explain two ways that Christians may be influenced by a just God. (4m)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Explain two contrasting Christian beliefs about salvation. Refer to scripture in your answer. (5 marks)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Crucifixion/Resurrection:

Which of the following refers to the day Jesus is believed to have been crucified? (1 mark)

- a. Forgiveness b. Incarnation c. Salvation d Sin

Describe two ways Jesus' disciples knew that Jesus had risen. (2 marks)

-
-

Explain two ways that Christians may be influenced by Jesus' crucifixion (4m)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Explain two contrasting Christian beliefs about the resurrection. Refer to scripture in your answer. (5 marks)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Incarnation/Ascension:

40 days after Jesus resurrection, Christians celebrate which feast day. (1 mark)

- a. Incarnation b. Easter c. Salvation d. Ascension

Describe two ways Jesus' disciples knew that Jesus had risen (2 marks)

-
-

Explain two ways that Christians may be influenced by the incarnation (4 marks)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Explain two contrasting Christian beliefs about the incarnation. Refer to scripture in your answer. (5 marks)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....