

GRADE TEN (10) WORK

TOPIC: BIRTH AND INFANCY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST AND JESUS

1. Describe what happens after a baby has been born in a Zambian home/family.

ANSWER:

- There's naming of the baby
- There's protection of the baby
- Celebrations are done
- Relatives and friends bring gifts either for the baby or the mother.

2. Explain how names are chosen and given to the infants

- Names can either be chosen before or after the baby is born
- The baby is named after a living relative or ancestor
- Circumstances or situations can sometimes determine the name of the baby. E.g. Mwendalubi(mother dies while giving birth (Bemba)

3. Why are birth traditions and customs important

- Appreciation of new life
- Identity of the baby
- Continuity of life
- Shows the usefulness of the child to the community

4. BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Birth Texts

- (i) The announcement of the birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:11-22)
- (ii) The Birth and naming of John the Baptist (Luke 1:57-66)

LIFE AND MINISTRY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

- The angel gave Zachariah following reasons for John's birth
 - (i) He would be a fore runner of the Messiah
 - (ii) He would be a healer of discord
 - (iii) He would be a spiritual Elijah
 - (iv) He would prepare the nation for the coming of the Messiah

RULES APPLIED TO A NAZIRITE

- No drinking of alcohol
- No cutting of hair
- Not going near or touching any dead body

How the Life and Ministry of John the Baptist were a fulfillment of the Old Testament Prophecy

- He was a fore runner of the Messiah
- He was a healer of discord
- He prepared the nation of Israel for the coming Messiah

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS

BIBLE TEXTS: (Read)

- (a) The announcement of the birth of Jesus to Mary (Luke 1:26 – 38)
- (b) The announcement of the birth of Jesus to Joseph (Mt 1:18-25)
- (c) Mary's visit to Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45)
- (d) The birth of Jesus Christ (Luke 2:1-7)
- (e) The announcement of Jesus' birth to the shepherds (Luke 2:8-20)
- (f) The visit of wise men and the flight to Egypt (Luke 2:1)
- (g) Jesus in the temple as a baby (Luke 2:21-39)
- (h) Jesus at twelve years old (Luke 2:41-52)

1. Jesus' titles shows the purpose of his coming
 - The name Jesus means saviour of the people from their sins
 - Messiah (the Christ) meaning anointed one
 - Son of David meaning born of David's lineage
 - Son of the most high showing his deity (the son of God and God the son)
2. The purpose of the Messiah's Kingdom
 - Not conquest but salvation
 - Not deliverance from Romans, but from sin
 - Not an earthly monarch, but a spiritual one
3. Meaning of the gifts from the wise men from the East
 - Gold – to show Jesus' kingship

- Frankincense – to represent his deity
- Myrrh – to represent his coming suffering

How the birth of Jesus was a fulfillment of the Old Testament Prophecy

- To be born of David's family - He was born from the line of David
- To be born of a virgin - He was born of the virgin Mary (the miraculous birth)
- To be born in Bethlehem - He was born in Bethlehem
- Would live in Egypt and called out - He lived in Egypt and was called from there
- Would live in Nazareth - He lived in Nazareth
- Bethlehem's children would be killed - Herod had Bethlehem's children massacred

The three main ceremonies performed by Jewish parents after birth

(i) CIRCUMCISION

- Took place when the child was eight days old
- The child was given the name during ceremony
- Circumcision was an outward sign of the covenant or agreement God made with the Jews

(ii) DEDICATION

- This ceremony was performed when a child was one month old.
- The child was presented to God in the Temple and then bought back or redeemed by a payment of five shekels

(iii) PURIFICATION

- It was the third ceremony
- Involved purification of the mother
- It took place forty days after the birth of a male child
- The mother had to offer a lamb for a burnt offering and a bird for a sin offering
- If parents were poor, a second bird could be substituted for a lamb

HOW GOD DIRECTS HUMAN LIVES

- God has an appointed time to fulfill His purpose
- God uses human beings to fulfill His purpose
- He chooses specific people for special tasks e.g. Zachariah and Elizabeth
- Sometimes he can use ordinary people but with training or instruction

Why God chose to use Zachariah and Elizabeth, Joseph and Mary.

- Their way of life pleased God
- They were expecting the Messiah
- They were willing and available to fulfill God's purpose
- They were instructed in a supernatural way to use their nature desires

HOW GOD DIRECTS LIVES OF CHRISTIANS TODAY

- He has a specific plan and purpose today for every life
- He does not force these plans on us, we have the freedom of choice
- In most cases, the choice between right and wrong is clear, He never guides us against His will.

WAYS IN WHICH GOD MAKES HIS WISHES KNOWN TO PEOPLE (CHRISTIANS)

- Through His word the Bible
- The advice from friends
- Circumstances in one's life
- Through the inner inspiration of the Holy Spirit
- Peace of mind in decision-making
- Doing various things to discover what we can do best

EXPECTED CHRISTIAN RESPONSES TO GOD'S DIRECTION

- Accepting His guidance
- Making themselves available to God
- Accepting obedience to Him
- Surrendering daily to God, all their decision – making, circumstances and problems

HOW GOD DIRECTS HUMAN LIVES IN CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM AND HINDUISM

A. CHRISTIANITY

- Through friends and circumstances
- Through inner inspiration of the Holy Spirit
- Through His word in the Bible

B. ISLAM

- Through his word in the Quran
- Everything that happens is the will of Allah and must be accepted
- Allah through the Angel Gabriel gave his message to the prophet Mohammad, then recorded in the Quran.

C. HINDUISM

- Through the daily and seasonal rituals
- God directs a Hindu through the Vedas while living with a Guru
- Strict conduct is expected of every Hindu
- God directs Hindus through life cycle rites, which includes birth, marriage, worship and death

TOPIC: MINISTRY AND DEATH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

SIN:

- Failing to reach God's required standard or rebellion to God
- It breaks the relationship between God and man, and between other men

EVIL:

- Something bad or wrong that can be done to a person or something not acceptable by both God and man
- Conflict is the result to both sin and evil

COMMON EVILS IN THE WORLD TODAY

- Bribery
- Exploitation
- Corruption
- Prostitution
- Discrimination e.g. on the basis of sex and race

ORGANISATIONS WHICH FIGHT EVIL AND SIN

- NGOs e.g. Zambia Civic Association
- United Nations Human Rights Commission
- Government e.g. Anti-Corruption Commission
- Religious Organization e.g. Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia

2. The Message of John the Baptist (Luke 3: 1-20) (Read)

- John the Baptist one outstanding man who denounced sin and evil in his time. His main duty was to prepare the way for the coming Messiah, to make people ready for the coming salvation through Jesus Christ. In his message he spoke of three groups:
 - A. Religious Leaders: He rebuked them and called them vipers, he told them the importance of sharing
 - B. Tax collectors: Collect no more than is appointed for you
 - C. Soldiers: Rob none by violence of false accusations and be content with your wages.
- In his message John emphasized on the change of behaviour and Baptism.

3. How John the Baptist's instruction about right behaviour could be applied in Zambia today?

- A. People in authority should:
- Not take advantage of their positions
 - Work honestly to benefit others
 - Not to waste employer's time
 - Be upright

4. THE WORK OF JOHN AND THAT OF JESUS

| The work of John | The work of Jesus |
|---|---|
| • Challenged people to repent | Challenged people to repent |
| • Baptized with water | Baptized with Holy Spirit |
| • Encouraged people to bear fruit of repentance | Forgave people's sin |
| • Warned people against God's Judgment | He healed the sick |
| | He casted out demons |
| | He warned people of the coming Judgment |

Comparison between the work of John the Baptist and that of Jesus.

Similarities

- Both challenged people to repent
- Both warned people about coming judgment

- Both encouraged people to bear fruit of true repentance

Differences

- John baptized with water
- Jesus baptized with the Holy Spirit
- Jesus forgave people their sins
- John did not forgive people of their sins

RESPONSES TO RELIGIOUS AND MORAL MESSAGES IN ZAMBIA

In Zambia today, religious messages are received with mixed feeling e.g.

- Some repent and change their behaviour for the better
- Others mock at those who teach moral or religious values
- Some turn deaf ear and continue with their way of life
- Still others sacrifice the message

Imprisonment of John the Baptist (Mk 6:14 – 19)

Reasons for being imprisoned and his death:

- John the Baptist denounced Herod's immoral life for marrying Herodias his brother's wife
- This led to his death

Other people who suffered for their beliefs:

1. Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe, Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula and Kenneth Kaunda: for political freedom in Zambia
2. Willain Tyndale: British reformer who was burnt for translating the Bible into English
3. Martin Luther King: An African American who was shot during a march for equal rights
4. Nelson Mandela: He was imprisoned for 27 years at Robben Island for political freedom in South Africa
5. Mahatma Gandhi: A Hindu who devoted his life to win independence for India through non-violence.
6. Ugandan Martyrs: Thousands were killed because of their faith in Christ

VARIOUS RELIGIOUS CENTRAL TEACHING ON REPENTANCE:

ISLAM

1. One who repents should believe in God
2. There must be works of repentance, caring for the poor

3. Salvation is through works of an individual
4. The standards of righteousness are the five pillars of Islam

HINDUISM

1. Love for all life is encouraged
2. There is no savior since each one is rewarded according to his deeds
3. Progress spiritually is only possible through reincarnation
4. The ultimate sum of one's actions, successes and failures determine the next incarnation

ZAMBIAN TRADITION

1. Sacrifices are done to ancestral spirits to appease them
2. Leave at peace with your relatives and honour your ancestors
3. To keep in touch with ancestral spirits
4. A standard of behaviour is needed
5. Obedience to the deity is demanded
6. Trouble follows those who disobey

CHRISTIANITY

1. It is founded on the worship of Jesus Christ as son of God – God is revelation to Himself to man.
2. One must admit one's sinful nature, turn away from it, and confess sins to God. This is repentance one must then accept God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ
 - Baptism then follows, as a sign that repentance and forgiveness have already taken place
 - It is also a sign of one's commitment to a new life in Christ
 - This new life is expressed in obedience and commitment to God, and His will to us
 - The Christian "dies" to his old way of life and rises to a new, God-centered life.
 - The message of the resurrection of Christ, is the basis of the Christian hope.

TOPIC: BAPTISM

Baptism means to "dip", "immerse", "sub merge" or plunge into a liquid. Therefore, New Testament Baptism was by immersion in which a person was dipped under water and was completely covered (Acts 8:38-39, John 3:23)

PROCEDURE OF BAPTISM

- Only those who have repented and believed in Christ should be baptized
- Baptism can be done immediately one repents and believes in Jesus e.g.
 - (i) The Ethiopian Eunuch was baptized by Philip immediately he believed in Jesus (Acts 8:35-38)
 - (ii) The Roman army officer (Acts 10:44-48)
 - (iii) The Roman Jailer was also baptized immediately he believed in Jesus (Acts 16:28-34)

REASONS FOR INFANT BAPTISM

- To wash away the original sin that man is born with
- A mark of initiating the child in the parent's church
- So that the child grows to fear God
- As a way of salvation
- To impart eternal life to the child

METHODS OF BAPTISM

- **POURING** - water is poured on a vessel onto the head of the person being baptized.
- **IMMERSION** - the original method, which is accepted in the New Testament
- **SPRINKLING** - sprinkling water on the face of the person. It is probably as carry over from Old Testament circumcision rite.

JESUS BAPTISM AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

- A. The story of Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist (Mat 3:13-17) (Read)
- B. Three things happened when Jesus was being baptized:
 - The heavens were opened to Him
 - The Spirit of God descended upon Him in form of the dove
 - The voice of God was heard, proclaiming Jesus as a Messiah (Isaiah 42:1, Psalms 2:7) and God's servant who will suffer for his people
- C. Jesus commanded that sinners who repent should be baptized (Mat 28:18-20).
However, Jesus Himself was baptized, not to show repentance because, as God's son, He was sinless

OTHER REASONS WHY JESUS WAS BAPTIZED

1. God's platform to introduce Jesus to the people of Israel. God confirmed that Jesus was the expected Messiah about whom the Old Testament prophets had spoken and written about. (Mat. 3:37)
2. Wanted to show his oneness with humanity, and to save them through His suffering and death (Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12). In this way Baptism became a symbol of His future death and resurrection.
3. Obedience to God's will. The Holy spirit came upon Jesus and remained on him not only to give him power for service but also God's approval that he was set aside to do God's will of saving mankind.

New Testament Baptism and its significance today

- It is a physical symbol to show that a person has become a follower of Jesus Christ
- It is a picture of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We identify ourselves with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:3-13)
- It shows a person's complete obedience to the command of Christ
- People become members of the body of Christ (the church) through the ritual of baptism.
- It makes people live in obedience to Christ's teaching
- Baptism alone does not bring forgiveness of sin, or conversion. Repentance and conversion to Christ must take place first.

WHY CHRISTIANS ARE BAPTIZED

- It is a public expression of their repentance and faith which has already taken place in their heart
- Its Christ's command
- Public confession expresses commitment to obedience to God's work.

SIGNIFICANCE OF CIRCUMCISION IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- A. It was a sign of covenant between God and Abraham
- B. It marked admission to adult status in the tribe – outward sign of relationship.
- C. It was a mark of ownership and a reminder of covenant between God and Israel
- D. It was a guarantee or certificate of inheritance of God's promises to Abraham.

Compare Christian Baptism with admission practices in other religions

A. Zambian Traditional Religion

- Puberty and marriage rites for girls and boys mark the beginning of adult life
- These rites prepared them for roles in adulthood
- Girls were scheduled for a short period of time during which they learnt how to be good wives and mothers
- Boys were circumcised, and trained to become responsible fathers and husbands.

B. HINDUISM

- Between ages 8 and 12 years a Hindu boy receives “the sacred thread of initiation”
- A symbol of an upper class Hindu’s initiation into his caste
- It is a strip – stranded string worn throughout his life, draped across the left shoulder and under the left hand
- It means that he is now “twice born”

C. ISLAM

- In Islam there is no initiation from childhood into religious life
- A child in a Muslim home gradually learns Islamic beliefs
- He learns to read the Quran
- When he is mature, he takes full religious responsibility, but there is no special ceremony to mark this.
- A convert in Islam would approach an Imam and express his desires to become a Muslim.
- Imam explains Kalima (belief) to him, he will ask him to recite the Kalima and express believe.

TOPIC: TEMPTATION

TEMPTATION:

- Temptation is the desire to sin or do wrong
- Everyone is tempted, but temptation is not sin in itself
- If we give in to it, our action become sinful

SIN

- Failing to reach God’s required standard or rebellion to God
- It breaks the relationship between God and Man, and between other men. It begins with the inner thoughts or imaginations of a person

EVIL

- Something bad or wrong that can be done to a person or something not acceptable by both god and man
- It also breaks the relationship

COMMON EVEILS IN THE WORLD TODAY:

- Bribery
- Exploitation
- Corruption
- Prostitution
- Discrimination e.g. on the basis of sex and race

ORGANISATIONS WHICH FIGHT EVIL AND SIN

- Religious organization e.g. Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia
- United Nations Human Rights Commission
- NGOs e.g. Zambia Civic Association
- Government e.g. Anti – Corruption Commission

TESTING:

- Is a situation in which God tries our faith and obedience to him
- There is a difference between temptation and testing. When God is involved, this is a time of testing rather than temptation.
- The Apostle James teaches that trials or tests are useful in building our faith and character (James 1:1-3)

HOW TEMPTATION COMES:

Temptation comes through:

1. Our senses (King David saw a naked woman bathing, 2 Samuel 11:1-5)
2. **Our weaknesses and desires (Mark 14:38)**
 - Adam and Eve were tempted and yielded
 - Jesus was also tempted, but he overcame
3. **Pride of position (Acts 12:21-23), (Daniel 4:30)**
 - King Herod Antipas and King Nebuchadnezzar were punished because of pride
 - Both of them wanted people to worship them as if they were gods.
4. **Trying to help others (Galatians 6:1)**

- We should take care when trying to help other people so that we do not fall into the same temptation.

5. Poverty (Proverbs 30:9)

- Poverty can lead someone to steal or complain

6. Prosperity and possessions (Proverbs 30:8-9)

- Wealth, if not carefully handled may cause us to be proud and forget God

7. Friends

- Bad company ruins good morals
- We must not be channels of temptation to other people
- Friends can misinterpret God's will and mislead us

8. Circumstances

- The Bible commands us to avoid obvious situations or places which can easily lead us into temptation

EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE WHO WERE TEMPTED IN THE BIBLE

- (i) King David (2 Samuel 11:1-5)
 - King David looked at a naked woman bathing, he failed to control himself and gave into temptation
- (ii) Peter the Apostle (Luke 22:54-62)
 - Through fear Peter denied Jesus three times. He depended upon his own strength and not God

REASONS WHY GOD TESTS CHRISTIANS:

1. To prove the quality or strength of their faith (James 1:2-3)
2. To prove their love and obedience (Gen 22:1)
3. To build Christian character (James 1:2-3)

JESUS' TEMPTATIONS AFTER BAPTISM (Luke 4:1-13)

- The Holy Spirit led him into the desert after 40 days of fasting. There were ways in which Satan tempted Jesus Christ:
 1. Turn stones into bread
- Satan wanted Jesus to use his power for his own bodily needs and to act independently of His father's will.
- We learn that we must not try to use God's power for our own selfish ambitions like the magicians do.

2. Worship Satan

- Satan tried to tempt Jesus to win political power and authority by worshipping him.
- We learn that we should not worship Satan or offer sacrifices to him in order to get political power.

3. Jump from the pinnacle of the temple

- Satan tempted Jesus to win people through demonstration of his miraculous powers
- We learn that calling on God to save Him from the act of suicide would have been sin
- Jesus resisted in all these occasions by using the word of God

Other temptations of Jesus

- Apart from the temptations in the desert after his baptism, Jesus also faced temptation on different occasions
 1. To do miracles to prove all the people's needs (John 6:15). This happened after the feeding of five thousand people
- Jesus reacted or resisted by leaving the crowd and prayed
 2. Prove His Messiahship (Luke 11:29-30)
- He reacted by refusing
 3. During his triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Luke 19:20-44)
- They wanted him to become a political leader.
- Jesus refused since his kingdom was a spiritual one and could not use physical means to build it
 4. In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus was tempted to avoid terrible suffering (Luke 22:39-49)
 5. Peter's suggestion that Jesus returns to the cross (Mat 16:21-23)
- Jesus reacted by rejecting Peter's suggestion recognizing that it was from Satan
 6. To save Himself from the cross (Luke 23:35-36)
- Jesus reacted by remaining quiet and by submitting Himself to God

Temptations met by Christians in Zambia

- Corruption
- Idolatry and divination
- Stealing

- Adultery
- Ancestral worship
- Nepotism
- Abuse of office
- Pride
- Poverty (lack of basic necessities)

How Christians can overcome Temptations

1. Jesus' example

The fact that Jesus was tempted and overcame helps us to overcome when tempted in similar ways

2. Prayer

We must pray with confidence in the name of Jesus and He will always help us

3. Use of God's word

When tempted, Christians should use God's word and quote the scriptures, just like Jesus did

4. Resisting Temptation

By making a firm decision to reject the evil suggestion, Satan "flees from us."

5. Submission to God

We must submit to God and reject our evil desires or other people's evil suggestions.

We should not trust in our own strength or cleverness like Peter.

6. Leave the place of Temptation

- In situations where temptation becomes too strong or obvious, we should immediately leave, like Joseph did from Potiphar's wife.
- If we yield to temptation, we can receive forgiveness if we confess it to God.

THE TEACHINGS ON TEMPTATION IN CHRISTIANITY AND OTHER RELIGIONS

CHRISTIANITY

- Prayer
- The word of God
- Firm resistance
- Submission and obedience to God
- Running away from the place of temptation

- Repentance and confession of sin if we have fallen
- Remembering that Jesus is able to help us
- The power of the Holy Spirit, who give us the strength to overcome

HINDUISM

- Emphasis is on lust and greed
- Lust is considered as uncontrolled sexual affections for opposite sex
- Lust is resisted by considering all women as sisters and mothers
- To resist temptation of greed, a Hindu is encouraged to remember always that money or possessions that are carried in a moral way can bring peace and happiness

ISLAM

- To begin to think that there is more than one God is the greatest temptation
- Even to allow such a thought is already sin
- To associate Allah's quality with anyone person is a serious sin to Muslims
- To entertain adulterous thoughts is another sin
- Another serious temptation is to think of committing adultery or having any immoral relationship with another person
- Muslim overcome temptation by thinking of the day of judgment.

SUMMARY

- A. Christianity - overcome temptation through prayer, firm resistance and confession of sin
- B. Islam - overcome temptation by thinking of the day of judgment with fear
- C. Hinduism - overcome temptation of lust by thinking of other women as sisters and as mothers
- D. Zambian Tradition - firm resistance to temptation, fear of offending the ancestral spirits

TOPIC: JESUS' POWER OVER DISEASE AND NATURE

WHAT IS A MIRACLE?

- A supernatural which cannot be fully explained by natural events or human reasoning
- A miracle in the Bible is something in which man sees God at work

EVENTS REGARDED AS MIRACLES

- Surviving a fatal or serious car accident
- When very sick people do make a recovery through prayer

WHY JESUS PERFORMED MIRACLES

- To fulfill prophecy
- To show His Messiahship
- To show that the kingdom of God had arrived
- To invite people to put faith in Him
- Out of sympathy and compassion for people

JESUS HEALS SICK PEOPLE:

EXAMPLES OF THE PEOPLE THAT JESUS HEALED

1. The paralytic, Luke 5:17-26
2. The man with a withered hand, Luke 6:6-11
3. The man with dropsy, Luke 14:1-6
4. The blind man at Jericho, Luke 18:35-43

LESSONS WE CAN LEARN FROM ALL THE BIBLE TEXTS ABOVE

- The Sabbath was made for the good of man and not man for the Sabbath
- Jesus had authority over the Sabbath
- It is better to save life on the Sabbath than to keep to rules and rituals
- Jesus had compassion and put the needs of the sick first

JEWISH ATTITUDE TO LEPERS

- In the time of Jesus, the Jews believed that sicknesses was caused by the sin of the sick person by sin of his/her relatives
- Leprosy was considered to be very unclean
- Lepers were pronounced unclean and were excluded from the community
- A leper needed to avoid contact with other people and was expected to have an appearance of a mourner going to his own death
- Lepers were ordered not to get near the health person
- The law demanded that a leper should at least keep 100 meters away from other people
- Jews believed that leprosy/sickness was punishment for sin
- Leprosy required not only healing but also cleansing

- Only the High Priest would legally pronounce a leper clean and a certificate of cleansing was given to him after he had gone through ceremonial ritual

JESUS' ATTITUDE TOWARDS LEPERS

- Compassion and love
- Mixed with them
- Felt pity and sympathy for them
- He accepted them

EXAMPLES OF LEPERS HEALED BY JESUS

1. One leper (Luke 5:12-16) (Read)

- In this story we learn that:
 1. Jesus showed sympathy by responding to the leper's request
 2. Jesus observed the Old Testament Law by asking the leper to go and show himself to the High Priest so that he could be given a certificate of cleansing as prove that he had been healed.

2. Ten Lepers (Luke 17:11-16) (Read)

- In this story, ten lepers were healed by Jesus, one was a Samaritan and nine were Jews.
- All the ten lepers believed that Jesus could heal them but only the Samaritan expressed his gratitude
- By healing a Samaritan it meant that not only Jews could enter the Kingdom of God but also Gentiles

PEOPLE'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS PEOPLE WITH AIDS TODAY

1. Stigma and discrimination in some cases
2. Lack of confidence in them for what they can contribute to the society

SICK PEOPLE NEED:

1. Love and care
2. Help and encouragement

STORIES OF JESUS CALMING THE STORM AND FEEDING FIVE THOUSAND PEOPLE

1. The miracle of calming the storm shows two aspects of Jesus' character:
 - His humanity by His tiredness and sleep
 - His Divinity by His power over the wind and the waves

- Although the disciples had faith in Jesus, they had little faith that Jesus could calm the storm
2. The miracle of feeding five thousand people, Christians learn that:
 1. Jesus had concern and sympathy for the needs of the people
 2. Only Jesus could satisfy both the physical and spiritual needs of people
 3. Jesus put the needs of the people first
 4. Jesus had love for the people

WHY CHRISTIANS BELIEVE IN MIRACLES

- Because they believe in the miracle working God
- Birth of Jesus
- Because they see the definite result through their prayers or those of other people
- Resurrection of Jesus

REASONS FOR NOT BELIEVING IN MIRACLES

- Unbelief in a miracle itself
- Unbelief in a miracle working God
- Lack of proof or evidence

MIRACLES IN CHRISTIANITY AND OTHER RELIGIOUS ZAMBIAN TRADITION

- God performs unusual things through his chosen people
- Only special people can perform miracles
- Miracles are performed through the help of the ancestral spirits
- Believes that miracles happen
- Miracles draw attention to the greatness of the performer

ISLAM

- Only God performs the actual miracles
- Miracles increase the influence and reputation of holy men
- Only holy men can be used to perform miracles
- Muslim also believe that sometimes Allah performs unusual things through holy men
- Muslim believe that at God's command, prophets performed unusual and extra ordinary deeds

HINDUISM

- Even ordinary people can perform miracles

- Miracles can be performed through satanic powers
- Miracles increase people's faith in God
- Hindus believe that miracles performed by a person are not proof of his divinity

CHRISTIANITY

- Belief in a miracle working God
- Restoration of confidence in God
- Virgin birth and resurrection of Christ
- God performs unusual things through holy people
- Even ordinary people can perform miracles as long as they are holy and have faith

TOPIC: POWER OVER EVIL SPIRITS

Spirit possession in Zambia Tradition

- In Zambian Traditional religion, it is believed that there are various kinds of spirit.

The prominent ones are:

1. BAD SPIRITS

- These are spirits of nature, which are evil
- They control certain areas such as mountains, rivers and forests
- These are responsible for sickness like madness
- They are not good and must be driven out

2. GOOD SPIRITS

- These are called guardian possession spirits, which advise people
- They are consulted to heal and to protect

3. ANCESTRAL SPIRITS

- They do not possess people
- These are spirits of ancestors
- They are also called spirits of the living dead
- They act as overseers and protectors of the living relatives

4. DISSATISFIED SPIRITS

- These are spirits of people who once lived in society but were disgruntled
- They are harmful and are also called troublesome spirits
- They are believed to be responsible for certain diseases and conditions such as epilepsy, childlessness and death

METHODS OF KEEPING SPIRITS AWAY

1. Charms: The charms are worn on the body of a person. They could be put in the doorway of a house.
2. Tattoos: Some people make tattoos on their bodies and rub medicines. These also keep spirits away
3. Lotions: Special lotions are prepared to keep spirits away. Spirits don't like heavy smells of the lotions
4. Taboos: Strict rules are followed, such as abstaining from certain foods like pork, fish or rabbit meat.

ATTITUDES TO AND TREATMENT OF SPRITS IN ZAMBIAN TRADITION RELIGION

- GOOD SPIRIT: Act as overseers and protectors, thus they do not keep them away
- BAD SPRIRIT: Believed to be responsible for certain diseases and misfortunes. therefore, they cause fear and must be driven out.
- ANCESTRAL SPIRIT: They act as overseers and protectors, they are respected and revered by people

TREATMENT OF SPIRIT POSSESSION

- When people are found to be spirit possession, the spirits are driven out (exorcised) by the use of charms, drumming, dancing and special ceremonies.

SYMPTOMS OF DEMON POSSESSED PEOPLE

1. Madness
2. Dumbness
3. Fitting similar to epilepsy
4. Blindness

THE TWO KINGDOM OF THE SPIRITUAL REALM

There are two kingdoms in the spiritual realm namely:

- The kingdom of God, representing light, truth and goodness
- The kingdom of Satan, representing the powers of darkness, lies and evil
- These two kingdoms are at war with each other all the time
- God's purpose is to rescue us from Satan's power and to place us into His kingdom
- Jesus broke the power of Satan when he died on the cross and rose again

FOUR KINDS OF SPIRIT IN CHRISTIAN TEACHING

There are four kinds of spirit according to the Bible. These are:

A. The Holy Spirit of God

- The Holy Spirit of God the third person of the trinity whom God sent to indwell believers after the ascension of Jesus into heaven.
- He indwells in all those who repent of their sin and seek forgiveness.
- He has personal attributes such as being angered or grieved
- He lead people in the righteousness

B. The Angels

- These are good spirits or ministering spirits to help Christians
- They are God's messengers, also bring God's answers to Christian's prayers
- God sends them to guard, defend and fight against Satan's attempt to trap up believers

C. Evil Spirits

- They belong to Satan's Kingdom
- They oppose God and they try to defeat His powers
- They oppress people to hinder their welfare
- Their doom was sealed along with Satan when Jesus died and rose again
- Their time on earth is limited

D. The Human Spirit

- It has a soul made up of mind, will and emotions
- Has a body which is physical part comprising of blood, flesh and bones
- The spirit makes the person to be aware of God who is the spirit

CHRISTIAN ATTITUDES TO SPIRIT POSSESSION AND ITS TREATMENT

- The Holy Spirit is a person, not just a force or power
- The Holy Spirit is good and leads people in ways of righteousness
- He indwells Christians

TREATMENT OF DEMON POSSEION IN CHRISTIANITY

- Exorcism (Casting out demons)
- They pray and command the demons to leave in Jesus' name
- They quote scriptrures

- Faith in Jesus, Repentance, Confession of sin and total commitment to Him

DEMONIC PRACTICES FORBIDDEN IN THE BIBLE

A. DIVINATION (Leviticus 19:26)

- This is the attempt to predict future events, which can not be perceived by normal means
- Divination may be used to discover other users of witchcraft.

B. MAGIC (Acts 19:18-20)

- It includes the use of charms and amulets intended to protect the weaker from evil influence
- Describes the desire to influence and events by supernatural means (occult)

C. SPELLS OR OMENS (Isaiah 3:7-9-13)

- These are incantations or words used as alternative to charms
- They are also used in connection with curses

D. WITCHCRAFT (1 Samuel 15:23)

- Any activity which leads to devil worship, and/or deliberate contact with evil spirits, is extremely dangerous.
- This power comes from Satan and causes spiritual darkness, demon possession and eventual death.

E. ASTROLOGY

- This refers to telling future events by the use of star charts (horoscopes)

F. PALMISTRY

- Palm reading is performed to foretell the future

G. SORCERY

- This is a general term covering the arts of astrology, palmistry and the use of familiar spirits.

H. FAMILIAR SPIRITS

- A practice of speaking to the dead through a “medium”
- Many people become involved in these practices in ignorance under the influence of Satan’s power.

RELIGION COMPARISON ON DEMONIC POSSESSIONS

Christianity Vs Zambian Traditional Religion on Demonic Possessions

SIMILARITIES

1. Both believe that evil spirits possess people
2. In both, evil spirits have different personality from the one possessed
3. In both, evil spirits can be casted out (exorcised)

DIFFERENCES

1. Christians : Do not believe in the usefulness of ancestral spirits because they belong to Satan
Z.T. R. : Some ancestral spirits are helpful and should be protected
2. Christians: Evil spirits can be exorcised by word of command and in Jesus' name
Z.T.R.: Spirits are exorcised through drumming, dancing and special Ceremonies

TOPIC: THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Bible Texts:

1. The parable of the pounds (Luke 19:11-17)
2. Right priorities (Luke 12:22-34)
3. The parable of the mustard seed and yeast (Luke 13-19, 20-21)
4. Parable of the Wedding Feast (Luke 14:7-14)
5. Widow's offering (Luke 21:1-4)

Notes

1. Forms of Contemporary Government
 - There are two main types of Government
 - These are Democratic and Dictatorial Governments (Study the characteristics of the two governments)
2. God's Kingdom (Luke 20:25, Mark 1:14-19)
 - The work "Kingdom" means a country under the rule of a King.
 - The Kingdom of God is not a physical place, but a spiritual kingdom.
 - God is King there and he rules supreme
3. Jesus used the following points to explain to the Pharisees when the Kingdom would come:
 - The Kingdom of God will not be seen when it comes
 - People will not say, here it is, or there it is.
 - The Kingdom of God is within you, it is spiritual within the believer

- The Jews had a completely different idea of the Kingdom of God. They believed that when the Messiah would come, he would gain a great political victory over his enemies.

4. Who brought the Kingdom of God into the World?

- The Kingdom of God was brought in the world by Jesus (Mark 1:14-15, Luke 17:20-21)

A. PRESENT KINGDOM

- Jesus taught that the Kingdom of God had already come
- It started with the coming of Jesus the Messiah, not in political sense, but spiritual in the hearts of all who accept his rule throughout the world. This was demonstrated by:
 - (i) The authority with which Jesus spoke (Mt 7:28-29)
 - (ii) The fact that it came with power, for example Jesus' miracles (Mark 9:1)
 - (iii) Blessings received by those who accepted Jesus' forgiveness, salvation, healing and eternal life

B. THE FUTURE KINGDOM

- This is the second coming of the Son of Man to judge the world
- He will gather his elect, and judgment will follow
- This will mark the end of all things, when the Kingdom would finally be complete and perfect.
- In this Kingdom, there would be those who had responded to his call including the despised and outcasts.

5. SIGNS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- Visible signs showing that the Kingdom of God has already come were:
 1. Spiritual change: As people responded to His message there was a complete change in their life styles.
 2. Healing: Many people received both physical and spiritual healing
 3. Deliverance from evil spirits: Jesus drove out a demon that caused a man to be dumb (mute) Luke 11:14-23

6. WHY JESUS CAME – Luke 14:16-21 (Read)

- To preach good news to the poor
- To proclaim freedom for the prisoners

- To release the oppressed
- To proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

7. HOW DOES ONE ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD

1. Repentance: Jesus taught that the first response of the Kingdom was repentance
2. Faith in Jesus: Jesus said, "Repent and believe the good news of the Kingdom, John 3:14-16
3. Be born again: Jesus told Nicodemus that new birth – spiritual rebirth was vital to enter the Kingdom John 3:3-8
4. Obedience to Jesus: Jesus said, "Whoever comes to me and hears my words, and does them is like a man who builds his house on a foundation of rock" Luke 6:46-48

THE EFFECTS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

1. The Hidden Treasure and Pearl (Mt 13:44-46) (Read)

Main lesson drawn from this story

- We must be ready to give up everything for the Kingdom of God
- To make any sacrifices to enter the Kingdom of God
- It is worth while to give up everything to enter the Kingdom of God.

2. Right Priorities (Luke 12:22-34) (Read)

Lessons drawn from the story

- The Kingdom of God must be our first priority
- God will provide our daily needs as we trust in Him
- Christians must view material things from God's point of view

3. Parable of the Pound (Luke 19:11-17) (Read)

This parable teaches that:

- That we have the responsibility to reach out to others
- We are all in danger of losing what we have if it is not put to good use.
- Christians have the responsibility to preserve God's Kingdom while Jesus Christ is still away.

4. WIDOW'S OFFERING (Luke 21:1-4)

- Jesus looked around and saw rich people dropping their gifts in the treasury
- And he was a very poor widow dropping in two coins
- He said, "I tell you that this poor widow put more than all the others."

- For the others offered their gifts from what had to spare of their riches.
- But she, she poor as she is, gave all she had to live on.

Lessons from the story

- The heart of a true devotion and not the amount of money given was to be important to God's Kingdom.

5. FOR WHOM IS THE KINGDOM PREPARED?

The four Gospels teach that the Kingdom of God is for:

- The poor (in spirit)
- The hungry (for righteousness)
- The persecuted people (for their faith in Jesus Christ)
- The humbled (those who are proud of their spiritual growth, or their knowledge of God, will be humbled)

6. THE PARABLE OF THE WEDDING FEAST (Read Luke 14:7-11)

- In this parable, Jesus points that a humble person does not push himself up to obtain the best seats
- He was probably thinking of the Jewish leaders, who assumed that because of their status and position, they would automatically have the best positions in the Kingdom.

7. WHERE IS THE KINGDOM NOW?

- In the parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast, the Gospels teach that the Kingdom of God is present in the world and is growing.
- It is a universal kingdom to include all i.e. Jews and Gentiles
- The Kingdom of God is for everybody
- The Kingdom of God is rapidly growing, from small beginnings to include all the people of the world – every race, tribe and tongue

8. GOD'S KINGDOM AND CHRISTIANS TODAY

- The Kingdom of God must come first in everything
- Everything else is of secondary importance
- Make sacrifices to enter the Kingdom of God
- Be a good example to others
- Must reach out to others (spread the good news)

9. GOD'S KINGDOM CONTRASTED WITH MODERN STATES

Modern state

- There is a leader who is supported by a Cabinet and Ministers
- Representatives of all areas of country elected by the people
- People have different manifestos to help them govern the country

The Kingdom of God

- It is where God rules
- Was brought by Jesus
- It was brought to us by Jesus Christ, through repentance, having faith in Him and being obedient to Him.
- Not an actual or physical place

CHRISTIAN BELIEFS ABOUT GOD'S KINGDOM COMPARED WITH THOSE OF OTHERS

ISLAM: The central ideals of the Islamic faith are:

- Belief in Allah (God) - surrendering completely to the will of Allah
- Belief in the day of judgment
- The five pillars
- Belief that the good and bad are both ordained by Allah

The five pillars of Islam that are taught and followed:

- Prayers: Pray five times a day facing Mecca
- The Kalima: There is no god but God and Muhammad is his prophet
- Fasting: During the month of Ramadan for a month
- Alms – giving: Ritual giving of money to the poor
- Pilgrimage: Every Muslim is supposed to make a pilgrimage to Mecca at least one in a life time.

HINDUISM

- The Hindu dharma has five main principles namely:
 - God: He is the creator and controller of the universe
 - Prayer: This is the simplest way of knowing and finding God
 - Reincarnation: The teaching that the soul never dies (immortal)
 - Law of Action: This is known as Karma, teaches that the performance of deeds is important
 - Non-violence: Respect for human life

ZAMBIAN TRADITION

The most important beliefs are to:

- Keeping in touch with ancestral spirits
- Offer sacrifices to appease the spirits
- Spirits will help during times of trouble, famine, drought and sickness
- If the spirits are not respected they may cause disasters or trouble
- Objects are chosen where people go to present or offer their sacrifices

CHRISTIANITY

- The Kingdom of God is for the humble, poor, hungry and the persecuted
- It must be our first priority, material wealth becomes secondary
- Christians are responsible to pass on the message to others so that the Kingdom may increase
- Christians must show true devotion to God and be a good example to others in their Christian behaviour

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