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

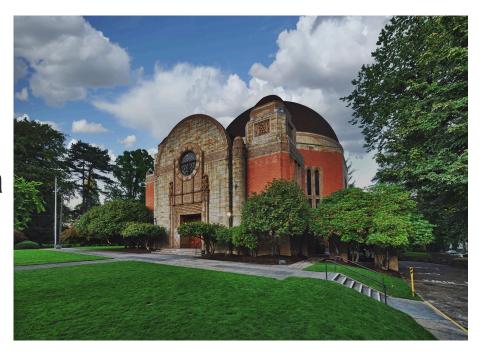
- Jews believe that there is a single God who not only created the universe, but with whom every Jew can have an individual and personal relationship.
- They await the Messiah, who will be an earthly king. They believe in heaven, but that God determines where they go after life on earth.
- Give a tithe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

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 <u>Jewish</u> and <u>Muslim</u> 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