

World Religions Comparison Chart

	Judaism	Christianity	Islam
Founded	~2000 BCE	~30 CE	~660 BCE
Founder	Abraham	Jesus Christ	Muhammad
Traditional name(s) for God	Yahweh, Elohim	Jehovah, Holy Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)	Allah
House of worship	synagogue	church	mosque
Spiritual leader	rabbi	priest, minister, pastor	imam
Sacred texts	Torah (first 5 books of the Hebrew Bible: Genesis – Deuteronomy)	Bible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Testament = Hebrew Bible • New Testament 	Qur'an (Koran)
Daily/weekly worship	weekly worship: Saturday	weekly worship: Sunday	weekly worship: Friday pray 5 times/day
Major branches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orthodox • Conservative • Reform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roman Catholic • Eastern Orthodox • Protestant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunni • Shia

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Experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dietary requirements • Religious clothing 	<p>Many Jews follow kosher rules (meat slaughtered in correct way, no pork, can't eat meat & dairy at same time, plus others)</p> <p>During synagogue services, Jewish men wear prayer shawls & Yarmulke/kippot. Some Jewish women do the same.</p>	<p>Many Catholics don't eat meat during Lent (the 40 days leading up to Easter)</p>	<p>Meat must be <i>halal</i>: slaughtered in correct way, cannot be a forbidden cut (hindquarters) or animal (pork). Alcohol considered sinful by most. Muslims fast during the month of Ramadan.</p> <p>Men & women guided to dress conservatively. Qur'an does not require women to cover heads; some women prefer to do so. Some cultures require women to wear head coverings.</p>
Holy places for pilgrimage	<p>Jerusalem is holiest city in Judaism b/c it was site of the temples; worship focused on Western Wall now.</p>	<p>Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Bethlehem, Nazareth, the River Jordan. There are also pilgrimage sites outside of the Middle East.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kaaba (Mecca, Saudi Arabia) 2. Prophet's Mosque (Medina, Saudi Arabia) 3. Al-Aqsa Mosque (Jerusalem)
Major holidays	<p>Yom Kippur Rosh Hashanah Sukkot</p> <p>(Note that Hanukkah is not a major Jewish holiday.)</p>	<p>Easter Christmas</p>	<p>Eid al-Fitr Eid al-Adha</p>