

Comparison of Judaism and Islam

- 1,300 million 14 million 2,100 million
- J CH I
- Judaism is one of the oldest religions, dating back to the days of Abraham cca 1 800 B.C.
- Islam is one of the newest religions founded in 622 A.D.
- Muslims must follow the Koran
- Jews must follow the Torah

Sets of laws

- Islam's five chief obligations - PILLARS testimony of faith, prayer, giving zakat, fasting in the month of Ramadan, and the pilgrimage to Mecca - are similar to Jewish COMMANDMENTS
- Both sets of laws are very strict, and they believe there are consequences for those who do not keep them

Faith in Islam and Judaism

- "There is no true god but Allah, and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah."
- Besides Muhammad, Muslims believe in many of the same prophets as the Jews -Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus
- To both Jews and Muslims, Jesus was simply another prophet.
- Unlike Christians, whose faith is based in Jesus Christ , both Jews and Muslims do not believe that God has a Son

Prayer in Islam

- Prayer is a way to speak with and learn from God
- The very first mosque, the Kaaba, was built by Abraham and his son Ishmael
- Bowing toward the Kaaba of Mecca - five prayers a day - dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset, and night
- Muslims believe there are no intermediaries between God and themselves – they communicate with the God themselves
- Before beginning their prayers, Muslims say, "Allah Akbar" (God is greater than all else).

Prayer in Judaism

- The Jews pray several times a day, but their prayers are broken into three basic groups:
 - morning prayers
 - afternoon prayers
 - evening prayers
- Prayer comes from Abraham, who instituted the morning prayer, Isaac, who instituted the afternoon prayer, and Jacob, who instituted the evening prayer.
- Prayer is a way for Jews to get closer to God, to clean their hearts, and to bring peace to the mind.

Alms

- Jews and Muslims believe that they will be rewarded for their good deeds (like giving to the needy) and punished for their bad deeds.
- Muslims are required to give ZAKAT, support to the needy. Giving to the needy is a way of purifying and feeling like the poor do.
- On PURIM, every Jew is required to give alms to two poor people - the Jews are required to give to God ten percent of the income

Fasting

- Fasting for both Muslims and Jews is a way of spiritually purifying oneself.
- To purify themselves, Muslims fast during the day in their month of Ramadan
- Their goal is to grow spiritually, learn self-control and know what it is like to be needy.
- Fasting for the Jews is also a way of reducing concentration on physical aspects and directing their attention to spiritual goals.
- The Jews fast several different times through the course of the year - in memory of past tragic events and to beg for forgiveness.

Pilgrimage and living in Jerusalem

- The Muslims' pilgrimage to Mecca (hajj) could be compared to the Jews' desire to live in Jerusalem.
- All Muslims who are physically and financially able to do so must make a pilgrimage to Mecca.
- These rituals include circling the Ka'abah seven times and joining together in prayer to ask Allah's forgiveness.
- Jewish people believe that they should have their own homeland that was promised to Abraham and that Jerusalem should be its capital.

Similarities and differences

- Both religions claim Abraham as their father
- the Torah - Isaac is the son of God's promise
- the Koran - states Ishmael is the son of promise
- These two great world religions have the same origins, the same central belief in monotheism - two sons or two brothes

Similarities and differences

- Muslims believe there is no god but Allah, and Jews believe there is no God but Yahweh.
- Polygamy - a man could have many wives, and if a legitimate wife could not bear him children, he could take a servant as a wife
- A lot of men died in wars 
- Man's brother married the widow

The concept of hell

- A place of fire. In Islam, Hell is known as *Jahannam*. Jahannam has several levels and a person may not necessarily spend eternity there.
- Judaism recognises the concept of *Gehenna* - those who die in sin may suffer temporary punishment, but certain sins have eternal punishment.

Holy book

- The Quran or Koran (Arabic: 'recitation'), revealed to the prophet Mohammed over a period of about 20 years. The Quran is the final revelation given by Allah to mankind.
- The Hebrew Torah, similar to the Christian Old Testament

Exercises – which religion? I – J – Ch?

- mosque
 - synagogue
 - church, chapel, cathedral
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- rabbis
 - imams
 - pastors, bishops priests

Exercises

- Sunday
- Friday
- Saturday

- Shia/Sunni
- Catholic/Orthodox, Catholic/Protestant
- Reform/Orthodox

Exercises

- Jesus did not die, but ascended into heaven during crucifixion
 - death by crucifixion
 - death by crucifixion
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- 2nd largest
 - 12th largest
 - the largest

Comparisons - Christianity

- Try to make characteristics of Christianity related to the following points:
- Praying
- Fasting
- Christian ethics
- Pilgrimages
- The most important holidays