

JIGSAW READING—MONOTHEISM

Religion: Three Religions, One God

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are three of the world's biggest religions. All three started in the Middle East. All three are connected. Christianity came from Judaism. Islam developed from Christianity and Judaism.

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam share many beliefs. They are all monotheistic religions. A monotheistic religion is one that believes there is only one god. All three religions view Abraham as their first prophet. They are also known as the Abrahamic religions.

Judaism

A brief history of Judaism

Judaism is the oldest monotheistic religion that is still practiced today. It started in the eastern Mediterranean in the second millennium B.C.E.

Followers of Judaism are known as Jews. They trace their origins to the ancient Israelites. The Israelites built the kingdom of Israel on the Mediterranean coast. Jerusalem is the holy city of Judaism and is also revered by Christians and Muslims.

Jews have survived political division, conquest, and exile. The religion still flourished for years. Historically, Jews lived in Palestine. The Roman Empire forced the Jews to leave after a rebellion in 73 C.E. Jews moved to other places and took their religion with them.

Many Jewish subcultures formed. These subcultures had different histories, languages, religious practices, customs, and cuisines.

The state of Israel was founded in 1948. Jews came from all over the world to settle in Israel.

What Jews believe

Judaism teaches obedience to God's law and the creation of a fair society. Jews believe in one god and his prophets. Jews believe that Abraham was the first Jew to make a covenant with God. Jews also believe that God gave the law to the prophet Moses.

Jewish law is written in the Torah and the Talmud. The Torah is also called the Pentateuch. Jewish law covers prayer and ritual, marriage, death, and birth. Judaism believes that rules over human behavior are more important than belief in the Jewish tradition. It also covers the observance of holidays like Yom Kippur and Passover.

Worship services are traditionally held in synagogues and led by a rabbi.

JIGSAW READING—MONOTHEISM

Religion: Three Religions, One God

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are three of the world's biggest religions. All three started in the Middle East. All three are connected. Christianity came from Judaism. Islam developed from Christianity and Judaism.

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam share many beliefs. They are all monotheistic religions. A monotheistic religion is one that believes there is only one god. All three religions view Abraham as their first prophet. They are also known as the Abrahamic religions.

Christianity

A brief history of Christianity

Christianity started as a branch of Judaism. It started in the first century C.E.

Christians were often persecuted. That changed when the Roman emperor Constantine converted to Christianity. When Constantine converted, the Roman Empire became the Holy Roman Empire. The capital moved from Rome to Constantinople.

Christianity later split into smaller groups. The Orthodox Church separated from the Roman Catholic Church because the two disagreed. A man named Martin Luther led a reform movement in the 16th century. His movement turned into the Protestant church.

Christianity is practiced all over the world. Different forms of the religion are practiced by people on every continent. Christian missionaries travel the world to share the religion. They work to convert people to Christianity.

What Christians believe

Christians follow the teachings of Jesus. Jesus was a member of the Jewish community. He lived in Roman Palestine.

The Christian Holy Scriptures include the Old Testament and New Testament. Together, these scriptures form the Bible. The Old Testament is the Jewish Torah with some changes. The New Testament includes writings about the life of Jesus and early Christian communities.

Some Christians believe that God exists in three parts. These parts are called the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. Followers of Jesus believe he is the son of God.

Jesus was crucified and executed by the Romans. Christians believe that Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to heaven. Easter celebrates the day Jesus ascended to heaven. Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus.

Christian worship services are usually held in a church. A pastor or minister leads worship.

JIGSAW READING—MONOTHEISM

Religion: Three Religions, One God

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are three of the world's biggest religions. All three started in the Middle East. All three are connected. Christianity came from Judaism. Islam developed from Christianity and Judaism.

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam share many beliefs. They are all monotheistic religions. A monotheistic religion is one that believes there is only one god. All three religions view Abraham as their first prophet. They are also known as the Abrahamic religions.

Islam

A brief history of Islam

Islam started in the desert community of Mecca in the seventh century. It developed from the Judeo-Christian tradition and the cultural values of the nomadic tribes of Arabia. Followers of Islam are called Muslims. The word "Muslim" means "one who submits to God's will."

Islam grew and spread to North Africa, Europe, and Central Asia. It continued to spread to sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Muslims in different parts of the world developed different traditions.

Parts of Islamic society also became parts of medieval and Renaissance culture. The lute, the idea of chivalry, poetry, and the arabesque dance all came from Islamic culture.

Today, one-fifth of the world's population follows Islam. Islam includes many different communities like the Sunnis, Shia, Ismailis, Alevis/Alawites, and Druze.

What Muslims believe

Muslims believe that Allah sent the Quran to the prophet Muhammad. "Allah" means "God" in Arabic. Muhammad's followers believe he is the last in a line of prophets. Prophets are messengers. These messengers included Abraham and Jesus.

The Quran is Islam's holy book. It tells Muslims to worship one god and how to treat others. Muslims practice five principles, called pillars, of Islam outlined in the Quran.

One pillar is that Muslims must make a pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca, if they can afford it. Muslims also pray five times a day, give to charity, and fast during the month of Ramadan.

Major Muslim festivals include Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. Eid al-Fitr is the Fast-Breaking Festival. It is celebrated at the end of Ramadan. Eid al-Adha is the Festival of Sacrifice. It commemorates Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son, Ishmael. It also commemorates God's mercy. Worship services are often held in a mosque and led by an imam.

Sources

Modified and adapted from:

PBS. (2002). *Religion: Three religions, one god.*

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/globalconnections/mideast/themes/religion/index.html#:~:text=Three%20of%20the%20world's%20major,from%20both%20Christianity%20and%20Judaism>

Boehm, R. G. (2005). *World geography.* New York, NY: Glencoe, McGraw-Hill