

| (1): Keywords | (2) Sacred Writings & Texts | (3) Origins of the Universe: Big Bang and Genesis |
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| Pollution      | Contamination of an environment with harmful substances.                               |
| Evolution      | Animals change over time—humans from apes  |
| Big Bang       | Explosion from a single point of matter which led to formation of universe             |
| Dominion       | Belief that humans have been given control/charge of the world                         |
| Environment    | The world around us - land, water, air, and space                                      |
| Abuse          | Cruel and unethical treatment  |
| Awe and Wonder | Opposing views on humanity’s role in world: care for/rule over and use for own benefit |
| Stewardship    | Duty given by God to humankind to look after the created world, and all life within it |

Christians believe that God is **omnipotent** (all-powerful). This is shown in **Genesis** (the first book of the Bible) when God creates the universe by speaking (“let there be light”) over 6/7 days.

God creates Adam & Eve, the first humans, in his own image. He tells them to be responsible for the world. Some interpret this to mean **take control** (dominion) and others to mean **look after** (stewardship).

The **Big Bang Theory**: billions of years ago all matter was at a **single point** of infinite density. Then it began to **expand** before cooling to form our **universe** and everything in it.

| (4) Treatment of Universe—Pollution and Resources | (5) Use of Animals—Should we test and use animals? | (6) The Value of the World - Awe and Wonder |
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- **Pollution**: environmental damage caused by waste.
- **Air pollution**: caused mainly by fumes from factories and vehicles. Long term exposure can lead to asthma attacks, lung cancer and diseases. Causes global warming, climate change and acid rain.
- **Global Warming**: the world is getting hotter at a dangerously fast rate due to **greenhouse gasses** such as **CO2** being released.
- **Land pollution**: caused by the ineffective disposal of waste. When chemicals enter the earth this can poison wildlife, make farming less efficient and result in contaminated food.
- **Water pollution** : caused by dumping waste into the sea. It has a devastating effect on marine life. The Deepwater Horizon oil spill released over 750 million litres of oil, killing many fish and birds.
- **Natural resources**: parts of the world which can be used to produce energy or for the manufacture of goods. These can be **renewable** (re-usable without causing loss) such as solar and wind, and **non-renewable** (use causes loss) such as coal and gas.

| Agree   | Disagree  |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christians often believe that animals do not have souls and so are inferior to humans.</li> <li>• In the ‘<b>Miracle of the five loaves and two fish</b>’, Jesus Christ famously feeds meat in the form of fish to a gathering of 5,000 people, showing people they can eat meat.</li> <li>• Testing on animals can create life saving medical treatments. Human lives are more valuable.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Animal rights</b> refers to the idea that animals should be entitled to live lives that are free from <b>abuse</b> by humans. In the UK, there are laws designed to protect animals from <b>cruelty</b>.</li> <li>• Animals are a gift from God and should be protected.</li> <li>• It is illegal to test <b>cosmetics</b> (beauty products) on animals.</li> </ul> |

**Awe and wonder**: a sense of wonderment at nature; often linked to the feeling that God is involved/revealed through it.

- The world has an **intrinsic value** because God created it. That means that the world is incredibly **important** no matter what we think about it or what is happening to it.
- **Numinous experiences** are those where the power and mystery of God are revealed to us in ways that can be hard to express or put into words. Perhaps the hairs stand up on the back of your neck as you see the sunset.

**The Parable of the Mustard Seed**

Jesus explained to his **disciples** (followers) that the **Kingdom of God** was like a mustard seed. It was so small that it could blow away or be missed by someone looking for it. However, if found and cared for, it would grow into a large and powerful tree.

