CRE NOTES

FORM 1 SIMPLIFIED TUTORIAL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 4

CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 4

Introduction 4
Reasons for studying Christian Religious Education 4
The Bible 4
The Bible as Gods word 4
Human authors 5
Literary forms used in writing the Bible 5
The Bible as a library 5
The divisions of the Bible 6
The Old Testament Books 6
The New Testament Books 7
The Bible translation 7
Versions used in Kenya 8
Effects of translation of the Bible into local languages 8

CHAPTER 2 9

CREATION AND FALL OF MAN 9

The Biblical accounts of creation 9
The first account of creation 9
The second account of creation 9
The nature/attributes of God from the creation stories 10
Meaning/teachings of the Genesis stories of creation 10
African view of creation 11
Origin of sin and its consequences 12
Gods plain of salvation 13
African traditional understanding of evil 13

CHAPTER 3 15

FAITH AND GODS PROMISES: ABRAHAM 15

Background of Abraham 15
The call of Abraham 15
Abrahams acts of faith in God 15
Gods promises to Abraham 16
Gods covenant with Abraham 17
Examples of covenants in modern societies 18
Circumcision of Abraham and his descendants 18
Comparison between the Jewish circumcision and circumcision in traditional African society 18

CHAPTER 4 19

SINAI COVENANT: MOSES 19

Background to the call of Moses 19
The call of Moses 19
The ten plagues 20
The Passover 20
The Exodus 21
The making of the Sinai Covenant 21
The breaking of the Sinai Covenant 22
The Renewal of the Covenant 23
The Israelites worship of God in the wilderness 23
Israelites new understanding of God 24

CHAPTER 5 25

LEADERSHIP IN ISRAEL 25

Introduction 25
The role of judges in Israel 25
Reasons why the Israelites demanded for a King 25
Reasons against Kingship in Israel 25
The Choosing of Saul as the first King of Israel 26
Choosing of David as the king of Israel 26
David as the ancestor of Jesus 27
Achievements and failures of king Solomon 28
The schism between Judah and Israel and the spread of idolatry in Israel 28
Importance of the Temple to the Jewish People 28

CHAPTER 6 30

LOYALTY TO GOD 30

The factors that led to the spread of idolatry in Israel. 30
The local Canaanite religion 30
Religious schism between Judah and Israel 30
King Ahabs marriage with the Phoenician princess-Jezebel 31
The effects of idolatry in Israel 31
Elijah fought against false religion. 31
Elijahs fight against moral corruption. 32
Ways of Fighting Corruption 33
Reasons why Elijah face danger and hostility 33
How Elijahs prophetic mission is important to a Christian today 33

CHAPTER 7 35

AFRICAN CONCEPT OF GOD, SPIRITS AND ANCESTORS 35

African concept of God 35
Spirits 35
The role of spirits 36
Ancestors (living dead) 36
Role of ancestors 36
African hierarchy of beings 37
Responsibility of the living towards God 37
Responsibility of the living towards Spirits and Ancestors 37
African ways of worship 38

African traditional ways of venerating ancestors and Spirits 38

CHAPTER 8 40

MEANING OF LIFE AND ITS WHOLENESS IN TRADITIONAL AFRICAN SOCIETY 40

Meaning of life 40
African understanding of community and kinship 40
Characteristics of African community 40
Kinship system 40
Factors contributing to harmony and Mutual Responsibility in African Traditional Societies 41

CHAPTER 9 42

RITES OF PASSAGE AND MORAL VALUES 42

Rites of passage 42
Birth 42
Naming 43
Initiation 44
Marriage 45
Death 48
Religious specialists in the traditional African community 49
Medicine men 50
Rain makers 50
Mediums and diviners 50
Priests/prophets or seers 51
Elders 51

CHAPTER 10 53

AFRICAN MORAL VALUES 53

African moral values 53
Continuity and change in African understanding 53
Land 53
Ownership of property and wealth 54
Widows and orphans 55
Leisure 55
Dressing 56

CHAPTER 1
CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
FORM ONE

Introduction

Meaning of Christian Religious Education

- C.R.E. is the study of the Religious beliefs and practices, which are based on the life, and teachings of Jesus Christ.

- It tries to make us aware of God and how He reveals Himself to us.
- Secondary schools C.R.E. syllabus is divided into three major areas of study:
  - The Bible (Old and New Testaments).
  - African Religious Heritage.
  - Contemporary or modern Christian living

Reasons for studying Christian Religious Education

1. It helps to unite people Thus promoting the spirit of National unity and international consciousness.
2. The subject helps to bring one up morally as it contributes to the persons growth and maturity in life.
3. It builds our faith in God. It enables us to develop certain principles that make us stand firm in times of problems.
4. The subject helps one to develop a sense of self-respect and respect for others. Religious virtues will help one in making the right decision.
5. It enables Christians to be prepared to cope with social changes in modern society e.g. how to face challenges.
6. It makes one to be a good citizen who respects the laws of the land having known that authority comes from God.
7. It helps to appreciate the environment as Gods creation and therefore there is need to take care of it.
8. Religious Education helps us to learn and appreciate some practices in African culture.
9. It promotes social equality and justice. It makes people aware that they are all equal before God.
10. It helps to explain certain aspects of life that look mysterious. For example, it helps us to explain things such as why people die and what happens after death.
11. It is also a career subject it can lead us into good professions such as teaching, law, Pastoral work, guidance and counselling etc.
12. The study of C.R.E enhances the realisation of national goals such as;
    - National unity
    - National social and economic development,
    - Individual development and self-fulfilment
    - Social equality

- Respect and development of cultural heritage
- International consciousness

The Bible

The word Bible comes from the Greek word *Biblia* that means a book.

The Bible as Gods word

- Christians believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God.

- By referring to the Bible as a word of God it means:

1. It contains the words of people such as the prophets who were sent by God.
2. It contains predictions and prophecies which eventually came to true.
3. God Himself took part in the writing: God wrote the 10 commandments. *(Exd.34:1)*
4. The authors of the Bible wrote under the influence of the Holy Spirit.
5. Much of the New Testament is concerned with the Good News of Jesus Christ.
6. The Bible contains the true message of God for daily living. Therefore, Christians believe that God communicates to us through the Bible.
7. Those who wrote were told on what to write by God.

Human authors

- The human authors were inspired by God. They wrote what God Himself revealed to them. This is brought out in 2 Peter: 1:20-21 where he says, *"Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of the scriptures came about by the prophets own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the will of human beings, but it was spoken from God as it were and carried out by the Holy Spirit."*

- The authors who contributed to the writing of the Bible lived over a long time. They were from different walks of life. They had different ideas, talents and purposes.

- Some compiled oral traditions that had existed for many generations.
- Others composed songs or recorded the wise sayings, such as Solomon and David.
- Some wrote as scribes for their own teachers. For example, Jeremiah dictated to Baruch what to write.
- Others such as Joshua and Esther wrote to record the History of their people and their dealings with God.
- While others like Moses were interested in the religious law and regulations.
- The different authors used different styles of writing (literary forms). This was because:

  - They wrote at different times in history.

- They also wrote under different circumstances e.g. in the wilderness, dungeon, prison.
- They wrote for different reasons.
- The audience was also different.

Literary forms used in writing the Bible

- Some of the styles or literacy forms used in the Bible are:

1. **Poetic (poems)** — Books of Psalms.
2. **Wise sayings** — The Book of Proverbs.
3. **Prose, narratives or stories**- Genesis, Exodus, Numbers.
4. **Prayers** — The Book of Nehemiah.
5. **Legal expressions** — the book of Leviticus.
6. **Prophecies** — The Books of prophet the Prophets.
7. **Letters** — Pauls letters.
8. **Songs** — Songs of Solomon.

The Bible as a library

The Bible is referred as a Library because:

1. It is a collection of several, 66 books under one cover.
2. The books are written under different authors.
3. The books were also written at different times.
4. They were addressed to different people or individuals.
5. The Bible also had different messages for different people.
6. The books in the Bible have been written in different styles.
7. The language used is also different from one author to another.
8. It took over 10 centuries to have the whole Bible written.

The divisions of the Bible

- The Bible has two main sections namely The Old Testament and The New Testament.
- The word Testament means **covenant**.
- The standard Bibles that are recommended for all the Christians contain 39 books in The Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament section, making a total of 66 books.
- The main difference between the Old and the New Testaments is that the Old Testament was written before Christ while the New Testament was written after Christ.

- However, some Bibles, such as the Jerusalem Bible and the African Bible mostly used by the Roman Catholic Church contain additional books in the Old Testament.
- These books include:

  Judith Ecclesiasticus Baruch Maccabees 1 and 2 Wisdom and **obit**

- These extra-books have been referred to as Deutro-canonical books by the Catholics or are referred to as apocryphal books by the Protestants.

The Old Testament Books

The books of the Old Testament are grouped into:

1. The law books
2. Historical books
3. Books of poetry
4. The prophets —
   - Major Prophets
   - Minor Prophets.

1. **The Law Books**

- Sometimes referred to as the Pentateuch or the Torah—these books are sometimes referred to as the books of Moses. They are five in number; namely;

  Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers and Deuteronomy

2. **Books of History**

- The books of History record the History of the Israelites from the time they entered and settled in the Promised Land until the time when they were taken to exile in Babylon.
- They are twelve in number, namely: -

  Joshua, Judges, Ruth 1 and **2, Samuel 1** and, **2 Kings 1** and **2, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah** and **Esther.**

3. **The Prophetic Books**

- These books contain the prophecies of the people of Israel. They can be divided further into major and minor prophets.

  The Major Prophets include

- They are called Major Prophets because they cover longer historical periods. They include;

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentation, Ezekiel, and **Daniel.**

The Minor Prophets

- They are called Minor Prophets because messages cover shorter historical periods. They include;

  Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and **Malachi.**

4. **Books of Poetry**

- These books are poetic in nature. These include;

  Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and **Songs of Songs.**

The New Testament Books

1**The gospels or Biographical Books.**

- These are the first four books of the New Testament. Namely;

  Mathew, Mark, Luke and **John.**

- The first three books are called **Synoptic gospels** because they are almost similar in the arrangement of events and style of writing.
- The gospels talk about the events in the life of Jesus, from his birth to death and to ascension to heaven.
- St. Mark was the first to be written about 70 A.D. Before that, the Good News was spread by word of mouth. This period is referred to as the Oral Tradition.

2.**Historical book/Acts of the Apostles**

- St. Luke who is also the writer of the gospel of Luke wrote the book of Acts.
- The book tries to bring out how the apostles and other disciples spread the gospel after the death of Jesus and the persecution they met.

3.**The Epistles or Letters**

- These are 21 in total, most of them were written by Paul.
- These are called **Pauline Epistles.** They are **Romans, 1** and **2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians,** and **Colossians, 1** and **2 Thessalonians, 1** and **2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon.**

- Some letters were written by authors who are not clearly known. These are called **General Epistles**. These are **Hebrews, James, 1** and **2 Peter, 1** and **2** and **3 John** and **Jude**.

4.**Book of Revelation (prophetic Book)**

- This is the last book in the New Testament section of the Bible.
- The book talks of the prophecies that would come at the end of times. Sometimes referred to as the **apocalypse.**

The Bible translation

- The term **"translate"** means to change something from one language to another without changing the original meaning.
- The Old Testament section of the Bible originally was written in Hebrew, which was the language of the Israelites in Palestine (Jews). And the New Testament was written in Greek.
- However before long the Old Testament also had to be translated in Greek. This was because:
  - Greek was the most commonly used language outside Palestine.
  - There were also Jews who were living outside Palestine and they knew Greek Language better than Hebrew.
  - The number of people who wanted to read the scriptures was also growing.
- The Greek translation of the Old Testament was called the **Septuagint**. The Jews who were living outside Palestine were called the Jews in the Diaspora or in dispersions.
- During the 4th C AD, a Christian called Jerome translated the Bible into Latin. This Bible translated into Latin was called the **Vulgate.**
- When the missionaries came to Africa, the Bible was translated into several local languages.
- This was because
  - To make the missionaries evangelize effectively.
  - The missionaries wanted local people to understand the Bible easily.
  - To assist the missionaries to learn local languages.
  - To indigenize Christianity i.e. to encourage its adaptation to local situations.

- In East Africa the first Bible translations was done by John Ludwig Kraft. It took him nine years to have the New Testament translated into Kiswahili. He also translated the gospel of Mark into Kikamba and the gospel of Luke into Kirabai.
- The work of translating the Bible is still going on. In Kenya this is done by the Bible society of Kenya.

Versions used in Kenya

- Revised Standard Version.
- King James Version.
- New international version.
- Jerusalem Bible.
- The living Bible.
- Jerome Bible.
- Gideon international Bible.
- English Bible.
- New American Bible.
- Authorized Version.
- Good News.
- The Holy Bible.
- New African Bible.

Effects of translation of the Bible into local languages

1. promoted education in Kenya. The Bible was used as the first textbook.
2. More people became Christians because they had the Bible in their own languages.
3. The translation helped the missionaries to learn local languages.
4. This increased African faith because of a better understanding of the Bible.
5. The Africans broke away to form independent churches.
6. The translation of the Bible led to the establishment of Bible translation societies,
7. The missionaries began to appreciate the African culture this reduced suspicion
8. The translation led to Geographical expansion of the Church into new areas.

CHAPTER 2
CREATION AND FALL OF MAN

The Biblical accounts of creation

- Biblical term, creation refers to how God made the universe and everything in it.
- The Bible contains two accounts of creation at the beginning of the book of Genesis.
  - The first account in Genesis *1:1-2, 4 (a*) and
  - the second account in Genesis *2:4(b) -25.*

The first account of creation

Gen. 1-2: 4(a)

- Chapter 1 verses 1 and 2 tell us that God was there before creation.
- **On the first day** God created light and separated it from darkness. He named it day and darkness night.
- **On the second day,** God created the Firmament: the firmament separated the waters that were above the sky and the waters below the sky.
- **On the third day** God divided the land and the sea then he created all the plants and trees found on the earth.
- **On the fourth day**, God created the three heavenly lights i.e. the sun to give light at daytime while the moon and the star to give light during the night.
- **On the fifth day,** God created the sea living creatures such as fish. He also made birds of all kinds.
- **On the sixth day,** God created all living creatures on earth. It is also the sixth day that God created man in His own image and likeness. The creation of man is very significant for God says "Let us make man in our own image" all work of creation therefore was completed on the sixth day.
- **On the seventh** day God rested and blessed it as a special day of worship.

The second account of creation

(Genesis 2:4(b) — 25)

- The second account is centered on the creation of man and woman.
- It gives a detailed account of how God created Adam out of dust and breathed into him the breath of life. In the same account the creation of woman is brought out more clearly: The woman is made from the ribs of the man.
- In the second account Gods creative activities is seen as work and not utterances.
- For example, man is made out of dust and woman out of the ribs of man.
- In the second story the creation of the Garden of Eden is mentioned. In the center of the garden. God placed the tree of life and the tree of good and evil.
- Man is put in the Garden of Eden to take care of Gods creation. Man is commanded to eat from every tree except one; the tree of the knowledge of Good and evil for in so doing they would die.
- It explains the special position that human kind occupies in Gods creation.

Similarities between the two accounts of creation

1. In both cases, God is acknowledged as the one creating.
2. Gods creation includes both the living and the non-living.
3. In both man occupies a special position.
4. In both God is powerful/omnipotent.

Differences between the two accounts of creation

1. There is a difference in order in which the creation is done. The first account starts with the creation of light while the second starts with the creation of man.
2. In the first account there is the mention of the days, which is omitted, in the second account.
3. The creation of the firmament — light, sun, stars, fishes and creeping things are included in first account and are omitted in the second account.
4. In the first account, creation is out of nothing. God said "let there be" but in the second account, creation is out of substance (dust) and plants are made to grow out of garden.
5. In the first account everything that God made is seen as good while this is omitted in the second account.
6. From the second account woman is made from the ribs of man but omitted in the first account.
7. In the first account, marriage is for procreation while in the second account marriage is for companionship.
8. In the second account there is the mention of the Garden of Eden and the forbidden fruit, which is omitted, in the first account.
9. In the first account God rested on the last day but rest is omitted in the second account.

The nature/attributes of God from the creation stories

1. God is omnipresent (everlasting).
2. He was there before creation, which brought space, time and matter into being.
3. God is the sole creator. He created everything from nothing.
4. God is the source of goodness and happiness, ("And God saw that it was good").
5. God created human beings to enjoy the personal and loving relationship with Him.
6. God is omnipotent (call powerful).
7. God is God of order. All the creative arts of God were done in an orderly manner.
8. God is all knowing. All knowledge and wisdom is His.
9. God is the provider. He provided man with necessities of life.

Meaning/teachings of the Genesis stories of creation

- God is the creator of the universe.
- Everything that God made is good.
- God is a God of order. He created the universe and all that is in it in orderly manner
- Human beings were put in charge of all Gods creation.
- God is a God of power. He calls things into existence by His spoken words.
- Plants and animals were made for the benefits of man.
- God ordained work. He told man to fill the land.
- Marriage is ordained by God. For God said, "Be fruitful multiply and fulfil the earth.
- The woman is created to be a happy companion of man for God said, "Its not good for man to live alone."
- Human beings should continue with the work of creation.

- Human beings should obey God. Punishment comes as a result of man disobeying God.

African view of creation
African creation myths
Bukusu

- They call their God Were Khakaba meaning the provider. Were Khakaba created the world alone.
- First he created heaven as His dwelling place which was very bright and which was supported on pillars like a hut to stop it from falling. Then He created His two assistants Mukobe and Murumwa. Later on He made the moon and the sun; the two quarrelled and fought. Moon was defeated and thrown down into the wind to prevent him from shining brightly.
- Were ordered the sun to shine during the day on all people while moon was to shine only at night.
- Were then made the clouds and the stars. He made a big red rock which crows whenever it thunders warning people of the coming rain.
- He created rain and put it in the clouds. He created rainbow, female and male to stop the unwanted rain from falling. Air was created next.
- Mysteriously were created the earth with mountains and valleys as a place for His two assistants to work in.
- He created man for whom the sun would shine. Since man needed someone to talk to, water to drink, were provided rain, which filled up the valleys to form lakes, rivers and streams.
- Were then created plants, animals, birds and other creatures, which live on land, water and in the soil.
- The Bukusu further believe that the whole work of creation was completed in six days. On the seventh day, were rested because it was a bad day.
- Were Khakaba gave restrictions to the first human beings on some of the things for instance, they were not supposed to eat animals with single hooves, like donkeys and horses, crawling animals like snakes, lizards, chameleons and scavengers such as vultures hawks and eagle.

Agikuyu

- They call their God Ngai or Mugai, which means the divider of the universe.
- Gikuyu the founder of Agikuyu community was called by God and was given land with forests, rivers, valleys, animals and all other natural things.
- The same time Ngai made a big mountain called Kirinyanga also known as Mount Kenya; The Mountain of mystery. He also dwelt on the mountain when He was on inspection tours. It was also a sign of His splendour and mystery. After calling Gikuyu, He took him to the top of this mountain and showed him the land he was to give him.
- It was beautiful and full of fig trees (Mugumo) in the centre of the country. God then ordered him to go and establish his homestead at the place he had showed him. This place was called Mukuruwe wa Nyagathanga that is in Muranga District.
- Before Gikuyu parted with God, he was advised to make a sacrifice and raise his hands towards Kirinyaga if he wanted anything or had problems.
- When he went to the Promised Land, he found a wife called Mumbi (creator or moulder) that god had provided for him.
- They lived happily and were blessed with nine daughters. Gikuyu was so disturbed by the fact that he did not have sons to inherit his property.
- He then remembered what Ngai had told him to do. He decided to make sacrifice and told God his needs. God told him to take his family home and come back alone. On the process God revealed to Gikuyu that he would provide young men would be willing to marry his daughters.
- When he came back, he found nine handsome young men and took them with him home. The next day in the morning the issue of marriage was discussed and the young men agreed to marry Gikuyu daughters.
- Gikuyu ordered that the young men would go with the daughters if they agreed to live in his homestead. The young men could not resist the beauty and the hospitality offered to them. They all agreed to marry them. All the nine daughters were married and each established their own family set. These were joined together under the name Nyumba ya Mumbi (The House of Mumbi).

Main points highlighted from the African stories of creation

- God created the universe and everything in it.
- originally innocent and God was closer to man.
- The separation of man from God came as a result of disobedience.
- God provided man with all the necessities of life.

- man was given a wife to keep him company and to be a helper.
- man is given authority over all other creatures.
- Man is considered as a special creature.

Origin of sin and its consequences
(Gen: 3-11)

- The word sin can be described as an act at rebellion and as a condition of being alienated from God.
- In *Genesis 3*. The snake asked Adam and Eve if they were told not to eat any tree in the garden.
- Eve replied, we may eat the fruit of any tree in the Garden except the tree in the middle of it.
- The snake replied that is not true God said that because He knows that when you eat it you will be like him.
- From the statement the serpent claims God is Jealous and does not want to allow man to know what He knows.
- After eating the fruit their eyes were opened, but instead of seeing beautiful things they noted they were naked.
- Man is afraid to meet God because of the guilt. When God asks where they were the man accused God saying "The woman you gave me". The woman also blames the snake for misleading her to the fruit.
- The judgment is pronounced on the first parent.

The consequences of sin

1. The relationship between man and God became strained hence nan was alienated from God.
2. Man started feeling guilty because of his behaviour, they were naked and were ashamed
3. The woman also blamed the snake for misleading her.
4. The serpent was cursed above all animals.
5. Enmity was put between man and the serpent, *(Gen 3:15).*
6. The woman was to feel pain during child birth*. (Gen: 3:16).*
7. The woman was put to be subordinate to man and to have the desire for the man.
8. Man was to toil and struggle to meet his needs.

9. The earth itself was put under a curse "cursed is the ground because of you." *(Gen 3:17)*
10. Death came upon man *(Gen: 3:19).*
11. Man was dismissed from the Garden of Eden and cherubim were put to guard the garden.
12. Murderous feeling began to enter mans heart for example Cain killed Abel. *(Gen: 4:8).*
13. The life span of man was reduced to not more than 120 years *(Gen: 6:3).*
14. God confused mans language after the flood. *(Gen: 11:1-7).*

Gods plain of salvation

- After Adam and Eve committed sin in the garden of Eden, God drove them out of the garden. However, He initiated a plan to reconcile them back by providing clothes and food Gen *3:18, 21:23*
- In Gen *3:13* God created enmity between man and the serpent to deter man from being tempted again, the snake is a symbol of evil.
- Throughout the Bible God initiated various measures to reconcile human beings. For instance
- Noahs ark of the covenant
- The choice of Abraham and making a covenant with him
- The call of Moses and the Ten commandments
- God sent His prophets and kings to guide and counsel the Israelites
- The coming of Jesus Christ was meant to bring salvation to mankind
- Finally, God sent the Holy Spirit to guide Christians to be close to God

➢ All these plans were initiated by God to reconcile man after sinning from the garden of Eden

African traditional understanding of evil

- Most African communities believed that god did not create evil.
- Some communities attribute the origin of sin to evil spirit.
- Others believe that evil is caused by "bad people" such as sorcerers, witches and magicians.
- Others believe that evil is caused by ancestors being angered. This could bring bad omen to the living e.g. death of children or animals.

- Sin could also come as a result of offending members of the community.
- Parents or elders could also curse some people.
- Evil things could also come as a result of god being angered.
- Some myths trace the origin of sin to a time during creation of the rules he was to observe which man disobeyed.
- The results of sin in the traditional African society were
  - Sin causes death as the affected sometimes suffered to death.
  - Sin causes diseases to the living as some of the misfortunes caused sickness.
  - Sin causes drought and famine.
  - Causes barrenness and childlessness.
  - Evil causes suffering, agony and misery.
  - It causes unstable families where there is no peace e.g. rebellion of children.
  - It causes environmental disasters such as floods and earthquakes.
  - It causes birth of physically and mentally handicapped children.
  - Evil causes war between clans.
- Sinners and offenders are treated according to the seriousness of the offence. Corporal punishment capital punishment banishment payment of fines public humiliation indecent burial ceremonies failure to be named after children denied food for some time. Denied leadership roles and isolation

Similarities between African concept of evil and the biblical concept in Genesis

1. Both agree that God did not create evil or sin. God is portrayed as good.
2. In both cases sin is related to human disobedience.
3. In both cases it results in man suffering or epidemics and other calamities.
4. In both it destroys the good relationship between man and God.
5. In both Biblical and African belief of evil brings death.
6. In both cases it does not only bring suffering to the individual but to the whole community.
7. Sometimes it is shown to come to people through Satan or evil spirits.

Differences

1. In African traditional religion, there is communal responsibility over sin as opposed to biblical teaching, where individual responsibility is emphasized.
2. Biblically, sin is intrinsic whereas in traditional African belief, it is extrinsic.
3. Sin is wholesomely punishable in African traditional religion, but is redemptive biblically.
4. Biblically, the punishment of sin is not everlasting due to the resurrected Christ. However, in African traditional religion, sin claims irreversible doom.

CHAPTER 3
FAITH AND GODS PROMISES: ABRAHAM

Background of Abraham
(Gen. 11:21- 12)

- Abraham lived with his father Terah in the land of Ur.
- The people of Ur were polytheists (worshipped many gods).
- Terah left Ur for Canaan with his son Abraham, Sarai (Abrahams wife) and his Nephew Lot.
- On the way they came to a place called Haran and Terah died there.
- It was at Haran where God called Abraham.
- Before his call, Abraham was called Abram.

The call of Abraham
(Gen.12:1-9)

- The Lord appeared to Abraham and told him to leave his country and go to a country that He would show him.
- God gave him several promises:
    - God would bless those who bless him and curse those who curse him.
    - He would make him a great nation.
    - Abrahams name would be great.
    - Through Abraham all nations would be blessed.
    - He would give Abrahams descendants a land to dwell in.
- So Abraham went as the Lord had told him. Lot went with him.
- By the time Abraham left Haran he was 75 years old.
- When he reached Canaan, he built an Altar at Shechem and another one at Bethel as a sign of honour to God.

Abrahams acts of faith in God

- Faith is an absolute belief or trust in somebody or something. (Hebrews 11:1-6).
- It is a strong belief without necessarily having a logical proof.
- Faith is unshakable trust in God.

Instances in which Abraham demonstrated his faith to God

1. Abraham believed in God by abandoning the polytheistic community to worship Yahweh:
2. Abraham accepted to quit the known Haran to an unknown destiny.
3. Abraham undoubtedly gave in to the command of circumcision
4. His unshakable faith led him to accept to sacrifice his only son and heir: Isaac, *(Genesis 22).*
5. Abraham constructed altars at Bethel and Shechem to worship God

6. He changed his name from Abram to Abraham and his wifes name from Sarai to Sarah.
7. He made a strong bond with God in an elaborate covenant.
8. Despite their old age, Abraham believed and trusted that his wife would bear him a son.
9. Abraham proved his faith through worshipping God in prayer, sacrifices and intercession.

Abrahams acts of faith in God

Abraham told to sacrifice his son Isaac

(Gen: 22:1-9)

- The Lord appeared to Abraham and told him to take his only son Isaac to Mt. Moriah and offer him as sacrific**e** to Him.
- Abraham arose in the morning, took his ass and took two of his servants and the son. He cut wood for the burnt offering on their way.
- Isaac asked his father where the lamb for the sacrifice was and Abraham told him *"the Lord would provide".* On reaching the Mountain, he built an altar.
- He tied his son and placed him on the altar. Then Abraham took his knife to slay his son, but the angle of the Lord called him and told him not to kill his son for the Lord had proved that he feared Him.
- Immediately God provided a ram for the sacrifice and Abraham offered the ram as a burnt offering. So Abraham called the place ***"the Lord will provide".***

Lessons Christians learn from this incidence

1. God expects man to be obedient to Him as Abraham was.
2. God works through men of faith, Christians should therefore be faithful to God.
3. God is the provider. He provided Abraham with a ram for the sacrifice.
4. God can test ones faith and whenever one is tempted he should not fall into temptation.
5. God does not want human sacrifice for He prevented Abraham from sacrificing his son.
6. God is ever present for he was present even where Abraham wanted to sacrifice his son.

Gods promises to Abraham

Genesis 12:2-3, 15:121, 17:15-18 and 21:17.

- Promise means giving an assurance of something to someone. God made several promises to Abraham

1. Abraham would father a great nation.

2. Abraham would receive personal blessings i.e. die in peace.
3. Abraham would have many descendants.
4. Abraham would receive personal reputation, whereby his name would be great.
5. God promised Abraham a son/heir.
6. God would establish an everlasting covenant with Abraham.
7. God would bless those who bless Abraham.
8. God would pronounce a curse onto those who curse Abraham, thereby protecting him.
9. God would settle Abraham and his descendants in a blessed land
10. Abraham would be the origin of blessing to the whole world
11. Though Abrahams descendants would be slaves in a foreign land, God would rescue them.
12. God would make great nations from Abrahams descendants.
13. God would make some of Abrahams descendants kings.

The relevance of Gods promises to Abraham to Christians today

1. Just like Abraham forfeited moon worship and received blessings, Christians should abandon all their waywardness to inherit Gods blessing
2. Christians realize that God fulfils all his promises through faith
3. God promised Abraham land. As Christians, we are assured of eternal life by faith and obedience
4. God can raise anybody from humble and faithless background to partake in his work, just like it was to Abraham
5. God protects Christians to date, a fulfilment of his promise to Abraham
6. Christians learn that they are direct fruits of Abraham, who will eventually receive Gods blessing
7. Christians turn out to be the new Israel who descend from Abraham

Gods covenant with Abraham

(GEN: 15:1-19)

- A covenant is a solemn agreement between two or more parties that had been separated before.
- There are two types of covenants
  - **Conditional covenant**-between two equal parties/groups
  - **Unconditional covenant**- between two unequal parties e.g. the covenant between God and Abraham

Major Elements of the Covenant

- A covenant is always between two or more parties.
- Promises are made and are meant to be kept.

- There are witnesses.
- There are signs.
- A covenant is binding and whoever breaks it must be punished.
- It involves a ceremony.
- There is a seal.

- Examples of known pacts/ covenants in the Bible
  - The covenant between God and Abraham
  - Gods covenant with Noah
  - Gods covenant with Israelites on mount Sinai
  - Gods covenant with David
  - Gods covenant with Jeremiah
  - Gods covenant with his people/ New Testament

The Covenant Ceremony

- God entered into a covenant with him. God assured him that his descendants would be as many as the stars.
- God told Abraham to bring a heifer, goat, and a ram each three years old, a dove and a pigeon. He cut the animals into halves and placed them opposite each other.
- The birds were not split. Towards evening Abraham fell into a deep sleep and was full of fear. While he slept, God appeared to him and told him that his descendants will be strangers in a foreign land for 400 years and after that He would take them out. That he would die in old age in peace.
- After the sun had set and it was dark smoking fire pot and a flaming torch suddenly appeared and passed between the cut animals. That day the Lord made a covenant with Abraham.

Significance of Abrahams covenant with God

1. By passing through the carcasses, God was showing to Abraham that He would protect him.
2. Abrahams covenant was the beginning of salvation history where God started a new relationship with man after the fall.
3. The blood of the animals sealed the covenant between God and Abraham.
4. It is during the covenant that God made promises to Abraham.
5. The covenant brought a new relationship between man and God.
6. The smoking fire pot and the flaming torch symbolized the presence of God.
7. The presence of the young animals — a heifer, a ram a goat each three years old symbolizes the holiness of God.
8. The pigeon and the turtledove were to act as witnesses and messengers at the ceremony.

Examples of covenants in modern societies

1. Oath of office

2. Employment contracts
3. Land transactions
4. Marriage
5. Peace treaties between Nations
6. Baptism
7. Ordination of Priests

Circumcision of Abraham and his descendants
(Gen: 17:1-16)

The Importance of Circumcision to Abraham and his descendants

1. It was **a** physical sign of true descendants of Abraham.
2. It was an outward sign of the inner faith.
3. It was a sign of obedience to the Mosaic Law.
4. It was a way of identifying those who were joined with Gods people.
5. It was a sign that God had entered into a covenant with Abraham.
6. It signified purity.
7. It was a sign of unity; through it one became a member of the Jewish community.

Comparison between the Jewish circumcision and circumcision in traditional African society

Similarities

1. In both cases circumcision is for the purpose of identification.
2. In both it marks the end of one stage in life and the beginning of another.
3. In both, circumcision is performed by special people mostly religious leaders.
4. In both there is a ceremony, which brings the members of the family together.
5. In both cases circumcision serves religious purposes.
6. There is the shedding of blood in both cases to seal the ceremony.

Differences

1. Among the Jews circumcision is done after eight days while in the traditional African society it is done at puberty.
2. Among the Jews it is done on only the male while among some African societies it is done on both sexes.
3. African circumcision is a test of courage while among the Jews it is a test of inner faith.
4. In African circumcision there is seclusion while among the Jews there is no seclusion
5. Among the Jews circumcision is a command from God while in the African societies it is in honor of ancestors

6. Among the Jews it is for the identification of the descendants of Abraham while in African communities it is identification of members of that community.
7. In the Jewish community it is an outward sign of the inner faith while in the African societies it marks change from childhood to adulthood.

CHAPTER 4
SINAI COVENANT: MOSES

Background to the call of Moses

Gen 37:1-36, 50:1-26 Ex 1-2

- Moses was born at a time when a decree had been issued to kill all male babies by drowning them in river Nile. His mother bore and hid him in a woven basket.
- When the baby was three months old and could no longer be hidden, his mother took him in a water proof basket, which he placed within the reeds at the bank of river Nile.
- The baby Moses was miraculously rescued by Pharaohs daughter, who took him to the palace, where he was brought up in a noble manner.
- The caretaker assigned to him was coincidentally his biological mother: Jacobeth, a fact hidden even to Pharaoh himself.
- Moses received credible education and training as a prince.
- Later on, he killed an Egyptian who had confronted an Israelite. Sensing danger, he fled to the wilderness. Here, he was a shepherd and experienced all the difficulties of the wilderness.
- At that point, Moses received his call in the form of a burning bush.

The call of Moses

(Ex.3:1-4:1-20)

- Moses the shepherd was herding the flock of his father-in-law: Jethro, when he saw a fury bush that was not being consumed.
- The mighty scene was near Mount Sinai, also called Horeb.
- As he drew near the fury bush, God instructed him to remove the shoes for he was treading on holy ground.

- Moses wanted to know the name of God. God revealed himself as the God of the Jewish patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- He commissioned Moses to go back to Egypt and rescue the Israelites from the affliction the Egyptians subjected the Israelites to.
- Moses hesitated, claiming that he not only feared Pharaoh, but was also a stammered and did not know the name of the one who was sending him.
- God assured Moses of his protection. He gave Moses his brother Aaron to serve as an interpreter. God gave his name as **"I am who I am".** He further assured Moses of the terrifying occurrences that would lead to the release of the Israelites.
- Still, Moses lamented of the Israelites, who, according to him, would neither believe nor listen to him. God told Moses to use the rod he had in his hand, which would turn into a snake and also place his hand in his pocket, which, on pulling out, would be affected with leprosy. Moses therefore accepted and took off to Egypt.
- Moses was hesitant to take up Gods commission because:
    - His life was in danger (Pharaoh had wanted to kill him/ he killed an Egyptian.
    - The Israelites might not believe that he was talking on behalf of God.
    - He was not an eloquent speaker i.e. he was a stammer.
    - He feared that Pharaoh would not believe that God sent him.
    - He feared that the Israelites would not accept him as their leader.
    - He was already settled in median and had a family.
    - He did not have enough knowledge about Yahweh
    - Egypt was far away from median

<u>What lessons did Moses learn about God from his call</u>

1. God does not give people impossible tasks.
2. God is loving/caring.
3. God commissions/appoints his people to do his work. God is mighty.
4. Gods nature is unspeakable, thus beyond human understanding.
5. God responds to peoples cry.
6. Gods choice of a person to discharge his duties is unique. God expects total obedience and faith.
7. God punishes the afflicters of his people.

The ten plagues
Ex 7:14-11:1-10

1. The plague of blood, whereby all waters turned into blood.
2. The plague of frogs;
3. The plague of gnats;
4. The plague of flies;
5. The plague of the death of animals.
6. The plague of boils.
7. The plague of hailstorm;
8. The plague of locusts;
9. The plague of darkness for three days.
10. Death of Egyptians firstborn sons.

Lessons Christians can learn about God from the plagues

1. God is more powerful than the Egyptian gods.
2. God loves His people. He does not want to see His people suffer.
3. God punishes the wrong doers as He punished the Egyptians
4. God protects or rescues those He love.
5. God answers His peoples prayers.
6. God works through His prophets or people.

The Passover
Exodus 12:1-30.

- God instructed Moses and Aaron to have all the Israelites to choose a lamb or a young goat for sacrifice. The sacrificial animals were to be one-year-old and without blemish.
- The sacrificial animals were to be chosen on the tenth day, but sacrificed on the 14th day.
- A small family that could not consume the meal was to combine with the neighbour.
- The sacrificial animals blood was to be smeared on the two door posts and lintel of each Israelites house to distinguish the Israelites house from the Egyptian, so that the angel of death would spare them when he killed the firstborn sons of Egyptians.
- The animal meat was to be roasted whole and eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.
- The Israelites were to dress up before eating in readiness for the journey.

- The Israelite women were to ask for jewellery from Egyptian women to compensate for the free labour they had given in Egypt.
- The Israelites were to remain indoors until dawn to be protected from the Angel of Death.
- That night, the Angel of destruction passed over the Israelites households, killing all firstborn males of the Egyptians. The execution picked up from pharaohs own son to that of Egyptian slaves.
- The firstborn male off springs of the Egyptian animal also did not escape that wrath.

The significance of each event of the Passover

- Using young animals showed the innocence of the sacrifice.
- Using an animal without blemish signified the purity of the sacrifice.
- The smearing of blood on the lintel was to identify Israelite and Egyptian house.
- Roasting of the meat showed the Israelites haste.
- The bitter herbs signified the bitter experience of slavery in Egypt.
- The unleavened bread was to be used for they had no time to ferment the dough.
- They were to dress up and pack their luggage to show readiness for the journey.
- The Israelite women were to borrow jewellery from Egyptian women to compensate for the free labour they had given Egypt.
- They were to remain indoors until morning to be protected from the angel of death.

The Exodus

- An Exodus is a mass movement of people from one place to another.
- It was this journey out of Egypt through the harsh wilderness.
- During the Exodus, God took care of the Israelites in various ways as follows:

The crossing of the Red Sea

Ex 14:5-31

- God miraculously enabled the Israelites to accomplish when the Egyptians were pursuing them. He instructed Moses to use his rod and divide the water. All the Egyptians were drowned.

Provision of water

Ex 15:22-27, 17:1-6

- Moses sought Gods guidance in a bid to request for water. God told Moses to throw a tree into the water. The bitter water turned sweet, ready for consumption. This was at a place called Marah.
- At Rephidim, God told Moses to strike a rock with his rod and water flowed from it.

God provided manna and quails
Ex 16:1-35

- Manna came each morning while quails came in large flocks.

Defeat of the Amalekites
Ex 17:8-16

- God provided security from the hostile desert communities, especially the Amalekites. Joshua led the Israelites against the Amalekites while Moses held his hands up.

Pillar of cloud and pillar of fire

- God guided the Israelites throughout the weary journey in the wilderness. During the day, a cloud guided them while a pillar of fire gave them direction at night.

Commissioning of Moses

- God commissioned Moses to rule, govern and administer the Israelites through the wilderness

The making of the Sinai Covenant
Ex 19,20:18-21,24:1-8
Preparation

- God summoned Moses to Mount Sinai. He enquired if the people of Israel were willing to obey him.
- If they accepted, then God would make them his people, a holy nation and a kingdom of priests. The Israelites accepted this.
- Thereafter, Moses instructed the Israelites to:
  - Make themselves holy by washing their garments.
  - Abstain from sexual relationship.
  - Mark the boundaries on the foot of the mountain to prevent any person or animal going up the mountain.
- Moses led the Israelites to meet Yahweh at the foot of the mountain. On the third day, Moses ascended the mountain.
- God manifested his presence in the form of thunder, lightning, earthquake and a thick cloud. There was also a loud trumpet blast.
- Moses received the Decalogue/ten commandments on behalf of the Israelites.

- Moses descended the mountain and briefed the people about Gods laws and ordinances.

Sealing of the covenant

- He built an altar at the foot of the mountain, on which he placed twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. He sent young men to offer burnt and peace offerings to God.
- He took half of the oxen blood, sprinkled it on the altar and the other half sprinkled it over the people, thus sealing the covenant.
- He took the book of the covenant in which the divine laws had been written down by him and read it in the hearing of all people. They accepted to follow and abide by the content of the covenant.

The Ten Commandments

Ex 20:1-17

- These are laws that were given to Moses to deliver to the Israelites. These laws were written on two stone tablets. They are:
  1. You shall not have any other gods before me.
  2. You shall not make yourself any graven image of me nor bow down to any image.
  3. You shall not use Gods name in vain.
  4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
  5. Honour your father and mother that your days may be long.
  6. You shall not kill.
  7. You shall not commit adultery.
  8. You shall not steal.
  9. Do not bear false witness against your neighbour.
  10. You shall not covet anything that is your neighbours.

The breaking of the Sinai Covenant

Ex 32:1-35

- After the sealing of the covenant, Moses went back to the mountain to receive the written Ten Commandments. He left Aaron and Her had been left in charge of the Israelites.
- Moses spent forty days on the mountain, which rendered people impatient.
- They mounted pressure on Aaron to make them a tangible and visible god to be worshipped.

- From the jewellery they possessed, Aaron moulded a golden bull to be their physical god.
- God revealed to Moses that the Israelites had become irreligious.
- God intended to destroy the whole Israelite generation, but Moses interceded and the gracious God changed his intension.
- Carrying the stone tablets, Moses descended the mountain.
- Moses found the Israelites dancing and singing in a boisterous and jubilant manner. In the same line, they practiced sex as they worshipped the god they had made.
- The Levites did not take part in the breaking of that covenant.
- Moses was filled with anger, so much so that he threw the stones down, breaking them.
- He burnt and ground the golden calf into powder, mixed it with water and gave it to the Israelites to drink.

The Renewal of the Covenant
Ex 34:1-35

- Renewal of the covenant was preceded by Moses plea to God.
- Out of mercy and grace, God promised not to destroy the Israelites.
- God instructed Moses to cut two stone tablets and to take them with him to the mountain.
- He was to write the laws on the stone tablets once more.
- God then assured Moses of the renewal of the covenant. God gave the Israelites the following obligations:
    1. To obey what God commands them;
    2. Not to make any treaty with those who live in the land where they were going;
    3. Not to worship any other god;
    4. To break down the altars, sacred stones and false gods;
    5. Not to make cast idols;
    6. To keep the feast of unleavened bread;
    7. To rest on the seventh day;
    8. To dedicate all their firstborn first born male sons animals to God;

9. To offer to god the first fruits of their crops.

- After the commands, God promised the Israelites that he would:
  (i) Protect and preserve them;
  (ii) Bless them;
  (iii) Make them prosper.
- God asked Moses to write these words in a new set of stone tablets. This showed that the covenant had been renewed.

The Israelites worship of God in the wilderness
(exodus 20:22-26, 23:14-20)

- Worship refers to the practice of showing respect and love to God.
- During their period in the wilderness, the Israelites worshipped God as individual and as community. The Israelites showed respect to God in the wilderness in the following ways:

They kept the Sabbath day

- They regarded it a special day of rest. On that day no one was supposed to do any work.

They offered sacrifices and offerings to God.

- The animals used for the sacrifices included sheep, goats, and bulls etc. Offerings included grains, incense. The offerings could either be burnt or roasted.

The Israelites observed many festivals

- Such feasts included
  - Feast of the unleavened bread/Passover-during the 14th day of the 1st month of the year.
  - There was also the feast of the harvest
  - This was also called the feast of week or Pentecost.
  - There was also the feast of the tabernacle.

The Israelites made altars

- They built alters to symbolized the presence of God amongst the Israelites. Moses built an altar during the sealing of the covenant.

The Commandments

- God gave the Israelites laws which were meant to guide them. These laws also included The 10 Commandments and Mosaic Law referred to as the Torah.

Religious leaders

- The Israelites had religious leaders. God also chose priests from the tribe of Levi. Their duties included:
  - Carried tabernacle
  - Offered sacrifices to God.
  - Taught the law.
  - They also organized prayer services.
  - Organized choirs.

Songs

- They also sang songs in praise of Yahweh.

The Ark and the Tabernacle They carried the Ark and Tabernacle. The tabernacle was at times referred to as the tent of meeting

Israelites new understanding of God

Ex 33,34

- God is omnipotent;
- God is loving and caring;
- God keeps his promises;
- God arrests difficult situations;
- God is just;
- God is peculiar in all ways;
- God is forgiving.

LATEST HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

0714497530 (Mr Isaboke)

Maths form 1-4

English form 1-4

kiswahili form 1-4

chemistry form 1--4

Biology form 1-4

Physics form 1--4

Agriculture form 1--4

Business form 1--4

Cre form 1--4

History form 1--4

Computer form 1--4

Geography form 1--4

Homescience f1--4

I.R.E studies f1-4

French notes

Setbooks guides

KCSE Topicals

CPA tuitioning

Updated *CPA,CIFA ATD* KASNEB notes

Updated *CPS,CICT,ATD* KASNEB Notes

Updated *ICT,IT,ACCA,CFA* notes

Forex trading guidance

CCTV installation &Networking services

Online services

*_All the materials are in soft copy and we'll updated

Text /call or WhatsApp *0714497530 to get your copy_*

https://wa.me/254714497530

CHAPTER 5
LEADERSHIP IN ISRAEL

Introduction

- When the Israelites had settled in Canaan, they did not have an earthly King. Their unseen ruler was God. Such a community was called a Theocratic community.
- God ruled through some judges who were appointed.

The role of judges in Israel

1. They led the Israelites into war against enemies such as the Philistines.
2. They settled disputes among the people.
3. They acted as spiritual leaders and officiated in worship.
4. They offered sacrifice on behalf of the people.
5. Some of the judges acted as the prophets of God.
6. The judges foretold the future.
7. The judges condemned the injustices in Israel.
8. They reminded the people of Gods ways.

Reasons why the Israelites demanded for a King

1 Samuel 8:1-9

- They demanded to be given a King because: -

1. Samuel had grown old.
2. He had imposed his sons Joel and Abijah as judges over the Israelites.
3. The two sons were not like their father for they lacked leadership skills.
4. They were corrupt and took bribes.
5. They wanted a King so that they would be like other nations in Canaan.
6. They wanted a stable political government ruled by law and order.
7. They had been influenced by political government of the Canaanites.

8. They wanted a king who would lead them into war against their enemies such as the Philistines and bring back the Ark that had been taken.

9. They wanted an earthly king who they could see and consult in time of problems

Reasons against Kingship in Israel
1 Sam 8:10-20

- Samuel was very upset by the request for a King because:

1. By demanding an earthly King, it meant that they had rejected Yahweh as their king.
2. They were going to lose their identity as Gods chosen people
3. The leaders to be appointed were going to lack leadership qualities.
4. The King would oppress them.
5. Some of their sons would be recruited to serve as soldiers in his army.
6. Others would be put into forced labor.
7. Their daughters would be put to work as cooks and perfumers.
8. The king would take the best of their flock.
9. The king would take their lands and good vineyards.
10. At that time, they would cry to God but God will not listen to them;

- the people refused to listen to Samuels warning and went ahead with their demand for a king. So the Lord told Samuel to do as they wanted.

The Choosing of Saul as the first King of Israel
1Sam 9:10

- After the Israelites had appealed to Samuel that they wanted a King, Samuel told the Lord what the people had said and the Lord instructed him to do, as they wanted.

- Saul the son of Kish was appointed as the first King of Israel.

Achievements of King Saul
1. He was Gods choice who was to save the Israelites from the power of the Philistines.

2. He received the spirit of God, which made him to prophesy like one of the prophets of God.

3. He fought and conquered the Israelite e.g. the Amorites, the Moabites and the Amalekites.

Failures of King Saul
1 Sam 13, 15, 18:6-9, 28:3-15, 3

1. He offered sacrifices to God at Gilgal yet he was not a priest.

2. he spared Agag the king of the Amalekites.

3. He spared the best sheep and cattle of the Amalekites for selfish gain.

4. He cheated Samuel that he wanted to offer the animals as sacrifice to God.
5. He listened to the voice of his subjects and army to spare the animals and Agag.
6. He became jealous and plotted to kill David.
7. He consulted a medium so that he could talk to the spirit of Samuel.
8. He killed the priest of God, (1 Sam 22.)
9. He committed suicide when he went to war against the Philistines

Lessons Learnt from the Failures of King Saul

1. Christians should obey Gods command and prophets
2. It is important to have faith in God.
3. A Christian needs to be patient.
4. Christians should not be influenced by greed for wealth and earthly desires.
5. God does not value incense sacrifice instead he is more pleased with obedience
6. Leaders need not to be jealous of others Saul was jealous and plotted to kill David.
7. There is need to respect every ones responsibility.
8. Saul never respected the position of Samuel.

Choosing of David as the king of Israel

1sam 16:1-15

- David was the son of Jesse from the tribe of Judah.
- God instructed Samuel to go and anoint David to succeed Saul as a King of Israel.

Achievements of king David

1. He was chosen by God. God told Samuel to come and anoint him as king of Israel.
2. He was a skilled Musician and composed the book of Psalms that is used in the church even today *(1Sam 16:14-23).*
3. He brought back the Ark of the Covenant from the house of Abinadab to Jerusalem with great celebration. The Ark had been taken away by the enemies*. (2Sam 6:1-5).*
4. He conquered the city of Jerusalem and made it its capital city. *(2sam; 5:6-25).*
5. He was a brilliant military commander. The name David means Army Commander. He waged successful wars against Moab, Ammor, Amelekite and Aram.
6. He killed Goliath who was a great warrior of the Philistines because he had great faith in God. *(1Sam 17).*
7. He expanded the boundaries of Israel through military conquest.
8. He was a good administrator. He administered through law and justice to all people. He chose wise leaders to advise him.

9. David was a humble king who was ready to repent whenever he committed a sin. He repented after taking Uriahs wife. *(2 Sam: 11).*
10. He was publicly anointed as a King of Israel. He was made king over Judah and was later accepted by the whole Israel.
11. He established good diplomatic relations with the surrounding nations for example; he signed a treaty with Syria and through the treaty Israel benefited both economically and politically.
12. He laid foundation of building the great temple which was later completed by Solomon. (*2Sam 7:1-17).*
13. God promised to establish an everlasting kingdom for David where his descendants would live in peace. Jesus is a descendant of King David.
14. He united the Northern and Southern kingdom and made it into one nation.

<u>David as the ancestor of Jesus</u>
2 Sam 1:29, Luke 1:26-33

- Nathans prophesy about the Messiah is seen as having been fulfilled in the work of Jesus Christ in the following ways: -
- Jesus Christ who was the Messiah is seen as being born from Davids lineage.
- Mathew in the Genealogy of Jesus tells that Jesus was a descendant of King David. *(Matt 1:1).*
- Jesus was born in Bethlehem, which was referred to as the city of David. *(Luke 2:4)*
- In their sermons, the early apostles like Paul and Peter made a number of references to Jesus as a descendant of King David. *(Romans: 1:3-5).*
- The blind man at Jericho hailed Jesus as son of David and looked to him to restore his sight. (Lk 18:35-36).
- During Triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus was hailed by the crowd as the Messiah descendant from the house of King David. *(Math. 21:9).*
- Angel Gabriel told Mary that the son would be great and will be called the son of the Most-High*…. (Lk. 1:26-33).*
- Jesus foster father was a direct descendant of King David

<u>Qualities of a Good Leader drawn from David</u>
1. Modern rulers should be **courageous** and ready to die with and for their subjects like David was a strong Military Commander.
2. Modern leaders should have **faith in God** and realize that authority comes from God.

3. Leaders should be thankful to God. David was thankful not only to God but also to his people.
4. Modern leaders should be **loyal** to their oath of office. David kept his without favoring some people.
5. Leaders should be **kind**. David was a kind leader. He pardoned many of those who had offended him.
6. A good leader should be **humble**. David was a humble person. He consulted Gods prophets.
7. A leader should be able to **admit his mistakes.** David realized his mistakes and asked for **forgiveness.**
8. Modern leaders should be **willing to delegate duty** as David did. David had a team of advisors and administrators.

Achievements and failures of king Solomon

- After David died, his son Solomon took over as king in Israel.

Achievements of king Solomon

1Kings 4:29, 3:16, 4:20-27, 10:14, 11:3

1. He was considered to have been a wise ruler. The wisdom was given by God.
2. He built the great temple and dedicated if for the service of the Lord.
3. He brought the Ark of the Covenant into the temple.
4. He established trade links with the neighbouring communities and made Israel a prosperous nation.
5. Solomon wrote several Proverbs still being used in our churches today.
6. He is regarded to be one of the richest men who ever lived. He had 1000 women in his palace.
7. He is remembered for his great administrative skills. He had soldiers, officers, commanders and chariot captains.

Failures of king Solomon

1 kings 9:10-14, 9:15-19, 11:1-13, 11;9-1)

1. He sold a piece of land of Israel to Hiram King of Tyre, which was against the will of God.
2. Solomon introduced forced labour in Israel.
3. He married many foreign wives, which was against Gods command.
4. He allowed the foreign wives to introduce idolatry in Israel.
5. He built high places for the worship of the foreign gods and offered sacrifices to them.
6. He built his palace for 13 years while built the temple for 7 years,

7. He used foreign materials to build the temple.
8. He taxed the Israelites heavily to maintain his large number of wives.
9. King Solomon lived lavishly.
10. He made treaties with foreign nations, which was against Gods Command.
11. After becoming king, Solomon killed his own half-brother (Adonijah) on the suspicion that he could rival him for the throne; this was against Gods Command.

The schism between Judah and Israel and the spread of idolatry in Israel
2 Kings 12

- Schism refers to the division that occurred in Israel that brought up the formation of the Northern Kingdom under Jeroboam and the Southern Kingdom under Rehoboam.
- The Southern Kingdom remained with only two tribes i.e. Judah and Benjamin and the Northern kingdom had ten tribes.
- After the death of Solomon, his son Rehoboam became the king of the Israel. The people therefore approached him to relax his rules from the dictatorship that his father had practiced.
- Rehoboam told them to go and come after three days.
- He then went and consulted the elders who told him to do as the people had said.
- He ignored the advice of the elders and went to his fellow young men who advised him to be even harsher than his father was.
- When the people went back to him he said he refused to relax his rule. When the people heard this, they rebelled against him and established the Northern kingdom that came to be known as Israel with Jeroboam as the king.

Importance of the Temple to the Jewish People

1. The temple symbolized Gods presence among the Israelites.
2. It was a house where the Israelites offered prayers to God.
3. It was the place where the first-born male children were dedicated to God.
4. The temple was a place where the Israelites offered sacrifices to God.
5. The Ark of the Covenant, which symbolized Gods presence, was kept in the temple.
6. It was a place where the priests and prophets resided.
7. The rites of purification were carried out in the temple.
8. It acted as a symbol of unity in Israel.

9. The Jewish ceremonies such as the Passover feast and the feast of the Tabernacle were formed in the temple.
10. The temple also served as a commercial centre. The animals for sacrifice were brought in the temple.
11. The temple acted as a court. The Jewish elders sat in the temple to judge cases. (the Sanhedrin)

    It acted as a training place for the priests, Rabiis and scribes. It was where the people were taught the Mosaic Laws

CHAPTER 6
LOYALTY TO GOD

The factors that led to the spread of idolatry in Israel.

1. The fact that Israelites intermarried with foreign wives, who introduced foreign gods.
2. The Israelites did not fully rely on Yahweh, they worshipped the Canaanite gods too.
3. They emulated the ways in which the foreign communities/nations were ruled and governed.
4. After the split of the Kingdom, some of the Kings E.g. Jeroboam, promoted worship of idols.
5. The presence of temples for the gods attracted the Israelites into idolatry.
6. The Israelites practiced polytheism.
7. The Israelites turned away from their pastoralist life to agricultural life prayed to the gods. to bless their Agricultural productivity

The local Canaanite religion

- The Canaanite religion was a Nature religion: a religion dealing with the forces of nature e.g. rain i.e. it was cosmic.
- The religion comprised family gods e.g.
- The Canaanite gods and goddesses.
    - **El:** the chief god;
    - **Baal:** god of the storm, god of rain, god of heaven;
    - **Mot:** god of famine, god of drought, god of death;
    - **Astati:** -a goddess, Baals wife;
    - **Asherah**: goddess of fertility, wife of El;
    - **Anat:** goddess of war.
- Images and symbols were made to represent the gods.
- They inculcated their worship with temple prostitution.
- Sacrifices including human beings were offered to these gods.
- Festivals and feasts were celebrated in honour of the gods.
- Rituals were offered to ensure continued fertility and well-being of the community.
- Each god and goddess had a noticeable role in the community.
- Temples or high places were built for the worship of the gods.
- There was a supreme or chief god or goddess.
- There were prophets and prophetesses for each god.
- The Israelites imitated the agricultural life of the Canaanites, disregarding their pastoral life.
- It was believed that a god was only powerful in his own land.

- He made Shechem his capital because Jerusalem remained in the Southern kingdom.

Religious schism between Judah and Israel
(1Kings 12:25-33)

- Jeroboam broke the covenant way of life by:
  - He stopped the people from going to worship in Jerusalem.
  - He made golden calves and put them at Bethel and Dan for the people to worship
  - He built an alternative place of worship for the people of the Northern kingdom.
  - Jeroboam himself also worshiped the idols.
  - He appointed priests who were not from the house of Levi.
  - He instituted festivals in the Northern kingdom like those in Judah
  - He offered sacrifices to the calves he had made although he was not a priest.
- All these showed that Jeroboam had gone against the Covenant way of life.
- This religious separation between Judah and Israel contributed to the spread of idolatry in Israel.

King Ahabs marriage with the Phoenician princess-Jezebel
1 king 16:29-31

- During the reign of Ahab as king of Israel, he did more evil to the eye of God than any of those before him. He married Jezebel the daughter of the king of Phoenicia.
- This was against Gods command for the people were not to marry from foreign nations.
- He built high places for the worship of Baal.
- Ahab himself became a Baal worshiper. He began to offer sacrifices to Baal.
- He also made an image of Asherah pole.
- Jezebel also invited the Baal prophets and supported them with state funds.
- The prophets of Yahweh were persecuted or killed at the slightest opportunity if they raised their voices against Baalism.

The effects of idolatry in Israel

1. The Israelites adopted the Canaanite cultural calendar.
2. They worshipped God alongside other gods, which is called Syncretism.
3. Former places of worship of the Canaanite gods were turned into places of worship for Yahweh without eliminating the Canaanite symbols e.g. the altars.
4. The worship of Yahweh was looked down upon making Baalism an official religion.
5. Names of the Canaanite gods were also used for Yahweh.

6. These names of Canaanite gods, especially Baal were given to Israelite children.
7. The Israelites began to oppress the poor.
8. Queen Jezebel commanded that all the altars of Yahweh be done away with. It resulted into the killing of the prophets of Yahweh.
9. The Canaanites sacrificial system became part and parcel of the Israelite worship.
10. The unity of Israel was interfered with the split of the kingdom into two.

Elijah fought against false religion.
(1 Kings 18:17-46)

- After King Ahab married Jezebel the daughter, they purely relied on Baal prophets, thus endangering the prophets of Yahweh, who they had neglected.
- It was during this period when the prophets of God faced hostility that God sent Prophet Elijah. Elijah willingly accepted the instruction of God to go and meet King Ahab.
- Ahab referred to Elijah as a trouble maker of Israel. This was because of the drought that Elijah had pronounced as Gods judgment due to Israels unfaithfulness.

Contest at Mount Camel

- Elijah requested the King to gather all Israel together, including the 450 Baal prophets to a contest at Mount Carmel: the vineyard of the Lord.
- The main purpose of the contest was to know who is God.
- The two parties: Baal prophets and Elijah, were to contest, thereby offering a sacrifice of a bull to their respective God. The God who could answer by fire was to be worshipped.
- Ahab therefore summoned all the people, including the prophets of Baal to Mount Carmel. The prophets of Baal were given a bull, which they prepared, then called upon the name of their god.
- They prayed, shouted and danced around the altar, yet there was no response.
- Elijah mocked them and asked them to pray much louder. He told them that maybe their god was occupied, busy, on a business trip or he is asleep.
- The Baal prophets prayed, cut themselves with knives until they bled, but Baal remained mute and gave no response.
- Elijah then summoned the people to move closer as he repaired the abandoned altar of Yahweh with much courage.

- He set up twelve memorial stones to represent each of the twelve tribes of Israel. He placed the sacrifice on the altar and asked the people to pour water on it. He prayed to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to prove that he was the living God.
- Fire descended and consumed the sacrifice and everything around it.
- The people threw themselves on the ground and worshipped the Lord as the true Yahweh.
- Elijah killed the prophets of Baal. He announced the coming of a storm. Clouds formed and rain began falling in torrents

Lessons that Christians can learn from the contest

1. Yahweh is the **true God** brought fire that consumed the sacrifices.
2. Yahweh is a **powerful God** who controls the forces of nature. He brought rain.
3. He is **a holy God.**
4. He is **merciful** and **forgiving God**. He forgave the Israelites when they repented.
5. Yahweh **answers peoples prayers** for he answered Elijahs prayers by sending fire.
6. He is **the provider** for he provided rain.
7. He is the **protector** of his servants like Elijah.
8. He is **jealous God** who does not like being likened to idols.
9. He **punishes** those who disobey his commandments.

Elijahs fight against moral corruption.

1 Kings 21:1-29

- **Corruption** is a form of injustice to which an innocent person is subjected.
- Ahab coveted a fruitful vineyard of a great farmer by the name Nabboth, the Jezrelite.
- The farm was next to Ahabs palace. Ahab approached Naboth and asked him if he could sell the vineyard in exchange with another.
- Naboth boldly rejected this idea. He could neither sell nor exchange the property, because it was a property belonging to the family.
- Ahab became gloomy and even lost the appetite of eating. When Ahab revealed this to his pagan wife: Jezebel, Jezebel worked out a quick plan of action.
- She forged letters in the Kings name and sealed them with the Kings rubber stamp and sent them to the elders of Jezreel.
- She had accused Naboth of two grievous faults i.e. blasphemy and treason.
- God therefore commissioned Elijah to pass judgment against Ahab.

- The divine judgment was that Ahabs Kingdom was going to be destroyed. His family members would die the same death as Naboth.
- Ahab went down on his knees, put on a sack cloth as a sign of repentance. God promised to effect the punishment during the reign of Ahabs sons. Ahab broke three commandments:
- You shall not desire your neighbours property; Do not bear false witness; and Do not kill.

Forms of corruption in Kenya today and how to fight against the vice

1. **Tribalism and Nepotism**
- Tribalism is the giving of favor to the members of your tribe while Nepotism is the giving of favor to the people whom you are related to.
2. **Bribery**
- This is paying money or any material to be favored for what one does not deserve.
3. **Cheating in business**
- Example small scale is used in measurement or high charges are put on an item.
4. **Stealing of money or property in work place.**
5. Swearing falsely in the court of laws.
6. Misuse of public property or funds.
7. Grabbing of personal or public land through trickery.

Ways of Fighting Corruption

1. Christians need to be **critical thinkers** i.e. weigh the advantages and disadvantages and then look at the consequences.
2. A Christian needs to be **creative** and find ways of tackling issues.
3. **Praying** for the corrupt people to change.
4. Being a **role model** i.e. not taking part in corrupt deals.
5. **Preaching** to the people on the ills of corruption.
6. **Report** incidences of corruption to relevant authority.
7. Encouraging people to **observe the laws** of the country.

Reasons why Elijah face danger and hostility

1. He reprimanded Ahab and his people for the worship of Baal.
2. He condemned Ahab for coveting Naboths vineyard and killing him.
3. He pronounced a three and a half years period of drought, a fact that annoyed Ahab.
4. He had ordered the killing of 450 Baal prophets after the contest.
5. He had annoyed Jezebel, who in turn threatened to kill him.
6. He wanted to strengthen faith in Yahweh.

7. The false prophecy from the Baal prophets made the people work against Elijah

How Elijahs prophetic mission is important to a Christian today

1. Church leaders should be courageous to condemn evil being committed in the society just like Elijah faced the King when he forgot the covenant way of life.
2. Christians should avoid bearing false witness against their neighbours like Jezebel did to Naboth.
3. Christians should live a life of prayer and God will always answer their prayers just like he answered Elijahs prayers.
4. Christians must be ready to perform Gods task however hard it may be. Elijah was given the hard task of performing disaster in the name of Ahab.
5. Christians need to live life free from corruption.
6. Leaders should not use their positions to oppress the weak just like Ahab used his power as a king to oppress Naboth.
7. God will always protect his people just as Elijah was protected by God when Jezebel wanted to kill him.
8. Just as Elijah remained faithful to God in the times of hardship, Christians therefore need to have faith in God.
9. Christians should fight for the rights of the poor just as Elijah fought for the rights of the poor.
10. Christians should avoid modern form of Idolatry at all costs; they must not value earthly things above God.

CHAPTER 7
AFRICAN CONCEPT OF GOD, SPIRITS AND ANCESTORS
AFRICAN RELIGIOUS HERITAGE

- Every aspect of their life was controlled by religion.
- They believed in the existence of God that they referred to in different names.
- They believed that everything in the world both living and non-living were created by God.
- These stories that try to explain the origin of the earth are called Myths.

African concept of God

- Most African communities believe that;
- **God is the creator:** for he created the living and non-living. He created all from nothing.
- **God is all-powerful:** He is the one who makes all and he has the power and strength over all things. (Omnipotent).
- **God is all knowing:** (Omniscient). This means that nothing can be hidden from God.
- **God is good:** All that He created is.
- **God is Merciful:** loving and just.
- **God is holy:** God does not make mistake and fail in any way.
- **God is transcendent:** (He is beyond human understanding; people rarely have physical representation of God).
- **God is all seeing:** people believe that He has eyes that see everywhere.
- **God is omnipresent:** for He is ever present in the world at the same time.
- **God is spirit**. He is believed to be in the spirit form and invisible but His presence can be felt.
- **God is everlasting** (eternal). He was there at the beginning and he will be there to the end. Hes the same today, yesterday and tomorrow.

- **God is the provider** for he provides man with all that man needs to sustain e.g. Bukusu called him Were Khakaba meaning the provider.

Spirits

- The spiritual world is dominated by spiritual beings i.e. spirits and the living dead.
- There are good and bad spirits. There are spirits that are created by God; these are called divinities.
- There are spirits that are believed to have been human beings. These are called Common Spirits.
- Some spirits that are believed to be in charge of natural occurrences e.g. earthquakes, lightning.
- Spirits are believed to dwell in the underworld; these include riverbeds, rocks or caves, mountains, valleys, lakes, forests e.t.c.
- It is believed that spirits would be blown from one homestead to another. They are also believed to be more powerful than the living but can be manipulated e.g. diviners or mediums are believed to use the spirits in their work.
- Communication with the spirits was through
  - Spirits are consulted through offerings, sacrifices, prayers, songs and dances.
  - Shrines are also built for the spirits.
  - There is also the pouring out of libations. However, the practices of consulting God through spirits have been greatly affected by Biblical teachings.

The role of spirits

- Some of the spirits are consulted by diviners, mediums and medicine men.
- Bad spirits could bring misfortune amongst the people.
- Some spirits are used by magicians, sorcerers and witches to bring calamities.
- The spirits also provide people with explanation to certain strange things which they find in the universe.
- Religious specialists consult spirits in order to find a cause or solution to a problem.
- A spirit also relays Gods response to human request e.g. during calamities such as famine, floods, drought.
- Spirits are also consulted before serious undertaking such as wars. Spirits are believed to bring victory.
- They can give warning to impending dangers.

Ancestors (living dead)

- The term "living dead" has been used to mean a person who is physically dead but whose character is still active in memory of those who know him.
- Such a person is believed to be alive in the spirit world.
- On the other hand, ancestors can be used to refer to those who have been forgotten.
- The living dead are believed to be **Bilingual** i.e. they speak the language of the living dead and also speak the language of the people with whom they lived with until recently.
- The ancestors (living dead) act as link between the living and God and therefore are respected and remembered through naming of the children after them.
- Whenever a community feels that the ancestors are not pleased with them, they would appease them through the act of offering sacrifices.
- There is also pouring of the libations.
- They also show respect to the dead by honouring their wills and wishes.
- The dead are also remembered during occasions like initiation.
- Their names are also at times mentioned in prayers.
- The dead are also consulted through diviners or medicine men whenever a decision is to be made.

Role of ancestors

1. Act as link between the living and the dead.
2. Ancestors help to preserve and sustain traditional standards of the community.
3. They are also used to regulate the behaviour of those who are still living e.g. would punish the living.
4. They protect the living.
5. Give instructions to the family as what should be done on certain issues affecting the family.
6. They warn of impending punishment to those who fail to carry out their wishes.
7. Participate in community ritual ceremonies e.g. burying the dead.
8. Ancestors also welcomed the dead in the world of the living dead.

African hierarchy of beings

GOD
↓
DIVINITIES
↓
COMMON SPIRITS
↓
LIVING DEAD
↓
HUMAN BEINGS
↓
ANIMALS & PLANTS
↓

NON-LIVING THINGS

- The African understanding of the universe is that it consists of two parts i.e. visible (earth) and the invisible, which is the sky.
- The universe has an order in which the beings are arranged.
- In the hierarchy **God** occupies the highest position. He is the creator of the universe.
- Below God are **divinities** who are personal aides to God.
- They control major forces of nature.
- Under divinities there is **common spirit.** These are spirits of those who died long ago.
- The fourth in the hierarchy are the **living dead** who act as the intermediaries between the living and God.
- The fifth in the hierarchy are human beings who include those **physically alive and those yet to be born.**

- **Living things** like animals and plants make up the next level. Human beings use them as food. They are also used as sacrifices and offerings to God.
- Some plants and animals are regarded as sacred in certain African communities.
- At the bottom of hierarchy are the **non-living things,** which include rivers, lakes, mountains, rocks, valleys and caves

Responsibility of the living towards God

- The living have a lot of duties towards God e.g. the living have the responsibility of thanking God for whatever he has done.
- The living also honors God through praying to Him and honoring Him as the provider.
- They also sing and dance in worship of God.
- The living also honor God through offering of sacrifices and people are expected to take the best of their flock.
- The Africans also have to respect the name of God and is not to be mentioned carelessly.
- The Africans also have the responsibility of teaching the young ones about God.
- It is also the responsibility of the living to take care of Gods creation e.g. in some Communities it is a taboo to kill young animals.

Responsibility of the living towards Spirits and Ancestors

- All the living has to respect the spirits and ancestors.
- It is also responsibility of the living to consult the spirit world in times of need.
- This is done through religious specialists such as diviners and mediums.
- The living has to honor sacred places e.g. caves, shrines, river beds, mountain etc.
- The living also shows concern for the dead by pouring out the libation and food.
- The living also honors the wishes of the dead. It is believed that going against their wishes would bring punishment.
- The people have the responsibility of taking care of the communitys land as it is believed that land belongs to the community.
- It is their duty to protect the communitys culture. This culture would be passed from generation to generation.

African ways of worship

- Worship refers to an act of showing respect, honor and love for God.
- The methods of approaching God differ from one community to another.

1. **Offering of sacrifice:**

- It involves shedding of blood whether human beings, birds or animals. The sacrificial animals are carefully selected. Sacrifices are usually offered by religious specialists like the diviners and priests. They roast the animal and believe the smoke reached God.

2. **Through offerings:**

- Offerings are gifts given to God other than those that involve shedding of blood. Offering include things like food stuffs milk or harvest from the firm.

3. **Through prayers:**

- People may also communicate to God through prayers. African prayers are usually short and to the point. Prayers are usually offered before sacrifices.

4. **Through religious specialists**

- such include diviners, mediums, prophets or elders. The specialists act as intermediaries between the people and the spirits

5. **Through songs and dances.**

- The Africans also worship God through singing and dancing especially during communal act of worship.

6. **Through Shrines:**

- Communal worship is carried out at particular places known as Shrines. The Agikuyu have a sacred tree known as the Mugumo tree. Other Communities have shrines like rocks, mountains and caves.

7. **Pouring of libation:**

- This is meant to appease God. Before one starts eating, some food would be thrown down for the ancestors.

8. **Through ancestral spirits.**

- Ancestors and the living dead are believed to have to have a lot of influence on the

  living.

9. **Through spirits:** People would also communicate with God through the use of spirits. This is done through diviners and medium.

<u>African traditional ways of venerating ancestors and Spirits</u>

- Veneration simply means the ways in which the Africans show respect and honour to God. These include:

1. **Offering sacrifices**
   This is done to maintain good relationship between the living and the dead.

2. **Pouring out of libation**
   The Africans pour libations to the ancestors in form of grains, piece of meat, milk or beer.
   Inviting them to participate in the community rites such as marriage, birth and burials.
3. **Through naming**
   Some communities venerate ancestors through naming new born babies after them.
4. **Calling their names in prayers**
   The ancestors are also venerated or calling their names in prayers.
5. **Giving the dead a decent burial.**
   The graves of the dead are well maintained and the Body is carefully placed in the grave.
6. **Honoring the will and wishes of the dead.**
   It is believed that if the will and wishes are not honored, the dead would bring bad omen to the living.

CHAPTER 8
MEANING OF LIFE AND ITS WHOLENESS IN TRADITIONAL AFRICAN SOCIETY

Meaning of life

2) In the African traditional society, life is believed to originate from God.
3) Life also progress from one stage to another.
4) There are rites of passage that one has to undergo. These include birth, initiation, marriage and death.
5) Life also continues after death; death does not mark the end of life but is just a change of state. When one dies, he joins the world of the living dead.
6) Life is also seen as communal. Everybody is a part of the other.
7) Life is also considered to be more precious and highly valued. No one is allowed to take the life of another.

African understanding of community and kinship

- African community is used to refer to a group of people occupying a particular geographical area, share common interest and practices a sense of togetherness.

Characteristics of African community

- They are people who claim a common ancestry and are related by blood.
- They live in one Geographical area.
- Are made up of smaller units called clan. The size of the clan could differ from one to the other.
- A clan is made up of a family who either are related by blood and marriage.
- A community has distinct beliefs, customs and cultural practices.
- Each community has a distinct political and social organization.

Kinship system

- Kinship refers to being related to another either by blood or marriage.
- In African traditional society, each individual is related to the other.

Importance of Kinship

1) Kinship system defines how members relate to one another i.e. it governs behavior towards each other
2) Kinship binds together the entire life of a community, the departed and those yet to be born.
3) Kinship ties assist people to live peacefully and in harmony with others.
4) Kinship ties also provide security to all concerned. All the members come together in times of need.
5) It also regulates marriage relations, before marriage one has to find the back ground of the other. It is also a taboo to marry close relative. The tie reduces cases of incest.

6) Kinship gives individuals a sense of belonging since everyone is a relative in one way or the other, one feels comfortable in any company.
7) Kinship helps to prevent the spread of hereditary diseases.
8) Kinship helps to care for the less fortunate members of the society e.g. in cases of death, the whole community mourn.
9) Kinship defines and enforces duties and responsibilities of individuals.
10) Kinship system provides the peaceful ways of settling disputes in a community as all are treated as brothers and sisters.

Factors contributing to harmony and Mutual Responsibility in African Traditional Societies

- In traditional African Society, every individual is related to all. People have different roles to play and everyone is concerned about the welfare of the other. This is brought by the following factors:

1. **Division of labour** in African societies, labour is divided according to sexes. Grandparents are charged with the duty of counselling. Grandmothers teach girls their roles and grandfathers maintain law and order

   Young unmarried men provide security in form of warriors while boys look after the animals. Girls take care of the babies and fetch firewood.

2. **Communal worship** — prayers are offered to God to thank Him for whatever he has done. Prayers are offered also during time of calamities. Prayers also connect the living and the dead.

3. **Leisure Activities**: This is the time that one has at his disposal. Such occasions include beer drinking, wrestling, playing Bao, singing and dancing etc.

4. **Rites of passage**: These are ceremonies that are performed to a group of people to mark important stages of life. Such include: -Birth Initiation Marriage Death

5. **Spirit of sharing**: In African Traditional Community there is the spirit of sharing of resources among the members of a community e.g. food, beer drinking.

6. **Communal activities**: People participate in communal activities e.g. in the garden or when one is building a new house.

7. **Rules and Regulations**: People in the community are governed by rules and regulations, which are strictly followed. This helps to control peoples behaviours.

8. **Religion**: People have some religious beliefs, which promote unity, and every community believes in the existence of one God.

9. **Same ancestry**: People of a particular community believe that they have the same origin e.g. the Agikuyu the ancestors are Mumbi and Gikuyu were created by Ngai.

10. **Land ownership**: The ancestral land is communally owned and nobody is allowed to sell it. This ensured that nobody remained landless.

11. **Extended Family**: It ensures that children, orphans and the widows are well taken care of by the other members of the extended family. It could also help in paying of the dowry.
12. Members of a community could also come together when **defending the community** against outside invaders.

CHAPTER 9
RITES OF PASSAGE AND MORAL VALUES

Rites of passage

- These are important stages in life that one has to undergo. They include; -
  1. Birth and naming
  2. Initiation
  3. Marriage
  4. Death
- The rites or ceremonies conducted on such occasions differ from one community to another.

  Most of these ceremonies are religious.

Birth

Pregnancy

- This is the first stage in the life of a person. Life is seen to begin from the time of conception since un born children are taken as part of the community.

- When a woman learns that she is pregnant, she becomes very happy and she becomes a special person in the community and receives special treatment.
- This special treatment starts before and continues after childbirth.
- In some communities, marriage is not recognized without children. This shows that children seals marriage.
- It also shows that the woman is fully integrated to the husbands family
- There are certain rules and regulations she is expected to observe. These rules would differ from one community to another.
    1. In some communities as soon as a woman realizes she is expecting, she and the husband completely stops having sexual intercourse until after birth.
    2. Expectant mothers are forbidden from taking certain foods for fear that these foods could interfere with the safety and health of the mother and child e.g. among the Akamba pregnant women are not supposed to eat fats, beans or animals killed using poison.
    3. Pregnant women are not allowed to handle certain types of tools. Among the Akamba and the Agikuyu. For example, all weapons and iron implements are removed from the house of an expectant mother. They believe iron implements attract lightning.
    4. They are not supposed to take part in heavy duties or carry heavy loads.
    5. In some communities, a pregnant woman returns to her parents when the time for giving birth draws near.
    6. Yet in some communities when a woman is pregnant she is not allowed to talk to her husband directly. They would only speak through intermediaries.
    7. There are societies where prayers are made to the mother and the child.

Actual birth

- During birth there are certain rituals that are performed to introduce the chills to the immediate and extended members of the family.
- The practices vary from one community to another.
- There are traditional midwives who help in delivery.
- The midwives perform the following: -
    1. They advise the expectant mother on how to take care of herself.
    2. The midwife also monitors the development of the foetus.
    3. Would provide medical care e.g. giving the expectant mother certain herbs.

4. Midwife could assist the mother in actual delivery to ensure the safety of the baby.
5. They would also announce the sex of the child.
6. The mid wife checks any abnormalities on the babies at the correct time.
7. They could also clean newly born baby.
8. She organizes the disposal of the placenta (after birth).
9. The midwife advises on post-natal care of the mother and the baby.

- Different communities have different rules on where the delivery should take place. In some communities, it may be done in the forest while others the expectant mother would go back to their parents while others could also be done in the house of the in-law.
- Men are not allowed to go next to the delivery places.
- When the baby arrives, the sex of the baby is announced by ululations. This shows concern that they have for the child.
- The placenta is disposed of ceremoniously e.g. in some communities it is thrown to uncultivated land to show fertility.
- In some communities it would be thrown in rivers, forest in Banana plantations.
- In some communities e.g. Agikuyu umbilical cord is kept to symbolize the link between the mother and the child.
- Purification rites are performed for the mother and the child to make the child pure.
- In most communities the child and the mother are kept in seclusion for a number of days, depending on the sex of the baby.
- Protection charms are tied around the neck or the waist of the child.
- Prayers are also offered to God for protection.
- The hair of the mother and the child is shaved. This symbolizes new life.
- The naming of the child takes place some days after birth. The name gives the child identity.
- Presents are given to the baby and mother as a sign of good will.

Importance of seclusion period

1. To give the mother time to heal.
2. To protect the child from evil eyes.
3. To give the mother instructions on how to take care of the child.
4. It symbolized death and resurrection.
5. Both the mother and the child are given charms to protect them.
6. To give the mother time to recover the lost energy.

Naming

- Nearly all-African names have a meaning.
- The naming of a child is therefore an important occasion, which is often marked with ceremonies.

Importance of Naming

1. Naming gives identity to a person before a child is given a name she or he is not considered as having full identity.
2. Names are also given in honour of ancestors. Children could be named after their dead relatives.
3. It is also a way of remembering important events in the society.
4. It is also a sign of acceptance of the children into the new family.
5. Naming ceremonies also provide opportunity to teach the culture of the youth.
6. Names could also depict the character of the child.
7. It is also a way of showing respect to God for the gift of the children.
8. Naming ceremonies also bring unity among the people whenever a new child is born, members of extended family would come to celebrate together.

How Names are given in the traditional African societies

1. Some names are given according to the time one was born.
2. Other names can be given according to important events that take place in the community e.g. a person born during locusts invasion can be called **Adede** among the Luo.
3. Other names may also refer to the characteristics of the mothers pregnancy or the nature of delivery e.g. among the Luo a person who comes out with the placenta would be called **Obiero** or **Awino.**
4. Other names can refer to place of birth e.g. among the Kisii, a person born crossing the river could be called **Kwamboka.**
5. Some reflect the condition of weather or season at the time of birth.
6. Others reflect the problems the parents faced e.g. a child born after a long period of childless marriage is called **Ogwedhi** among the Luo.
7. Some names are given in the remembrance of the departed relatives. It is believed that the dead relatives continue to live through children.
8. Twins are also given special names e.g. **Opiyo** and **Odongo** among the Luo.

Changing attitudes to birth and naming

1. The birth of a child is no longer a communal affair but a family affair.
2. Majority of women today give birth in hospitals.
3. The mother and the child is no longer secluded.

4. Many of the rituals that were performed to the mother and the child are today seen as unnecessary.
5. Many people today acquire Christian names.
6. The attitude of the parents towards the sex of the child is also changing.

Initiation

- This is the second major important stage in ones life.
- Initiation rites have certain symbolic meanings. There are several forms of Initiation; these include:
  - Circumcision
  - Clitoridectomy — Female circumcision.
  - Removal of teeth.
  - Piercing of the ear.
  - Marking of the body (scarification)
- During initiation, the initiates are removed from the rest of the community.
- They would stay overnight and the following day they would go to bathe in the river with cold water.
- The bathing symbolizes the beginning of a new state in life. Courage is usually praised.
- After the cutting of the skin, the initiates are put in special huts for a period of time.
- During this period of seclusion: -
  - They are given time to heal.
  - They are taught about morals of the society.
  - They are made aware of their responsibilities in adulthood.
  - They are also given special instructions that prepare them for marriage life.
  - They are taught secrets of the society.

Importance of Initiation

1) It marks change from childhood to adulthood. Before initiation, one is viewed as a child no matter the age.
2) It is a sign of belonging to the society or identification. Before initiation one is not fully considered belonging to the community.
3) After initiation one is now free to marry and has a right to inherit his fathers property.
4) It shows an act of bravery and hardship one I s to meet in life.
5) It brings people together; relatives and friends co me together hence strengthening kinship ties.
6) It symbolizes the union between the living and the dead. The blood the binds the initiates and ancestors.

7) During initiation the initiates are given special instructions that prepare them for future life.

8) The youth are ritually introduced to the communal living. People of the same age set consider themselves as brothers and sisters.

Changing attitudes towards initiation rites

- Since the introduction of Christianity and western culture peoples attitude towards initiation rites have changed.

1. Seclusion nowadays is not very possible because of limited time.
2. It is not possible to gather initiates together in some communities.
3. Circumcision is carried out at times in hospitals for health reasons.
4. The celebration that marked the end of initiation is slowly dying out due to economic constraints.
5. Today initiation is not done at particular stage in life. Some are circumcised when they are still infants.
6. Some communities have abandoned initiation rites like among the Luo, removal of six lower teeth is a practice of the past.
7. Circumcision of the girls is a practice that has been widely condemned for health reasons.

Why the practice female circumcision is dying out.

- It is against Christian teaching on circumcision because God instructed Abraham to
- It lowers the dignity of the individual (dehumanizing)
- One can contract dangerous diseases such as HIV and AIDS.
- It causes physical injury to the victim.
- Can interfere with an individuals reproductive system.
- A lot of bleeding can lead to the death of an individual.

Marriage

- This is the third rite that an individual is expected to go through in life. After initiation, one has the right to marry.
- During initiation the young adults are taught matters relating to sex and adulthood.
- Everyone has an obligation to marry or get married.

Importance of marriage

1) Marriage is for the continuity of the society and is an institution that is ordained by God.
2) It is through marriage that children are born to the community.
3) Marriage raised the status of the couples once somebody was married he was given a lot of respect.

4) Marriage extended relationship and therefore enlarged kinship ties.
5) Marriage was a source of wealth for the family. Girls brought wealth in form of cattle to marriage.
6) Marriage brought unity in the society. Marriage ceremonies brought people together as they came together to rejoice.
7) Children born out of marriage inherit their parents property.
8) Children made marriage complete. In the traditional African Community, marriage was considered incomplete without children.
9) Children born out of marriage also provide security to the homes.
10) Marriage also unites the living and the dead.
11) Through marriage, the living dead and those yet to be born are brought together.
12) Marriage enables one to assume leadership rules
13) Marriage ensures that children are not born outside wedlock.
14) Marriage brings completeness in a person. Once somebody is married he got fully integrated to the society.

Choosing of a marriage partner

- This differs from one community to another.

- In some communities the choice is made by the parents. This can begin as early as childhood or before the children are born.
- In some instances, a go between would be used to identify a suitable partner.
- At times force could be applied to get a reluctant young girl marry the partner.
- In some societies it is young people themselves who make their own choices and after wards informs their parents about it.
- In some cases, if a man is married and wants another wife his first or other wives would be involved in making the proposal.
- In some communities if a woman is barren, she would bring another woman to bring children on her behalf.
- A mock wrestling sometimes would be organized between the boy and the girl.
- At times girls could be given to repay debts.
- In some communities, girls are given to kings or chiefs as gifts.

- Once the proposals are made, the parents and relatives would begin marriage negotiations. If there is agreement, this marks the beginning of courtship period.

Importance of courtship

1. It gives the couple time to study the character of the partner
2. Courtship gives the two families time to prepare in advance for the real marriage.
3. It also gives them time to find out the background of the partners e.g. to find out if they are related.

4. It gives the mans family time to prepare for the dowry payment.
5. During this period, the couples are given special instructions that prepare them for marriage life.
6. It cements the relationship between the two families through the exchange of gifts.

- Once the negotiations are over then dowry payment would begin.

Significance of dowry payment

- The custom of paying personal gifts to the brides people is practiced all over Africa sometimes referred to as Bride wealth or Bride price. However, it is not a form of payment as is mistaken by others.
- Dowry is important in that:

1. It is a token of appreciation in the part of the bridegrooms people to those of the bride for the care over her.
2. It is a way of compensating the brides family for the loss of a member. The gift replaces her reminding the family that she has left her people yet she is not dead.
3. Payment of dowry shows how the bridegroom values the wife.
4. Dowry seals marriage, before dowry is paid marriage is considered as incomplete.
5. The gifts also act as security in case the marriage breaks then the gifts could be returned.
6. It could also show how the bridegroom is capable of taking care of the bride.
7. It is also a symbolic act of breaking the bride completely from the state of unmarried life — once dowry is paid she becomes full and mature person.

Wedding ceremony

- After the negotiation the wedding ceremonies are arranged.
- They are many types of the wedding ceremonies.
- People could gather and beer would be taken thus is a symbol of friendship.
- In some communities it would last for several days.
- In others the bridegroom and its party have to fight the brides party in order to get her.
- Among the Luo the bride could be accompanied by her other sisters and on the first night, the people would witness the breaking of virginity.
- A white bed sheet is spread this is to collect blood during the breaking of virginity.
- The girls would take back the sheet with a lot of ululation and rejoicing and one girl would remain behind to study the character of the man.
- Virginity is highly valued and girls who are not found virgin are ridiculed.

- In some communities such a girl would be stabbed by an arrow and killed while in others she would be married to an old man.
- However, dowry payment has been hindered by several factors today e.g.
  1. Economic hardships — many people are not able to raise money to pay dowry.
  2. Dowry payment is no longer a communal affair but an individual affair.
  3. Marriage has been commercialized - many people demand higher payment for their daughter.
  4. There has been a lot of interference from Christian religious beliefs.
  5. Modern education and western culture has affected dowry payment in that many educated attach little value to dowry payment.
  6. The permissive society has also encouraged trial marriages.
  7. There are also cases of inter-tribal marriages.
  8. Many people have migrated to towns where people come from different backgrounds.

Changing attitudes towards marriage

1. Western culture and education has really affected marriage.
2. Marriage is no longer a must and many people decide not to marry.
3. Virginity is not highly valued and many people break their virginity at stage of adolescence.
4. Today choosing of a marriage partner is individualized and the parents do nowadays not choose the marriage partner.
5. Today marriage is for companionship and it is considered to be complete even if there are no children.
6. Polygamy was preferred in African Traditional societies but today many people prefer monogamy marriage mainly due to economic hardship.
7. Bride wealth has lost its original meaning and has been commercialized.

Measures that are taken to make sure virginity is preserved

- Virginity is highly valued and a girl is meant to preserve her virginity until marriage.
- Early marriages are encountered to reduce fornication.
- There are strict rules and taboos governing sex.
- Those who abuse sex are heavily punished.

- Polygamy is encouraged for sexual satisfaction for men.
- During seclusion there is sex education, which is meant for girls and boys for marriage.
- Boys and girls are not allowed to mix freely unless under supervision.
- Divorce and separation are discouraged.
- The purpose of sex is purely for procreation hence this discouraged sex before marriage.
- Elders act as role models to the youth i.e. children born out of wed-lock are killed or abandoned.

Death

- Death is the last rite in ones life and unlike other rites like initiation, naming. It is feared and marked with a lot of sorrow. This is because;

1 It is unavoidable. That is one cannot escape it

2 It brings impurity to the family and thus several rites are observed after death

3 It deprives the family and the community of the individual.

4 It disrupts normal human activities.

5 It comes unannounced. It does not give warning.

6 It separates one from the loved ones.

7 Nobody knows what happens after life on earth here.

8 It brings poverty to the family involved as sometimes it takes the bread winner

9 At times it brings misunderstanding in the community when the cause of death is blamed on someone or some people.

- It is believed that after death one continues to live in the spirit world and therefore the dead relatives are to be given descent burial so that they cannot harm the living.
- Death always strikes unexpectedly. Death is believed to be a next journey to the world of the spirits.
- Rituals associated with death vary from one community to another.
- In the African understanding, it is believed that there is no natural death. Death must have a cause.
- There are physical (visible) causes of death and religious (invisible) causes.

Physical causes of death

1) Mothers and children would die at childbirth to cases where there is no skilled mid-wife.
2) Diseases such as epidemics would kill people.
3) People could also die due to shortage of food.
4) There are also accidental deaths e.g. attack by wild animals.
5) Others would also be killed for crimes such as murder.
6) Yet others could also die due to old age.

Religious (invisible) causes of death

They included:

1. A curse by a senior relative. If one fails to show respect to such seniors.
2. One could also die due to breaking a taboo in such instances elders would identify the offender and perform an act of cleansing.
3. A curse by the community.
4. Angering the living dead and the spirits e.g. if a person may not have been buried properly.
5. Taking oaths falsely.
6. Dishonouring or insulting God. These could be through words or deeds.
7. Magic, sorcery and witchcraft. The degree of which witchcraft as a cause of death is emphasized varies from one community to another.
8. Some people believe casting of an evil eye would cause bodily harm to somebody.

Death rites

- When a person dies, members of the family gather at the home of the deceased and leave their everyday commitments for a while.
- There is wailing in the house to show how the fellow was dear to them.
- In some communities there is feasting and drinking of beer.
- The corpse is washed using water. This is meant to send it clean into the world of the living dead.
- If it is a man, the wife is supposed to stay around the corpse among them show clearly she would miss the husband.

- In certain communities, pregnant women and children are not allowed to go near touch the corpse to avoid misfortunes.
- The grave is dug in a special place e.g. among the Luo the man is buried at the right and woman is buried the left.
- The body is carefully placed in the grave facing an appropriate direction according to the customs of the people.
- Among the Luo animals are driven over the graveside, people run in the homestead with spears. This means that they are looking for death to kill it.
- Others bury the dead with property with a belief that they would continue to use them in the next world.
- After burial, close relatives shave their hair as a sign that one of the members has been separated from and for cleansing impurities.
- The new hair that grows shows the beginning of new life.

Changing attitude towards death rites

- Some of the death and funeral rites are still being practiced however some are slowly dying out.
    1. Today the dead can be buried in cemeteries in towns. This may be due to urbanization and economic constraints.
    2. Some of the celebrations like beer drinking are slowly dying out.
    3. People who have become educated consider the shaving of the hair unnecessary.
    4. The belief in Christianity has also affected traditional beliefs in death to believe that death is a gateway to heaven and there is resurrection of the body.

Religious specialists in the traditional African community

- They are those who are believed to be endowed with special powers. They are experts in particular religious fields. They include:
    1. Rain makers
    2. Diviners and mediums
    3. Elders
    4. Priests/prophets
    5. Blacksmiths
- The religious specialists acquire their skills through: -

(i) Inheritance from a relative

(ii) Through supernatural powers

(iii) Through apprenticeship

(iv) Through dreams and vision

(v) Through observation and practice

Medicine men

- They have the knowledge of healing certain diseases in the community. Their roles include the following:
    1. They act as counsellors and guide the people on all issues of life.
    2. They also play the role of priests and pray for people.
    3. They heal various diseases using herbs.
    4. The medicine men lead the community in religious rituals.
    5. They drive a way witches and evil spirits.
    6. They could also warn of impending danger.
    7. They could also give aid to increase productivity e.g. in women.
- The traditional healers are still important today especially to those who had let down by medicine prescribed by doctors.
- People like politicians and students consult medicine men to succeed in the careers.

- Some herbalists have been legalized by the government and have opened clinics e.g. Makini.

Challenges facing herbalists

1. They face challenges from medical practitioners who argue that they should go for formal training.
2. There is no proper dosage of the herbs.
3. There is a lot of secrecy surrounding the knowledge of herbs.
4. Sometimes people mistake that they are witch doctors especially Christians.
5. They are those who do not believe in traditional medicine.
6. Due to de-forestation, some herbs are becoming extinct.
7. Herbalists find it difficult to carry out research due to financial constraints.

Rain makers

- Rain in traditional Africa is understood to come directly from God.
- Rainmakers are special people who have the ability to make rain. They also have the ability to stop rain.
- Rainmakers observe the behavior of insects, birds and animals to predict the nature of rain.
- They could also observe the weather conduction and interpret the movement of clouds and wind.
- They could also feel their body senses to predict rain.
- Today many people do not believe in rainmakers. There are meteorologists who predict the weather conditions.

Mediums and diviners

- Mediums are people through which ancestors and spirits communicate with the living.
- Diviners are people who are believed to have the ability to reveal hidden things by use of magical powers

Role of mediums and diviners in the societies

1. Mediums link the living, spirits and the ancestors.
2. They give information concerning cause, nature and treatment of diseases.
3. Diviners also have religious functions and perform duties of priests such as offering of sacrifice.
4. They have the ability to foretell what would happen in the future.
5. They are also consulted in terms of crisis e.g. drought, famine etc.

6. They play the role of counsellors and advisors to the community.
7. They can also reveal-hidden information e.g. a diviner would be called when something was stolen.

Relevance of diviners and medicine men today

1. Diviners and Mediums are still important in Kenya today. They are consulted in cases where western medicine has failed.
2. Some students also consult them to succeed in exams and career.
3. They are fortune-tellers and palm readers. However, the influence of mediums and diviners has been affected by Christianity, which is against consulting any power apart from God.
4. Some people who falsely claim to be diviners today simply exploit the ignorance of the people.
5. Modern science and technology also discourage people from believing mystical powers.
6. There is problem of correct dosage of traditional medicine.
7. Many of the traditional medicine men are not willing to divulge information to others (a lot of secrecy surrounding traditional medicine)
8. Those who are educated also do not believe in the powers of diviners and mediums.
9. The practice has also been affected by belief in conventional medicine.

Priests/prophets or seers

- These are other religious specialists who play a special role as intermediaries between God and human beings.
- They can foretell the future by receiving visions, dreams or words from God.

Role of priests, prophets and seers

1. They act as intermediaries between God and human beings.
2. They act as judges in certain circumstances.
3. They also do the work of advisors e.g. could advice on when to go to war.
4. They can foretell the future e.g. the outcome of a war
5. They may receive messages from the spirits and ancestors.
6. They lead people to communal prayer in time of crisis.
7. They also lead the community in offering sacrifices to God.

8. Prophets or priests also have political role e.g. they are consulted before installation of a new king in some communities.

Their relevance today

1. Some people still consult prophets on seers — some couples may consult in case of barrenness.
2. Some people also consult them before making important decisions e.g. politicians.
3. However, the role of these traditional religious leaders has been greatly affected by influence of Christianity, western culture and formal education.
4. Religious leaders such as bishop and pastor have replaced their duties.

Elders

- They are people who are elderly in society. They are senior members of the community.
- They are important because they have a lot of experience.
- Responsibility of elders:

1. They help in the settlement of disputes.
2. They are concerned with maintenance of law and order in the community.
3. They preside over important occasions such as initiation, planting and marriage.
4. They ensure the values and culture of the community is observed.
5. They help the priests to performing certain rituals such as sacrifices.
6. They give direction on funeral ceremonies and advise on what should be
7. They oversee the division of property in the community after death.
8. They negotiate for peace in time of war with another community.
9. They act as a court of law to errant members of the society.
10. They give instructions to the younger generation on their roles and duties.
11. They counsel and guide the youth on matters of sex and marriage

Why guiding and counseling was done by elders

1. They were believed to have a lot of experience in life.
2. The youth are believed to be free with them.
3. The houses of grandparents form their sleeping places.
4. They are regarded as honest.
5. They are believed to be full of wisdom.
6. They are free most of them and can get time for the younger generation.

Problems that the elderly face today

1. The elderly are physically in active.
2. Most of the time they suffer from old age diseases.

3. They are neglected by their children especially those working in the towns.
4. They do not have good food or accommodation.
5. People who have gone to school see the aged as old fashioned (generation gap)
6. They at times suffer from loneliness and psychological problems

How the aged are taken care of today

1. The government, the church and NGOs have built homes for the aged.
2. The government has also set up insurance and pension schemes to enable people who are employed continue to get a decent life after retirement e.g. N.S.S.F.
3. The church also gives them food, and clothing and their daily needs.
4. There are counsellors that give the aged hope and love.

CHAPTER 10
AFRICAN MORAL VALUES

African moral values

- In the traditional African communities, people learn the moral values through every days activities and through education provided.

- The education provided is a lifelong process. It starts at birth and continues through to death.

1. **Obedience/loyalty**. At childhood children are taught to obey parents and the elderly. Through this, they believed they could receive blessings.
2. **Respect**. Young people are trained to have respect for others and self-respect.
3. **Honesty**. Young men are taught to be honest in all their undertakings. For example, honesty is expected in marriage.
4. **Courage**. The youth are taught to be courageous in order to be able to face challenges in life e.g. the pain the initiates underwent.
5. **Hardworking**. Everybody in the community is expected to work hard. Those who are lazy are ridiculed.
6. **Patriotism**. Young men are taught to develop self-love and love for the community it provides a sense of belonging.
7. **The spirit of sharing**. Through the kinship system, people learn the importance of sharing what they have with others.
8. **Responsibility**. Young initiates are trained to be responsible husbands and wives in future.
9. **Generosity.** In difficult times such as during famine, those who have share what they have with their relatives.
10. **Thankfulness.** People learn to be thankful to God, parents, relatives and one another

Continuity and change in African understanding

- Today many people talk of the way things were sometimes back many factors have affected the African culture.
- Most of these changes in most cases are in conflict with the African customs.

1. These changes have been brought about by: -
2. Economy e.g. the introduction of money economy.
3. Urbanization: Where people of different cultures interact with one another.
4. The developments in science and technology.
5. Religion: Africans now get identified with new groupings e.g. fellow Christians.
6. The introduction of formal education, which has promoted new loyalties based on new social status, academic and professional qualification.

7. Politics: New political systems and forms of government have changed the traditional community.

Land

- In the traditional African society, people had a lot of attachment to land.
- This was because:
  - Africans believe that land was given to them by God.
  - It is a source of food for the people and the animals.
  - It was used to bury the dead, the spirits were believed to dwell on land or below the ground.
  - Land was also a source of medicine in the form of herbs and minerals.
  - The land was believed to belong to the ancestors and nobody was allowed to sell or lease it out without the consent of the other members of the family.
  - The land belonged to the whole community.
  - Land was also the habitat of people, animals and plants.
- As such disputes over land ownership were rare, this is because: -

1. Land was owned by the community. It was a signed to individuals by the elders.
2. There were clear guidelines, rules and regulations on the use and ownership of land.
3. Those who did not have were assisted to acquire property by the community.
4. The community disciplined those who showed traits of greed over ownership of property.
5. There was a lot of fairness in the distribution of property.
6. Laziness was condemned or punished to ensure that people owned what they had actually worked for.
7. The wishes of parents and the dead were honoured.
8. People in the traditional African communities were afraid of acquiring property unlawfully for fear of curse.

Changes that have affected land ownership

- Today its a requirement by the government that one must possess a land title deed.
- There is individual ownership of property. Land is owned by individuals.
- Many people have moved and have settled in foreign lands, which are not their ancestral lands.
- With the introduction of money economy, it is possible to sell land.
- People do not have a lot of attachment to land, as there are other means of survival.

- There are cases of destruction of land and environment through dumping of wastes.
- Some pieces of land are being regarded as public land.

Ownership of property and wealth

- In the traditional African community anything that was owned is referred to as part of property or wealth. Property could be owned by community, individuals or families.
- Those who had not been initiated were not allowed to own property.
- There was fair distribution of wealth to even those who did not have.
- Women were not allowed to own property. In fact, a woman was part of the property of the man. Wealth was seen in terms of:
    - Many children
    - Many wives
    - Large tracts of land
    - Large herds of cattle.

Ways of acquiring wealth in the traditional societies

1. Through inheritance
2. Payment of dowry
3. Through raiding other communities
4. Through hard work
5. As a gift from God.

Changes that have affected ownership of property and wealth

- Women and children are allowed to own property.
- People tend to be individualized.
- Some people acquire wealth through dishonest means e.g. bribery, robbery and stealing.
- Wealth is no longer determined in terms of the number of wives or children.
- The introduction of money economy has reduced the value of land.
- People write wills to share or decide who should inherit their property.
- Property can be owned outside ones ancestral home.
- Land can now be sold or auctioned.

Widows and orphans

- A widow is a woman whose husband is dead.
- An orphan is a child whose both parents are dead.
- In most African communities a widow was inherited by the husbands close relatives.
- It was a common belief that a woman belonged to the whole community.
- Wife inheritance ensured that the late mans family would not suffer.
- The children born after his death were still referred to as his.
- A child who remained an orphan was easily adopted into another family.

- However, the practice of looking after widows and orphans is dying out.

Problems experienced by widows and orphans

1. They suffer from lack of company because they feel abandoned.
2. Some widows and children are not accepted or welcomed in their new homes.
3. They suffer from psychological and emotional problems
4. Sometimes widows face lack of essentials such as food.
5. Wife inheritance has become risky due to HIV/AIDS.
6. The wife or orphans sometimes get mistreated.
7. Sometimes the orphans and widows have their property destroyed or snatched.
8. Widows and orphans feel dehumanized.

How the widows and orphans are supported

- Church members offer them guidance and counseling (giving them hope)
- They are prayed for.
- They are given financial assistance.
- The government and churches have built homes for them
- They are given food etc.
- They are kept company.
- The government assists widows to get their husbands benefits.
- Religious organizations assist widows to start income generating projects.

Leisure

- Leisure is the free time that an individual has at his disposal when he is not bound by duty.
- There are two main types of leisure:
  - Passive leisure: This is where there is minimal use of physical energy.
  - Active leisure: This involves the use of the physical energy.
- Some of the traditional forms of leisure include.
  1. Playing Bao
  2. Wresting
  3. Beer drinking
  4. Wedding ceremonies
  5. Riddles
  6. Folktales
  7. Tongue twisters
- Today several changes have affected leisure activities. This has been due to western culture, industrialization, urbanization Christianity, limited time and economic constraints.

- Many people spend their leisure time watching videos, Television and films,
- Certain leisure activities such as soccer have been turned into well-paying professions.
- There are serious cases of misuse of leisure in the form of;
    - Watching and reading pornographic literature.
    - Taking of dangerous drugs.
    - Alcoholism.
    - Attending discos and nightclubs.
    - Gambling.
    - Misuse of sex.

Dressing

- The dress code differed from one community to another in the traditional African setup.
- Many communities made clothes from animal skins, bark of trees, sisal and leaves.
- However, the mode of dressing has seriously changed due to western influence.
- Many women today put on trousers that initially were meant for men.
- Some communities such as the Maasai still maintain their traditional way of dressing.
- Certain countries have also adopted national dress code

LATEST HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

0714497530 (Mr Isaboke)

Maths form 1-4

English form 1-4

kiswahili form 1-4

chemistry form 1--4

Biology form 1-4

Physics form 1--4

Agriculture form 1--4

Business form 1--4

Cre form 1--4

History form 1--4

Computer form 1--4

Geography form 1--4

Homescience f1--4

I.R.E studies f1-4

French notes

Setbooks guides

KCSE Topicals

CPA tuitioning

Updated *CPA,CIFA ATD* KASNEB notes

Updated *CPS,CICT,ATD* KASNEB Notes

Updated *ICT,IT,ACCA,CFA* notes

Forex trading guidance

CCTV installation &Networking services

Online services

*_All the materials are in soft copy and we'll updated

Text /call or WhatsApp *0714497530 to get your copy_*

https://wa.me/254714497530