

Salvation & Eschatology		✓
Salvation	<p>Christians believe that Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross either 'bought' or 'won' the forgiveness of all sins, and salvation for humanity (or believers), in a victory over evil and death.</p> <p>Jesus' sacrifice was superior to the sacrifices of animals in the Temple, and created a new agreement (Covenant) between God and humankind. God is offering to pay off their debt of sin - this is called 'redemption'.</p>	
The New Covenant	<p>A Covenant is an agreement. In the Old Testament God entered into a Covenant with Abraham, which was later renewed with Moses. Christians view the New Covenant as a new relationship between God and humans mediated by Jesus upon sincere declaration that one believes in Jesus Christ as Lord and God.</p>	
The Route to Salvation	<p>The Law, Sin, Repentance and Forgiveness: Humans are imperfect (Original Sin) and everyone fails to obey the law at some point. Under the New Covenant, all people can receive forgiveness and have the Holy Spirit live within them by repentance (saying sorry) and faith in Christ.</p>	
Grace	<p>The New Covenant means that humans are no longer saved by their own good deeds or by obedience to the law - humans cannot earn their way into heaven. The Grace of God means that they have His blessing even if they are imperfect and sinful, as long as they have faith in Christ.</p>	
Different Christian attitudes to Salvation	<p>How Jesus' death achieved salvation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross <u>PAID</u> for human sin. ❖ Jesus' death was a <u>RANSOM</u> which paid for the release of human sinners. ❖ By becoming human, in the form of Jesus, God enabled humans to achieve <u>UNION</u> with God, allowing them to be saved. <p>How do individuals receive salvation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ By being baptised, belonging to the church and participating in the sacraments e.g. Eucharist (Roman Catholic) ❖ By faith in Jesus Christ as their saviour. (Evangelical Christians) ❖ By living a good life and doing good deeds. (Other denominations) 	
Eschatology	<p>The study of the 'End Times', the last days of the world. The part of theology concerned with death, judgement, and the final destiny of the soul and of humankind.</p>	
Life After Death	<p>The existence of survival of the soul, after the death of the physical body. Christians believe that humans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are created in God's likeness, and that God is eternal • have an eternal/immortal soul which is distinct from their physical body • Are unique and set apart from all other creatures because they have an immortal soul. <p>They also believe that Jesus' resurrection and ascension to heaven showed that there is life after physical death, and at the Second Coming all the dead will be raised to be judged by God.</p>	
Heaven	<p>The abode of God and the angels, and of the good after death. Christians believe that heaven means being in the eternal presence of God after death - not necessarily a place, but a state of mind. A place where suffering and evil no longer exist. Belief in heaven encourages Christians to serve God and obey his commands.</p>	

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Hell	<p>The spiritual realm of evil and suffering, and where the wicked are punished after death. Hell is hardly mentioned in the Bible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheol - a place for departed spirits (not punishment) • Gehenna - a place of eternal punishment, translated as hell - where the souls of the unrighteous go after death. <p>Christians believe it to be an external existence without God's presence and blessing.</p>	
Resurrection	Jesus rising from the dead & the rising of all people at the Final Judgement.	
Parousia	<p>The Second Coming of Jesus Christ is known as the Parousia.</p> <p>The early Christians believed that although Jesus had ascended to heaven, he would return to establish a new world order, replacing the sinful and evil world in which they lived.</p>	
Purgatory	<p>Roman Catholics believe that if a person dies in a good/pure spiritual state, their soul will go straight to heaven. Those souls who do not enter immediately into the presence of God must undergo spiritual purification in Purgatory (a place or state of suffering inhabited by the souls of sinners) to achieve the holiness necessary to enter heaven. Roman Catholics believe that when someone dies, they are not beyond help. They pray for the souls of the deceased so as they may enter heaven.</p>	
Apocalypse	The early Christians believed that they were living in the end times, as described in dramatic and frightening ways in the book of Revelation - a time referred to as the Apocalypse .	
Features of the Apocalypse in the Book of Revelation	<p>The word Armageddon is taken from al-Megiddo, a place on the Jazreel Plain in modern-day Israel. Many famous battles had been fought there, and it would have been seen as the perfect place for a battle with Rome, and the final battle between good and evil.</p> <p>The infamous Seven-headed Beast from the Sea: Rises from the sea demanding to be worshipped symbolises Rome. When the Book of Revelation was written, seven emperors had ruled over Rome (the city of seven hills), where Christians had been viciously persecuted.</p> <p>The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse: The red horse symbolises war and destruction; the black horse symbolises famine; the pale horse symbolises death; the white horse symbolises vengeance and salvation.</p>	

Christian Attitudes to the Apocalypse

Most Christians believe that the **Second Coming** and the end of time is a way of expressing that God has a plan that is yet to be completed, and that living a Christian life is more important than speculating about when the world might end.

However, some Christians believe that we are living in the end times and that the **Second Coming** could happen at any moment.

Others try to calculate when the world might end from what they believe are signs given in the text of the Bible.

- War on a large scale
- Famine
- Great earthquakes
- Increase in crime
- Ruining the earth by mankind
- Epidemics of terrible diseases
- Breakdown of the family
- Unthankful, disloyal, apathetic