

Judgement

Judgement in Christian Doctrine

- Christianity teaches that God judges all the people who die in the afterlife.
 - This determines what will happen to them after death; in most denominations, people either go straight to Heaven (good) or straight to Hell (bad).
 - In Roman Catholicism, there is the secondary belief that people can go to a place called purgatory which is a state of being a spirit. It is where they go to be cleansed.
 - ‘He rules the world with righteousness and judges the people with equity’ – Psalms 9:8
 - The quote shows how Christians view God’s judgement. Christians have faith that God is ultimately right in whatever they do.
 - God sees everything and knows everything and so can make the best or rather the most informed judgement as a result – to question him is therefore wrong.
 - According to the Apostles’ Creed, God judges the ‘living and the dead’ at the end of time.
 - Christians believe people must be judged not on a human standard but on the holy standard of God, it is impossible for humans to make a truly informed judgement but God can.
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Creation

- There are different views on how the book of Genesis can be interpreted and whether it is literal or not. Some people take it for word and some look deeper at it.
- ‘In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth’ – Genesis 1:1
- ‘**It is good**’ – These three words are mentioned several times in Genesis to show that God is not arrogant but is humble about his works. They are ‘good’. They are not ‘evil’ or ‘bad’ as God doesn’t create evil and only created the potential to be evil.
- ‘**He rested on the seventh day**’ – An example to Christians that while work is important, taking a break is important as well to marvel at God’s works and worship him. Otherwise you become so absorbed with your work that you are in effect worshipping it.
- The book of Timothy, a Christian book outside of the Bible also describes the importance of God’s creation being good: ‘**Everything created by God is good and nothing is to be rejected...**’

The Law

- God reveals how humans can be good through the law, for example, the ten commandments represent how God interprets human nature and the Beatitudes from the SOTM also do.
 - God cannot tolerate sin because he is naturally good and the Devil is artificially bad.
 - However, God gave humans free will and believes that everyone should be able to do what they want, there are consequences from our actions as an exchange for free-will.
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The Euthyphro Dilemma

- If God is omnipotent, or all-powerful, can God change the definition of wrong or right?
- Are morally good acts willed by God because they are good, or are they good because God said they were good? If God isn't real, does goodness really exist?
- The Euthyphro Dilemma originated from the mind of Plato, an ancient Greek philosopher.
- The scientist Richard Dawkins claims that God is 'the most unpleasant character in all fiction'.
- Some of the stories involved in his conclusion are: Noah's Ark, The Binding of Isaac, Sodom and Gomorrah. Dawkins claims that these show God is a brutal figure.
- This ideology suggests that God is naturally immoral and does what he wants, like a dictator.