

# Religions of Southwest Asia: Christianity



# What do you **ALREADY** know?

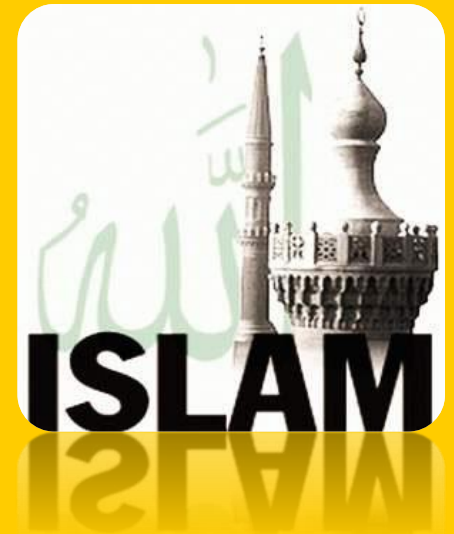
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- **Age of religion**
- **Founder/Important People/Prophets**
- **Holy Text(s)**
- **Beliefs**
- **Laws/guidelines**
- **Views on Jesus**
- **Holy Places**
- **Places of Worship**



# Three religions originated in this region:

- Judaism
- Christianity
- Islam





# TIMELINE OF ABRAHAMIC RELIGIONS



1,400 BCE

TORAH ESTABLISHES THE JEWISH RELIGION

ISRAEL ENTERS RECORDED HISTORY WITH A PANTHEON OF GODS

ISAIAH WRITES "I AM THE FIRST AND I AM THE LAST; BESIDES ME THERE IS NO GOD" AND MERGES PREVIOUS GODS AND THEIR NAMES INTO ONE ENTITY. LEVITICUS IS WRITTEN AND EXODUS CHANGED TO COMBINE GODS.

600 BCE

OLD TESTAMENT WRITERS SWITCH FROM POLYTHEISM TO MONOTHEISM  
BELIEF "ONE GOD" STARTS



4 BCE

"BIRTH" OF JESUS GIVES RISE TO CHRISTIANITY



610 AD

PREACHINGS OF MOHAMMED START THE ISLAMIC FAITH

Nonreligious

Confucianism

Secular Humanism

Animism

Judaism

Hinduism

Buddhism

Christianity

Islam

Sikhism

2000 BC

1500 BC

525

446 BC

30 AD

610 AD

1496 AD

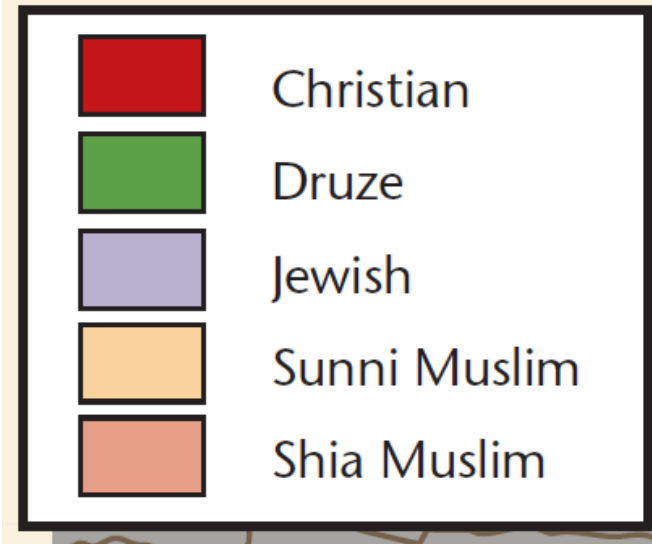
prehistoric

520 BC

18<sup>th</sup> Century

# MAJOR RELIGIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST



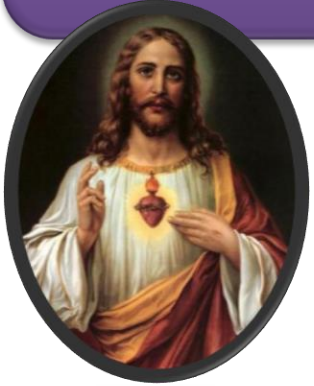


# **Monotheistic**

**Abraham was the first monotheist, a person who believes in only one God**



# Views of Jesus



- prophet
- Messiah/Christ/Savior
- Son of God



- prophet
- Messiah/Christ/Savior
- NOT the son of God

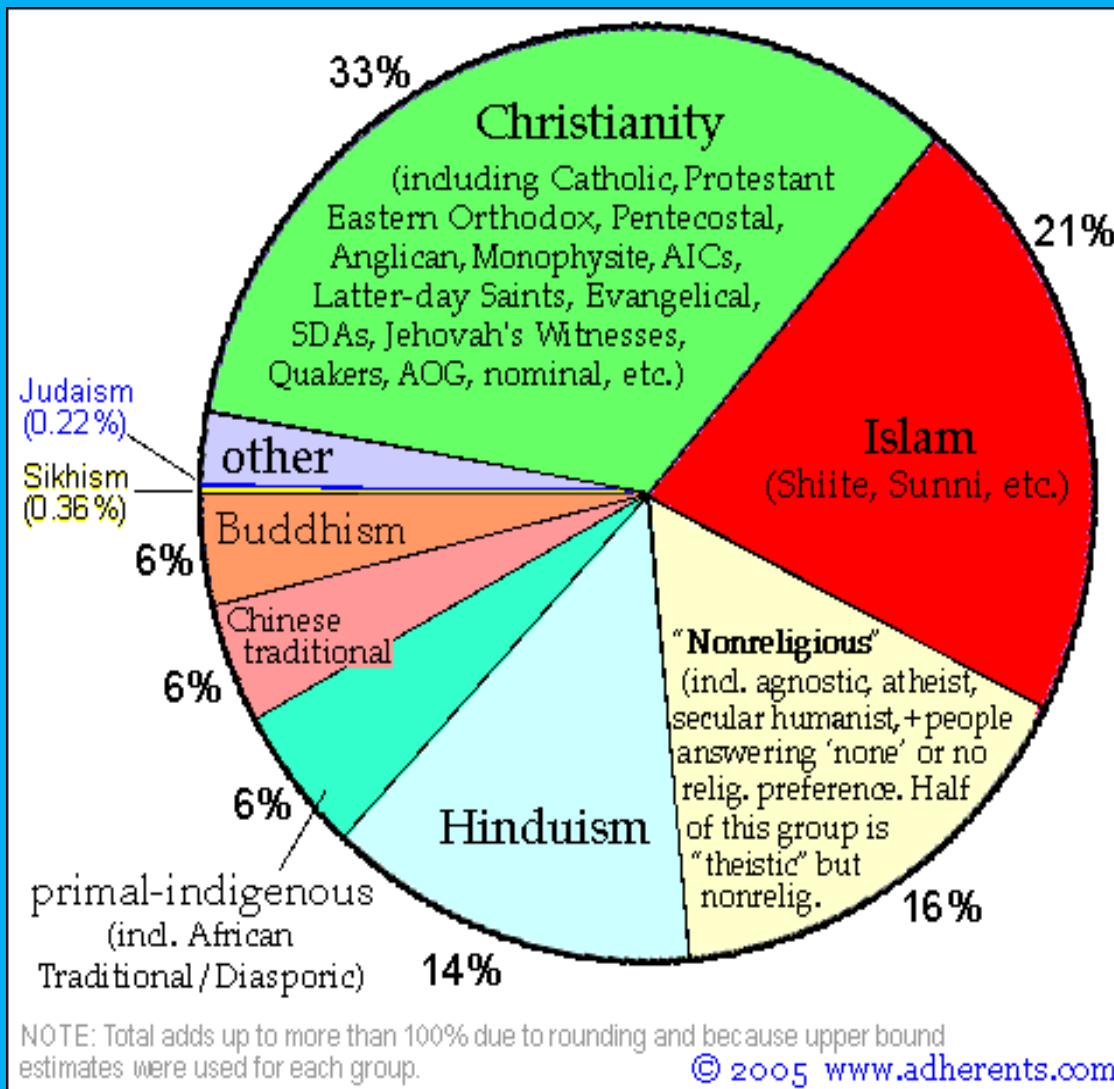


- an ordinary Jew
- NOT the Messiah (false Messiah)
- NOT Son of God





# Christianity: Size of Religion



- Christianity is the **largest** religion in the world.
- There are 2.4 billion followers.

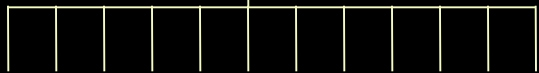


# Abraham's Genealogy

HAGAR = = = = ABRAHAM ::::: SARAH  
(Judaism)

Ishmael

Isaac

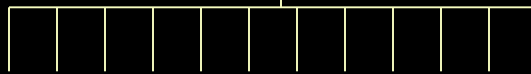


12 Arabian Tribes



Jacob

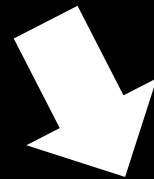
Esau



12 Tribes of Israel

Muhammad (570 AD)  
(Islam)

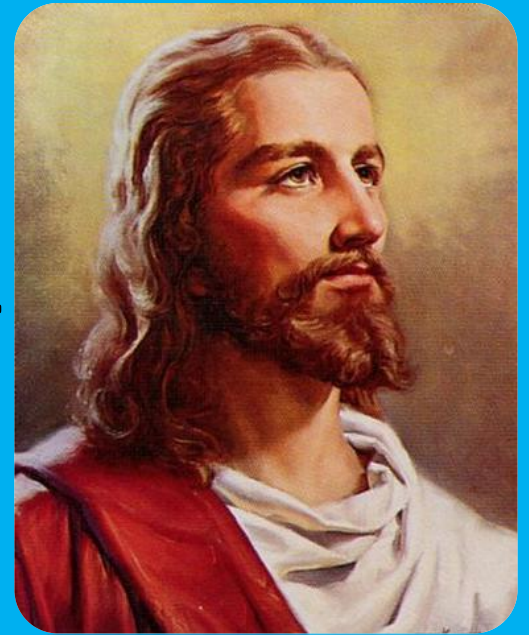
Jews & Jesus (1 AD)  
(Christianity)





# CHRISTIANITY

## Founder / Important People



**Jesus** was the founder

- **Abraham**

- founder of Judaism

- **Hebrews** come from Abraham & his grandson **Jacob**

- Jesus was Hebrew

- Roman Emperor **Constantine**

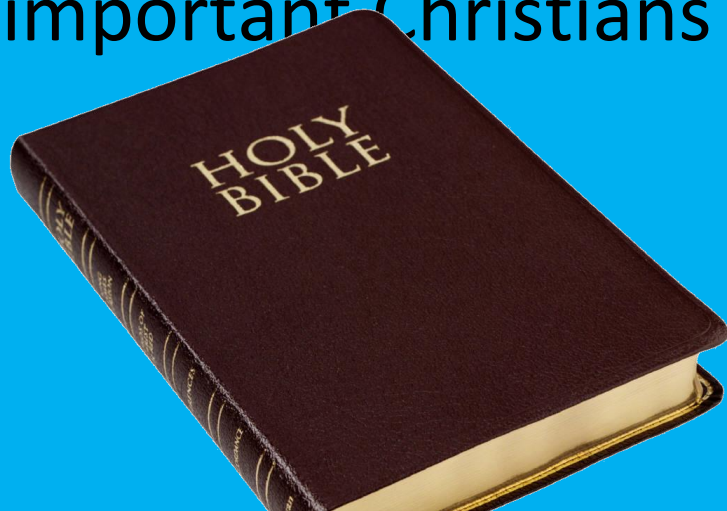
- was the first world leader to convert to Christianity (AD 312)

- helped to spread Christianity throughout Europe

# CHRISTIANITY

## HOLY BOOK/SACRED TEXT

- **The Bible: Old and New Testament**
- **Old Testament** = history of Judaism
- **New Testament** = story of Jesus' life, his teachings, and the teaching of his disciples and other important Christians (ex. Paul).



Country of Origin:  
**Israel / Palestine**





# View of Jesus:

- son of God
- prophet  
(messenger of god)
- **Messiah/Christ**  
(savior; God appointed leader who brings a new, better world)
- As part of the Trinity (father, son, & holy ghost), Jesus is considered a part of God



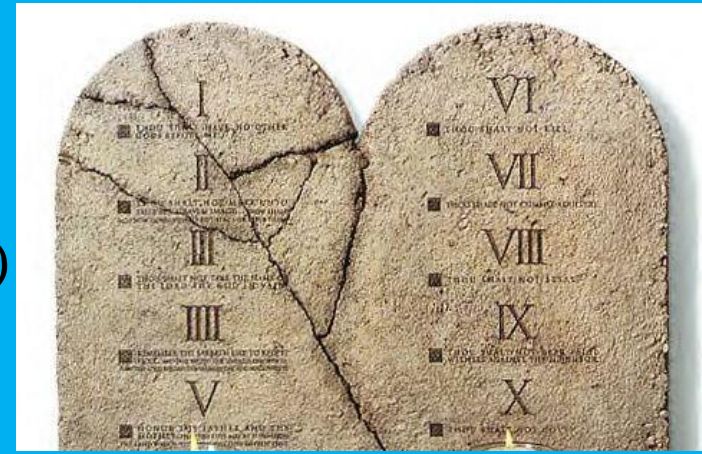
God the Father (top), and the Holy Spirit (represented by a dove) depicted above Jesus.



# Main Beliefs:

**monotheistic** (worship only one god)

## **The 10 Commandments**



1. I am God, the only God.
2. Only pray to God.
3. Use God's name only at special times.
4. Every week, celebrate a day of rest, peace and happiness.
5. Care about your parents.
6. Love life and living things.
7. Protect your family.
8. Do not steal.
9. Be honest.
10. Do not get jealous.

# CHRISTIANITY

## Holy Places/Place of worship

- Christians worship in buildings called churches or cathedrals

- Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Palestine (Israel).
- Jerusalem is where Jesus was crucified and buried.





MEDITERRANEAN SEA

ISRAEL

JORDAN

DEAD SEA

Galilee  
Capernaum  
Tabgha  
Safed  
Acre  
Haifa  
Nazareth  
Naburias  
Golan Heights  
Beit She'an  
Caesarea  
Jaffa  
Tel Aviv  
Ben Gurion Airport  
Jerusalem  
Bethlehem

# Don't get confused!

- All 3 Middle Eastern Religions are monotheistic
- Christians believe in god as a trinity (father, son, holy spirit) and that Jesus was God's *son*
- Muslims believe that Muhammed was god's *messenger* (not son)
- All 3 share the same foundation through the lineage of Abraham