R.E: CHRISTIANITY – THE BIBLE KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

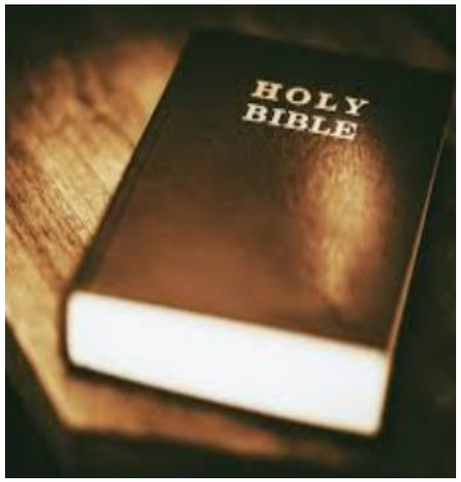
Overview

-The Bible is the holy book of Christianity. It is not written by one author, but rather is a collection of 66 different books within one volume.

-The Bible is divided into two parts: The Old Testament (which contains 39 books) and The New Testament (with 27 books).

-The Old Testament has the same content as the Jewish Tenakh. It mainly discusses creation and God's early relationship with the Jews.

-The New Testament mainly covers the life of Jesus, his followers, and early Christian communities.



Content of the Bible

The Old Testament

-The Old Testament is made up of several sections:

-Law is the first five books (Genesis to Deuteronomy). These are not 'laws' in the modern sense, but stories and ideas about how life should be lived.

-History contains the books of Joshua to Esther. This has twelve books which look at the history of the land of Israel.

-Wisdom is the book of Jobs to the Song of Songs. The Wisdom section contains 'intelligent' ideas about how life should be lived.

-Prophets contains the books of Isaiah to Malakai, and contains information about inspired preachers and teachers of God.

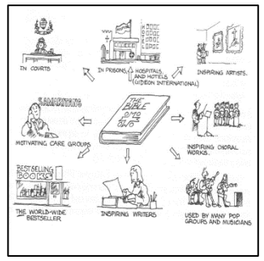
The New Testament

-The New Testament contains the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John. These contain the main records of the life & teachings of Jesus.

-The New Testament also contains that Acts of the Apostles, which were also written by Luke. This tells of how the actions of Jesus' followers after his death and resurrection led to the formation of the Christian Church.

-Finally, it contains the 21 Epistles (letters) written by Paul and the Book of Revelation, written by St. John the Divine. This discusses the end of the world.

The Importance of the Bible for Christians



Christians refer to the Bible as the word of God.

-Some take the words in the Bible as God's actual words, whilst others consider the Bible as the words of those inspired by God.

-Likewise, some Christians take every word in the Bible as though they are literally true, whilst others think that parts are figurative (not meant to be taken literally, but make a point). Whatever their outlook, all Christians agree that the Bible inspires and educates them in how they should live their lives.

Anglican Churches

In Anglican Churches, the Bible is placed on a lectern. The lectern is often shaped like an eagle – just as eagle soars and inspires, the Bible inspires people as it is read from the lectern to those in the church.

Catholic Churches

In Roman Catholic churches, the Bible is carried in procession (a ritual of a group of people moving forwards together) before it is read. This helps to show the respect that is held for the Bible and its words.

Key Vocabulary

Christianity
Bible
Jesus
Sacred
Testament
Gospels
Apostle
Literal
Figurative
Anglican
Catholic
Creation
Genesis

The Creation Story

This is the sequence of events from the creation story at the beginning of Genesis 1:

First Day: God made day and night.
Second Day: God made the sky, oceans & land.
Third Day: God made all kinds of plants.
Fourth Day: God made the Sun and the Moon.
Fifth Day: God made water & sky creatures.
Sixth Day: God created the other animals. He made humans to rule over the Earth.
Seventh Day: God finished his work and rested. He blessed the Seventh Day as a special day.

Personal Spirituality – Key Questions

- What books and stories are important to you?
- What lessons have you learnt from stories?
- What books and stories are important in your communities?
- What key events have happened in your life?
- How would you like your life story to be told?
- How can we contribute to our own life stories?
- Can we interpret the same stories in different ways?
- What are your favourite features of the natural world?
- How does the natural world make you feel?