

Year 9 Term 6: **Wisdom** - *what do we do when life gets hard?*

Theology = this is about '**believing**'. It looks at where beliefs come from, how they have changed over time, how they are applied in different contexts and how they relate to each other.

Key vocabulary

- Natural evil** - suffering caused by natural events e.g. an earthquake
- Moral evil** - suffering caused by humans e.g. murder
- Wisdom** - the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgement; the quality of being wise.
- Apologetics** - branch of Theology concerned with the defense and rational justification of Christianity

Should God be blamed for evil?

Does a wise life avoid evil, or attack it?

Can religion help to reduce evil, or does it contribute to evil?

If God is full of life, why is the world so terrible?

Which evils are our own fault?



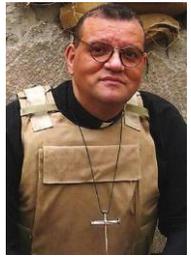
The Bible gives many examples of people who question whether God really does know what he is doing, considering all the suffering they are going through. There is plenty of rage, despair and robust questioning of God!

Where do Christians look for 'wisdom'?

- The book of Proverbs
https://youtu.be/Gab04dPs_uA
- The apostle Paul
<https://youtu.be/fglsbcGSR3A>



Dr Noel Chavasse, won the Victoria Cross twice in WW1



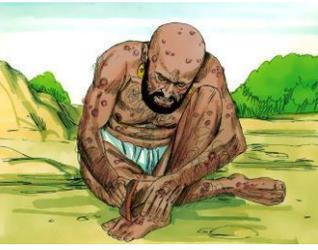
Canon Andrew White, the Vicar of Baghdad

Wisdom in the Bible is usually related to how to live well in relation to God and one's neighbours. It takes place within the covenant relationship between God and his people – God chooses his people, rescues them, and offers guidance in how to maintain that relationship; there are obligations on both sides. In this relationship, the 'fear of the Lord' is the beginning of wisdom: this is the way to stay with God.

https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/job/?utm_source=web_social_share&medium=shared_video

The suffering of Job

- What picture of God does it portray?
- What does it say about the relationship between people (that is, Job) and God?
- What is the key message of the text?
- How much help does this offer a Jewish or Christian believer, and why?

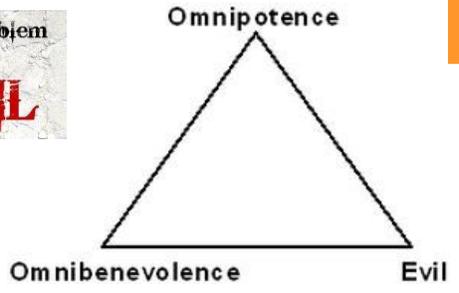


The idea that sin spoils creation is fundamental to Christian belief, but it is tied with the idea that God brings salvation through Jesus – sin does not have the last word. Evil and suffering need not destroy faith in God.

Why is the existence of evil a **problem** for theists?

If God is omnipotent (all-powerful) then He has the ability to stop evil...

The Bible has a rich 'wisdom' strand which gives a way of seeing the world, and guidance on responding to the challenges of life.



If God is omnibenevolent (all-loving) then He would not want us to suffer...

Evil exists - we cannot deny this as we see it and experience it all the time in our lives

THEREFORE...
Either God does not exist, or He does but NOT in the way Christians believe