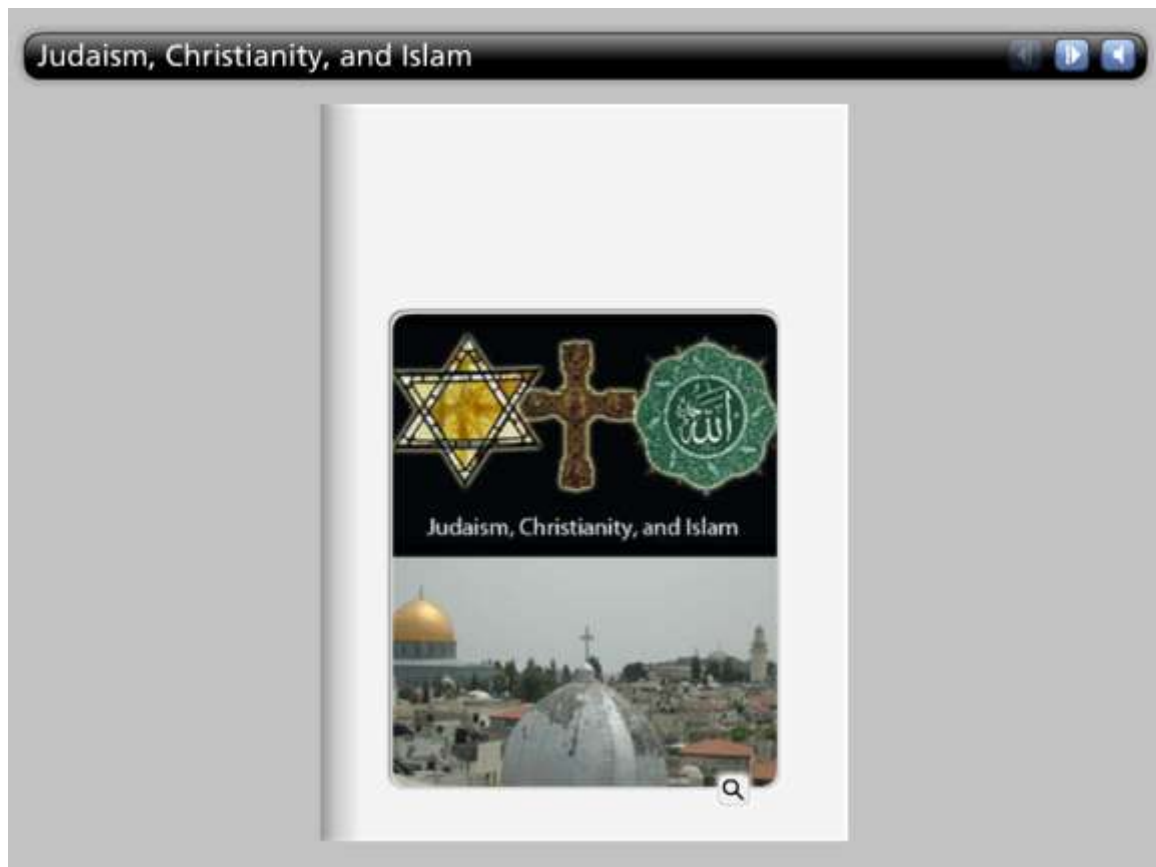


Module 1: Religion and Empires

Topic 1 Content: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam





Jewish beliefs are based on the T.O.R.A.H

Torah is the Jewish Holy Book.

God
Yahweh (The Jewish word for God)

The first five books of the Torah are the same as in the Old Testament in the Bible.

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy

Judaism's key beliefs are based on the Torah, which is the Jewish holy book. The Torah is essentially the first five books of the Old Testament in the Christian Bible.

[Image of Torah courtesy Willy Horsch.]


Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

T.O.R.A.H.

Oh! - people of the Jewish faith live mostly in Israel and North America today .

Jews believe that the land of Canaan (Israel Today) was given to them by God as the "Promised Land."

The Jewish State of Israel was created in 1948 after the United Nations proposed the to split Palestine into a Jewish state and an Arab State.



People who practice Judaism are known as Jews or Jewish people. One of the key beliefs of Judaism is that God gave the Jews the promised land of Canaan. Jews only recently regained control of this territory, and for millennia did not rule this land because of conflict, bondage, and slavery. Today, this territory is known as Israel.

After World War II, the United Nations proposed to divide Palestine into two countries: one Jewish and one Arab. The city of Jerusalem would be administered by the U.N. After the Arabs rejected the proposal, the Jewish people in Palestine announced their independence and established the Jewish state of Israel in 1948.



T.O.R.A.H.

Religious laws of Judaism can be found in the Ten Commandments.

Jews believe that God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on top of Mount Sinai.



The moral code and religious laws of Judaism are found in the Ten Commandments. Jews believe that God decreed these laws to Moses at top of Mount Sinai during the Jewish exodus from Egypt.

T.O.R.**A**.H.

Abraham introduced the first monotheistic religion to the world.

Jerusalem is the holiest city in the Jewish religion.

Abraham made a covenant with God that if the Hebrews believed in God, they could have Canaan, which is present today Israel.



Abraham introduced the first monotheistic religion to the world. According to the Torah, in about 2,000 B.C., a nomadic herder named Abraham migrated to a region called Canaan. Abraham is considered to be the father of the Jewish faith. The Hebrews believe that God made a covenant, or agreement, with Abraham.

T.O.R.A.H.

Hebrews were the first believers in a monotheistic religion.

First Commandment

"I am LORD our God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me."

-Exodus 20:2-3



The Hebrews are considered the first people to practice a monotheistic religion. Their belief in one god is established in the opening of the Ten Commandments.

[Image of Western Wall in Jerusalem by Wayne McLean.]



Beliefs of Christianity are based on J.E.S.U.S

Jesus' life and teachings can be found in the New Testament of the Bible.

The key beliefs of Christianity are based on the Christian Bible and the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. The Bible consists of two books which include the Old Testament, based on the Jewish Torah, and the New Testament, which describes the life of Jesus and contains his teachings.

J.E.S.U.S.

Early Church leaders formed Church Councils to outline Christian Doctrine or (Key Beliefs):

- Jesus is the Son of God and is the incarnation of God
- The Bible is considered to be the word of God
- Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead and ascended to heaven. (Jerusalem)
- The Trinity teaches the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit which combines into one God



When Christianity was a new religion, early church leaders formed church councils, which outlined the four key beliefs of Christianity. These beliefs are as follows. First, Jesus is the son of God, and is the incarnation of God. This means that God and Jesus are both God. Second, the Bible is the word of God. Third, Jesus died on the cross and ascended to heaven from Jerusalem, proving he was the incarnation of God. Finally, Christians believe in the Holy Trinity, which means that the father, son, and the Holy Spirit are all combined into one God.

JE.**S**.U.S.

Second monotheistic religion in the world.

Both Judaism and Christianity originated in the Middle East.

Today, Christianity is concentrated in Europe, North America and South America.



Christianity was the second major monotheistic religion and has its foundations in Judaism. Both Judaism and Christianity originated in the Middle East. Today, the majority of Christians live in Europe, North America, and South America.

J.E.S.U.S.

All Christians were **U**nited under the Catholic Church until there was a schism, or division in 1054.

The Church divided into two:

- Western Church (Roman Catholic) was centered in Rome
- Eastern Church (Orthodox) was centered in Constantinople

A number of Christians left the Roman Catholic Church in 1517 in an event called the Protestant Reformation.



All Christians originally belonged to the Catholic Church until the Great Schism of 1054 when the church divided into two. Those Christians living in Western Europe remained Roman Catholic under the leadership of the Pope in Rome.

Meanwhile, the Eastern Orthodox Church was established in Constantinople with the Patriarch as its leader.

In 1517, Protestants split off from the Roman Catholic Church for a variety of reasons. This was known as the Reformation. The Reformation had a major impact on all aspects of life in Europe at that time.

J.E.S.U.S.

Sacraments are the sacred rites of the church.

Christians believe that faith in Christ and participation in the sacraments lead them to salvation, or heaven.

Examples of sacraments:

- Baptism
- The Eucharist
- Matrimony
- Penance



Sacraments are the sacred rites of the church. Christians believe that faith in Christ and participation in the religious sacraments lead to salvation, or everlasting life.

The beliefs of Islam can be found in I.S.L.A.M.I.C.

Islam is the third monotheistic religion in the world.

- The sacred text of Islam is the Koran (or Quran).
- The Koran contains the word of God as it was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad.
- Muslims believe that God sent other prophets, which include Abraham, Moses, and Jesus, but Muhammad is last and greatest prophet.



Koran (Quran) manuscript 7th century

Islam is the third monotheistic world religion. People who follow the Islamic faith are called Muslims. Muslims believe that the words revealed to the Prophet Mohammed make up the sacred writings of the Koran, which is the Muslim holy book. Muslims share certain beliefs with Judaism and Christianity. For example, Muslims believe that God sent other prophets to teach his beliefs, including Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. Muslims differ in that they believe that Mohammed was the last and greatest prophet.

I.S.L.A.M.I.C.

Started in the Middle East in present-day Saudi Arabia

- Muhammad was born in Mecca around 570 A.D.
- Mecca was a lively trade center for caravans crossing the Arabian Desert.
- When he was about forty years old, Muhammad started hearing voices from Angel Gabriel asking him to be the messenger of God.



Islam started in the Middle East. Mecca is the most holy city for Muslims since Mohammed was born there around 570 A.D. At that time, Mecca was a large city of trade for caravans crossing the Arabian Desert.

When he was about 40 years old, Mohammed started hearing voices from the Angel Gabriel asking him to be the messenger of God. Mohammed asked himself, “How could a merchant be chosen by God?” Mohammed's wife convinced him to follow God's words. He began to preach his visions, which are the basis of the Islamic holy book, the Koran.

[Map courtesy Sémhur.]



I.S.L.A.M.I.C.

Laws (key beliefs) that Muslims follow are found in the Five Pillars of Islam:

1. Declaration of Faith (there is only one God and Muhammad is his messenger)
2. Daily Prayer (Muslims pray five times a day towards Mecca)
3. Alms for the Poor (giving charity to the poor)
4. Fasting during the month of Ramadan (the month where God first revealed himself to Muhammad)
5. The Hajj (all Muslims who are financially and physically able must make a pilgrimage to Mecca to pray at the Kaaba)



The laws and duties that all Muslims must follow are found in the moral and religious code of the Five Pillars of Islam. The Five Pillars of Islam include:

1. A Declaration of Faith: All Muslims must accept Muhammad as God's messenger.
2. Daily Prayer: Muslims pray five times a day towards Mecca.
3. Alms For the Poor: Muslims are required to give charity to the poor.
4. Fasting for Ramadan: Muslims must fast during the month in which God first revealed himself to Muhammad.
5. The Hajj: All Muslims who are physically and financially able must make a pilgrimage to Mecca.

[Photo courtesy Al Jazeera.]



I.S.L.A.M.I.C.

Allah is the Arabic name for God.

- The Koran is written and spoken in Arabic.
- The Islamic house of worship is called a Mosque.



Allah is the Arabic name for God. The Koran is written in Arabic, which serves as a unifying language among many Muslim countries surrounding the Middle East. The Islamic house of worship is called a mosque.


[Image courtesy Travis Reitter.]

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

I.S.L.A.M.I.C.

Muslim holy cities include Mecca, Medina, and Jerusalem.

- Mecca is where Muhammad was born and the location of the Kaaba.
- Medina is where Muhammad started the Islamic religion.
- Jerusalem is where Muhammad ascended to heaven. (The Dome of the Rock)



The holy cities of Islam include Mecca, Medina, and Jerusalem. Each one of these cities has a unique story in the development of the religion.

Mecca is the city where Muhammad was born, and is the location of the holy structure in Islam called the Kaaba. The Kaaba is a cube-shaped structure in the center of Mecca. It precedes Islam and was built on ground that used to have a Jewish temple built by Abraham. The Kaaba plays an essential role in the Five Pillars of Islam. One of the Five Pillars is the capital hajj which requires that all Muslims make a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in their lifetime, if they are financially capable.

The next holy city is Medina where Muhammad founded Islam. In 622, fearing for his life, Muhammad left Mecca and migrated to what was then called Yathrib. The city eventually made Muhammad their chief and renamed the city “Medina,” which means city in Arabic.

Finally, the city of Jerusalem is holy to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. This is where Muhammad ascended to heaven to receive a message and guidance from God.

[Map courtesy Sémhur.]



I.S.L.A.M.I.C.

Islam today is concentrated in the Middle East, North Africa, and Asia.

Around 25% percent of the world population is Muslim.

Countries with large Muslim populations outside the Middle East:

- Indonesia (world's largest)
- Pakistan
- Bangladesh
- India



Islam is one of the most popular religions in the world. It is concentrated in the Middle East and in parts of Asia. Indonesia is the country with the world's largest Islamic population. It has over 200 million believers.

I.S.L.A.M.I.C.

The **C**ulture of the Islam has made many contributions to the world today.

Mathematics

- Arabic Numerals - 0,1,2,3,4,5....
- Algebra

Scientific Knowledge

- Advancements in Medicine
- Astronomy
- Architecture - Taj Mahal (India)



The culture of Islam has made many contributions to the modern world. Muslims introduced the mathematical principles of algebra, trigonometry, and spread Arabic numerals to parts of Europe. Also, Muslims have made scientific contributions that led to developments in medicine, astronomy, and they influenced architecture throughout the world. One of the most notable pieces of architecture that was influenced by Islam is the Taj Mahal in India, with its dome shapes.