Islam

Muhammad (570-632) is the final “seal” of many prophets sent by Allah (God). The Islamic calendar began in AD 622, when Muhammad fled Meece. Main sects: Sunni, Shi‘ite.

Qur’an (Koran) was revealed to Muhammad by the angel Gabriel. The biblical Law of Moses, Psalms of David, and Gospel of Jesus (the Inji) are accepted in the Qur’an, but Muslim scholars teach that Jews and Christians have corrupted these original revelations.

God (Allah) is One. The greatest sin in Islam is shirk, or associating anything with God. Many Muslims think that Christians believe in three gods and are therefore guilty of shirk. Human attributes such as fatherhood cannot be associated with God.

Jesus ( Isa in Arabic) is one of the most respected of over 124,000 prophets sent by Allah. Jesus was sinless, born of a virgin, and a great miracle worker, but not the Son of God. His virgin birth is like Adam’s creation. Jesus is not God, and God is not Jesus. He was not crucified. Jesus, not Muhammad, will return for a special role before the future judgment day, perhaps turning Christians to Islam.

Allah has or is a spirit. Muslims reject the biblical concept of the Trinity.

Humans are basically good, but fallible and need guidance. The balance between good and bad deeds determines eternal destiny in paradise or hell. Allah’s mercy may tip the balances to heaven, as his will is supreme.

Resurrection of bodies. Fear of eternal torment is a prevalent theme of the Qur’an. Paradise includes a garden populated with houris, maidens designed by Allah to provide sexual pleasures to righteous men.

Followers are called Muslims. Go to mosque for prayers, sermons, counsel. Holy efforts to spread Islam (jihad). Five pillars of Islam: Confess that Allah is the one true God and that Muhammad is his prophet. Pray five times daily facing Meece. Give aims (money). Fast during the month of Ramadan. Make pilgrimage to Meece once in a lifetime.

Christianity, Cults & Religions

- Clear summary of key beliefs
- Large fold-out chart • New Edition
- New, up-to-date research

Mormonism
Jehovah’s Witnesses
Unification Church
Christian Science
Wicca
Scientology
New Age
Hinduism
Hare Krishna
T.M.
Islam
Bahá’í
Buddhism and more

Who is God?
Who is Jesus?
Who is the Holy Spirit?
Salvation
What Happens After Death
Founder, Date, Location
Key Writings
Other Interesting Facts

Also available as a PowerPoint® presentation
Christianity, Cults & Religions

How to Become a Christian: The Bible says God loved the world so much that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16) God loves you and wants a relationship with you. Here are God's promises:

A. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, 1 John 1:10)
B. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved. (Acts 16:31, John 1:12)
C. If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9, Ephesians 2:8,9)

If you have come to believe in Jesus as the Son of God and your risen Savior after reading this pamphlet, please write to us at the address below and we will send you some free information about following Jesus Christ.

What Others Groups May Teach About Jesus and the Bible Response:
- Jesus was not God. (See verses D, I, U, Y)
- Jesus was created by God. (See verses J, M, U)
- There are three separate gods: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, not one God in three persons. (A, B, J, Z)
- Jesus is not necessary because there is no sin. (C, O, P, R)
- Jesus was not raised bodily from the dead. (C, R, S)
- Jesus was a great prophet, but not God. (H, I, V)
- There are many ways to God, not just one. (F, K, X)
- Jesus is not necessary because people must pay for their own sins. (L, P, Q, T)
- Jesus died for sins, but people can't be saved unless they obey all the teachings of the church. (K, Q, T)
- Jesus is God, but less than God the Father. (I, K, V)
- Jesus was just a man. (J, E)
- Jesus is not the only son of God. (F, G, Z)
- Jesus will never come again. (N, W)

Who is God?

Who is Jesus?

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Jesus Christ. Founded about AD 30–33, in the Judean province of Palestine (Israel today), under the Roman Empire. Followers of Jesus Christ became known as Christians.

The Bible, written originally in Hebrew and Aramaic (Old Testament), and Greek (New Testament).

The one God is Triune (one God in three Persons, not three gods): Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Often the title "God" designates the first Person, God the Father. God is a spiritual being without a physical body. He is personal and involved with people. He created the universe out of nothing. He is eternal, changeless, holy, loving, and perfect.

Jesus is God, the second Person of the Trinity. As God the Son, He has always existed and was never created. He is fully God and fully man (the two natures joined, not mixed). As the Second Person of the Trinity, He is co-equal with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. In becoming man, He was begotten through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus is the only way to the Father, salvation, and eternal life. He died on a cross according to God's plan, as full sacrifice and payment for our sins. He rose from the dead on the third day, spiritually and physically immortal. For the next 40 days He was seen by more than 500 eyewitnesses. His wounds were touched and He ate meals. He physically ascended to Heaven. Jesus will come again visibly and physically at the end of the world to establish God's kingdom and judge the world.

The Holy Spirit is God, the third Person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is a person, not a force or energy field. He comforts, grieves, reproves, convicts, guides, teaches, and fills Christians. He is not the Father, nor is He the Son, Jesus Christ.

Salvation is by God's grace, not by an individual's good works. Salvation must be received by faith. People must believe in their hearts that Jesus died for their sins and physically rose again, which is the assurance of forgiveness and resurrection of the body. This is God's loving plan to forgive sinful people.

Believers go to be with Jesus. After death, all people await the final Judgment. Both saved and lost people will be resurrected. Those who are saved will live with Jesus in Heaven. Those who are lost will suffer the torment of eternal separation from God (Hell). Jesus' bodily resurrection guarantees believers that they, too, will be resurrected and receive new immortal bodies.

Group worship, usually in churches. No secret rites. Baptism and Lord's Supper (Communion). Active voluntary missionary efforts. Aid to those in need: the poor, widows, orphans, and downtrodden. Christians believe that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah promised to Israel in the Old Testament (Tanakh). Jesus said His followers would be known by their love for one another.
### Jehovah's Witnesses

- **Founder:** Charles Taze Russell (1852–1916), later Joseph F. Rutherford (1869–1942).
- **Headquarters:** Brooklyn, New York.
- **Writings:** *The Watchtower*.

### Mormonism (Latter-day Saints)

- **Founder:** Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805–1844).
- **Founding:** Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) in 1830 in New York.
- **Writings:** *The Book of Mormon*.

### Unification Church

- **Founder:** Sun Myung Moon (b. 1920).
- **Founding:** 1954 in South Korea.
- **Writings:** *The Divine Principle*.

### Christian Science

- **Founder:** Mary Baker Eddy (1821–1910).
- **Founding:** 1875 in Massachusetts.
- **Writings:** *Science and Health*, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*.

---

**God**

- **Jehovah's Witnesses**: God is the Father of the universe.
- **Mormonism**: God the Father was once a man.
- **Unification Church**: God is both positive and negative.
- **Christian Science**: God is the universe itself.

**Jesus**

- **Jehovah's Witnesses**: Jesus is not the Father.
- **Mormonism**: Jesus is a separate god from the Father.
- **Unification Church**: Jesus was a perfect man.
- **Christian Science**: Jesus was not the Christ.

**Salvation**

- **Jehovah's Witnesses**: Baptism is the only means of salvation.
- **Mormonism**: Jesus' atonement is for all believers.
- **Unification Church**: The Second Coming of Christ is fulfilled in Sun Myung Moon.
- **Christian Science**: Jesus' atonement is for the universe.

**Other Beliefs**

- **Jehovah's Witnesses**: No alcohol, tobacco, coffee, or tea.
- **Mormonism**: Different racial backgrounds.
- **Unification Church**: Mass marriages between the True Parents.
- **Christian Science**: Christian Science practitioners.
### Jehovah’s Witnesses


**Writings:** All current Watchtower publications, including the Bible (New World Translation only), Reasoning from the Scriptures: You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth, Watchtower and Awake! magazines.

**God:** One person God, called Jehovah. No Trinity. Jesus is the first thing Jehovah created.

**Jesus:** Jesus is not God. Before he lived on earth, he was Michael, the archangel. Jehovah made the universe through him. On earth he was a man who lived a perfect life. After dying on a stake (not a cross), he was resurrected as a spirit; his body was destroyed. Jesus is not coming again; he “returned” invisibly in 1914 in spirit, and very soon he and the angels will destroy all non-Jehovah’s Witnesses.

**Imperative “Holy Spirit”** is not God, but rather an invisible, active force from Jehovah.

**Death:** Be baptized as Jehovah’s Witnesses. Most followers must earn everlasting life on earth by “door-to-door work.” Salvation in heaven is limited to 144,000 “anointed ones.” This number is already reached.

**Other Beliefs:** The 144,000 live as spirits in heaven. The rest of the righteous, the “great crowd,” live on earth, and must obey God perfectly for 1,000 years or be annihilated.

**Known as:** Jehovah's Witnesses. Meet in “Kingdom Halls” instead of churches. Active members encouraged to distribute literature door-to-door. Once a year, Lord's Evening Meal (communion); only “anointed” ones may partake. Do not observe holidays or birthdays. Forbidden to vote, salute the flag, work in the military, or accept blood transfusions.

---

### Mormonism

**Founder:** Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805–1844), founded the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) in 1830 in New York. Headquarters in Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Writings:** The Book of Mormon: Doctrine and Covenants; Pearl of Great Price; the Bible; King James Version only or Smith’s “Inspired Version”; authoritative teachings of Mormon prophets and other LDS “general authorities.”

**God:** The Father was once a man, but “progressed” to godhood. He has a physical body, as does his wife (Heavenly Mother). No Trinity. Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are three separate gods. Worthy men may one day become gods themselves.

**Jesus:** Jesus is a separate god from the Father (Elohim). He was created as a spirit child by the Father and Mother in Heaven, and is the “elder” of all men and spirit beings. His body was created through sexual union between Elohim and Mary. Jesus was married. His death on the cross does not provide full atonement for all sin, but does provide everyone with resurrection.

**H.S.** The “holy spirit” is different from the “Holy Ghost.” The “holy spirit” is not God, but is an influence or electricity-like emanation from God (or “light of Christ”).

**Resurrection:** Resurrected by grace, but saved (exalted to godhood) by works, including faithfulness to church leaders, Mormon baptism, tithing, ordination, marriage, and secret temple rituals. No eternal life without Mormon membership.

**Death:** Eventually nearly everyone goes to one of three separate heavenly “kingdoms,” with some achieving godhood. Apostates and murderers go to “outer darkness.”

**Other Beliefs:** No alcohol, tobacco, coffee, or tea. Baptism on behalf of the dead. Two-year missionary commitment encouraged. Door-to-door proselytizing. Secret temple rituals available only to members in good standing. Extensive social network. People of African ancestry were not granted full access to Mormon priesthood and privileges until 1978.

---

### Unification Church

**Founder:** Sun Myung Moon (b. 1920). Founded “Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity” 1954 in South Korea. Current headquarters in New York City.

**Writings:** Divine Principle by Sun Myung Moon, considered the “Committed Testament,” Outline of the Principle, Level 4, and the Bible. (The Bible is “not the truth itself, but a textbook teaching the truth.”)

**God:** God is both positive and negative. God created the universe out of himself; the universe is God’s “body.” God does not know the future, is suffering, and needs man (Sun Myung Moon) to make him happy. No Trinity.

**Jesus:** Jesus was a perfect man, not God. He is the son of Zachariah, not born of a virgin. His mission was to unite Jews behind him and create a perfect bride and family, and begin a perfect family. The mission failed. Jesus did not resurrect physically. The second coming of Christ is fulfilled in Sun Myung Moon, who is superior to Jesus and will finish Jesus’ mission.

**H.S.** The Holy Spirit is a feminine spirit who works with Jesus in the spirit world to lead people to Sun Myung Moon.

**Resurrection:** Obscure to and acceptance of the True Parents (Moon and his wife) into sin and result in perfection. Those married by Moon and his wife drink a special holy wine containing 21 ingredients (including the True Parents’ blood).

**Death:** After death one goes to the spirit world. There is no resurrection. Members advocate by convincing others to follow Sun Myung Moon. Everyone will be saved, even Satan.

**Other Beliefs:** Also known as “Family Federation for World Peace and Unification.” Mass marriages, based on different racial backgrounds, arranged and performed by Moon. Members believe that Jesus bows down to Sun Myung Moon and that Moon is the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, and the Lamb of God. Contact with spirits of the dead is permitted.

---

### Christian Science

**Founder:** Mary Baker Eddy (1821–1910). Founded 1875 in Massachusetts. Current headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Writings:** Science and Health, With Key to the Scriptures; Miscellaneous Writings; Manual of the Mother Church; and other books by Mrs. Eddy. The Bible (not as reliable). Christian Science Journal, Christian Science Sentinel, and other official periodicals.

**God:** According to Mrs. Eddy, God is an impersonal Principle of life, truth, love, intelligence, and spirit. God is all that truly exists; matter is an illusion.

**Jesus:** Jesus was not the Christ, but a man who showed the Christ idea. (“Christ” means perfection; not a person). Jesus was not God, and God can never become man or flesh. He did not suffer and could not suffer for sins. He did not die on the cross. He was not resuscitated physically. He will not literally come back.

**H.S.** Holy spirit is defined as the teaching of Christian Science. Impersonal power.

**Resurrection:** Healing is already eternally saved. Sin, evil, sickness, and death are not real.

**Death:** Death is not real. Heaven and hell are states of mind. The way to reach heaven is by attaining harmony (oneness with God).

**Other Beliefs:** Members use Christian Science “practitioners” (authorized professional healers who “treat” supposed illnesses for a fee) instead of doctors. Healing comes through realizing one cannot really be sick or hurt and that the body cannot be ill, suffer pain, or die (matter is an illusion). Attracts followers and churches of miraculous healing. Publishes Christian Science Monitor newspaper.
Islam

Muhammad (570-632) is the final "seal" of many prophets sent by Allah (God). The Islamic calendar began in 622, when Muhammad fled Mecca. Main sects: Sunni, Shi'ite.

Qur'an (Koran) was revealed to Muhammad by the angel Gabriel. The biblical Law of Moses, Psalms of David, and Gospel of Jesus (the Injil) are accepted in the Qur'an, but Muslim scholars teach that Jews and Christians have corrupted these original revelations.

God (Allah) is One. The greatest sin in Islam is shirk, or associating anything with God. Many Muslims think that Christians believe in three gods and are therefore guilty of shirk. Human attributes such as fatherhood cannot be associated with God.

Jesus (Isa in Arabic) is one of the most respected of over 124,000 prophets sent by Allah. Jesus was sinless, born of a virgin, and a great miracle worker, but not the Son of God. His virgin birth is like Adam's creation. Jesus is not God, and God is not Jesus. He was not crucified. Jesus, not Muhammad, will return for a special role before the future judgment day, perhaps turning Christians to Islam.

Allah has or is a spirit. Muslims reject the biblical concept of the Trinity.

Humans are basically good, but fallible and need guidance. The balance between good and bad deeds determines eternal destiny in paradise or hell. Allah's mercy may tip the balances to heaven, as his will is supreme.

Resurrection of bodies. Fear of eternal torment is a prevalent theme of the Qur'an. Paradise includes a garden populated with houris, maidens designed by Allah to provide sexual pleasures to righteous men.

Followers are called Muslims. Go to mosque for prayers, sermons, counsel. Holy efforts to spread Islam (jihad). Five pillars of Islam: Confess that Allah is the one true God and that Muhammad is his prophet. Pray five times daily facing Mecca. Give alms (money). Fast during the month of Ramadan. Make pilgrimage to Mecca (once in a lifetime).