Comparing Three Religions of the Middle East

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|  | Christianity | Islam | Judaism |
| God | -The one God of Abraham  -Monotheistic  -Another name is Yaweh  -Jesus Christ  -Three parts (Trinity) – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit | -The one God of Abraham  -Monotheistic  - Allah (Arabic for God)  - Allah spoke to Muhammad | -The one God of Abraham  -Monotheistic  -God’s Hebrew name is *Adonai*  -God made a Covenant with Abraham |
| Holy Book | -Bible  - Old Testament – History and Law  - New Testament – Jesus’ life and teachings  - Written in most languages | - Koran/Qur’an is written in Arabic  - Includes God’s revelations to Muhammad | - TeNaKh 🡪 three parts  - The Torah is the most important  - Written in Hebrew  -Tells stories and establishes laws |
| Key Beliefs | - Goal is to achieve salvation  - Eternal life in heaven  - Jesus Christ died and was resurrected  - Follow Jesus’ teachings and participate in sacraments | - Muhammad is God’s last prophet  - Hebrews descended from Isaac and Muslims descended from Ishmael  - Jesus was only a prophet  -Abraham’s covenant  - Mecca is the center of Islam | - God made Earth and rested on the 7th day (Sabbath/Shabbat)  -Live a good/moral life and follow the commandments of the Torah  -Eat Kosher foods  -Pass on traditions to children  -Read and follow *Talmud* |
| Practices & Rituals | - Sacraments – sacred ceremonies  - Baptism – introduction into the church  - Communion – the Lord’s Supper (His last meal)  - Christmas, Easter, Good Friday, Ash Wednesday | The Five Pillars  1. Declaration of Faith  2. Prayer 5x per day  3. Giving to the needy  4. Fasting during Ramadan  5. Hajj – Pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia | -Shabbat, Hanukah, Yom Kippur (fasting), Passover (feasting), Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot  -Lighting candles  -Give to the needy  -Eat Kosher foods  -Kippah/Yarmulka |
| Worship Services | - Church on Sundays  - Pray, sing, and read from the Bible  -Experience the sacraments  -Recite beliefs  - Worship is led by the Priest/Minister  - Priest/Minister gives a sermon (lesson/speech) | - Go to Mosque any day of the week for prayer  -Friday prayer at noon is the most important  -Imam (religious leader) leads prayer and gives a sermon (religious lesson/speech)  -Mosques have minarets (towers) used to call people to pray | - Prayer and song  -Meet at Synagogue on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings  -Market Days – worship on weekdays  -Special rituals with Torah  -Rabbi gives a sermon (lesson/speech) |
| Sects/Divisions | - Roman Catholic  - Orthodox  - Protestant (Methodist, Episcopal, Lutheran, Baptist, etc.) | -Sunni – 90% of Muslims  -Shi’a – 10% of Muslims | -Orthodox  -Conservative  -Reform  -Special reverence for Jerusalem |