



Abrahamic Religions

Judaism, Christianity and Islam are referred to as Abrahamic religions in that all three religions recognize Abraham as their “spiritual father”. Jews believed that Abraham was called by God to leave his homeland and move, with his family to the land of Canaan where he would be the “father of all nations”. Christianity’s claim to Abraham’ lineage lies in Jesus’ Judaism and the early Christian Church was born from and connected to Jewish rituals, scriptures and heritage. Islam recognizes Judaism and Christianity as earlier versions of Islam, in that Abraham and Jesus were true believers of God. However over time their message became distorted and corrupted, thus God sent his prophet Muhammad to restore God’s true message to the world.

All three religions are monotheist in that they believe and worship one God. However their monotheism is expressed differently. For the Jewish believer, their belief in one God is the heart of their covenantal relationship with God and their recognition that they are the true chosen people. Therefore there is little impetus within this faith to convert others to Judaism.

For Christians, one God is expressed through the three person of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (see Trinity). Evangelization has been a key feature of Christianity from its inception. For the Muslim (follower of Islam) believer, the oneness and sovereignty of God is paramount. The concept of trinity could be seen as a human distortion that Muhammad was sent to correct. Unlike Judaism, Islam saw its mission as gaining believers around the world.

While there is differences in how their beliefs are expressed, the Abrahamic religions share a common heritage in Abraham and belief and worship of one God.