How is God Portrayed in the Old Testament?

Year 7 Term 2

(1) Keywords

Old Testament	The first half of the Bible (oldest half)
Portrayed	Shown to be
Serpent	Snake—represents the Devil or Satan
Garden of Eden	The first place humanity live—as Adam and Eve
Ark	An enormous wooden boat constructed by Noah
Covenant	An agreement with God
Prophet	A person who receives messages from God
Plague	Disasters caused by God
Pharoah	Ancient Egyptian ruler

(2) Views on God's Nature (how He is Portrayed)

There are five ways God seems to be in the Old Testament:

Omnibenevolent	All loving
Omnipotent	All powerful God said 'let there be light'
Maleficent	Evil (enjoying causing pain) God said "Every living thing will perish"
Omnipresent	Always there (everywhere)
Omniscient	All knowing

(3) What is the Fall of Man?

Once God has demonstrated His **omnipotence** by creating Adam and Eve, He gives his first commandment: 'Do not eat from the tree in the middle of the Garden of Eden'.

Eve, the **first woman**, meets a serpent who encourages her to eat the **forbidden fruit**. She tell the serpent that she cannot eat as it will kill her. The serpent tells her this is not true. She takes a bite of the fruit.

Later, Eve goes to Adam who is the **first man** and offers him some. They believe they have gained **wisdom**.

God walks through the garden and Adam and Eve hide. They feel ashamed of what they have done. God realises that they have broken the commandment.

He punishes the serpent, removing its legs. He punishes Eve by making childbirth painful. Adam and Eve must leave the Garden.

(4) What is the story of Noah?

Humanity has abandoned God and become wicked. Noah and his family are the only ones who have not.

In anger, the Lord God regrets making humanity and decides to destroy humanity and the earth in a great flood.

Understanding that Noah, his wife and his three sons are good, God commands Noah to build an ark with two of every living creature onboard.

- It rains for 40 days
- The ark rises above mountains
- All living things outside the ark die
- The flood lasts 150 days
- The ark lands on Mount Arafat
- For ten months the waters go down
- God commands the animals to multiply

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(5) What is the Story of Abraham?

Abraham lived in a place where people where **polytheist** (worshipped more than one God). However, he knew that there was only one true God—the Lord God.

One day, God spoke to Abraham and commanded him to sacrifice (kill as an offering) his only son Isaac. Abraham was shocked as he and his wife Sarah had waited a very long time to have a son. They thought Isaac was a gift from God. Why would God take him back?

Trusting God, Abraham agreed and took his son to a mountain as a sacrifice.

His son was shocked when he realised he was the sacrifice.

The angel Gabriel appeared telling Abraham he had passed God's test. God would now make covenant with Abraham: a promise of many sons, and to lead many nations so long as he worshipped only God.

(6) What is the Story of Moses?

The **Book of Exodus** explains how Moses accidentally killed an Egyptian but later set his people free.

Moses and the other Hebrews were enslaved by **Pharoah**. Moses is friends with the Egyptians, having been taken out of a wicker basket as a child.

Having accidentally killed an Egyptian, Moses is commanded by God to ask Pharoah to free the Hebrews. Pharoah refuses so God send ten plagues.

The 10th plague leads to freedom.

But Pharoah changes his mind and chases the Hebrews.

Moses parts the Red Sea and the Hebrews escape. Pharoah drowns.