

GRADE 9 – TERM 1

INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY (FROM THE TIME OF ABRAHAM TO THE TIME OF JESUS)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

On completion of this Section, students should:

1. explain the meaning of Hebrew Scriptures and Christian Scriptures.
2. define and discuss "Call" and "Covenant" for Judaism and Christianity.
3. identify and discuss the significance of the similarities and differences between the beliefs of Christianity and Judaism;
4. Examine Judaic sects (Sadducees, Pharisees, Essenes, Zealots) and compare each with the beliefs of various Christian denominations – Catholics, Seventh Day Adventists, Baptists and Pentecostals.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Students should be able to:

1. identify the difference between the Hebrew Scriptures and Christian Scriptures;
2. identify and discuss the significance of the similarities and differences between the origins of Christianity and Judaism;
3. identify and discuss the significance of the similarities and differences between the practices (rites of passage, initiation, symbols, music, worship space and worship rituals) of Christianity and Judaism;
4. identify the call of two individuals (one male, one female) from the Hebrew Scriptures and the call of two individuals (one male, one female) from the Christian Scriptures;
5. define and discuss the meaning of "covenant" for Christians and Jews.
6. Research the covenants of Noah, Abraham, Moses and the New Covenant and state how they may be related in the Christian context.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

Genesis 1, 2 & 3; Genesis 12:1 – 7; Leviticus 23; 1stSamuel 3:1 – 21; The Book of Esther; Jeremiah 1:4 – 19; Isaiah 6: 1 – 13; Judges 4; Judith 8; the Book of Ruth; Matthew 4:18 – 22; Luke 5:1 – 11; Luke 1:26 – 38;

FIELD TRIP

Students will be taken on a tour of the Jewish synagogue.

COURSE WORK

Students will present, as individual or group assignments, the following:

1. Essay: Individual presentation. Topic: How Am I Being Called By God? Between 300 and 600 words. Typed, double-spaced, Arial/Century Gothic Fonts, 12 points, justified margins.

RUBRIC

Neatness	30
Grammar	30
Clear expression of ideas	40

2. Using any presentation format, highlight the similarities and differences between each Jewish sect (Sadducees, Pharisees, Essenes, and Zealots) and Christian denominations of Catholics, Adventists; Baptists and Pentecostals.
3. Using any presentation format, examine four covenants God made and show their relationship with the beliefs of Christianity
4. Using any presentation format, identify and discuss the similarities and differences between the rites of initiation, symbols, music, festivals, worship space and worship rituals of Christianity and Judaism;

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RUBRIC (2, 3 & 4)

Creativity	30
Content	50
Group Involvement	20

5. Create a 3D-model representation of the Jamaican Jewish synagogue and compare it to the Christian worship space.

Model		70	RUBRIC		30
Neatness	30		Comparison	Grammar	10
Accuracy	40			Clarity of ideas	20

INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY (FROM THE TIME OF ABRAHAM TO THE TIME OF JESUS)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

On completion of this Section, students should:

1. know the creation stories of the five civilisations (Babylonians, Persians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans) in existence from the time of Abraham to the coming of Christ and compare each to the Christian creation stories;
2. identify the peoples and land (geography, climate, and economy) from the call of Abraham to the coming of Christ.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Students should be able to:

1. research the five civilisations (Persians, Assyrians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans) in existence from the time of Abraham to the coming of Christ focusing on their creation stories;
2. map the sequence of events in each creation story;
3. compare each creation story citing similarities and differences;
4. compare each creation story to that of the creation stories in Genesis.
5. label a map of the ancient Near East and identify the climate associated with the area. (Mesopotamia);
6. label a map of Palestine during the life of Jesus and identify the climate associated with the area;
7. identify at least three groups of people that had an impact on the development of Palestine.
8. identify five economic activities undertaken by Jews from the time of Abraham to the time of Christ (shepherd, farmers, cattle herders, fishermen, wine makers, carpenters, tentmakers, pottery makers, etc.) and discuss the impact of climate and topography on each.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

Genesis 1, 2; Genesis 10:2; Daniel 2:39; Daniel 8:21, 10:20, 11:2; Joel 3:6; Zechariah 9:13; Acts 20:3; Mark 7:26; Acts 20:21; Romans 1:16; Acts 6:1, 9:29; Isaiah 66:19; Ezekiel 27:13, 19;

COURSE WORK

Students will present, as individual or group assignments, the following:

1. Group Matthew: Create and label a 3D-map of the ancient Near East and identify the climate associated with the area. (Mesopotamia);
Group Mark: Create and label a 3D-map of the ancient Near East and identify the economic activities associated with the area. (Mesopotamia);

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Group Luke: Create and label a 3D-map of the Roman Empire during the life of Jesus and identify the climate associated with the area.

Group John: Create and label a 3D-map of the Roman Empire during the life of Jesus and identify the economic activities associated with the area.

RUBRIC

Neatness	50	Group Participation	20	Accuracy	30
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- Using any presentation format, compare the Persians, Assyrians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans creation stories to the Christian one.

RUBRIC

Neatness	20	Grammar	30	Creativity	20	Group Participation	30
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INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY (FROM THE TIME OF ABRAHAM TO THE TIME OF JESUS)

- Major Beliefs: 12 points of the Nicene Creed focussing on:
 - God is One, Almighty Creator with three distinct persons;
 - The Holy Spirit as Advocate;
 - Jesus Christ is Redeemer.

CONCERNING GOD THE FATHER

ARTICLE 1

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

This affirms that God exists, that he's a Triune God (one God in three persons, known as the Holy Trinity), and that he created the known universe.

CONCERNING GOD THE SON

ARTICLE 2

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.

&

ARTICLE 3

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

These two articles attest that Jesus is the Son of God and that he's most certainly divine. The word "Lord" implies divinity, because the Greek "Kyrios" and the Hebrew "Adonai" both mean "lord" and is ascribed only to God. So the use of Lord with Jesus is meant to profess His divinity. The name Jesus comes from the Hebrew "Jeshua", meaning "God saves." So Christians believe that Jesus is Saviour.

ARTICLE 4

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried,

This affirms the human nature of Christ, meaning he had a real, true human mother, and also affirms his divine nature, meaning he had no human father but by the power of the Holy Spirit was conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary. He's therefore considered both God and man by Christians—fully divine and fully human. The human nature of Christ could feel pain and actually die, and he did on Good Friday. The mention of Pontius Pilate by name wasn't meant so much to vilify him forever in history but to place the Crucifixion within human history. Reference is made to an actual historical person, the Roman

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governor of Judea, appointed by Caesar, to put the life and death of Jesus within a chronological and historical context. It also reminds the faithful that one can't blame all Jews for the death of Jesus, as some have erroneously done over the ages. Certain Jewish leaders conspired against Jesus, but the actual death sentence was given by a Roman and carried out by Roman soldiers. So both Jew and Gentile alike shared in the spilling of innocent blood. Anti-Semitism based on the Crucifixion of Jesus is inaccurate, unjust, and erroneous.

ARTICLE 5

and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

The hell Jesus descended into wasn't the hell of the damned, where Jews and Christians believe the devil and his demons reside. Hell was merely a word that Jews and early Christians used to describe the place of the dead. This passage affirms that on the third day he rose, meaning Jesus came back from the dead of his own divine power. He wasn't just clinically dead for a few minutes; he was dead dead — then he rose from the dead. More than a resuscitated corpse, Jesus possessed a glorified and risen body.

ARTICLE 6

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

The Ascension reminds the faithful that after the human and divine natures of Christ were united in the Incarnation, they could never be separated. In other words, after the saving death and Resurrection, Jesus didn't dump his human body as if he didn't need it anymore. Catholicism teaches that his human body will exist forever. Where Jesus went, body and soul, into heaven, the faithful hope one day to follow.

ARTICLE 7

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

This article affirms the Second Coming of Christ at the end of the world to be its judge. Judgment Day, Day of Reckoning, Doomsday – they are all metaphors for the end of time when what is known as the General Judgment will occur. Catholics believe that after the death of any human person, immediate private judgment occurs and the person goes directly to heaven, hell, or purgatory (an intermediate place in preparation for heaven).

CONCERNING GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

ARTICLE 8

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

This part reminds the believer that God exists in three persons — the Holy Trinity — God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. What's referred to as the Force in the movie Star Wars isn't the same as the Holy Spirit, who is a distinct person equal to the other two — God the Father and God the Son.

CONCERNING THE CHURCH, BAPTISM, THE RESURRECTION AND LAST THINGS

ARTICLE 9

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

Christians believe that the Church is more than a mere institution. It is an essential dimension and aspect of spiritual life. Christ explicitly uses the word church ("ekklesia" in Greek) in Matthew 16 when he says, "I will build My Church."

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ARTICLE 10

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins...

Christ came to save the world from sin. Belief in the forgiveness of sins is essential to Christianity. Catholicism believes sins are forgiven in Baptism and in the Sacrament of Penance.

ARTICLE 11

and I look forward to the resurrection of the body...

From the Catholic perspective, a human being is a union of body and soul, so death is just the momentary separation of body and soul until the end of the world, the Second Coming of Christ, the General Judgment, and the resurrection of the dead. The just go, body and soul, into heaven, and the damned go, body and soul, into hell.

ARTICLE 12

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

As Christ Our Savior died, so, too, must mere mortals. As he rose, so shall all human beings. Death is the only way to cross from this life into the next. At the very moment of death, private judgment occurs; Christ judges the soul:

BIBLE REFERENCES:

Genesis 1:1 - 2:3; John 6:63-64; Mark 14:45; Deuteronomy 21:23; 1 Corinthians 15:4; Psalm 110:1; John 20:17; Exodus 13:22; Mark 16:19; 1Thessalonians 4:16-17; Matthew 24:1; Revelation 20:1-3, 7; Luke 18:8; 1Thessalonians 4:18-5:3; Genesis 2:7; John 20:21-23; John 15:26; Galatians 4:6; Romans 8:9; Philippians 1:19; Matthew 1:20; Ephesians 5:23-32; Galatians 4:6; Romans 8:9; Philippians 1:19; Matthew 1:20; Ephesians 5:23-32;

COURSE WORK

Students will present, as individual or group assignments, the following:

1. Essay: Individual presentation. Topic: My Creed For My Life. Between 400 and 600 words. Typed, double-spaced, Arial/Century Gothic Fonts, 12 points, justified margins.

RUBRIC

Neatness	30	Grammar	40	Clarity of ideas	30
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2. Using any presentation format, create names for Jesus based on the Nature of Christ; His position in the Holy Trinity; and His Work on Earth (hand-out to be given).

RUBRIC

Neatness	50	Group Participation	20	Accuracy	30
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3. Create an artistic impression of God as Father; God as Creator; God, the Son; and God, the Holy Spirit.

RUBRIC

Neatness	20	Creativity	50	Group Participation	30
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