Christianity

Christianity

Christianity is based of the teachings of Jesus Christ, a Jew who lived about 2000 years ago in what we now call Israel. Jesus taught his followers to "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

The followers of Jesus called him Christ. Christ is a Greek word that means, “chosen one.” They believed he was the son of God. In time followers of Jesus became known as Christians. Early Christians taught that the sins of the people would be forgiven if they became Christian.

Some years after Jesus died, Christians combined the stories of the life and wisdom of Jesus into four books known as the Gospels. Gospel means “good news.” The holy book of Christianity is known as the Bible and has two parts. The Old Testament consists of the sacred writings of the Jewish people, and was written mostly in Hebrew long before Jesus. The New Testament of the Bible includes the Gospels, along with letters by Christian writers. The Bible has been translated into more than 1,500 languages and has been read by more people than any other book. There are almost 2 billion Christians in the world.

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| **Christianity**  |

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| crossChristianity is the world's biggest religion, with about 2.2 billion followers worldwide. **It is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ** who lived in the Holy Land 2,000 years ago.Through its missionary activity Christianity has spread to most parts of the globe. |

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| **Place of Origin** | Israel |
| **Founder** | Jesus Christ, around the time of his Crucifixion and resurrection in 30 AD |
| **Sacred Text** | [The Bible](http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/Homework/religion/christian.htm#book) - Old and New Testaments |
| **Sacred Building** | [Church](http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/Homework/religion/christian.htm#where), Chapel, Cathedral |
| Holy Places  | Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Lourdes (a popular place of pilgrimage), Rome, Canterbury |
| **Major Festivals** | [Easter, Christmas](http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/questions/festivals.html), |
| **Main Branches (Denominations)** | Roman Catholic, Protestant, Lutheran, Baptist, Mormon… etc |

Major Beliefs:

**Christians believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God and that:**

* God sent his Son to earth to save humanity from the consequences of its sins
* Jesus was fully human, and experienced this world in the same way as other human beings of his time
* Jesus was tortured and gave his life on the Cross (At the Crucifixion)
* Jesus rose from the dead on the third day after his Crucifixion (the Resurrection)

**Christians believe that God made the world and Christians believe in following the 10 commandments (listed below)**

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me

2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image

3. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain

4. Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy

5. Honour thy father and thy mother

6. Thou shalt not kill

7. Thou shalt not commit adultery

8. Thou shalt not steal

9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour

10. Thou shalt not covet any thing that is thy neighbour's

Judaism

Judaism

Judaism is the oldest religion of the western world and has influenced Christianity and Islam. There are approximately fifteen million Jews throughout the world.

The Hebrews were the ancestors of the Jewish people and trace their ancestry to Abraham, who left his home in the Mesopotamian city of Ur about 2200BC.

Jews worship in synagogues led by a rabbi. Rabbi is a Hebrew word that means "master." Their holiest period is the weekly Shabbat, which lasts from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday. Other important Jewish holidays include Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year), Yom Kippur (a Day of Atonement or confession), Simchat Torah (celebrating receiving the Torah on Mount Sinai), Chanukah (a celebration of a military victory), and Passover (a remembrance of the time the Hebrews lived in Egypt).

The Torah is the most holy book of Judaism. **The Torah is also holy to Christians, who include it as the Old Testament of their Bible.** The Talmud is another holy book in Judaism. The Talmud is a collection of the laws and customs of the Jewish people. There are about 12-15 million Jews living in the world today.

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| Star of DavidThe Star of David The most recognized symbol of Judaism is the six pointed Star of David. Today you will see the hexagram used to identify synagogues and Jewish organizations. The symbol that was once used to separate Jews from the rest of society is now flown on the flag of Judaism’s homeland, Israel. |

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| Place of Origin | Israel |
| Founder | The Hebrew leader Abraham founded Judaism around 2000 B.C. Moses, is also an important figure as he gave the Jews the Torah around 1250 B.C. The Torah contains the laws of God. |
| Sacred Text | Torah  |
| Sacred Building | [Synagogue](http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/Homework/religion/jewish.htm#Synagogue) |
| Holy Place  | Jerusalem |
| Major Festivals | [Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Pesach (Passover), Shavuot (Pentecost), Sukkot (Tabernacles)](http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/Homework/religion/jewish.htm#fest) |
| Main Branches (Denominations) | [Orthodox, Reform, Conservative](http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/Homework/religion/jewish.htm#types)  |

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| What do Jews believe?Jews believe that there is a single God who not only created the universe, but with whom every Jew can have an individual and personal relationship.  |

**What is the most important day of the week for Jews?**

The most important day of the week is the Sabbath (Shabbat), which is a day made holy by refraining from weekday work.

**When does the Sabbath start and end?**

The Jewish holy day, or Sabbath, starts at sunset on Friday and continues until sunset on Saturday. During the Sabbath, observant Jews will do nothing that might be counted as work. Among the things that they can't do are driving and cooking.

What are the different types of Jews?

* Orthodox (the most religiously observant)
* Conservative (Middle religiously observant)
* Reform (the least religiously observant)

**Islam**

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| Believers in Islam are called Muslims. Muslims believe that Muhammad was the last of a series of holy prophets that included Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. A prophet is a holy messenger. Christians believe that Jesus is God, while Muslims believe Allah is the only God and that Muhammad was his messenger. Allah is an Arabic term that means "the God" (al-El). Muhammad lived about 600 years after Jesus in what we now call Saudi Arabia. Muslims believe that Muhammad was visited in a cave by an angel. Muhammad repeated the words of the angel to others who learned them by heart. Eventually, Mohammad's followers collected these messages and gathered them into a book known as the Quran. The Quran is the holy book of Islam. It has been translated into many languages, but many Muslims believe that the only true version of the Quran is written in Arabic. This is why Arabic spread throughout the Middle East and North Africa. Often Muslims will learn Arabic as a second language, as a Jew would learn Hebrew. The Islamic house of worship is a mosque. Unlike Jews and Christians, Muslims do not have a holy day, but many Muslims gather in mosques on Friday afternoon for prayers. Muhammad taught that believers should pray five times every day. Mecca is a holy city to Muslims because it is the site of the Kaaba, a small shrine that Muslims believe to be the most sacred spot on earth.  |  |
| Icons of Islam      The crescent, star, and the color green are symbols often associated with Islam. The star represents knowledge and light, and the crescent represents progress. You will find these symbols on the flags of many Muslim nations.      Islamic art includes calligraphy, or decorative penmanship, but no images of people. The Quran forbids recreating any living thing because no one should copy what Allah has made. This is why you will not find a picture of Muhammad in Islamic literature. |
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**When is the most important service at the Mosque held?**

On Friday at noon . All Muslims go to the mosque on Friday. Is a special day for prayer.

### What are the different types of Muslims?

Almost 90% of Muslims are Sunnis. Shiites are the second-largest group. The Shiites split from the Sunnis in 632 when Muhammad died.

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| Symbol of IslamIslam is the second most popular religion in the world with over a billion followers. It is more often thought of as a complete way of life rather than a religion.Islam began in Arabia and was revealed to humanity by the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Those who follow Islam are called Muslims. Muslims believe that there is only one God, called **Allah**. Islam is mainly followed in the Middle East, Asia, and the north of Africa. |

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| **Place of Origin** | Saudi Arabia |
| **Founder** | The Prophet Muhammad |
| **Sacred Text** | [The Qur'an](http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/Homework/religion/Islam.htm#Quran) |
| **Sacred Building** | [Mosque](http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/Homework/religion/Islam.htm#Mosque) |
| **Holy Places**  | [Mecca](http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/Homework/religion/Islam.htm#pray), Medina, Jerusalem |
| **Major Festivals** | [Ramadan, Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Adha](http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/Homework/religion/Islam.htm#festivals) |

### Who is the founder of Islam?

The prophet Muhammad, who was born in A.D. 570 at Mecca, in Saudi Arabia**, is often regarded as the founder of Islam**. He was the last prophet to be sent by Allah. However the first prophet was Adam.

There were many prophets before Muhammad including: Adam, Noah, Abraham (Ibrahim), Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Job, Moses (Musa), Aaron, David, Solomon, Elias, Jonah, John the Baptist, and Jesus (Isa).

### What do Muslims believe?

The basic belief of Islam is that there is only one God, whose name in the Arabic language is Allah, and who is the sole and sovereign ruler of the universe.

**Muslims have 6 main beliefs**

1. Belief in Allah as the one and only God.
2. Belief in angels.
3. Belief in the holy books.
4. Belief in the Prophets (special messengers).
e.g. Adam, Ibrahim (Abraham), Musa (Moses), Dawud (David), Isa (Jesus).
Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the final prophet.
5. Belief in the Day of Judgement...
The day when the life of every human being will be assessed to decide whether they go to heaven or hell.
6. Belief in Predestination...
That Allah has already decided what will happen.
Muslims believe that this doesn't stop human beings making free choice