

# Analysis Of Religious Beliefs

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A brief essay on the analysis on the religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

By analyzing the three religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, one can find multiple similarities but as many differences as well and through this, one can understand how religion is embedded into culture. These similarities and differences show us that the message is the same but aspects such as the nature of God, the events, encounters and certain beliefs slightly differ. These beliefs influence public holidays, dressing, character and architecture and thus are embedded into culture. These similarities also allow us to connect with people of similar beliefs but of a different. Though some differences contribute and cause conflicts which can be seen in history, for example the multiple Crusades between Christians and Muslims or the conflict between early Christians and the non-Christian Byzantine Empire.

A similar belief amongst the three religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam is the idea of monotheism and there having been common religious figures sent down of the same lineage to promote this message. For instance, Abraham is one of the most important people, promised to become the father of a great people in all the three religions and is the ancestor of Moses, Jesus and Muhammad. However, in Islam, Abraham is known as Ibrahim and his sons Isaac and Ishmael are known as Ishaq and Isma'il. This small difference is caused due to differences of language between Hebrew, Arabic, and English. His story goes similarly but not the same in each religion. In each version, he is the first one amongst a polytheistic society to propagate monotheism and challenge their beliefs. Monotheism lays the basic foundation for each of the three religions and with it, came the scriptures of each religion and the prophets. These scriptures are known as The Old Testament, The New Testament and The Quran. An interesting aspect that can be seen is that in the Quran. Christians, Jews and Muslims are referred to as, "Ahl-ul-Kitab" which translates to, "People Of The Book" and acknowledges the fact that each religion has its own scripture. Fundamentally, the message of the three religions is the same except the events and ones who taught and spread the religion.

Whilst the message of the religions is the same, the nature of God vastly differs. In Judaism, God or Yahweh is known as being just one, above human beings and undividable into multiple elements though God has multiple names. While, in Christianity, God is divided into three elements, The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. Finally, in Islam, God, or Allah, is known as being just one, undividable into multiple elements as well and this concept is known as, "Tawhid" and is one of the most important concepts of the religion. However, Allah has certain attributes and there are ninety-nine names other than Allah to compliment these attributes similar to Judaism. We can understand more by studying a part of the story of Abraham. The Jewish and Christian version states in Genesis 18:2, 'Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby...' It is commonly agreed upon that of these three men, one was God and the others were angels in the form of men. The story goes similarly in Islam though all of the three men are angels and not one of them is a manifestation of God. From this we can see that in Christianity and Judaism, God can be limited to a certain space while in Islam, God is infinite. Another aspect that we can learn is that God likes to give to his creation as previously Abraham and his wife, Sarah, had been trying for multiple years to have children but to no avail. We can understand from this that there are subtle parts of the events that affect or compliment a

very important concept of the religion, which in this case, the event is of Abraham, his wife and the three men and the concept is monotheism.

Having compared and contrasted Judaism, Christianity and Islam, one can conclude and understand how the culture and the geography of a certain area has been influenced by these religions. For instance, Spain, whilst having no certain state religion, is a majority Christian country. This can be explained by looking at its history and we see that it was ruled by a Christian kingdom before becoming a constitutional monarchy. We also see multiple mosques in Spain, this can be explained by the fact that the ones who ruled before the Christians were Muslims. We can also take a look at the public holidays of Spain and we can see that the majority of the holidays are Christian or related to Spain's progression as a country. To conclude, while these three religions have the same message, subtle differences in the events and beliefs affect major parts of the religion and then these beliefs influence and get embedded in the culture.

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