

## Comparison of Islam, Judaism and Christianity

[http://www.religionfacts.com/islam/comparison\\_charts/islam\\_judaism\\_christianity.htm#](http://www.religionfacts.com/islam/comparison_charts/islam_judaism_christianity.htm#)

Islam is the second largest religion in the world after Christianity. As a monotheistic faith that originated in the Middle East, Islam holds many beliefs and practices in common with Judaism and Christianity.

Judaism, Islam and Christianity are collectively known as "Abrahamic religions" because they trace their history to the covenant God made with Abraham in the Hebrew Bible.

The Prophet Muhammad met both Jews and Christians during his lifetime, and Islam has come into frequent contact with both of its fellow monotheistic faiths throughout most of its history.

As a brief guide of the similarities and differences of Islam, Judaism and Christianity, the following chart compares the statistics, origins, history and religious beliefs of these three great monotheistic faiths.

Please note that, as with all charts of this kind, the information is oversimplified and should not be used as a sole resource.

### Comparison of Statistics and Basics

	Islam	Judaism	Christianity
adherents called	Muslims	Jews	Christians
current adherents	1.3 billion	14 million	2 billion
current size rank	2nd largest	12th largest	largest
major concentration	Middle East, Southeast Asia	Israel, Europe, USA	Europe, North and South America, rapid growth in Africa
sacred text	Qur'an (Koran)	Bible	Bible (Jewish Bible + New Testament)
other written authority	Hadith	Talmud, Midrash, Responsa	church fathers, church councils, papal decrees (Catholic only)
religious law	Sharia	Halakhah	Canon Law
clergy	imams	rabbis	priests, ministers, pastors, bishops
house of worship	mosque	synagogue	church, chapel, cathedral
main day of worship	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
church and state	integrated	separate	separate

## Comparison of Origins and History

	Islam	Judaism	Christianity
date founded	622 CE	unknown	c. 33 CE
place founded	Saudi Arabia	Palestine ( <a href="#">def</a> )	Palestine
founder	Muhammad	Moses or Abraham	Jesus
original language(s)	Arabic	Hebrew	Aramaic, Greek
early expansion	within 12 years, entire Arabian peninsula; within 100 years, Muslim world stretched from the Atlantic to China	little expansion; mostly confined to Palestine	within 60 years, churches in major cities in Palestine, Turkey, Greece and Rome ( <a href="#">map</a> ); entire Roman Empire by end of 4th cent.
major splits	Shia/Sunni, c. 650 CE	Reform/Orthodox, 1800s CE	Catholic/Orthodox, 1054 CE; Catholic/Protestant, 1500s CE

## Comparison of Religious Beliefs

	Islam	Judaism	Christianity
type of theism	strict monotheism	strict monotheism	Trinitarian monotheism
ultimate reality	one God	one God	one God
names of God	Allah (Arabic for God)	Yahweh, Elohim	Yahweh, the Holy Trinity
other spiritual beings	angels, demons, jinn	angels and demons	angels and demons
revered humans	prophets, imams (especially in Shia)	prophets	saints, church fathers
identity of Jesus	true prophet of God, whose message has been corrupted	false prophet	Son of God, God incarnate, savior of the world
birth of Jesus	virgin birth	normal birth	virgin birth
death of Jesus	did not die, but ascended into heaven during crucifixion	death by crucifixion	death by crucifixion
resurrection of Jesus	denied	denied	affirmed
second coming of Jesus	affirmed	denied	affirmed
divine revelation	through Muhammad, recorded in Qur'an	through Prophets, recorded in Bible	through Prophets and Jesus (as God Himself), recorded in Bible

view of sacred text	inspired, literal word of God, inerrant in original languages	views vary	inspired, some believe inerrant in original languages
human nature	equal ability to do good or evil	two equal impulses, one good and one bad	"original sin" inherited from Adam - tendency towards evil
means of salvation	correct belief, good deeds, Five Pillars	belief in God, good deeds	correct belief, faith, good deeds, sacraments (some Protestants emphasize faith alone)
God's role in salvation	predestination	divine revelation and forgiveness	predestination, various forms of grace
good afterlife	eternal paradise	views vary: either heaven or no afterlife	eternal heaven
bad afterlife	eternal hell	views vary: either eternal Gehenna, reincarnation, or no afterlife	eternal hell, temporary purgatory (Catholicism)
view of fellow Abrahamic religions	Jews and Christians are respected as "People of the Book," but they have wrong beliefs and only partial revelation.	Islam and Christianity are false interpretations and extensions of Judaism.	Judaism is a true religion, but with incomplete revelation. Islam is a false religion.