



# Judaism, Christianity, & Islam

Three Major  
Monotheistic  
Religions

# Brief History of 3 Main Religions

- **Judaism**- The Hebrew **leader Abraham** founded Judaism around 2000 B.C. Judaism is the oldest of the monotheistic faiths (religions with one God).
- **Christianity** - **Founded by Jesus Christ**, who was crucified around A.D. 30 in Jerusalem. It was after his death when his followers came to believe in him as the Christ, the Messiah.
- **Islam** - **Founded** in Arabia **by Muhammad** between A.D. 610 and A.D. 632

# Introduction to JUDAISM

- Judaism is around **4000 years old** and is the **oldest** of the world's four great monotheistic religions (religions with only one God). It's also the **smallest**, with only about **14 - 17 million** followers around the world.
- Its **holy city** is **Jerusalem** in Israel.
- The Jewish calendar is based on 29 or 30 days therefore they have 12.13 months.

# Jewish Beliefs

- Jews believe that there is a **single God** who not only created the universe, but with whom every Jew can have an individual and personal relationship.
- **They await the Messiah**, who will be an earthly king. They believe in heaven, but that God determines where they go after life on earth.
- **Give a tithe (10%)**. Ten Commandments is the basic code of law.

# Jewish Holy Book

- The most **holy** Jewish **book** is the **Torah** (the first five books of the Christian Bible). Others include Judaism's oral tradition, the written form of which is known as the Talmud.
- The Torah (**scroll of teachings**) contains the five books revealed to Moses by God on Mount Sinai.
- Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy
- **Hebrew is read right to left.**

# Jewish Place of Worship

- Jews worship in **Synagogues** or **temples**. Men and women usually sit separately.
- Worship is led by a **Rabbi**.
- **Friday evening** is time for **worship**.



Temple Beth Israel in Portland, OR

# [ Introduction to CHRISTIANITY ]

- **Christianity** is the world's biggest religion, with about **2.2 billion** followers worldwide. It is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ who lived in the Holy Land 2,000 years ago.

# Christian Beliefs

- Christians believe that **Jesus Christ was the Son of God**
- God sent his Son to earth to save humanity from the consequences of its sins
- Jesus rose from the dead on the third day after his Crucifixion (the Resurrection)
- Christians believe that **Jesus was the Messiah** promised in the Old Testament
- Christians believe that there is only one God, but that this **one God consists of 3 "persons"**
- Christians believe that God made the world.



## Christianity Beliefs (continued)

- Christians believe that they can have a personal relationship with God, and that they are saved by faith, not works. Grace is the law code.
- They **believe in actual heaven and hell.**
- They believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God.
- Their giving is a tithe or offerings.

# [ Christian Holy Book ]

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- **The Bible is the Christian holy book.** It is divided into the Old and New Testaments. Parts of the writing contained in the Old Testament are also sacred to Jewish and Muslim people.

# Christian Place of Worship

- The Christian place of **worship** is called a **Church**, which are built in the shape of a cross with the **altar facing east** towards the rising sun. Services are led by a **priest**, pastor or reverend.
- **Day of worship** is normally **Sunday** but most recently Saturday has been added.



St. Andrew's Church in Portland, OR

# Introduction to ISLAM

- Islam is the **second most popular religion** in the world with over one billion followers. Islam began on the Arabian Peninsula and was revealed to humanity by the Prophet Muhammad. Those who follow Islam are called **Muslims**. Muslims believe that there is only **one God**, called Allah, who speaks Arabic.
- The Muslim calendar has 354 days and is based on the 12 crescent moon cycles.

# Islam's Five Pillars Belief System

- **Shahadah: Declaration of faith**  
"I bear witness that there is no god, but God; I bear witness that Muhammad is the prophet of God." By reciting this, one enters Islamic faith.
- **Salah: Prayer**  
Muslims are required to pray five times a day, washing themselves before prayer and facing in the direction of Mecca while praying.
- **Zakat: Giving a fixed proportion to charity**  
Muslims are required to give away a percentage of their earnings to those less fortunate, regardless of their religion.
- **Saum: Fasting during the month of *Ramadan***  
Muslims fast for one lunar month each year, a period called Ramadan. During this time, Muslims reflect on their behavior and strive to purify their thoughts.
- **Hajj: Pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia**  
If it is financially possible, Muslims are required to travel to Mecca once in their lifetime.

# [ Muslim Holy Book ]

- The Muslim scripture is the **Holy Qur'an**. It is 'the word of God'. Muslim beliefs and practices are rooted in the Qur'an.
- Muslims treat the Qur'an with great respect because they believe that the Qur'an is from Allah, and every word and every letter is sacred.
- Muslims regard the Qur'an as the unaltered word of God.
- **It is read from right to left** and written in Arabic.

# [ Muslim Place of Worship ]

- The Muslim building for worship is called a **Mosque**. The word comes from the Arabic for "place of prostration" (i.e., kneeling and bowing).
- Worshippers are called to prayer **5 times a day** from minarets – towers on the mosque corners.

## [ Muslim Place of Worship (cont...) ]

- They contain only designs, no people or animals or furniture.
- Normal day of **worship is Friday**.



Rizwan Mosque in Portland, OR