**Major World Religions Comparison Charts**

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|  | **Judaism** | **Christianity** | **Islam** | **Hinduism** | **Buddhism** |
| **Key People** | Founder - **Abraham** (Father of Hebrews)  **Moses** – Prophet that led Hebrews (Jews) from slavery out of Egypt | Founder - **Jesus Christ** (Son of God) | Founder - **Mohammed** (Prophet of Muslims) | **No particular founder** (religion influenced by **Aryans**) | Founder - **Siddhartha Gautama** (Hindu prince)  He later became known as the “Buddha” |
| **Origins** | Israel/Palestine | Israel/Palestine | Saudi Arabia | India | India |
| **Type of Religion, and who they Worship** | Monotheistic  Who: God (Yahweh)  Where they worship: Synagogue | Monotheistic  Who: God  Where: Church | Monotheistic  Who: Allah  Where: Mosque | Polytheistic (many gods)  Main God: **Brahman**  (All powerful spiritual force)  Hindu Trinity (gods in human Form)  -Brahma - Creator  -Shiva – Destroyer  -Vishnu- Preserver | Nontheistic  (**Buddha** is NOT a god – just a revered teacher) |
| **Sacred text or**  **Holy Book** | Torah | Holy Bible | Qur’an or Koran | Vedas and Upanishads | Pali Canon / Tripitaka |
| **Ultimate Goal** | Live in Harmony with God  **Judaism** | Heaven  **Christianity** | Spread message of **Allah**  **Islam** | Moksha  **Hinduism** | To reach Nirvana  or Enlightenment  **Buddhism** |
| **Doctrine / Beliefs** | -Hebrews would have only one God and thus be awarded the promised land (Palestine)  **10 Commandments**:  **the laws given by Yahweh (God) that must be followed**   * No other gods before me * Don’t worship idols * Don’t use Lord’s name in vain * Keep Sabbath holy * Honor dad and mom * No murder * No adultery * No stealing * Don’t lie to neighbor * Don’t covet | -Jesus Christ is the Son of God (the Messiah – the one chosen to spread the word of God)  -Love God above all other spirits and people  -Love others as you love yourself  -Christians have the gift of **salvation** which is the opportunity to be forgiven for your sins  -**10 Commandments** (influenced by Judaism) | **5 Pillars of Faith**:  **the laws that Muslims must follow**   1. Pray five times a day toward **Mecca (Holy City)** 2. Give charity (Alms) to the poor 3. Fast during the religious holiday of **Ramadan** 4. Reaffirm your faith 5. Make a **hajj** or pilgrimage to Mecca | -**Brahman**: the all-powerful spiritual force of Hinduism  -**Atman**: the soul; the essence of Brahman that is inside every living thing  -**Reincarnation**: rebirth of the soul  -**Karma**: the moral consequences which are a result of one’s actions throughout their life; determines one’s caste or place in society when one is reborn  -**Moksha**: ultimate goal of life; to release the soul from the cycle of reincarnation and become one with Brahman | -To reach **Nirvana** (understanding Buddha’s teachings),  one must *understand* the Four Noble Truths and *follow* the Eightfold Path  -**The Four Noble Truths**:   1. All human life contains suffering 2. Desire leads to suffering 3. The way to end suffering is to overcome desire 4. One can overcome desire and achieve enlightenment by following the Eightfold Path   -**Reincarnation**: rebirth results from attachment (karma) |
| **Symbols** | [https://encrypted-tbn3.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcQ3DyyBRA_S8iB_ZOQUkYZmepx-2POohyRiOvoGtiCLT6fM8xU7gXYlhlM](https://www.google.com/url?q=http://worldreligionswiki7.wikispaces.com/CASJudaism-Angelia&sa=U&ei=el1eU8rZLqWysATIkICgCg&ved=0CB8Q9QEwAQ&sig2=k_U3WnUmwG9xOXPOtZIZ_g&usg=AFQjCNGgQyGvFCquGpZR2Zbj0oTallx1OA) | [https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcR-1a6Px7iK4kMtHuYE-Patn7WOIilyAbJy1Rhc4nGmUb-H5kLQI9Ki1EI](https://www.google.com/url?q=http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_symbolism&sa=U&ei=l11eU5SPD9W0sQSth4GQCQ&ved=0CB0Q9QEwAA&sig2=87uzM562ABnqUs_-5VF9xA&usg=AFQjCNGrorQQWjkK_KSQ3lRIRvreUeHlYw) | [https://encrypted-tbn2.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcQ4WeFremq70D6u8VVc4c8PW29fM-2wuOb2fq-Lwfewihhjf3Edro8PSgg](https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.religionfacts.com/islam/symbols.htm&sa=U&ei=wF1eU8GvHMm8yAGR6YCIBw&ved=0CC4Q9QEwAA&sig2=jP9y-ewfVaKYKlEju2bnRA&usg=AFQjCNE86YdKIZj2_KciYJFhAdDnLojKQQ) | [https://encrypted-tbn2.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcQQAi0JWf2Eo6dYXFVogTMmwwzJcdK-qkyoHYfeWsOYrKypLw01e__N42w3](https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.ancient-symbols.com/hindu-symbols.html&sa=U&ei=1l1eU-qyD-r4yQH3g4Fo&ved=0CC4Q9QEwAA&sig2=VJ_QoLxoFM_Vm4XW8brNUA&usg=AFQjCNGr_pghero9hYKVQyGUTl6Uu1kW-w) | [https://encrypted-tbn2.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcR1clxzkNwJGCrFETGCJBF2Aheyi-j9RsjDoeri76wS0V5_hMCawRUmS-E](https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.ancient-symbols.com/religious_symbols.html&sa=U&ei=-F1eU8KsC6WEyAH76IAg&ved=0CDIQ9QEwAg&sig2=j65w7xxLD1DXG9OXHrBXEw&usg=AFQjCNG3Ba6b03zUT65Q-cngRYAvsaK6Gg) |