

### Authority of the Bible

“God is the author of sacred scripture as he inspired its human authors”  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church 136*

### Authority of the Bible

The Bible contains a whole set of stories, experiences, prayers and poems...through these we can come to know God but I do not hold that the Bible is the word of God in any sense that guarantees its particular words  
*David Jenkins, Former Bishop of Durham*

## Christians and Moral decisions

### Conscience

“Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honourably in every way.”  
*Hebrews 13:18*

### Conscience

A human being must always obey the certain judgement of his conscience...yet it can happen that moral conscience makes erroneous judgements about acts to be performed.  
*Catechism of Catholic Church*

### Situation Ethics

‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength....Love your neighbour as yourself.’  
There is no greater commandment than these two.  
*Mark 12: 28-31*

“The authorities that exist have been established by God”  
*Romans 13:1*

“Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s”  
*Mark 12:17*

## Politics and Religion

Our Christianity is not something we put on, like our Sunday best...It is for every day. We are Christians from Monday to Monday.  
*Desmond Tutu*

Everyone must submit themselves to the governing authorities...the authorities that exist have been established by God.  
*Romans 13:1*

## Religion and Social Responsibility

## The Welfare State

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the prophets  
*Matthew 7:12*

...for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, in prison and you visited me...whatever you did for the least of these you did for me’  
*Matthew 25: 31-46*

‘the sun and the moon follow courses exactly computed; and the herbs and the trees both alike bow in adoration. And the firmament he has raised high ...and He has set up the balance in order that you may not upset the balance’  
*Qur’an 55:5-8*

“God saw all that he had made and it was very good”  
*Genesis 1*

Behold the Lord said to angels, ‘I will create a vice-gerent on earth....’ and he taught Adam the nature of all things..and behold, we said to the angels: ‘bow down to Adam ‘ and they bowed down.  
*Qur’an 2: 30-34*

It is important for Muslims to play a leading part in the efforts to protect our environment. Life on earth is set up with natural balance and this is the key to our survival,  
*From what does Islam say? By Ibrahim Hewitt*

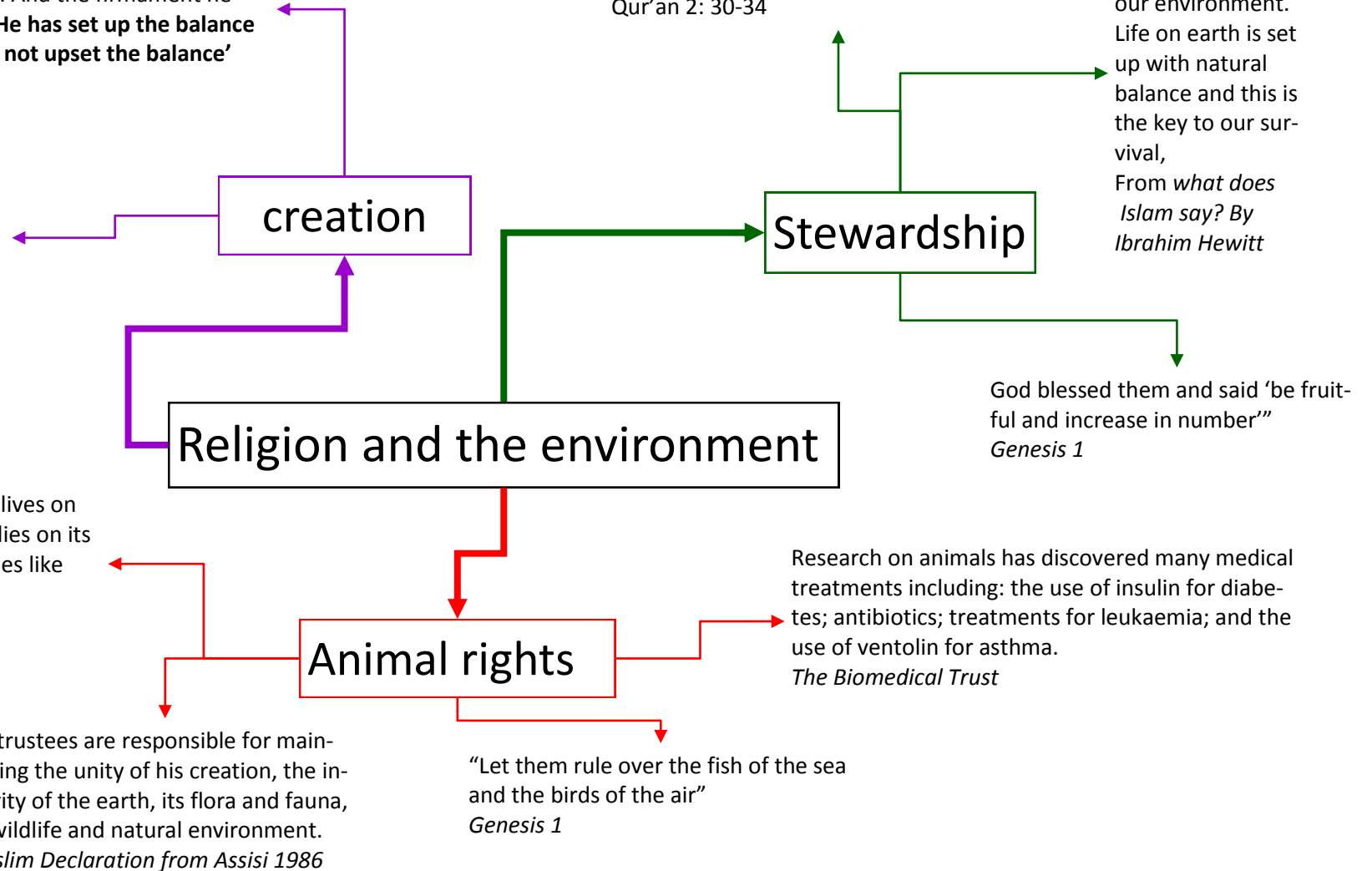
God blessed them and said ‘be fruitful and increase in number’”  
*Genesis 1*

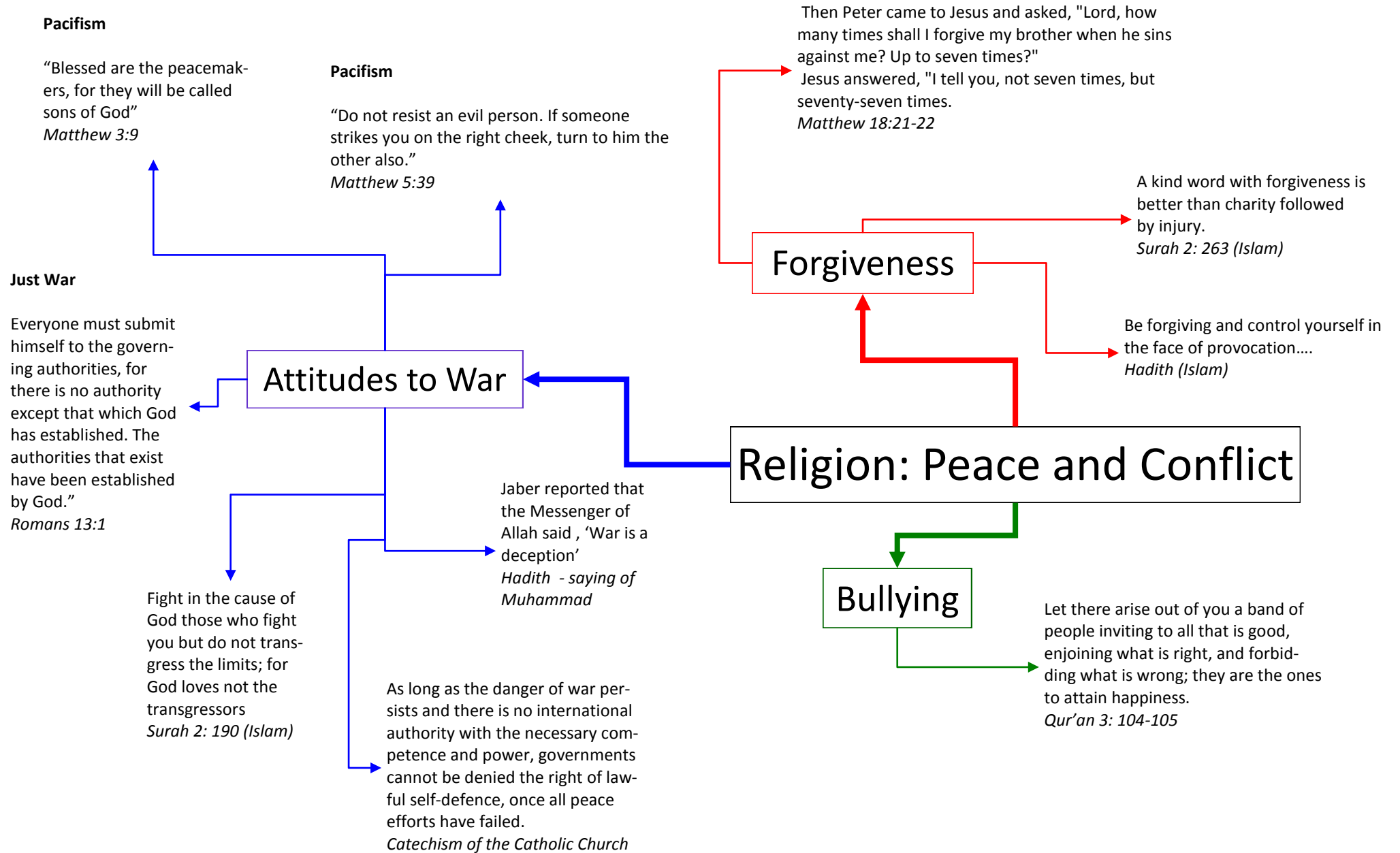
There is not an animal that lives on the earth nor a being that flies on its wings but forms communities like you.  
*Qur’an 6:38*

Research on animals has discovered many medical treatments including: the use of insulin for diabetes; antibiotics; treatments for leukaemia; and the use of ventolin for asthma.  
*The Biomedical Trust*

His trustees are responsible for maintaining the unity of his creation, the integrity of the earth, its flora and fauna, its wildlife and natural environment.  
*Muslim Declaration from Assisi 1986*

“Let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air”  
*Genesis 1*





“There is no God apart from me, a just God and a saviour”  
*Isaiah 45:21*

“Anyone who does not do what is just is not a child; nor is anyone who does not love his brother”  
John 3:10

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.  
*Matthew 5:6*

“You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth. 'But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.”  
*Matthew 5: 38-39*

“Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.”  
*Romans 12:17*

Do not repay anyone evil for revenge, but leave room for God’s wrath for it is written ‘it is mine to revenge, I will repay.’  
*Romans 12: 17-19*

Oh you who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to God.  
*Surah 4: 135*

## Justice

He has set up the balance of justice in order that you may not transgress.  
*Surah 55:7*

In the administration of justice there shall be no distinction between the strangers and relatives, between Muslim and non-Muslim...All stand equal in the eye of the Islamic law of justice.  
From *The Fundamental Teachings of the Qur’an and Hadith* by Nisar Ahmed

# Religion: Crime and Punishment

## Capital punishment

Take not life—which God has made sacred—except for just cause.  
*Surah 17:33*

## Punishment

“Do not judge or be judge”  
*Matthew 7:1-2*

The recompense for an injury is an injury equal thereto in degree: but if a person forgives.. His reward is due from God.  
*Surah 42:40*

“If anyone of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone”  
*John 7: 53*

As to the thief, male or female, cut off his or her hands: a punishment by way of example from God for their crime.  
*Surah 5:41*

Treatments that entail the disassociation of husband and wife, by the intrusion of a person other than the couple ...are gravely immoral...they dissociate the sexual act from the procreative act  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church*

The division of the Methodist Church responsible for advising the Church on medical ethics has accepted for the time being the scientific judgement that remedies for human infertility.  
*Statement of the Methodist Church*

Infertility treatment

Question 9  
Religion and Medical issues

No Muslim man is allowed to donate sperm to a woman who is not his legal wife and no woman is allowed to donate an egg to another woman.. If a married woman conceives using sperm from a third party because her husband is infertile, this is adultery  
*Statement from the Islamic Shariah Council of Britain*

Genetic engineering

Whenever one of you turns his eye to one who has been given more of wealth and progress than he, let him look towards one who is inferior to himself  
*Hadith reported by Bukhari and Muslim*

When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them 'The Kingdom of God is near you'  
*Luke 10:8-9*

Jesus of Nazareth was a healer...Clearly where genetic manipulation is the means of healing diseases—in animals or humans—it is to be welcomed.  
*Statement from Methodist Church*