

Children of Abraham

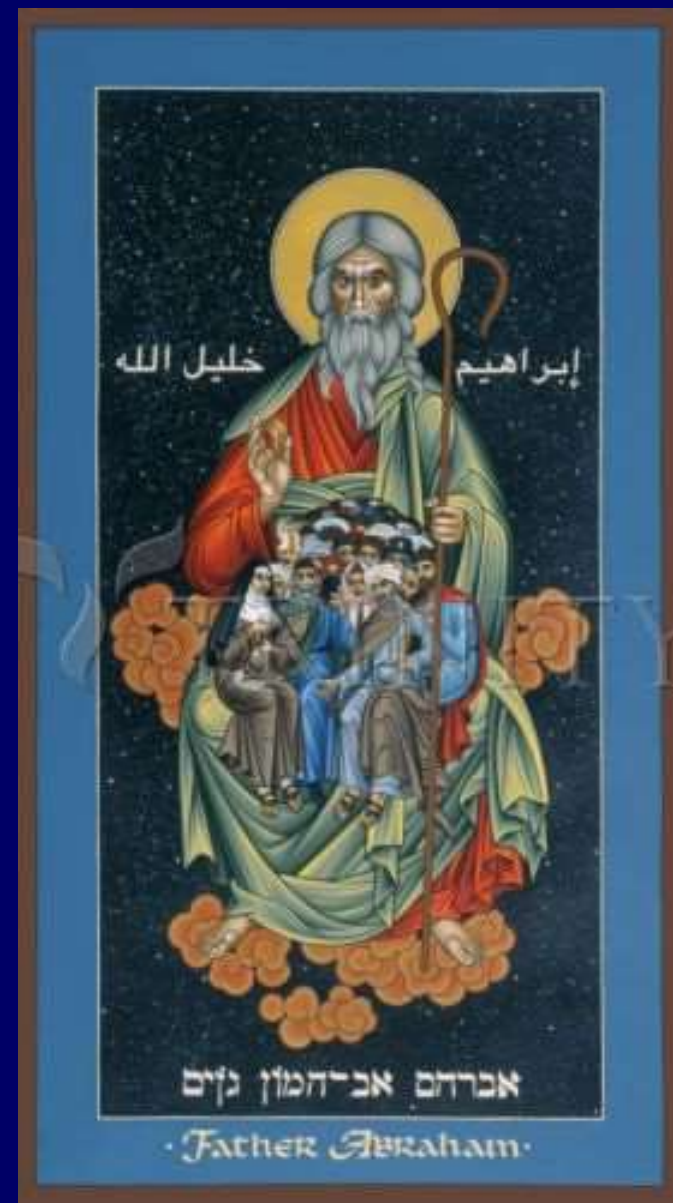
Wonders of Arabia

Windstar Cruises

Ross Arnold, Fall 2017

Wonders of Arabia Lectures

- Nov 8- *Children of Abraham; Understanding Islam*
- Nov 9- *Moses, Israelites, and Crossing the Red Sea; Lawrence of Arabia, Bedouins and Victory in WWI*
- Nov 10- *History & Culture of Oman*
 - 11/11- **Salalah, Oman**
- Nov 12- *Alexander the Great & Hellenism; Crusades*
- Nov 13- *History, Culture & Conflict in the Middle East*
 - 11/14- **Khasab, Oman**
 - 11/15- **Dubai**



Father Abraham – the world’s first monotheist, and source of all three great monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

The Call of Abram: Genesis 12:1-5

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

² "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

⁴ So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. ⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

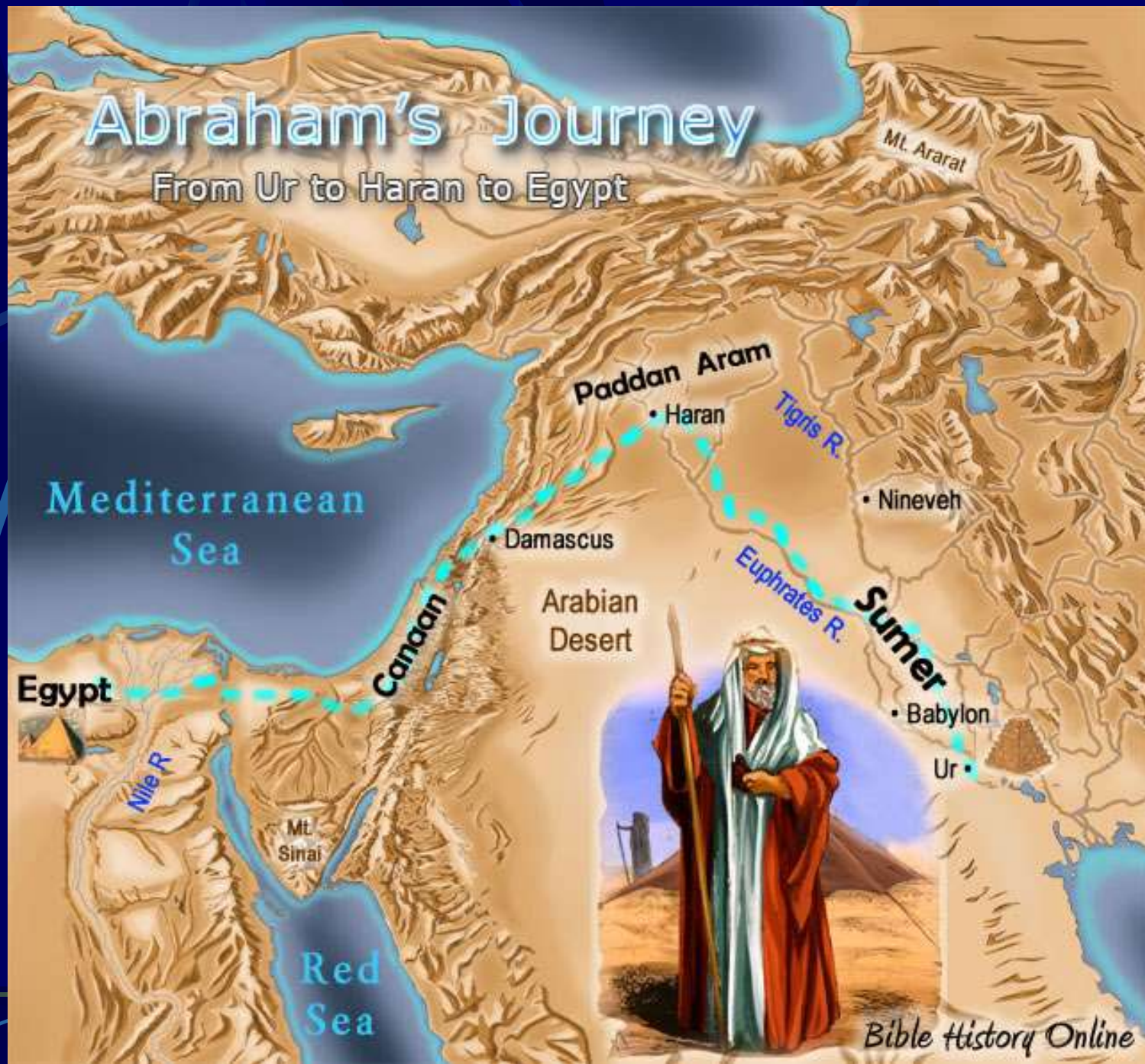
The 2nd Call of Abram: Genesis 15:5-7

He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars – if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. ⁷ He also said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it."

Abraham's Journey

From Ur to Haran to Egypt



Abraham

Hagar

Sarah

Ishmael

Isaac

Jacob/Israel

12 Tribes of Ishmael
(Arabic peoples +)

12 Tribes of Israel
(Hebrew people)

Muhammad

Jesus



Key Dates in Abrahamic Religions

c. 3200 BC – Civilization begins.

c. 2091 BC – Abram obeys God and follows Him.

➤ Judaism

c. 1446 BC – Moses is called, leads the Exodus from Egypt and receives the Law at Mt. Sinai, starting the Jewish faith.

c. 1406 BC – Israelites enter Promised Land.

c. 1010 BC – King David is 2nd King of united Israel.

c. 966 BC – Solomon begins building the Temple.

➤ Christianity

c. 6-4 BC – Jesus, a Jew, is born in Bethlehem.

c. 24 AD – Jesus begins his ministry in Israel.

c. 27 AD – Jesus is crucified, but is resurrected and ascends into heaven.

321 AD – Constantine legalizes Christianity.

Key Dates in Abrahamic Religions

- c. 4500 BC – Civilization begins.
- c. 2091 BC – Abram obeys God and follows Him.
- c. 1446 BC – Moses is given the Jewish Law.
- c. 970 BC – King Solomon builds the temple in Jerusalem.
- c. 6 BC – Jesus, a Jew, is born in Bethlehem.
- c. 27 AD – Jesus is crucified, resurrected and ascended.
- 321 AD – Emperor Constantine legalizes Christianity.

➤ Islam

- 570 AD – Muhammad born in Mecca.
- 610 AD – 1st revelation of Qur'an to Muhammad.
- 622 AD – Islam begins during migration to Medina.
- 632 AD – Muhammad dies and successors (“caliphs”) launch military campaigns of expansion throughout the Mediterranean region.

JUDAISM

Looking at Some Numbers

- Total World population: 7.3 billion
- **Christians worldwide: 2.2 billion**
- **Muslims worldwide: 1.6 billion**
- Hindus worldwide: 1.1 billion
- Buddhists worldwide: 488 million
- Sikhs worldwide: 28 million
- Muslims in Indonesia: 205 million
- Southern Baptists in US: 16 million
- **Total number of Jews worldwide: 14 million,**
or 0.2% of the world population.

Yet Jews have received 22% of Nobel Prizes and are a major force in entertainment, medicine, law, and on and on.

Events in Creation of Jewish Monotheism

- c. 2091 BC – God speaks to **Abraham** (later to become Abraham) and calls him to follow Him, and so creates the People of God, the Hebrews.
- c. 1446 BC – God calls **Moses** to lead the Israelites out of captivity in Egypt, giving the Law through him, and so creates the Religion of Judaism.
- 1010 BC – God calls young **David** to become King of Israel, thus establishing the Nation of Israel.

Then Moses went up to God,
and the LORD called to him from
the mountain and said, ...

“Although the whole earth is
mine, ⁶ you will be for me a
kingdom of priests and a holy
nation.’ These are the words you
are to speak to the Israelites.”

Exodus 19:3, 5-6

The Hebrew TaNaKh

- Torah (“Instruction”)
- Nevi'im (“Prophets”)
- Ketuvim (“Writings”)



THE TORAH

בארץ גשן ויאחזו בהו
מאד ויחי יעקב באר
שבע עשרה שנה וי
שני חייו שבע שנים וא
ומאת שנה ויקרבו ימי
למורת ויקרא לבנו
ויאמר



Basic Jewish Beliefs (Ten Commandments— Exodus 20:1-17)

- 1. You shall have no other gods before God.*
- 2. You shall not make or worship any idols.*
- 3. You shall not take the name of God in vain.*
- 4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy, doing no work on that day.*
- 5. Honor your father and your mother.*
- 6. Do not murder.*
- 7. Do not commit adultery.*
- 8. Do not steal.*
- 9. Do not bear false witness against your neighbor.*
- 10. Do not covet your neighbor's house or wife or manservant or maidservant or ox or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.*

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Basic Jewish Beliefs (Maimonides' 13 Principles)

1. *God exists, and is the Creator.*
2. *God is one and unique; there is none other like Him.*
3. *God is not physical.*
4. *God is eternal.*
5. *Prayer is to be directed only to God.*
6. *The words of the Prophets are true.*
7. *The prophecies of Moses are true.*
8. *The Torah was given to Moses.*
9. *There will be no other Torah.*
10. *God knows the thoughts and deeds of all.*
11. *God rewards the good and punishes the wicked.*
12. *The Messiah will come.*
13. *The dead will be resurrected.*

Rabbinic Jewish Movements (since 6th Cent)

- **Orthodox Judaism**
- **Reform Judaism**
- **Conservative Judaism**
- **Hasidic (or Chasidic) Judaism**
- **Reconstructionist Judaism**
- **Jewish Renewal**
- **Humanistic Judaism**
- **Kabballah**

Jewish Dates Leading Up to the 1st Century

- 930 BC – King Solomon dies; Kingdom is divided.**
- 722 BC – Assyria destroys Northern kingdom of Israel.**
- 586 BC – Babylonia destroys Southern kingdom of Judah; Babylonian Captivity & Jewish diaspora.**
- 538 BC – Persian King Cyrus lets the Jews return home to Jerusalem.**
- 332 BC – Alexander the Great conquers the Persian Empire and spreads the Greek language/culture. Judaism begins to split into more Hebraic Jews (Pharisees) and Hellenized Jews (Sadducees).**

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- 63 BC – Pompey conquers the region for Rome**
- 39 BC – Roman Senate makes Herod “King of the Jews”**
- 70 AD – Jewish rebellion leads the Roman destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple, and the 2nd Great Diaspora of the Jews.**



Roman spoils from the Jerusalem Temple, 70 AD
(from the Arch of Titus in Rome)



Jewish Diaspora, A.D. 70-500

DIRECTIONS GEOQUIZ



- Major Jewish settlements, A.D. 500
- ← Jewish routes
- ★ Area of Jewish population, present-day

“Diaspora” is a Greek word that means “scattered.” The Jewish Diaspora refers to the movement of Jews out of their traditional lands to locations throughout the world.



“All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but the Jew remains. What is the secret of his immortality?”

Mark Twain

Jacob will again have peace and security, and no one will make him afraid. ¹¹ I am with you and will save you,’ declares the LORD.

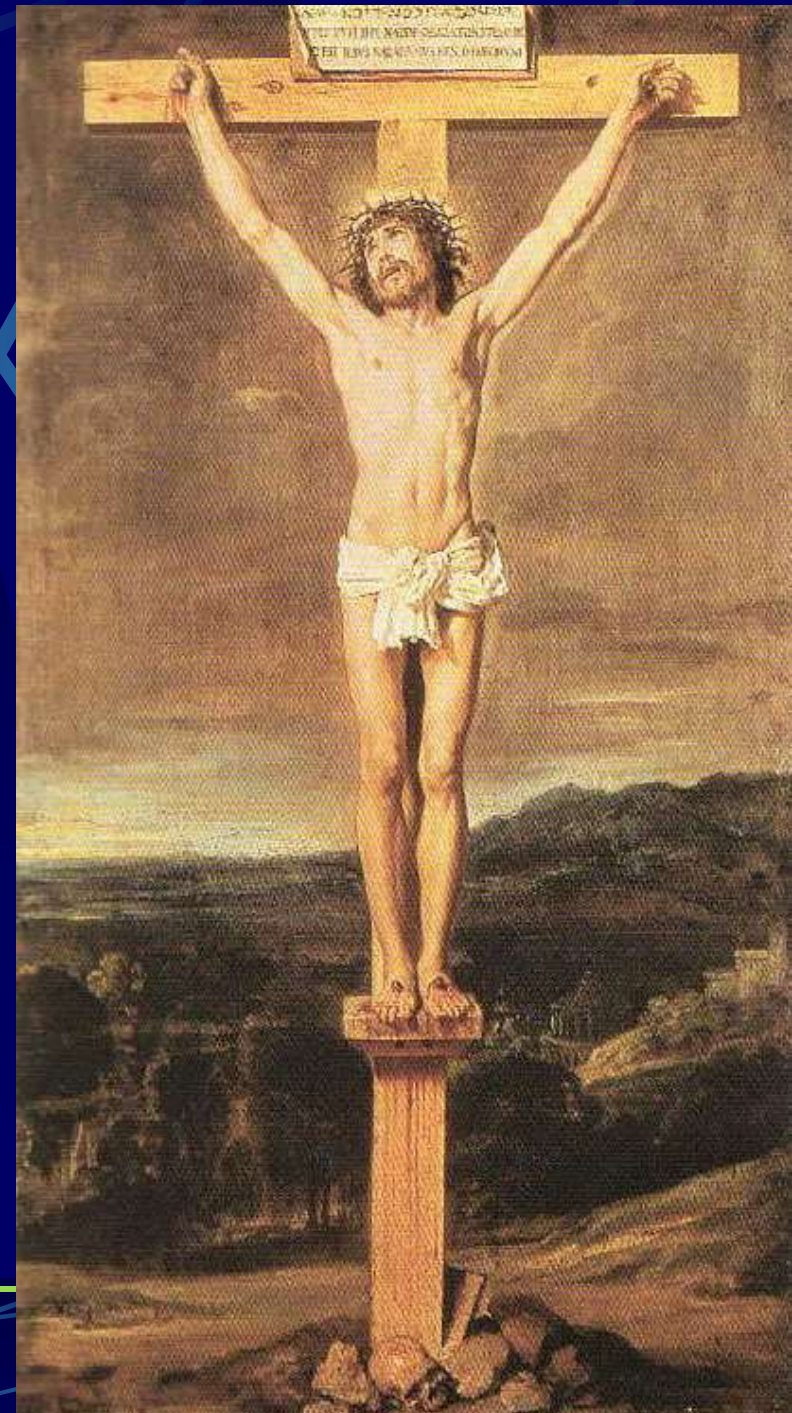
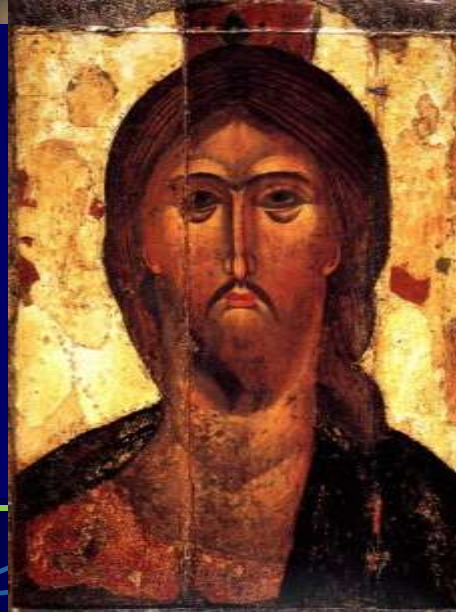
‘Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will discipline you but only with justice; I will not let you go entirely unpunished.’

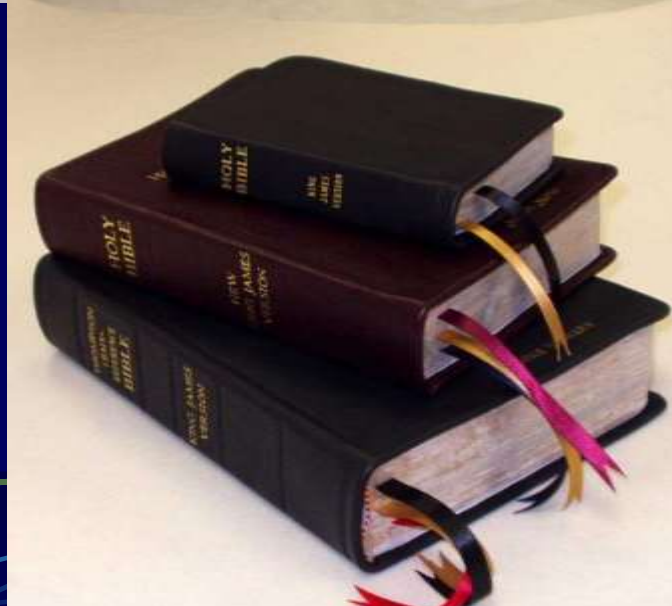
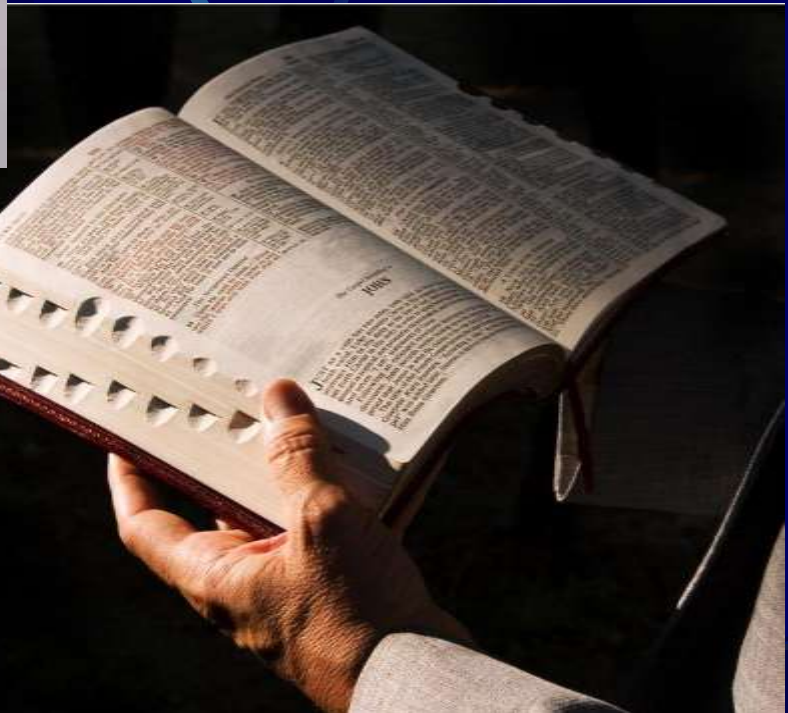
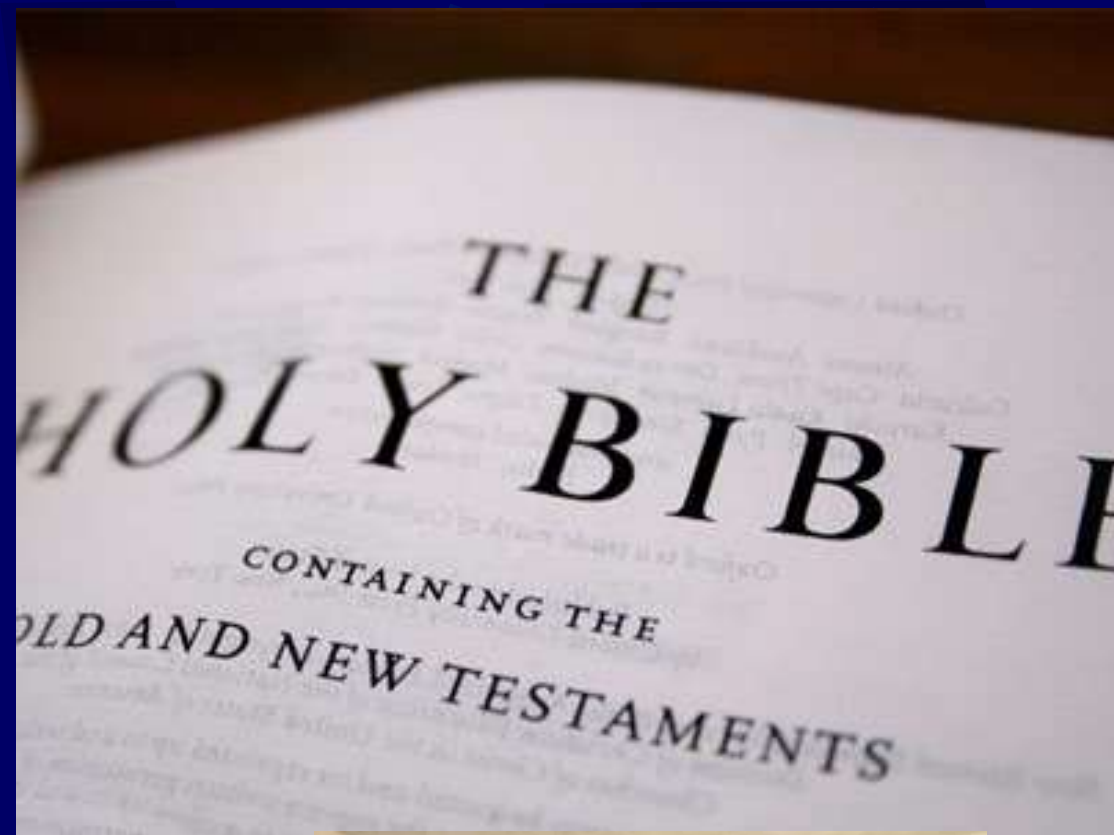
Jeremiah 30:10-11

Christianity



Jesus the Christ
– *Messiah,*
Anointed One
(c. 6 BC-27 AD)





Basic Christian Beliefs

1. One God, revealing himself in three *persons* (the Holy Trinity) – FATHER, SON (Jesus Christ) & HOLY SPIRIT – a unity, sharing one substance.
2. God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and omnipresent. He created the world as distinct from Himself but is active within it as Creator, Sustainer and Sanctifier.
3. Jesus was and is the promised Messiah, the co-eternal, divine Son of God; who became a human man, Jesus, but was fully God and fully man.
4. No one can *earn* God's mercy or become truly righteous, but one can receive forgiveness and mercy by accepting Jesus as God's Son who sacrificed himself on the cross to atone for human sins.

Growth of Christianity by AD 70



State of Christianity c.AD 565

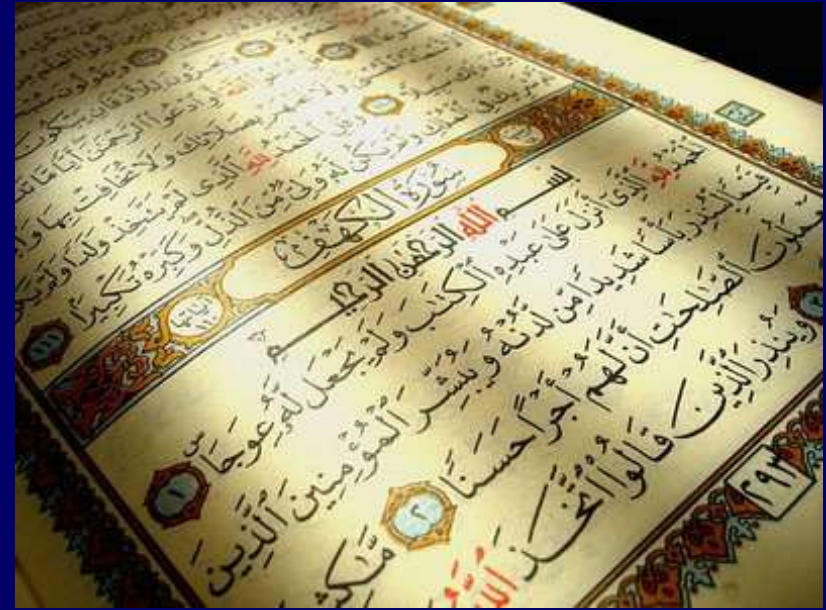


Christianity Today

- Roman Catholicism
- Orthodoxy (*Great Schism – 11th Century*)
 - Eastern Orthodoxy
 - Oriental Orthodoxy, etc.
- Protestantism (*Reformation - 16th Century*)
 - Lutheran, Reformed, Anglican, Anabaptist, etc.

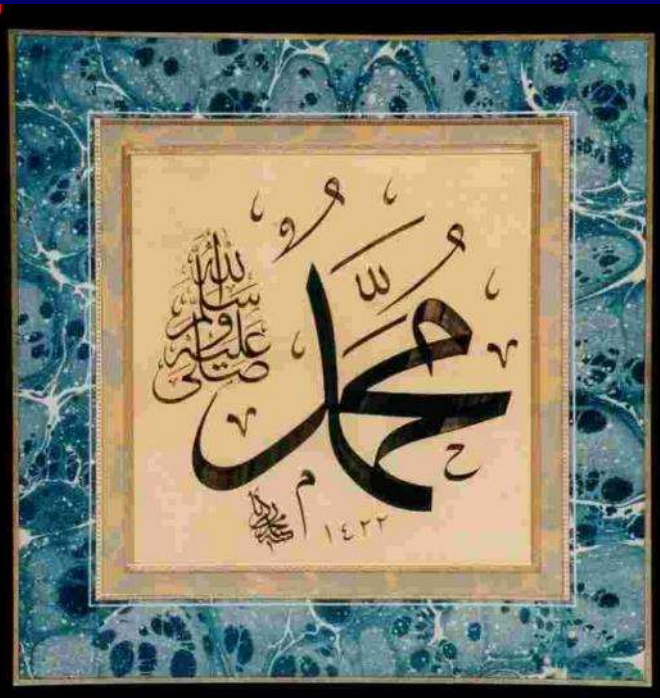
The background is a solid dark blue color. It features several thin, white, diagonal lines that intersect to form a grid-like pattern. The lines are not perfectly straight and vary in orientation, creating a sense of depth and movement. The word "Islam" is centered in the middle of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Islam

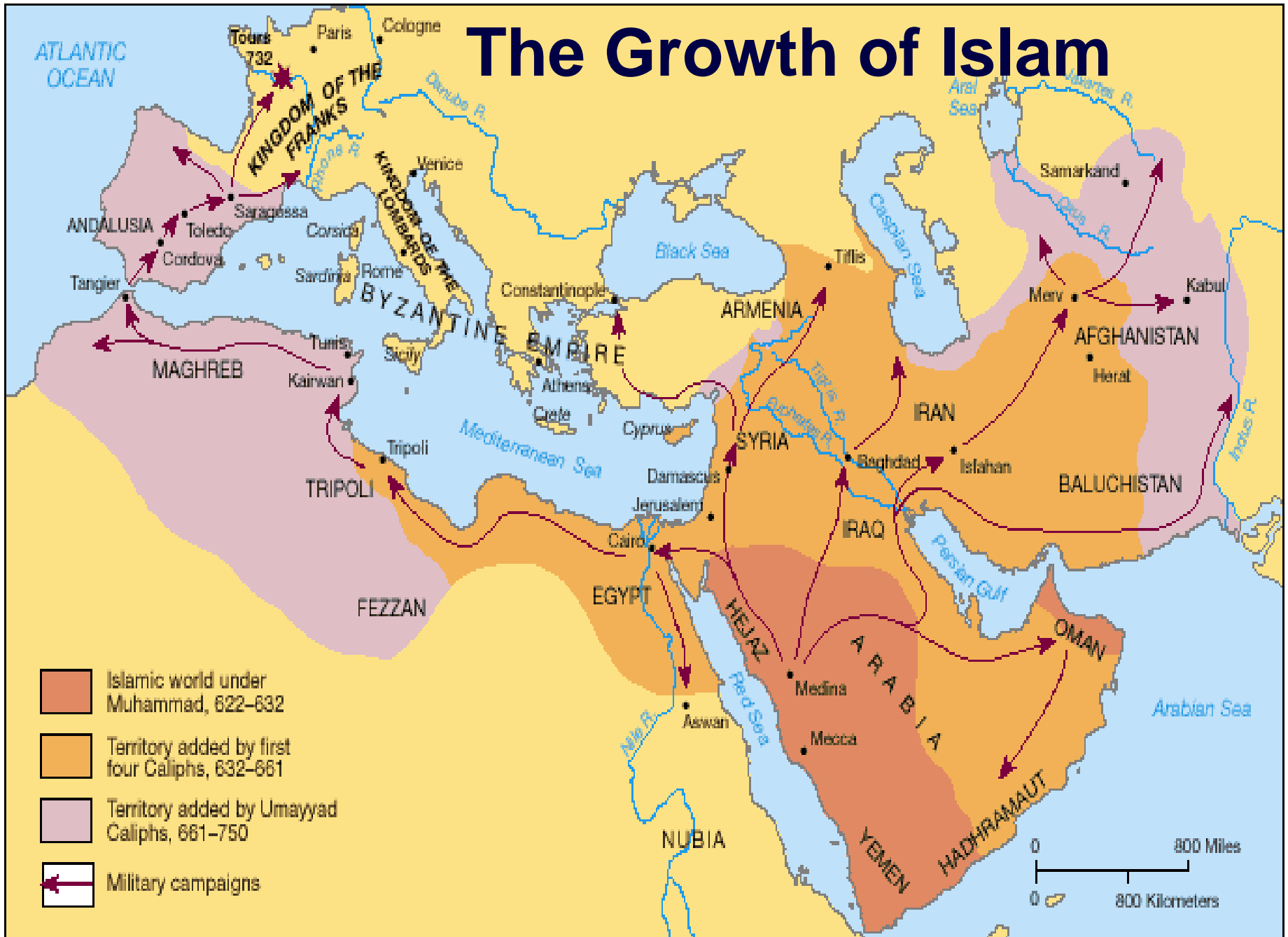


إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَسُولَهُ

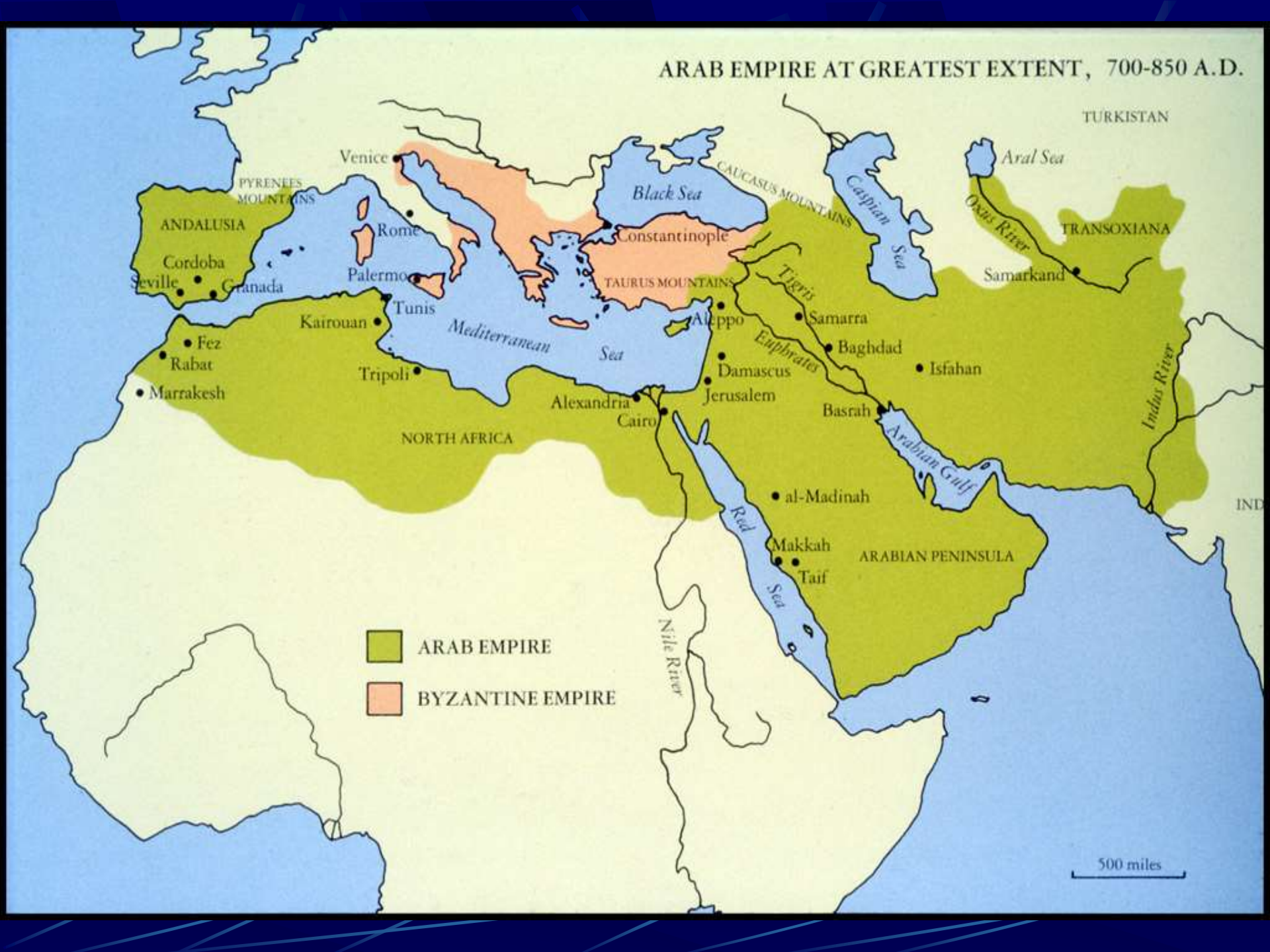
Prophet Muhammad
570-632 AD



The Growth of Islam



ARAB EMPIRE AT GREATEST EXTENT, 700-850 A.D.

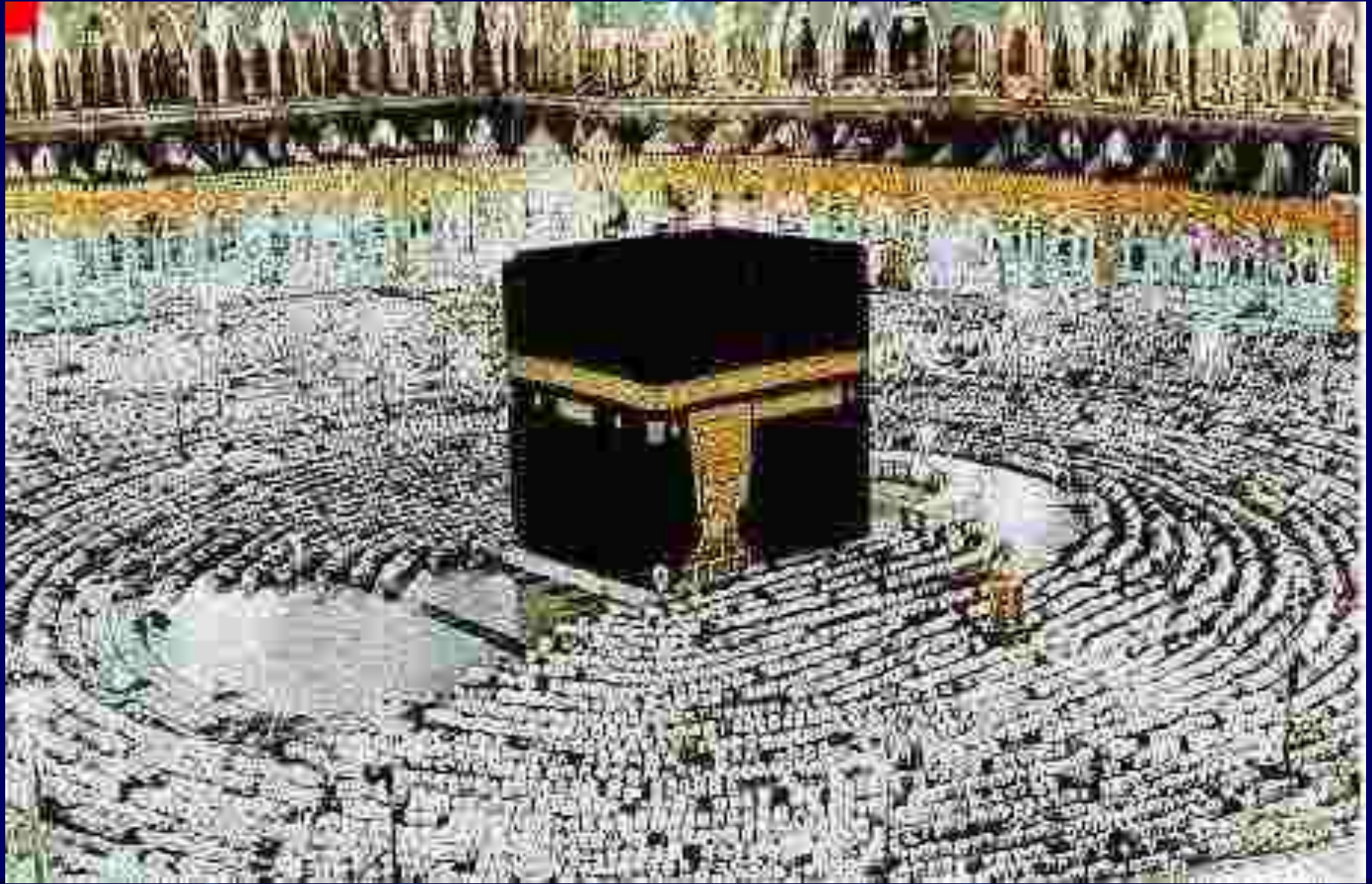


Basic Beliefs of Islam

- Muslim life is more about ***orthopraxy*** (right action) rather than ***orthodoxy*** (right belief) – based on the writings of the ***Qur'an***; ***sunnah*** (life example of Muhammad); and ***hadith*** (sayings of Muhammad and his companions).
- The revelation to Muhammad was in Arabic, considered the holy language.
- ***Islam*** means “*submission*,” to Allah and His will. A ***Muslim*** submits to Allah.

The Five Pillars of Islam

- 1. Profession of Faith – The *Shehada*:**
“There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet.”
- 2. Prayer – *Salah*, 5 times daily facing Mecca; on Fridays in a mosque.**
- 3. Generous almsgiving – *Zakat*.**
- 4. Fasting – *Sawm*, especially during holy month of Ramadan.**
- 5. Pilgrimage to Mecca – *Hajj*, at least once in life.**



Similarities and Differences

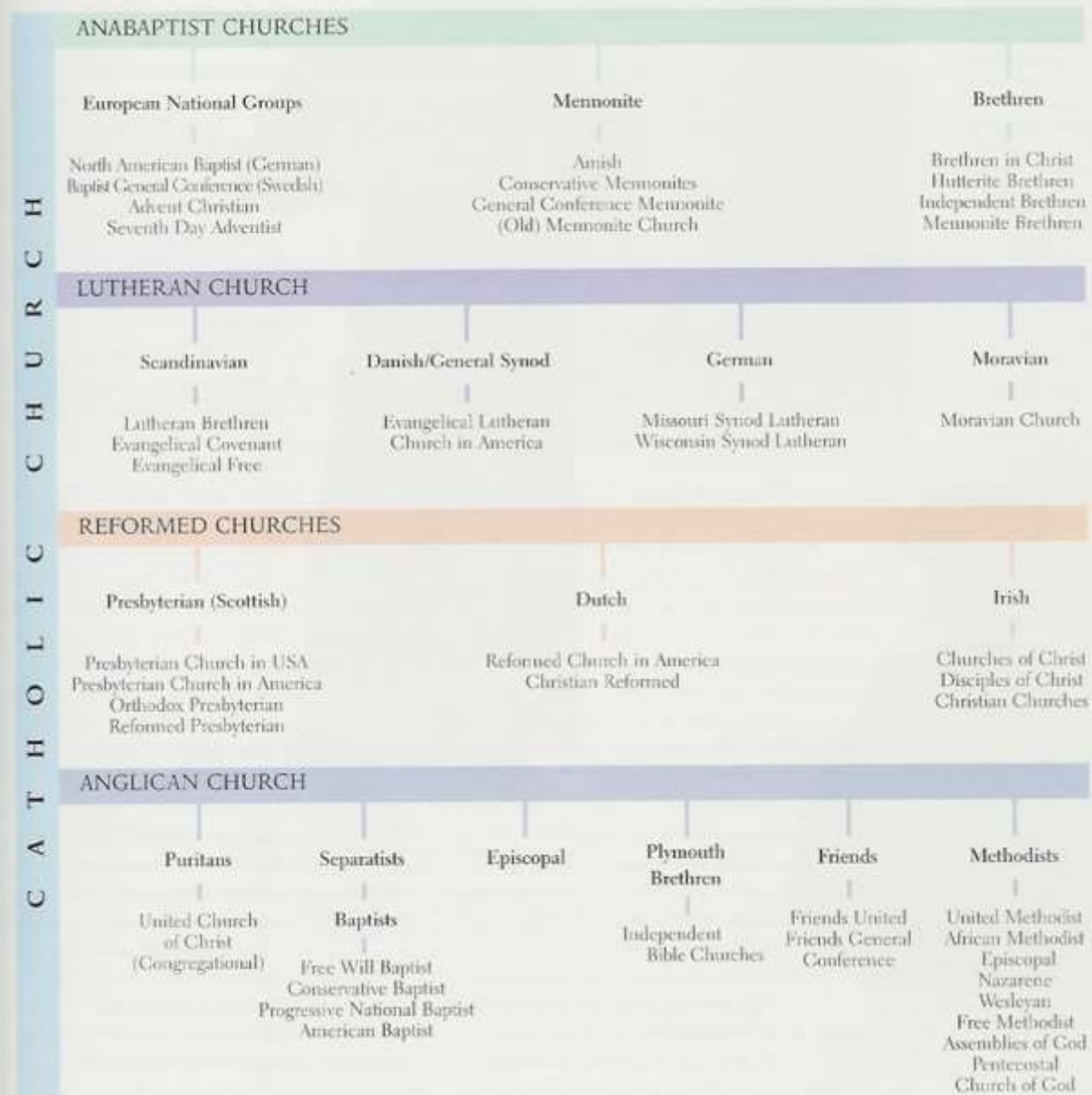
- **All three Abrahamic faiths believe:**
 - There is only one true God (monotheistic).
 - All life – especially all people – are made by God, who is the Creator and Sustainer of life.
 - Social justice and concern for others is critical.
- **They disagree regarding:**
 - The exact nature of God (Christian Trinity).
 - The nature of the human condition (original sin)
 - The nature of the afterlife (“salvation”).
 - Requirements for pleasing and satisfying God.



THE GROWTH OF PROTESTANT DENOMINATIONS IN THE U.S.



This simplified diagram charts the development of some of the main Protestant churches that broke with Catholicism in the Reformation, many of which divided into splinter denominations and separate churches when immigrants arrived in the United States.



Children of Abraham

WHEN & WHERE DID THE ABRAHAMIC RELIGIONS ORIGINATE?

JUDAISM began more than 5000 years ago; it is the oldest of the three Abrahamic religions: *Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*. The Bible recounts that God told Abraham to go to Canaan. It is now known as ISRAEL, named after Abraham's grandson. The land is often referred to as the Promised Land because of God's repeated promise to give the land to the descendants of Abraham.

Christianity originated in the 1st century. The Bible recounts that Jesus was born in BETHLEHEM. Although the Western system for dating years is based on the birth of Jesus, historical evidence suggests that he was born around 4 BCE.

Muhammad proclaimed that he first received Allah's (God in Arabic) revelations in a cave near MECCA, in present day Saudi Arabia, beginning in 610 CE; he continued to receive new revelations until his death in 632 CE.

HOW & BY WHOM DID THE ABRAHAMIC RELIGIONS ORIGINATE?

According to the Hebrew scriptures, ABRAHAM formed the first covenant with God, and MOSES received and presented to all the Jewish people the binding covenant of TORAH, or Jewish law, making God's law their own.

Christianity is founded on the life and teachings of JESUS CHRIST, a Jew. The religion is based on Jesus' teachings, sayings, healings, death, and resurrection.

Islam started with ADAM and was transmitted by God through Prophets such as ADAM, ABRAHAM, MOSES, and JESUS, all recognized in Islam; God finally preserved His message in the QUR'AN through MUHAMMAD, the last of the messengers. The word ISLAM means *submission* (to God's will) and *peace*.

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*Connecting what we learn
and the way we live*



אברהם
ABRAHAM
משה
& MOSES
ابراهيم
موسى

Jewish tradition calls ABRAHAM the first monotheist, entering into a covenant with God that gave his descendants the Promised Land and committed them to worshipping God alone. According to the Hebrew Scriptures, he married SARAH who bore his son ISAAC, while fathering ISHMAEL with his maidservant HAGAR.

Judaism teaches that God appeared to MOSES and chose him to free the Children of Israel from Egyptian slavery and take them to the Promised Land. He led the Exodus

of the Jewish people from Egypt and brought them to Mount Sinai. There, Jews believe, God gave MOSES the TORAH, which became the first five books of the Bible. MOSES was said to have led the Jews in their forty years of wandering in the desert of Sinai. He died just before the Children of Israel reached the Promised Land of Canaan, as a punishment for his disobedience to God. In addition to MOSES, there were prophets who were essential in reinforcing the sacred covenant of restoring justice and peace to all people.

יהושע
JESUS
عیسی

Because Christianity uses the Hebrew Bible as part of their Bible, Christians recognize the Jewish patriarchs and prophets. Much of the groundwork for Christianity comes from Judaism, including Jesus Himself, who was brought up in a traditional Jewish culture.

JESUS is also known as CHRIST. CHRIST is a theological title meaning anointed or the anointed one. It is the Greek translation of the Hebrew *Mashiach* or MESSIAH. Christians believe that MARY, the virgin mother

of JESUS, conceived JESUS through the HOLY SPIRIT. Her husband, JOSEPH, was only His adoptive father, as His real Father is GOD. JESUS preached in Galilee and Judea, with a message of repentance and forgiveness of sins through faith in the Kingdom of God. JESUS was executed by the Romans. He was crucified around 30 CE. Crucifixion was a long and painful process, and it was generally reserved only for convicted criminals.

محمد
MUHAMMAD
محمد

For Muslims, the Prophet Muhammad is the final messenger, the recipient of the last of God's (ALLAH in Arabic) revelations preserved in its original form in the QUR'AN. Muslims believe God's message is perfected in the QUR'AN, the same message that existed since Adam. Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Mary are all mentioned in the QUR'AN. Islam maintains that God communicated His message to all people in history. The prophets mentioned by name in the QUR'AN are primarily those in the Bible.

MUHAMMAD was born 570 CE in Mecca, Arabia to a family of the *Quraysh* tribe. In his early life he earned the title *trustworthy* (AL-AMIN) because of his honesty and because he was trusted

by the people. At age 40, MUHAMMAD received his first revelation through the Archangel GABRIEL. After a brief gap, the revelations continued for a total of 23 years. MUHAMMAD and his few followers were persecuted for 13 years, preaching reform & monotheism to Meccan idolaters, and then were forced to migrate to Medina where MUHAMMAD established the first Islamic state. He was a preacher, statesman, soldier, teacher, and exemplary family man before his death in 632. His sayings and traditions, *Hadith & Sunnah*, are well-preserved as the second source of Islamic faith after the QUR'AN. He is the role model for how to apply the Qur'an to one's life.



THE CORE BELIEFS OF JUDAISM

- There is a single, all-powerful God, who created the universe and everything in it.
- Jews are directed to be like God, to be *KADOSH* (*sacred*). *KEDUSHA*: seeking the sacred is central to Jewish beliefs. Judaism imagines a world in which each and every action has the potential for *KEDUSHA*.
- Each action or obligation that brings *KEDUSHA* into the world is called a *mitzvah*. Doing a *mitzvah* is the key that allows each person to experience the sacred. The *mitzvah* of *TIKKUN OLAM* (to be God's hands here on Earth and help repair the world) is central to Jewish belief.
- Judaism tends to be more focused on the actions of *mitzvah* than faith alone.

THE CORE BELIEFS OF CHRISTIANITY

- There is one God who reveals Himself in three *persons*: *FATHER*, *SON* (*Jesus Christ*), and *HOLY SPIRIT*. However, these three persons are regarded as a unity, sharing one *substance*.
- God has created the world distinct from Himself but is believed to be active within it as a *Creator*, *Sustainer*, and *Sanctifier*.
- Belief in *JESUS'* teachings:
No one can earn God's mercy or be righteous in His eyes, but no one can know His infinite forgiveness and mercy through turning to Him
Following the Sermon on the Mount and being a witness in daily life
Belief in Heaven

THE CORE BELIEFS OF ISLAM

- Belief in one, omnipresent, almighty God who created the universe and all in it; belief in *prophets*, *revelations*, *angels*, the *hereafter*, and *divine decree*.
- Islam encompasses all aspects of earthly life, governed by Islamic law (*sharia*) and organized around *FIVE PILLARS*: *belief in God and His messengers*, *daily prayers*, *charity*, *fasting*, and *pilgrimage* (*HAJJ*).
- *ISLAM* means *total submission to God's will*, achieving *peace* within.



THE HOLY TEXTS OF JUDAISM

The holiest texts in Judaism are the first five books of the BIBLE (*Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy*), which Jews call the TORAH and believe that God gave to MOSES on Mount Sinai.

The Hebrew Scriptures, comprising the TORAH, the prophets, and the historical books called *the writings*, were codified by Jewish religious scholars somewhere between 200 BCE and 200 CE. They are identical to books in the *Old Testament* Christians read; 100 CE is the date of the earliest Old Testament canon.

At least one copy of the TORAH in Hebrew is kept in every synagogue in the form of a hand-written parchment scroll. Jews read a particular, set portion of the TORAH scroll each week in synagogue.

The TALMUD is a compendium of law and commentary on the TORAH applying it to life in later and changed circumstances.

THE HOLY TEXTS OF CHRISTIANITY

In addition to the Hebrew Scriptures, Christians rely on the New Testament, the name given to the Christian Scriptures that were written after the birth of Jesus. They considered these writings sacred texts.

Of the books that became part of the *New Testament*, the oldest are the letters of PAUL, usually considered to have been written in the 40s and 50s of the first century. Other letters are thought to have been written over the next couple of decades. Of the four gospels, MARK is considered the earliest at about 68-70 CE, while JOHN is the latest at about 110 CE. ACTS is later than LUKE (around 100), and REVELATION was probably composed in the 90s.

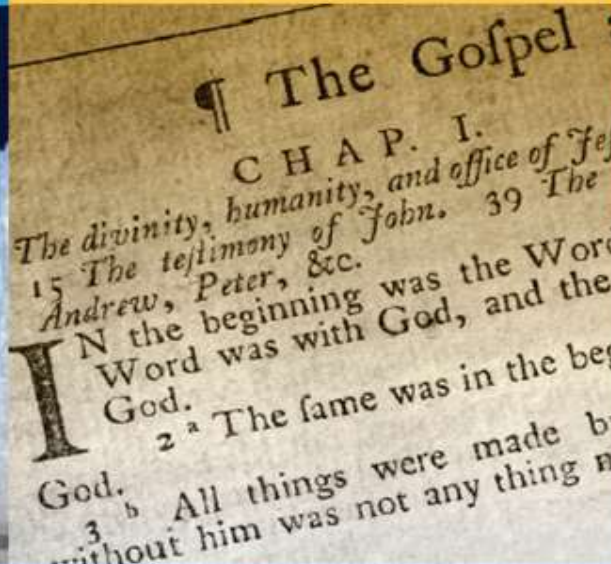
THE HOLY TEXTS OF ISLAM

Muslims believe that the QUR'AN is the actual word of God, revealed to MUHAMMAD by God (Allah in Arabic) through the Archangel GABRIEL.

The QUR'AN is not altered in any way since it was first compiled during MUHAMMAD's life (570-632 CE). It has been written down in Arabic and memorized in its original form by Muslims around the world — four of the original copies are still available.

The only authoritative text of the QUR'AN is in the original Arabic. Muslims regard translations of the QUR'AN into other languages as paraphrases or versions of the original.

The QUR'AN consists of 114 chapters (called *surahs*), which have names as well as numbers. They are not in chronological order, but according to instructions given by MUHAMMAD to the scribes based on divine revelation. The whole QUR'AN was transcribed during MUHAMMAD's life.



COMMON BELIEFS

ALL HUMAN BEINGS AND THE SOURCE OF LIFE ARE CREATED BY GOD.

MONOTHEISM, A BELIEF IN ONE GOD

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE CONCERN FOR OTHERS

THE PURSUIT OF PEACE

ALL THREE RELIGIONS EXPRESS PEACE IN THEIR SALUTATIONS:

For Jews, SHALOM ALEICHEM means *May peace be unto you.*

For Muslims, AS SALAAM ALAIKUM means *The peace be with you,* and the response WA ALAIKUM AS SALAAM means *And to you, the peace.*

For Christians, *May peace be with you.*

SACRED SPACES

THE CHURCH in Christian Scripture is described as the *body of believers*. Christian church architecture can range from very elaborate to very plain and without ornamentation beyond a simple cross.

Some churches focus on the preaching of the *Word of God* and they also are contextually focused on the pulpit where the *Word* is preached.

Altars occupy a prominent place in *Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican,* and other highly liturgical denominations. They are used to hold and to prepare the bread and wine used in the EUCHARIST. In *Protestant* churches, a table serves as the centerpiece of the HOLY COMMUNION service, a remembrance of Jesus' death and resurrection.



A MOSQUE is a place of worship for followers of the Islamic faith. Muslims often refer to the mosque by its Arabic name, *Masjid* (pl. *Masajid*). The word *mosque* in English refers to all types of buildings dedicated for Islamic worship. The primary purpose of the mosque is to serve as a place where Muslims can come together for prayer, including the Friday congregational prayer, the *Jumma*.

They are not only places for worship and prayer, but also places to learn about Islam and meet fellow believers. Most mosques have elaborate domes, minarets for calling worshippers to prayer and large open prayer halls. Mosques originated on the Arabian Peninsula, but now exist on all the world's inhabited continents.



TEMPLE, SYNAGOGUE, and SHUL all mean the same thing to followers of Judaism—they are all *houses of worship*. Distinctions between the three have to do with the traditions of faith and matters of ritual for REFORM, CONSERVATIVE, and ORTHODOX Jews, respectively. Each space is considered a place of worship and prayer, as well as a center of learning.

Jewish teaching also suggests that *any* space may be considered a space of worship, whether it is one's home or a public venue because a commitment to Judaism is as much an individual endeavor as it is a call to a congregation.

