

WHICH GOD?

SUMMARY RELIGION DATA SHEETS



SUMMARY: This lesson collects objective data from the standard questions in the preceding lesson. A requirement of simply originating from God rather than originating a god eliminates all major religions other than those in the Judeo-Christian heritage.

The Roman Caesars, Hirohito, Moon Sun Myung and Jim Jones have claimed to be God. If you consider having an originating God a requirement for the major religions discussed, it immediately eliminates all except those in the Judeo-Christian heritage.

Jehovah established a religion worshiping him and it requires faith to believe in Him today. He does not stop an individual from starting a false religion, and there have been hundreds of them. This is an attempt to review the major ones.

NAME OF RELIGION: PATRIARCHAL

Starting date: 6-10,000 years ago

Started by: Jehovah

Name of primary deity: Jehovah

Name of other deities: None other recognized by adherents

No. of adherents: None formally known today

Earthly Headquarters Each family operated independently in addressing Jehovah

End Time of Religion: AD 33, was practiced in parallel to Judaism until Christ came.

Writings of Religion: Genesis thru Exodus 19 (Note: writings done after start)

Antecedent writings: None

Originally from God Yes

Proof prophecies No

Scientific prophecies No

Not clear how many heads of households God actually spoke to. Provides a creation story used by Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Required blood sacrifices.

No one claims to follow this religion today.

WHICH GOD?

SUMMARY RELIGION DATA SHEETS



NAME OF RELIGION:	JEWISH
Starting date:	4,000 years ago
Started by:	Jehovah, Abraham, Moses
Name of primary deity:	Jehovah
Name of other deities:	None other recognized by adherents
No. of adherents:	Several million
Earthly Headquarters	Jerusalem
End Time of Religion:	AD 33
Writings of Religion:	Law given in Genesis through Deuteronomy Exodus 20 thru John (Gospels apply to both) Later writers verified by prophecies and scientific statements.
Antecedent writings:	Genesis thru Exodus 19
Originally from God	Yes
Proof prophecies	Yes (See sections 5.3)
Scientific prophecies	Yes (See sections 5.2)
Required blood sacrifices.	

In AD 70 the genealogical records required for the Jewish religion were destroyed during the destruction of Jerusalem. The Old Law requires several blood sacrifices which are not done by current adherents and have not been done since 70-135 AD. This is explained that (1) Deut. 12:10-12 Indicates that after they cross the Jordan, God will specify a place for sacrifices to be made and not in other places, so after the Temple was built, it was the only place for sacrifices. The sacrifices are to be re-started when the Temple is re-established in Jerusalem (Apparently when their Messiah comes). And (2) after the second Jewish revolt in 132-135 AD Judaism changed from a temple based to a mobile faith around synagogues and prayer replaced animal sacrifices. (Note: 2 Internet sources)

There are still some with a claim to be of the tribe of Levi ready to take up the priesthood when the temple is reestablished in Jerusalem.

WHICH GOD?

SUMMARY RELIGION DATA SHEETS



NAME OF RELIGION: CHRISTIAN

Starting date: AD 33

Started by: Apostles

Name of primary deity: Jehovah

Name of other deities: Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit

No. of adherents: Millions in a variety of groups

Earthly Headquarters: Local autonomous church units reporting to Jesus

End Time of Religion: At the end of the world in the future

Writings of Religion: Matthew thru Revelation (Gospels apply to Jewish also)

Antecedent writings: Old Testament

Originally from God: Yes

Historical prophecies: Yes, Matthew 12:40 in grave 3 days, Matthew 16:27–28 kingdom would come before some of those present died, Matthew 24:1,2 temple destroyed.

Scientific prophecies: Yes (See topic 5.3)

Jesus was the blood sacrifice for all time.

For a graphic of these three dispensations and additional comparisons, see: DISPENSATIONS OR AGES OF MAN (See topic 5.12)

WHICH GOD?

SUMMARY RELIGION DATA SHEETS



NAME OF RELIGION:	ISLAM
Starting date:	7th Century AD
Started by:	Muhammad
Name of primary deity:	Jehovah
Name of other deities:	None
No. of adherents:	One billion
Earthly Headquarters	Mecca
End Time of Religion:	At the end of the world in the future
Writings of Religion:	Qur'an (God to Muhammad), SUNNA (traditions), IJMA (consensus) IJTIHAD (individual thought)
Antecedent writings:	Genesis thru Revelation
Originally from God	Only though claim to antecedent writings.
Historical prophecies	No, none other than from the Old and New Testaments
Scientific prophecies	Made scientific errors (See SCIENTIFIC ERRORS IN THE QUR'AN)

Muhammad claimed that he was commissioned by God to bring its value system to the world by war. Rather than a conventional religion, it seems to be the teaching of a war lord trying to take over the physical world. He teaches in 41 verses to go out and strike non-Muslims. Jews and Christians were assigned a special status and allowed religious autonomy, if they would pay a per capita tax. Members of other faiths were required to accept Islam or die. Encyclopedia of World Religions, p. 516. Accepts Jesus as a great Prophet but denies the deity of Jesus, making Jesus a liar when Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. (John 9:37). Muhammad gave himself special permission to marry his cousins and nieces.

NEED MUDDY PUDDLE REFERENCE

WHICH GOD?

SUMMARY RELIGION DATA SHEETS



NAME OF RELIGION: **MORMONISM**

Starting date: ~1830 A.D.

Started by: Joseph Smith

Name of primary deity: Jehovah, who evolved from man [1, p. 750]

Name of other deities: Believe that men might evolve into gods [1, p. 750]

No. of adherents: Millions

Earthly Headquarters: Salt Lake City

End Time of Religion: That you will live in paradise on earth forever.

Writings of Religion: Book of Mormon

Antecedent writings: Genesis thru Revelation

Originally from God: Only though claim to antecedent writings.

Historical prophecies (MORMONISM): Numerous false prophecies (see HISTORICAL ERRORS OF MORMONISM)

Scientific prophecies: No

Teaches that God evolved from man, making it impossible for the world to have started in the first place.

WHICH GOD?

SUMMARY RELIGION DATA SHEETS



NAME OF RELIGION:	BUDDHISM
Starting date:	5TH Century BC
Started by:	Buddha Gotama (a teacher)
Name of primary deity:	None
Name of other deities:	None
No. of adherents:	Millions
Earthly Headquarters	Buddhist Councils
End Time of Religion:	None
Writings of Religion:	Verbal teachings collected in following centuries [1, p147}
Antecedent writings:	None
Originally from God	No
Historical prophecies	No
Scientific prophecies	No

“The Buddha left indeterminate questions regarding the destiny of persons who have reached this ultimate goal (enlightened). He even refused to speculate as to whether such purified saints, after death, continued to exist or ceased to exist.” [1] p. 149 Appears to be a philosopher’s teachings which evolved into a religion, rather than the instructions of God.

WHICH GOD?

SUMMARY RELIGION DATA SHEETS



NAME OF RELIGION: CONFUCIANISM

Starting date: Didn't exactly start?
Started by: Confucius (551-479 BC)
Name of primary deity: None
Name of other deities: None
No. of adherents: Millions
Earthly Headquarters ?
End Time of Religion: None
Writings of Religion: Writings of Confucius
Antecedent writings: Chinese classical traditions
Originally from God No
Historical prophecies No
Scientific prophecies No prophecies

“A way of life propagated by Confucius in the 6th-5th century BCE and following by the Chinese people for more than two millennia, Confucianism – a Western term that has no counterpart in Chinese – is a worldview, a social ethic, a political ideology, and a scholarly tradition. Although often grouped with the major HISTORICAL RELIGIONS, Confucianism differs from them by not being an organized religion.” [1] p. 251

WHICH GOD?

SUMMARY RELIGION DATA SHEETS



NAME OF RELIGION:	HINDUISM
Starting date:	Worship of “divinities” as far back as 400 B.C.
Started by:	No originator, a system of collected beliefs
Name of primary deity:	None
Name of other deities:	Numerous objects and things worshipped
No. of adherents:	Millions
Earthly Headquarters	Temples
End Time of Religion:	None
Writings of Religion:	Teachings collected in centuries
Antecedent writings:	None
Originally from God	No
Historical prophecies	No
Scientific prophecies	No

“Hinduism is not a religion, it is a way of life” [1] p. 434

WHICH GOD?

SUMMARY RELIGION DATA SHEETS



NAME OF RELIGION:	JAINISM
Starting date:	~550 B.C.
Started by:	Lord Mahavir (599-527 BC)
Name of primary deity:	“eradicated the concept of God as creator”
Name of other deities:	“The most important figures are the 24 Tirthankaras, perfected human beings who appear from time to time to preach...” [1] p. 550
No. of adherents:	Millions
Earthly Headquarters	?
End Time of Religion:	None
Writings of Religion:	Teachings collected in centuries
Antecedent writings:	None
Originally from God	No
Historical prophecies	No
Scientific prophecies	Error, see below

Appears to be some philosopher’s teachings which evolved into a religion, rather than the instructions of God.

“The world is eternal and uncreated.” [1] p. 551 (Violates 2nd Law of Thermodynamics)

WHICH GOD?

SUMMARY RELIGION DATA SHEETS



NAME OF RELIGION: TAOISM

Starting date: Started as a combination of psychology and philosophy and evolved into a religion in 440 BCE when it was adopted as a state religion of China.

Started by: Lao-Tse (604-531 BCE)

Name of primary deity: Lao-Tse has been venerated as a Deity?

Name of other deities: Numerous objects and things worshipped

No. of adherents: 20 Million

Earthly Headquarters ?

End Time of Religion: None

Writings of Religion: Lao-Tse's book Tao-te-Ching

Antecedent writings: None

Originally from God No

Historical prophecies No

Scientific prophecies No

Primarily based in Taiwan today.

Appears to be some philosopher's teachings which evolved into a religion, rather than the instructions of God.

"An indigenous religio-philosophical tradition that has shaped Chinese life for more than 2,000 years, Taoism includes the ideas and attitudes peculiar to the Lao-Tzu, the Chuang-Tzu, the Lieh-Tzu, the Huai-nan Tzu, and related writings." [1] p. 1061

References:

[1] Merriam-Webster's Encyclopedia of World Religions