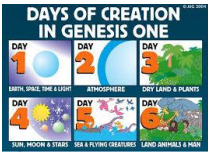



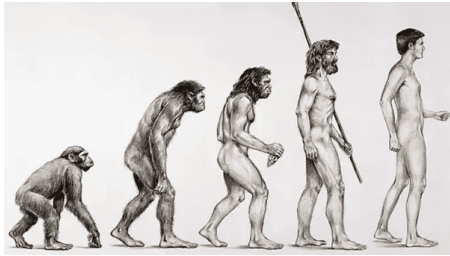


Religion and Life Overview

<p><u>Origins of Creation</u></p> 	<p><u>Problems Facing the Environment</u></p> 	<p><u>Solutions to Environmental Problems</u></p> 	<p><u>Animals</u></p> 
<p><u>Christianity</u> Fundamentalists (creationists) - six literal days '24 hour periods of creation (Genesis = literal.) God created everything in six days and rested on the seventh day. Don't accept the Big Bang theory. "Your Lord is God who created the heavens and the Earth in six days." (Genesis) Liberals - Six days = longer period of time. Can accept the Big Bang as part of God's plan. (Genesis = symbolic)</p> <p><u>Islam</u> Six days = six periods of time. No reference in the Qur'an as to what was created each day. Heaven and Earth split in two smoke-like forms by Allah. Sounds similar to the conditions of the Big Bang. Can accept the Big Bang as part of Allah's plan.</p> <p><u>Science</u> Expansion of time and space over 13.8 billion years (Big Bang.) Evidence - Red Shift and CMBR.</p>	<p>There are numerous problems facing the environment; including deforestation, climate change and plastic pollution.</p> <p><u>Christianity</u> Christians should behave as stewards and are responsible to care and protect the world that God created. Adam was told to look after it, "The Lord God took the man (Adam) and put him in the Garden of Eden to work and care of it." (Genesis) Although a minority of Christians take the approach of dominion, that they can use the environment for their own use as they choose, e.g. Trump encouraging the use of fossil fuels. This is because the Bible also says that Adam was told to "rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky." However, this approach of dominion causes environmental damage and can lead to the destruction of habitats and the extinction of animals.</p> <p><u>Islam</u> Muslims should act as khalifah (stewards) and protect what Allah has created. They will be judged on how they have fulfilled this role. They don't promote dominion.</p>	<p><u>Christianity</u> Christians promote the 3 R's as part of stewardship - reduce, reuse and recycle in order to reduce the use of non-renewable resources such as coal, oil and gas and move towards renewable resources, such as wind, sea and solar. They encourage sustainable development - develop with the use of recycled resources such as recycled wood and renewable energy. Reduce - food waste, plastic waste etc. Reuse - bags, clothes etc. Recycle - bottles, cans etc. "The Lord God took the man (Adam) and put him in the Garden of Eden to work and care of it." (Genesis)</p> <p><u>Islam</u> The planet is only on loan and should be given back as Muslims found it. They promote the 3 R's and living simply like the Prophet Muhammad demonstrated. "Do not seek from it more than you need." (Hadith) "Eat and drink (as we have permitted) but do not be extravagant." (Qur'an)</p>	<p><u>Christianity</u> Some eat meat in line with God's command to Noah after the flood, whilst others are vegan/vegetarian for ethical reasons - i.e. slaughter is cruel. Pro-meat: "Everything that lives and moves will be food for you." Anti-meat: "The righteous care for the needs of their animals." But they shouldn't judge one another. "The one who eats everything (meat) must not treat with contempt the one who does not..." Some Christians accept vivisection (medical) to find cures to diseases, others say it is cruel and unreliable. 3R's - reduce, refine, replace. Pro-vivisection: "rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky." Anti-vivisection: "The righteous care for the needs of their animals." No acceptance of non-essential cosmetic testing (for shampoos, soaps, makeup etc.)</p> <p><u>Islam</u> Only halal meat is eaten (Sharia law.) "It is God who provides livestock for you." Only essential testing is allowed - vivisection <u>is</u> essential to save lives, cosmetic <u>is not</u>. Human cells used instead.</p>

Origins of Human Life



Christianity

Fundamentalists - Adam was created in **God's image** - 6th day of creation. God made him from the **soil**. **"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."** Eve created from Adam's rib. Fundamentalists do not accept evolution.

Liberals - **Evolution is God's plan** for humanity, he started it off and oversees it. Man did evolve from other animals.

Islam

Adam is the **first man and prophet**, moulded from clay. Hawwa is his wife made from the same soul. **"You humans were lifeless and He gave you life."**

Some Muslims accept animal evolution but not human evolution. Adam was inserted into the process.

Science

Humans and animals evolved from a **common ancestor** through **natural selection**. Charles Darwin's theory. Evidence - DNA and fossil record.

Abortion

Human Embryonic and Foetal Development



Abortion is the termination of a foetus. UK law - before **24 weeks**.

Christianity:

Pro-life: Life of foetus is equal to mothers.

Sanctity of the life of the foetus/it was made in **God's image** and should be protected. **"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb."**

Pro-choice: Choice of the mother is more important than the life of foetus. Abortion of the **lesser of two evils**. In the cases of rape or severe disability abortion is the less evil option. **"Clothe yourself with compassion."**

Islam:

Abortion is generally **haram**; however, is **permitted** if there will severe mental/physical disabilities of foetus or to save mother's life. Some Muslims accept abortion in the case of rape. Abortion must happen **before ensoulment**. Contrasting views - **40 days vs 120 days**.

Abortion is never accepted in the case of **financial difficulties**. **"Do not kill your children for fear of poverty - We shall provide for them and you."**

Euthanasia



Euthanasia refers to the **merciful** ending of the life of someone in severe pain or terminally ill, e.g. Daniel James. Legal in the Netherlands and Switzerland but not the UK (14 year prison sentence for aiding.)

Christianity

RC - Oppose euthanasia due to the **sanctity of life** argument and the idea everyone was created in the **image of God**. **"So God created mankind in his own image."** Also, Jesus put up with his suffering so we should too - **resilience**.

CofE - Generally more accepting due to the **lesser of two evils** argument in the case of terminal illness and severe pain and the **argument from freewill**.

Apply agape - **"love your neighbour as yourself."**

Islam

Euthanasia is **haram** and against the **sanctity of life** of a person. Undermines **Al-Qadr** (predestination) as prematurely ends a life that God had a plan for. **"No soul may die except with God's permission at a predestined time."**

Suffering could be part of God's plan for us (**a test**) which we shouldn't question.

Life after Death



Christianity

Heaven is a **reward**, described as a peaceful place with no pain or suffering; where God will **"wipe every tear from their eyes."** Whereas hell is a **punishment** for wrongdoers. Some Christians see it as a place of eternally burning flames and torment, whereas others see it as a darkness without the light of God.

Roman Catholics discuss **purgatory**; a place where the soul waits until it is cleansed enough to enter heaven.

Christians are influenced by the prospect of an afterlife to act like a 'sheep' in the parable of the Sheep and Goats, giving food and drink to the poor. **"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."**

Islam

The term for life after death is **Akhirah**. Muslims say this life is temporary and a test for the afterlife. There are seven levels of heaven in Islam described as **"the Garden of Gardens"** and one hell where sinners are said to **"dwell amid scorching wind and scalding water in the shadow of black smoke, neither cool nor refreshing."** **Judgement** happens after the al-Mahdi returns and Izraf'il blows the trumpet.