

What other religions think about heaven

A. Buddhism

1. Founded 6th century B.C. by Siddhartha Gautama
 - a. Born 563 BCE into wealth family
 - b. Rejected life riches & embraced lifestyle asceticism or extreme-self discipline.
 - c. 49 consecutive days meditation, Gautama became Buddha or “enlightened one”
2. Main principle belief karma, rebirth & impermanence
 - a. Buddhists believe life full suffering, but suffering can be overcome by attaining enlightenment.
3. Three Buddhist Deities Vajrapani, Manjusri & Avalokitesvara but they believe that none of these gods are creators or an eternal being though they can live a very long time. So why have gods?
4. Buddhists believe in monotheism which is the lack of relevance of the existence of a creator deity. Buddha according to Buddhism was born a virgin.
5. Buddhism sees empty spaces as eternal without a starting point of creation.
6. According to the Dalai Lama, belief in a creator could be associated with the understanding of emptiness.
7. Buddhists believe that the dead are in an intermediate place for 49 days. Reason perform religious ceremonies & offer up prayers for the dead person for 49 days help improve the odds of a positive rebirth.
8. Buddhists worship Buddha as a man who once lived and was enlightened. They worship him as a sign of respect & devotion to his teaching
9. Buddhist scriptures routinely refer to the beginningless as a never ending cycle of birth and death with no starting point.

10. 2001 Dalia Lama stated “that Jesus Christ also lived previous lives. In other words they believe in reincarnation and don’t believe in heaven.

B. Islam - Muslim

1. Originated in Mecca & Medina - start 610 AD or 7th century following the first revelation of prophet Muhammad age 40
2. Profession of faith (shahada). Belief that “there is no god but God, & Muhammad is the messenger of God” is central to Islam.
3. Five Pillars Islam
 - a. Profession of Faith - Shahada
 - b. Prayer - salat
 - c. Alms - Sakat
 - d. Fasting - Swam
 - e. Pilgrimage - hajj
4. Muslims’ are monotheistic & worship one, all knowing God - Allah
5. Followers Islam aim to live a life complete submission to Allah
6. Believe nothing can happen without Allah’s permission
 - a. What about human free will?
7. Four holy books
 - a. Qur’an
 - b. Tawrat(Torah or the law)
 - c. Zabur (Psalms)
 - d. Injil (the gospel)
8. Six principles Sunni Muslim must believe be accepted Muslim
 - a. To believe in
 - i. Allah
 - ii. His angels
 - iii. His Holy book
 - iv. Last days
 - v. Life after death
 - b. Tawhid (the oneness God)

- c. Risalah (messenger of Allah)
- 9. Muslims believe Allah is
 - a. Transcendent - above & beyond anything that exists in the world
 - b. Fair & just - judges everyone equally
 - c. Immanent - he is close every human & within all things on earth
 - d. Omnipotent - is all-powerful
 - e. Beneficent - is all loving
- 10. 7 major sins
 - a. Shirk
 - b. Witchcraft
 - c. Killing a soul whom Allah has forbidden Kill
 - d. Consuming orphans wealth
 - e. Consuming Riba
 - f. Fleeing battlefield
 - g. Slandering chaste, innocent women
- 11. Quran states Allah will judge individuals deeds
 - a. Live righteously - heaven
 - b. Know Mulsim went Mecca he whipped himself repeatedly repented sins circle around the rock where they believe it fell from heaven. Pilgrims kiss & touch the rock. Good Muslim Must take pilgrimage Mecca
 - c. Go to hell first, after repenting go heaven
 - d. By work enter heaven, must follow every word Quran
 - e. Pray 5 times per day
 - f. Sinned bad deeds - Hell
- 12. Believe everlasting life after death
 - a. Believe earth is as test from Allah
 - b. Will not be tested beyond their limits
- 13. Heaven
 - a. Soul departs during death visit loved ones on 7th & 40th day & year later
 - b. At year soul expects gift from family & soul brings spiritual blessing

- c. After death soul does ongoing charity, beneficial knowledge & righteous children pray for them
- d. Paradise where good people go - gardens of pleasure
 - I. Multiple gardens elevated by strong faith & belief in Allah & Islam, perform righteous deeds & actions, obeying Allah and his message, seeking forgiveness & grace, repentance, & asking Allah for grace mercy to get to the next level of heaven. 8 level
 - li. Achieve eternal bliss & pleasure
 - lii. People get eternal youth & immortality
 - lv. 8th level is reached Angels protect souls

C. Mormonism - Latter Day Saints

1. Established by Joseph Smith (no relations) started April 6, 1830
2. Believe modern prophets starting w/ Joseph Smith, Jr, continuing w/ Thomas Monson
3. Believe Christianity & Mormonism identical
4. LDS proclaim itself as Christianity restored original Authority
5. Mormon beliefs
 - a. Eternal marriage
 - b. Eternal progression
 - c. Baptism of death
 - d. Polygamy or plural marriages
 - e. Sexual purity
 - f. Health - specific in Word of Wisdom
 - g. Fasting
 - h. Sabbath observance
6. Hierarchy Latter Day Saints church
 - a. Begin Jesus Christ
 - b. President Church highest ecclesiastical authority on earth - often referred Prophet
 - i. Jesus, Prophets & 12 Apostles Form first President Church
7. Mormon Scriptures changed & add words to Bible

- a. Jn 1.1 In the beginning was "A" god
- b. Book Mormon volume of Bible
- c. Bible states anyone add words face plagues and if delete words would see trees life Rev. 22:18-19, Gal. 1:6-9
- d. Tower Babel Gen.11:9 Book Mormon says language of Jarad, his brothers and family members were not confounded
- e. Birth Jesus Jerusalem
- f. Claim darkness 3 different times over 3 days vs. Bible 3 hours at crucifixion
- g. Mormons the name Christians 73 BC
- h. If Bible & Book of Mormon were both inspired by God they would never contradict.
 - i. But they do which mean Book of Mormon fraud
 - ii. Written by con men

8. Compare Mormons & Christians view Bible

- a. Christians believe Bible inerrant word of God
- b. Mormons accept Bible, Book Mormon, Doctrine & covenant & Pearl of Great Price
- c. Believe all three personalities separate The Father is God, Jesus son have glorified bodies & HS spirit like man. Don't believe in Trinity

9. Beliefs about heaven

- a. Three levels heaven : 1. Celestial, 2. Terrestrial, & telesial
- b. Dwelt w/ God before earthly life
- c. Life consists three parts 1. Premortal existence 2. Mortal life & postmortal - resurrected Being
- d. Works - After life depends decree of acceptance following Christ & desires heart & how it translate works
- e. Must participate essential rites like baptism lead them repentance, progression & sanctification
- f. Persons rewards heaven depend on what they do earth
- g. Same society exists here exists heaven

D. Hinduism

1. Scholars believe Hinduism started between 2300 B.C. - 1500 B.C. near Indus Valley - near present day Pakistan
2. Oldest religion in world
3. Believe faith timeless & always existed
4. No historical founder of religion
5. Many sacred texts known Vedas not one book - 1500 B.C.
6. Collection verses & hymns written Sanskrit
 - a. Revelation received ancient saints & sages
7. Vedas became known Vedic period - from 1500 B.C. to 500 B.C.
8. Hindus between 500 B.C. - 500 A.D. empathize worship deities, specially Vishnu, Shiva & Devi
9. New rulers allowed Hindus practice religion w/o interference
10. Between 1757 - 1947 British controlled India - allowed Hinduism
11. Mohandas Gandhi major protest against British rule 1930
60,000 Indian people marched - all arrested including Gandhi
 - a. 1947 British rule overthrown - Declared independence
 - b. British separated India 2 parts form Pakistan new nation
 - c. 1948 Gandhi assassinated by Hindu.
12. Later Christian missionaries covert & westernize
13. Supreme God Brahman - force present all things
 - a. Creator world & all things living
14. Other gods
 - a. Vishnu: god preserves & protects universe
 - b. Shiva: god destroys universe inorder recreate
 - c. Devi goddess fights restore dharma
 - d. Krisna: god compassion, tenderness & love
 - e. Lakshmi: goddess wealth & purity
 - f. Saraswati: goddess learning
 - g. Our God says there shall be no other gods before me
 - i. Ex. 20: 3-5
15. Place worship puja take place Mandir Temple & Worship home Shrine special gods & goddess
 - h. Offerings important religion
 - i. Gifts flowers & oil

- i. Pilgrimages temples & other sacred places
- 16. Have castes system w/ sub categories under each cast
 - 1. Intellectuals & spiritual leaders
 - 2. Protectors & public servants society
 - 3. Skillful producers
 - 4. Unskilled laborers
- 17. Hinduism no official clergy
 - a. Gurus, Yogis, Rishis, Brahmins, Pundits, priests, priestesses, monks & nuns.
- 18. Hindus meditation, yoga contemplation & jagna (communal Worship temple).
- 19. Salvation Christ's passion, death & resurrection
 - a. Hindus believe reaching enlighten by path knowledge
 - b. Path of devotion or path good deeds
 - c. Hindus attain salvation break cycle birth, death & reincarnation
 - d. Beliefs differ by sect. Upanishads (scriptures) say God chooses who gets salvation.
 - i. Salvation via good (works), deeds & righteousness (following "dharma" & avoiding sin)
- 20. Christians over 2 billion vs. 1 billion Hindu
- 21. Believe all religions have some true

E. Christianity only religion that can say their God is alive through Jesus Christ resurrection.

- 1. Only religion believes in a Trinity
- 2. Only religion that believes that enter heaven only by grace and mercy.
- 3. Enter heaven through faith in Jesus Christ