

CHAPTER 2: CREATION AND THE FALL OF HUMANKIND

1 2  **The biblical stories of creation**

- The bible contains two accounts of creation at the beginning of the book of Genesis
- First account is found in Genesis 1:12-2:4 and the second account is found in Genesis 2:4-25.
- First account gives record of what was created on specific days .
- Eight works of creation distributed within six days as follows:
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3  **Biblical stories of creation**4  **Attributes of God from the creation accounts**

- There is only one God
- He is self existent.
- He is a personal God
- He is the sole creator
- He is a God of order
- He is good and perfect
- He is the sole source of life
- He is a moral God
- He is a spirit
- He is powerful
- He is the provider and sustainer
- He is a worker

5  **The biblical stories of creation**

- Man is commanded to use everything in the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil which is planted in the middle of the garden .
- Eating from this tree would result to death .
- God creates a woman out of man's ribs , this was to illustrate the loving complimentary relationship between man and woman .
- It interprets that woman is inferior to man ,We learn that marriage \is a plan from God.
- Everything that God does is to fulfill the needs of human beings ,also depicts that human beings in their relationship to each other and God.
- God is presented as a potter who uses clay to mould earthen vessels

6  **The similarities of the two accounts**

- God is acknowledged as the creator .
- Creation includes both the living and non-living objects.
- Human beings are presented as special creatures with responsibilities and privileges.
- Human beings share in the life of God.

7  **Differences in the order in which creation was done**

- The creation of the firmament ,light ,sun ,moon , stars, fishes and creeping are included in the first account but omitted in the second account.
- The planting of the garden and making of the river are in the second account but omitted in the first account.
- In the first account ,both man and woman are created at the same time and in God `s image , while in the second account man is created out of dust while woman out of man's ribs.
- Creation in the first account is out of nothing but in the second account man is made out from the dust of the ground and plants are made to grow out of a garden
- In the first account human beings were created last while in the second account they were created first .
- f)

8  **Differences in the order in which creation was done**

- Creation in the first account was completed on the sixth day and God rested on the

seventh day .There are no days mentioned in the second account and subsequently there are no rest mentioned .

- g) In the first account everything that God created is good while in the second account there is no mention of that .
- h) In the first account the emphasis on marriage is for procreation while in the second account it is for partnership.
- i) In the second account there is mention of the forbidden tree but the first account makes no mention of it.

9  **Teachings from the biblical creation accounts**

- a. Human beings are given the mandate to subdue the earth.
- b. Human beings are given the power to name created beings.
- c. Human beings are given the command to take care of God's creation and respect His creation .
- d. Human beings are social beings.
- e. Work and leisure are God's gifts to human kind ,work is therefore ordained from God.
- f. Procreation is a command from by God.
- g. The human race is one in origin and destiny.
- h. Marriage was instituted by God at creation.
- i. Human beings were made to have fellowship with God.

10  **Traditional African view of creation**

Their view of creation is based and explained through myths .

- Myths are stories which are passed from one generation to another in order to preserve important believes in a community .
- Explain origin and how they developed their culture.

11  **Traditional African view of creation**

- ✓ The myth tells us that at the beginning of things Gikuyu ,founder of the Agikuyu community was called God , Ngai or Mugai (divider of the universe)
- ✓ He was given land with forest ,rivers ,valleys ,animals and all other natural things.
- ✓ 'Ngai' made a big mountain called Kirinyaga (mount Kenya –the mountain of mystery).
- ✓ Mountain was his resting place when he was on inspection tours.
- ✓ After calling Gikuyu ,God took him to the top of his mountain and showed him the land he was to give him.
- ✓ God then ordered Gikuyu to descend from the mountain and proceed to the place he had showed him and establish his homestead there .
- ✓ Place was known as Mukurwe wa Nyagathanga which is in Murang'a county

12  **Traditional African view of creation**

- God promised of his continuous assistance anytime.
- When Agikuyu arrived at mukurwe wa nyagathanga he found a beautiful wife that God had provided for him she was named Mumbi.
- Both lived happily and had nine daughters ,but Agikuyu was disturbed by the fact there was no boy to inherit his property .
- God provided for him nine young men which they were to marry his daughters.
- Agikuyu gave them a condition if they were to marry his daughters they would agree to stay with him in his home stead.

13  **Traditional African view of creation**

Observations made about the biblical and traditional .

- God created the universe and everything in it.
- Human beings play a central role in the created world.
- Man was given a wife to keep him company and be his helper.
- God is portrayed as the creator and is greater than everything he created.

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- 14  **THE BIBLICAL TEACHING ON THE ORIGIN OF SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES**
Sin is an offence or rebellion against God.
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- 15  **THE BIBLICAL TEACHING ON THE ORIGIN OF SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES**
 - Human beings are alienated from God.
 - What had been innocent and good becomes evil.
 - Pain will be part of human experience .
 - The good relationship between man and God will be ruined.
 - People will have to toil and struggle to get what they need .
 - The earth itself it is under a curse.
 - Enmity between man and animals .
 - Life span of human beings was reduced .
 - Human beings changed and became prone to sin.
 - God confused human language after the floods.
- 16  **GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION**
 - God's plan of salvation started immediately after Adam and Eve sinned.
 - His plan of salvation was outlined when he put enmity between woman and serpent.
 - God called Abraham and promised him that he would be the source of blessings to all the families of the earth.
 - The sign given in the covenant with Abraham ,it meant commitment to the fulfillment of the promises he had made ,which was a continuation of God's plan for salvation.
- 17  **TRADITIONAL AFRICAN CONCEPT OF EVIL**
 - Evil spirits .
 - Malicious ancestral spirits.
 - Evil people like witches .
 - Breaking of taboos .
 - Breaking of oaths .
 - Bad omen .
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- 18  **SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TRADITIONAL AND AFRICAN VIEW OF EVIL AND BIBLICAL CONCEPT OF SIN**
SIMILARITIES
 - a)In both God is the guardian of morality ,law and order.
 - b)Sin and evil results in human beings being separated from God.
 - c)Evil may result from failing in a social or spiritual obligation.
 - d)Both view sin as arising from human beings disobedience , greed and selfishness.
 - e)Both view evil and misfortune as rising out of a curse by leaders because of committing some offence.
 - f)Both agree that the result of evil is death ,suffering and hardship .
 - g)God is the supreme being and is good .
- 19  **SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TRADITIONAL AFRICAN VIEW OF EVIL AND BIBLICAL CONCEPT OF SIN**
DIFFERENCES.
 - a. African traditional understanding of evil emphasizes the act of evil and its consequences ,in the bible human beings are sinners by nature because they are tainted by sin of Adam.
 - b. Although bible recognizes other forces that may lead to sin emphasis is in the moral choice people make . African traditional understanding attributes evil to external forces like evil spirits, or breaking of taboos.
 - c. Biblical account emphasizes the personal nature of sin ,African concept emphasizes more on the social nature and consequences of sin.

- d. Biblical view of sin does not leave human beings doomed to suffer forever ,African understanding of evil does not offer a final solution to the problem of evil.

20  **TOPICAL QUESTIONS**

- 1)Outline the similarities between the two accounts of creation ?
- 2)What can we learn from the attributes of God with reference to the creation stories ?
- 3)State the effects of sins ?
- 4)Name four causes of evil in Kenya today ?
- 5)Name five differences between Traditional African and Biblical concept of evil
- 6)Describe the African understanding of God ?
- 7)State six consequences of evil according to African concept ?
- 8)What are the causes of evil in African traditional societies ?

21  **ANSWERS**

- 1) -God is acknowledged the creator .
-Creation includes both living and non-living things.
-Human beings are presented as special creatures with responsibilities and privileges.
-Human beings share in the life of God.
- 2) -God is immortal.
-He is a moral God .
-He is self existent
-He is all knowing .
-He is the sole creator.
-He is a God of order .

22  **ANSWERS**

- 3) Serpent was cursed.
-Earth was cursed
-Enmity between man and wild animals
-Pain during delivery (women)
-Life span was shortened
-Man will struggle and toil to get whatever he requires
-Man and woman were cleared from the garden
- 4.) Evil spirits
-Corruption
-Drug abuse
-Poverty
- Lack of guidance and counseling

23  **ANSWERS**

- 6) God is the provider .
-He is the creator
-He is merciful
-He is holy and pure .
- 7) Evil leads to : Curses
-Natural disaster
-Death
-Barrenness
-Insanity
- 8) Malicious people like witches.
-Curses from parents .
-Breaking of taboos.
-Bad omen.

-Breaking of oaths.