



FALSE RELIGIONS [A FEW FACTS & INSIGHTS]



AGENDA

1. SATANISM
2. ROMAN CATHOLICISM
3. MORMONISM
4. JEHOVAH WITNESS
5. SCIENTOLOGY
6. KABBALAH
7. ISLAM
8. NEW AGE
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10. BUDDHISM
11. COMMON CHARACTERISTICS

SATANISM



SATANISM

Multiple “groups:”

View 1:

Neither God nor Satan exist as a spiritual entity. God is a “force” and Satan is a “symbol.”

View 2:

God and Satan exist independently of each other; they are equal in power

View 3:

God and Satan exist; Satan is dependent upon God; “heaven” on earth is showing contempt for Christ and the church

Life After Death (multiple views)

(1) There is NO afterlife (only here & now); (2) Endless cycle of reincarnation to gorge their carnal desires; (3) After Satan defeats God, servants will spend eternal in HELL (a place of intense sensual pleasure); (4) After God judges Satan, servants will suffer eternal torment in Hell.

Founders: Aleister Crowley & Waite

Embraced self-indulgent lifestyles: (1) rejection of Christianity; (2) assumption of supremacy of self; (3) used magic to enhance one’s experiences & objectives

Satanic Bible teaches:

- 1)I am my own god
- 2)Satan represents:
 - Indulgence rather than abstinence
 - Vital existence vs. spiritual pipe dreams
 - Undefiled wisdom rather than hypocritical self-deceit
 - Kindness to those who deserve it rather than love for wasted ingrates
 - Vengeance rather than turning the other cheek
 - Mankind is just another animal rather than creature made in the image of God
 - All of the “so-called” sins lead to sensual gratification rather than eternal damnation
 - The church’s best friend rather than her archenemy

ROMAN CATHOLICISM

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- Traditions of the church, pronouncements of the pope, and the Bible are ALL authoritative.
- The Apocrypha is included in the Catholic Bible.
- When the Bible and tradition disagree, the Catholic follows tradition
- Apostolic succession is the idea that Peter was the first pope, and that all popes then descended from Peter

Catholics Do Not Worship Mary

Catholics don't worship Mary, but they do pray to Mary (& other saints), but not in the same way we pray to God—and not to worship her as a god. But they do believe Mary was sinless.

Life After Death

At death a person goes first to purgatory, a type of holding place, to be purged of his or her sins. Length determined by prayers/masses ion their name.

Salvation

According to the Catholic church, salvation is based on sacraments that must be kept in order to go to Heaven.

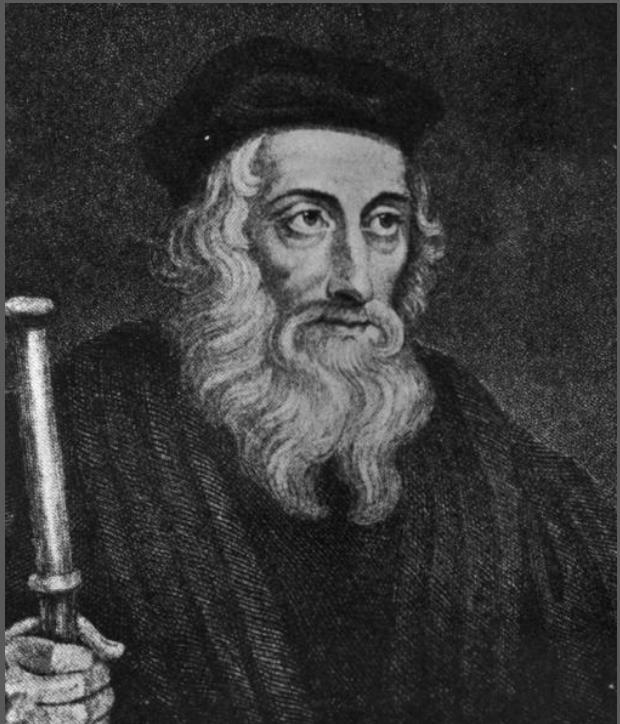
- **Baptism.** Baptism places a person into the church. No one is saved without being baptized so babies are baptized soon after birth.
- **Confirmation.** This is the point at which a person is actually accepted into the faith. In most instances of confirmation, the priest lays his hands on the person confirmed, signifying that the Holy Spirit will give His strength and guidance. Confirmation is permanent; there is no need for a future confirmation.
- **Confession.** Sins are considered to be in one of two categories: mortal or venial. Mortal sins (e.g., missing Mass without cause, getting drunk, theft) can lead to loss of salvation; they must be confessed to a priest, who has the power to absolve, or forgive, that sin. The less serious venial sins can be addressed directly to God.
- **Holy Communion.** or Mass, is sacred to Catholics. Catholic teachings claim that the bread and wine used in observance of the Lord's Supper becomes the actual body and blood of Christ when the priest blesses the elements.
- **Holy Orders.** When a man receives the sacrament of Holy Orders, he can function as a priest. He can perform the Mass and other sacraments and has the power to forgive sins.
- **Matrimony.** Catholics view marriage as a holy bond between two people. They recognize that the commitment of marriage is a picture of God's relationship with the church.
- **Anointing of the sick.** Also known as Extreme Unction or Last Rights, is reserved for the sick and dying. If a dying person (even though he or she may be unconscious) is anointed by the priest, mortal and venial sins are forgiven. According to the Catholic religion, a person's soul must be forgiven from sins at the time of death.

Amid the darkness of the centuries

Birth of Protestant Movement

Wycliffe's corpse, or a neighbour's was exhumed; on the orders of the bishop the remains were burned and the ashes drowned in the River Swift, which flows through Lutterworth.

Considered an important predecessor to Protestantism



John Wycliffe

Martin Luther



Came to reject several teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church; in particular, he disputed the view on indulgences - a way to reduce the amount of punishment one has to undergo for (forgiven) sins.

Luther taught that salvation and, consequently, eternal life are not earned by good deeds; rather, they are received only as the free gift of God's grace through the believer's faith in Jesus Christ, who is the sole redeemer from sin.

Opposed many aspects of the Catholic Church in Bohemia, such as its views on ecclesiology, simony, the Eucharist, and other theological topics.



John Huss

MORMONISM

MORMONISM

Mormonism teaches that there are many gods, with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit being three separate gods among many others. Furthermore, it is also possible for humans to ascend to godhood. Obedience to moral laws and observance of religious rituals are central to the Mormon faith. [What is Mormonism?](#)

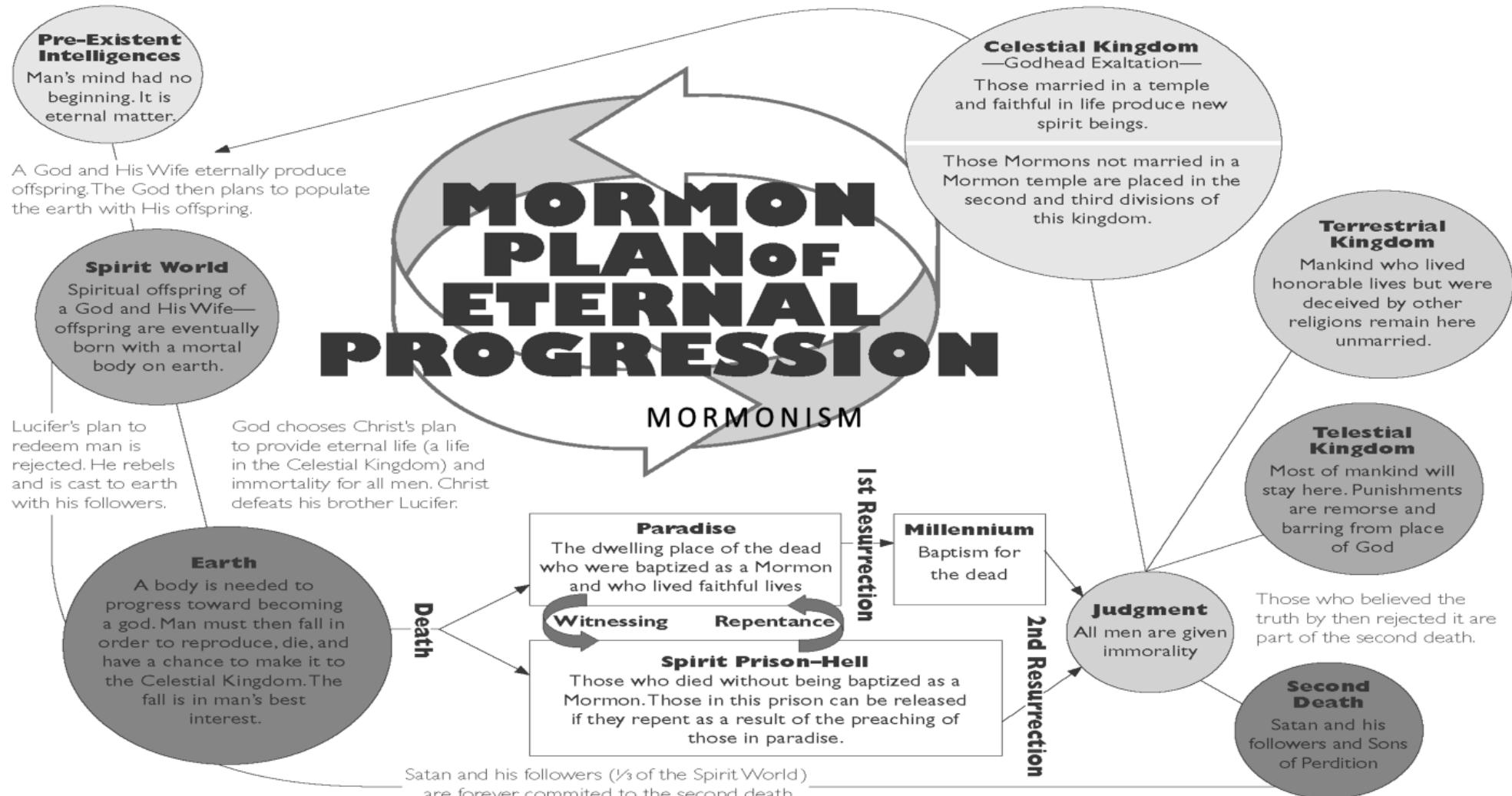
Basic Beliefs

- Man can progress to be a god
- God was once man who progressed to be what He is now.
- The Bible has been corrupted
- The gospel was lost and then given to the Mormons
- All men are freely granted unconditional salvation
- Man can earn eternal life (life in the Celestial Kingdom)
- The true church is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- Mormons married in a Mormon temple will remain married in the afterlife
- All men are sons of God with pre-existent immortal minds
- Father God and Mother God conceived spirit children – Christ was the firstborn
- Eternal punishment is a false teaching
- Jesus and Lucifer were spiritual brothers
- All humans exist as spirit beings before their physical birth.
- Jesus Christ did not exist in eternity past. Offspring of Mary & God the Father.
- Jesus became a god as the result of His devotion to the truth and the law
- Jesus was married
- All humans exist as spirit beings, which are offspring of the Heavenly Father, before birth. The mortal stage of human existence is a testing stage to determine the person's post-mortal state.

Founder:

Joseph Smith Jr. founder of [Mormonism](#) and the [Latter Day Saint movement](#) upon vision/visit of God Father & God the Son (Jesus). Published the [Book of Mormon](#) at the age of 24. Mormon beliefs are founded upon other books besides the Bible: *The Book of Mormon, Doctrines and Covenants, and The Pearl of Great Price.*





This chart was adapted from The Bible and Mormon Doctrines by Sandra Tanner.

1 Cor. 15:35 But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?" **36**Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. **37**And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other grain. **38**But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body. **39**All flesh is not the same flesh, but *there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds.* **40***There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.* **41***There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory.*

JEHOVAH WITNESS

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Bible:

Jehovah's Witnesses use a version of the Bible called *The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*. The NWT denies the deity of Christ

Deity of God:

- Jesus is the *created* Son of God. He is “a” God; not *the* God.
- The Holy Spirit is not a Person, but rather an impersonal, invisible “spirit force.”
- Jesus is the archangel Michael

Life After Death:

- There is no Hell. Jehovah's Witnesses believe in annihilationism, the idea that one dies and no longer exists. This is the punishment for the unsaved.
- Those who follow JW, will have a 2nd chance during the Millennium to earn eternal physical life & live in paradise on earth.

Founder:

- Eighteen-year-old Charles Taze Russell, his father, and several others began a Bible study in 1870.
- They became aware of what they perceived to be “errors” in common Christian belief
- Russell published a magazine called *Zion's Watchtowert* o promote his new doctrines.
- The Jehovah's Witnesses' publishing arm is called the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society

Salvation - 144,000

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that only 144,000 persons since the time of Jesus can ever go to heaven, there to be co-rulers with Christ Jesus over the inhabitants of a paradise earth. Also, the soul dies when the body dies and must wait until the resurrection before Jehovah “remembers” the personality of the deceased and matches it to a new, physical body.

Those who are part of the 144,000 will be given spiritual bodies, but everyone else will be given a fleshly body. **HOWEVER**, in the 1930s the organization claimed that the number of the 144,000 had been sealed, and new Witnesses would have an eternity on earth, rather than in heaven.

JW - Statement of Faith

God. We worship the one true and Almighty God, the Creator, whose name is Jehovah

Bible. We recognize the Bible as God's inspired message to humans. While we accept the entire Bible, we are not fundamentalists. We recognize that parts of the Bible are written in figurative or symbolic language and are not to be understood literally

Jesus. We follow the teachings and example of Jesus Christ and honor him as our Savior and as the Son of God. (Matthew 20:28; Acts 5:31) Thus, we are Christians. (Acts 11:26) However, we have learned from the Bible that Jesus is not Almighty God and that there is no Scriptural basis for the Trinity doctrine.

The Kingdom of God. This is a real government in heaven, not a condition in the hearts of Christians. It will replace human governments and accomplish God's purpose for the earth.

Salvation. Deliverance from sin and death is possible through the ransom sacrifice of Jesus. To benefit from that sacrifice, people must not only exercise faith in Jesus but also change their course of life and get baptized. A person's works prove that his faith is alive. However, salvation cannot be earned—it comes through "the undeserved kindness of God."

Heaven. Jehovah God, Jesus Christ, and the faithful angels reside in the spirit realm. A relatively small number of people—144,000—will be resurrected to life in heaven to rule with Jesus in the Kingdom.

Earth. God created the earth to be mankind's eternal home. God will bless obedient people with perfect health and everlasting life in an earthly paradise.

Evil and suffering. These began when one of God's angels rebelled. This angel, who after his rebellion was called "Satan" and "Devil," persuaded the first human couple to join him, and the consequences have been disastrous for their descendants. In order to settle the moral issues raised by Satan, God has allowed evil and suffering, but He will not permit them to continue forever.

Death. People who die pass out of existence. They do not suffer in a fiery hell of torment. God will bring billions back from death by means of a resurrection. However, those who refuse to learn God's ways after being raised to life will be destroyed forever with no hope of a resurrection.

SCIENTOLOGY

SCIENTOLOGY –LET'S BE CLEAR

Scientology is not a dogmatic religion in which one is asked to accept anything on faith alone. On the contrary, one discovers for oneself that the [principles of Scientology](#) are true by applying its principles and observing or experiencing the results

The goal of Scientology is to reverse this diminishing awareness and, in that sense, wake the individual up. As one becomes more and more alert, his abilities increase and he is capable of greater understanding and thus better able to handle his life and help others.

Levels of Clear:

- Pre-clear: person who is greatly inhibited by unwanted past emotions. Trauma and memories. Auditing session help remain these “inhibitors.”
- Clear: Free of unwanted past emotions, trauma and memories. Person can think clearly & analysis every situation.
- Operating Thetan: This person can exist without physical support – one becomes wholly oneself.

Founder:

Ron Hubbard introduced the idea of Scientology through his science fiction works. In 1952, Hubbard had his beliefs published in *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health*, which became a best seller.

Basic Belief

- Xenu was the extraterrestrial ruler of a "Galactic Confederacy" who brought billions of his people to Earth in DC-8-like spacecraft 75 million years ago, stacked them around volcanoes, and killed them with hydrogen bombs. Official Scientology scriptures hold that the [thetans](#) (immortal spirits) of these aliens adhere to humans, causing spiritual harm.
- Scientology intends to offers a precise path leading to a complete and certain understanding of one's true spiritual nature and one's relationship to self, family, groups, Mankind, all life forms, the material universe, the spiritual universe and the [Supreme Being](#).
- Scientology addresses the spirit—not the body or mind—and believes that Man is far more than a product of his environment, or his genes.
- Scientology comprises a body of knowledge which extends from certain fundamental truths.
- Prime among these are:
 - *Man is an immortal spiritual being.*
 - *His experience extends well beyond a single lifetime.*
 - *His capabilities are unlimited, even if not presently realized.*
- Man to be basically good, and that is spiritual salvation depends upon himself, his fellows and his attainment of brotherhood with the universe.
- The ultimate goal of Scientology is true spiritual enlightenment and freedom for all (Theta).
- A universal life force or energy exists beyond and within all. (Believe in reincarnation.)

KABBALAH

KABBALAH

Basic Belief

- Sometimes translated as “mysticism” or “occult knowledge” — is a part of Jewish tradition that deals with the essence of God. Whether a sacred text, an experience, or the way things work, Kabbalists believe that God moves in mysterious ways.
- Kabbalists also believe that true knowledge and understanding of that inner, mysterious process is obtainable, and through that knowledge, the greatest intimacy with God can be attained.
- Kabbalistic tend to view the Creator and the Creation as a continuum, rather than as discrete entities, and they desire intimacy with God.
- Kabbalah means “received.” In common use today, Kabbalah refers to the received wisdom of theology of Jewish practice built upon teachings handed down through the generations from Sinai.
- Scriptural authority lies in the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament. Secret messages are encoded and hidden in the Torah, and only certain individuals are capable of finding them.
- God is not a personal being but is unknowable and inaccessible to mankind.
- Humans are divine and ultimately good.
- The Kabbalist tries to be saved by doing good deeds and working his way to God, the divine source of all. Kabbalists look within for salvation.

Basic Kabbalistic concepts

- **God is infinite.** To make space for our reality, God created a void within His infinite light, whereby He remains present, but cannot be perceived. This is known as *tzimtzum*.
- **God is within everything and everything has a purpose.** When you have interacted with any part of God’s creation and used it for a good cause, you have elevated the Divine spark within it and brought the universe one small step closer to its perfection.
- **To bridge the gap between finite and infinite, God emanated a world of harmony and Divine oneness we call “Atzilut.”** This acts as the interface between G-d and us so that we can relate to Him. The instructions for this interaction are in the Torah, as taught by our Sages in the form of *halacha*.
- **We are a reflection of God.** Through understanding the human being, particularly, the 10 elements of the human intellect and emotional makeup, we can get an inkling of the 10 elements of the Divine. Conversely, through attempting to understand Him, we can understand and harness our own selves.

ISLAM

ISLAM

Founder:

Muhammad, born in Mecca, Arabia, in AD 570. Supposedly received revelations from God, which were dictated to him by the angel Gabriel. A secretary recorded these words and the collection of revelations is known as the Quran.

- Islam is one of the fastest growing religions in the world.
- More than 24.1% of the world's population is Muslim, with an estimated total of approximately 1.9 billion.
- Years 632 – 800 rapid expansion of Islam military & the belief that nonbelievers should be overcome and brought into the "true religion."
- Muslims believe Islam is not simply another religion but THE God-sanctioned faith for the world.
- Islam spread through military conquest, trade, pilgrimage, and missionaries.
- *Arab Muslim forces conquered vast territories and built imperial structures over time.*
- Most of the significant expansion occurred during the reign of the **Rashidun** from 632 to 661 CE, which was the reign of the first four successors of Muhammad.
- The Crusades were organized by western European Christians after centuries of Muslim wars of expansion. Their primary objectives were to stop the expansion of Muslim states, to reclaim for Christianity the Holy Land in the Middle East, and to recapture territories that had formerly been Christian.

Basic Beliefs:

- Muslims accept the Law of Moses, the Psalms of David, the Gospel of Jesus, and the Quran of Muhammad.
- Anywhere the Bible and the Quran contradict, the Muslim accepts the Quran, because he believes it is the most recent revelation.
- Muslims worship one god, whom they call Allah. Allah is the sovereign creator, judge, and ruler.
- Muslims deny the Trinity
- Jesus was a prophet, not God's Son.
- Jesus did not die on the cross. The man who was crucified at Calvary merely looked like Jesus.
- There is no assurance of forgiveness in Islam. If the good outweighs the bad, a Muslim believes he will be allowed into Paradise.
- However, anyone who gives his life in Jihad, or Holy War, is guaranteed admittance to Paradise.
- Five Pillars of Islam: (1) Declaration of faith; (2) Obligatory prayer; (3) Compulsory giving; (4) Fasting in the month of Ramadan; (5) Pilgrimage to Mecca
- Belief in the existence and oneness of God. The Islamic concept of Monothelism, Tawhid.
- Belief in the existence of angels such as Jibril, (Gabriel)
- Belief in the existence of prophets: Muhammad being the last of them, Jesus the penultimate, and others
- Belief in the existence of the Day of Judgment: in that day, humanity will be divided into two groups: that of paradise and that of hell. These groups are composed of subgroups.
- Belief in the existence of God's predestination (*qadar*, 'Divine Decree') due to God's omniscience, whether it involves good or bad.

Religion	Adherents	Percentage
<u>Christianity</u>	2.365 billion	30.74%
<u>Islam</u>	1.907 billion	24.9%
<u>Secular/Nonreligious/Agnostic/Atheist</u>	1.193 billion	15.58%
<u>Hinduism</u>	1.152 billion	15.1%
<u>Buddhism</u>	506 million	6.6%
<u>Chinese traditional religion</u> ^[c]	394 million	5.6%
<u>Ethnic religions excluding some in separate categories</u>	300 million	3%
<u>African traditional religions</u>	100 million ^[7]	1.2%
<u>Esoteric Religions</u>	50 million	0.31%
<u>Sikhism</u>	26 million	0.30%
<u>Mormonism</u>	17 million	0.2%
<u>Spiritism</u>	15 million	0.2%
<u>Judaism</u>	14.7 million ^[8]	0.2%
<u>Ayyavazhi</u>	9 million	0.11%
<u>Bahá'í</u>	5.0 million ^[9]	0.07%
<u>Jainism</u>	4.2 million	0.05%
<u>Shinto</u>	4.0 million	0.05%
<u>Cao Dai</u>	4.0 million	0.05%
<u>Zoroastrianism</u>	2.6 million	0.03%
<u>Tenrikyo</u>	2.0 million	0.02%
<u>Animism</u>	1.9 million	0.02%
<u>Neo-Paganism</u>	1.0 million	0.01%
<u>Unitarian Universalism</u>	0.8 million	0.01%
<u>Rastafari</u>	0.6 million	0.007%
Total	8.12 billion	100%

NEW AGE

NEW AGE

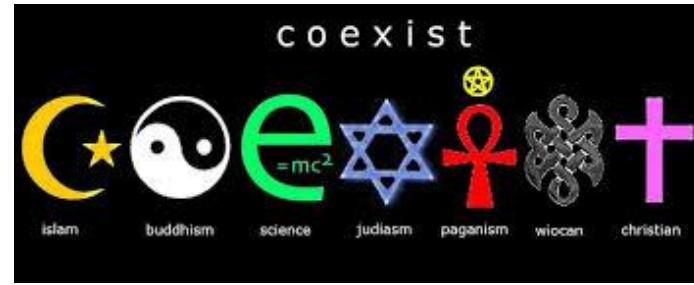
Rooted in religions that deny monotheistic beliefs. Linked to Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism & Zen.
More of a philosophy or worldview than an organized cult, it is an outgrowth of the “me” mentality (pride).

New Age Philosophy:

- All true reality is divine (“God in all: all is God) | God is a “force” or “energy.” God is all and all is God; humans are therefore God.
- Humans are inherently good; they are divine. Humans don’t understand their full potential.
- Since humans are ignorant of their divine nature, personal enlightenment is important
- Altered consciousness, psychic powers, and contact with spirits are such means of enlightenment
- Social & political activism is sometimes needed to “network” people of like mind & bring About a world united socially, economically, religiously, and politically.
- All truth is relative. There are no absolutes. The Bible is quoted but usually taken out of context.
- [Salvation] Developing psychic powers of higher consciousness and becoming aware of one’s divinity is salvation. Sin is eh ignorance of personal divinity. People are sleeping Gods to be awakened.
- Common influences of the New Age – Environmentalism; Humanitarian efforts; Personal efforts for health & self-improvement.

BEWARE - New Age Movement – Seven Signs

- Spirituality: very “spiritual” - may believe in Jesus but what specifically? Not connected to organized religion. Own “relationship” with God.
- Support Relative Truth: Who am I to judge. No absolute truth
- How they refer to GOD: may believe in a “Higher Power” – It vs. He
- Energy/Vibe – send out good energy or vibe
- Inclusivity: CoExist, Multiple paths to God
- Law of Attraction: Karma like – good things happen from doing good
- Mysticism – channeling, astrology, out-of-body experience



HINDUISM

HINDUISM

Basic Beliefs:

- There is a sameness in all religions
- Brahman (the hindu god) is a concept, not a personal reality
- All living things contain an eternal soul
- The soul of a man is ultimately good & man contains within himself the ultimate reality of the universe which he comes to know through knowledge, enlightenment, and meditation
- Salvation is based on the way of works, the way of knowledge, or the way of devotion
- After death, individual souls are reborn in the world in another body which could be human or non-human



Some beliefs, though not exhaustive, offer a simple summary of Hindu spirituality.

1. Believe in a one, all-pervasive Supreme Being who is both immanent and transcendent, both Creator and Unmanifest Reality.
2. Believe in the divinity of the four Vedas, the world's most ancient scripture, and venerate the Agamas as equally revealed.
3. Believe that the universe undergoes endless cycles of creation, preservation and dissolution.
4. Believe in karma, the law of cause and effect by which each individual creates his own destiny by his thoughts, words and deeds.
5. Believe that the soul reincarnates, evolving through many births until all karmas have been resolved, and moksha, liberation from the cycle of rebirth, is attained. Not a single soul will be deprived of this destiny.
6. Believe that divine beings exist in unseen worlds and that temple worship, rituals, sacraments and personal devotionals create a communion with these devas and Gods.
7. For the Hindu, salvation is attained in one of three ways: the way of works, the way of knowledge, or the way of devotion.
8. Believe that an enlightened master, or satguru, is essential to know the Transcendent Absolute, as are personal discipline, good conduct, purification, pilgrimage, self-inquiry, meditation and surrender in God.
9. Believe that all life is sacred, to be loved and revered, and therefore practice ahimsa, noninjury, in thought, word and deed.
10. Believe that no religion teaches the only way to salvation above all others, but that all genuine paths are facets of God's Light, deserving tolerance and understanding.

Ganesha Symbolism



BUDDHISM

BUDDHISM

Founder:

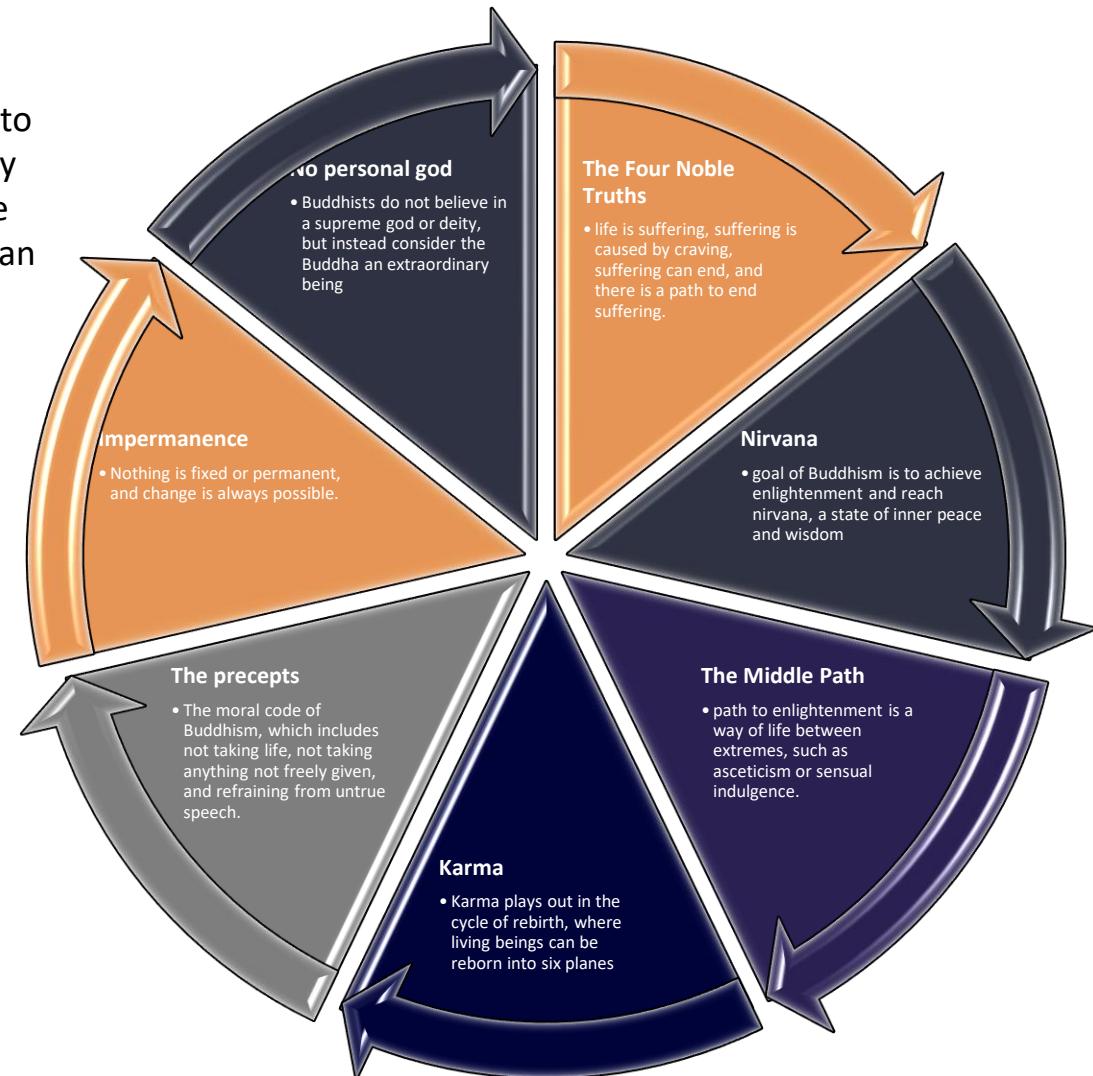
Historians estimate that the founder of Buddhism, Siddhartha Gautama, lived from 566(?) to 480(?) B.C. The son of an Indian warrior-king, Gautama led an extravagant life through early adulthood. But when he bored of the indulgences of royal life, Gautama wandered into the world in search of understanding. After encountering an old man, an ill man, a corpse and an ascetic, Gautama was convinced that suffering lay at the end of all existence.

Basic Belief:

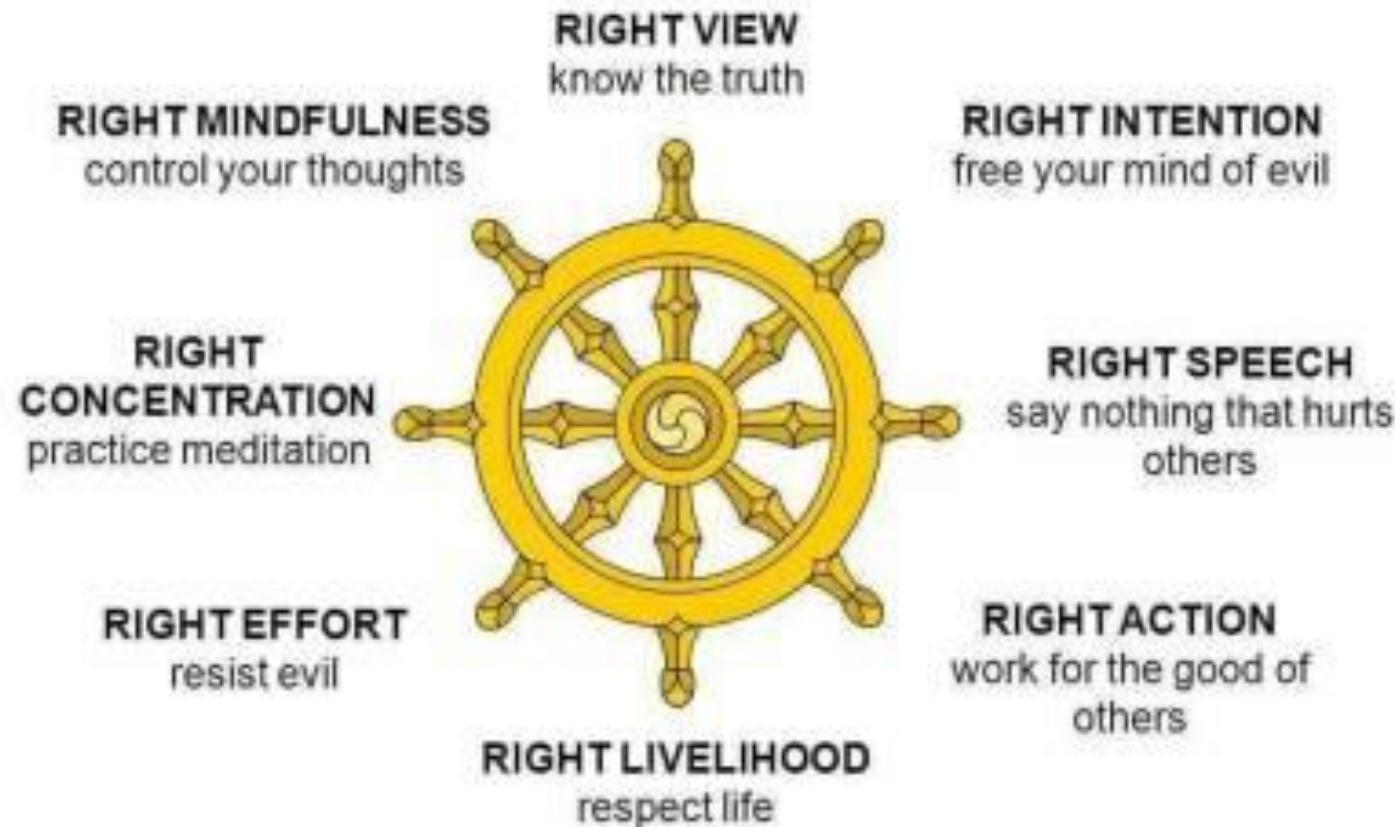
- Buddhists believe that human life is a cycle of suffering and rebirth, but that if one achieves a state of enlightenment (nirvana), it is possible to escape this cycle forever. Siddhartha Gautama was the first person to reach this state of enlightenment.
- Mankind is worthless possessing only temporary & meaningless existence.
- Humans are NOT sinners, they have a “spark” of divine truth inherent within themselves capable of achieving Nirvana based on their efforts.
- Buddhists worship Buddha, who never claimed to be divine. Buddhists are pantheistic: they view God as an impersonal force that is comprised of all living things and holds the universe together.

Four Noble Truths:

- All life is suffering
- All Suffering is caused by Desire
- Overcoming Desire is the cure for Suffering
- Extinguish all Desires by Following the 8-fold path to Nirvana



The eightfold path to enlightenment



COMMON CHARACTERISTICS

COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE RELIGIONS

- New revelation
- Denial of the sole authority of the Bible
- Denial of the Trinity
- Denial of the deity and work of Christ
- Denial of the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit
- Denial of the salvation by grace
- Denial of the priesthood of the believer
- Redefinition of Christian terms
- Compartmentalizing conflicting facts
- A central role in fulfilling prophecy
- A tendency to revise the history of the cult
- Authorization leadership
- Exclusivism and isolationism
- Opposition to independent thinking
- Fear of being “disfellowshiped”



WE DONE!
THANK-YOU