Began about 1800 BCE, when God (Jehovah) spoke to Abraham; Christians make up about 20% of the Arab population.

Christianity, Judaism, and Islam believe in all

Arabs are the majority ethnic group of the ME.

Christians believe Muhammad was a prophet.

Jews still awaiting the messiah

Old and New Testament of Hebrew Bible

Christians and Jews work

Abraham and Moses are prophets; believe that Jesus is son of god and only way to eternity with God; Holy Trinity—God the father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit

The MQESSIAH

Jews still awaiting the messiah

Jesus Christ is the son of God, the messiah

Sacred

Torah (1st five books Old Testament Hebrew Bible), and the Talmud

Old and New Testament of Hebrew Bible

Quran (Koran) and parts of Old and New Testament Hebrew Bible

Place of Worship

synagogue

church

mosque

Sacred Places

Remains of the Jerusalem temple & the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, Hebron, Palestine, burial place of Abraham

Jerusalem and many places in the Holy Land

Holy cities of Mecca and Medina, Jerusalem.

Sects

Orthodox Judaism (all Torah directly from God, delivered to Moses on Mt. Sinai)

Conservative (Torah is transmitted by humans so have human component)

Reform (Torah was written by different human sources and combined)

Roman Catholic

Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Anglican, etc.)

SW Asia Cultures Religious Group Characteristics

Monday, August 20, 2012

FAITH | JUDAISM | CHRISTIANITY | ISLAM
--- | --- | --- | ---
Origins | Began about 1800 BCE, when God (Jehovah) spoke to Abraham; first monotheistic faith [belief in one god] | Christianity began with Jews in first century CE; monotheistic faith [belief in one god] | Began in 7th century CE by Muhammad; monotheism [belief one god] |
Beliefs | Abraham and Moses as prophets | Abraham and Moses are prophets; believe that Jesus is son of god and only way to eternity with God; Holy Trinity—God the father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit | Abraham, Moses, Jesus as prophets, with Muhammad as final prophet; Five Pillars of Islam—confess only one god, and Muhammad is his prophet; prayer 5 X day facing Mecca; charity for poor; pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in lifetime; fasting—no eating or drinking during daylight hours during month of Ramadan |
The Messiah | Jews still awaiting the messiah | Jesus Christ is the son of God, the messiah | Jesus was a prophet rather than messiah |
Sacred Book(s) | Torah (1st five books Old Testament Hebrew Bible), and the Talmud | Old and New Testament of Hebrew Bible | Quran (Koran) and parts of Old and New Testament Hebrew Bible |
Place of Worship | synagogue | church | mosque |
Sacred Places | Remains of the Jerusalem temple & the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, Hebron, Palestine, burial place of Abraham | Jerusalem and many places in the Holy Land | Holy cities of Mecca and Medina, Jerusalem. |
Sects | Orthodox Judaism (all Torah directly from God, delivered to Moses on Mt. Sinai) | Conservative (Torah is transmitted by humans so have human component) | Reform (Torah was written by different human sources and combined) |

Islam (Muslims)

More than a billion people in the world

about 90% of the population is Muslim, 4% are Christian, and 2% are Jewish.

In the SW Asia/Middle East, about 90% of the population is Muslim,

4% are Christian, and 2% are Jewish.

JUDAISM

ISLAM

CHRISTIANITY

SW Asia Religious Group—True or False

1. Sunni Muslims make up 90% of all Muslims in SW Asia.
2. The oldest religion in the ME is Judaism.
3. Islam began in 2000 BCE.
4. Christians believe Muhammad was a prophet.
5. Christianity, Judaism, and Islam believe in one god or part of the Bible.
6. The majority of Arabs in the ME are Muslims.
7. The majority of Arabs in the ME are Sunni Muslims.
8. Shia Islam is the most common religion in Iran.
9. Shia Islam is the largest Islamic division.
10. A belief that Abraham was the father of all the tribal peoples of the Old Testament is a common belief within all three monotheistic faiths.
11. The Quran (Koran) is used by all three faiths.
12. Jerusalem is a holy city for all three faiths.
13. Almost all ME Jews live in Israel.
14. Some people in the world consider the Jews to be both an ethnic group and a religious group.
15. Mecca and Medina are holy cities for Islamic followers.

SW Asia Ethnic Groups Review True or False

1. Kurds are a semi-nomadic, tribal ethnic group living in the mountainous regions of Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran.
2. Kurds speak Farsi.
3. Persians are mostly Shia Muslims.
4. Arabs are the majority ethnic group of the ME.
5. Christians make up about 20% of the Arab population.
6. Jews are the largest ethnic group in Iraq.
7. Jews are the largest ethnic group in Israel.
8. Jews are both an ethnic group and a religious group.
9. People who speak Farsi are most often found in Iraq.
10. Farsi is the language of the Persian ethnic group of Iran.
11. Arabs speak Arabic languages.
12. Arabs have a Sunni Muslim majority.

Afghanistan

1. While the population is 99% Islamic in faith, many different ethnic groups make up the population of Afghanistan due to migration from countries like China and Iran, and from invasions and wars.

SW Asia Religious Group—True or False

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