

## World Religions & Sects Comparison Chart

*The following is a comparison of some world religions and sects as viewed by Biblical Christianity. The table is Reference: paraphrased selection from Christianity, Cults & Religions”, 1996 Rose Publishing.*

	<b>Founding</b>	<b>Writings</b>	<b>Who is God?</b>	<b>Who is Jesus?</b>	<b>Holy Spirit</b>	<b>To be saved</b>	<b>After Death</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>Biblical Christianity</b>	30-33CE by Jesus Christ in Judean province of Palestine under Roman Empire	The Bible, orig. in Hebrew and Aramaic (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament)	One God in 3 persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; a spirit, personal and involved, eternal, loving and perfect.	God the Son; begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary; only way to Father and salvation; died on cross as payment for man's sins, rose from the dead, then seen by over 500 eyewitnesses; will come again at the end of the world.	God the Holy Spirit; a person, not a force or energy field.	Salvation is by God's grace, not by good works; must be received by faith that Jesus died for their sins and physically rose again.	All await final judgment; all are resurrected, those saved live with Jesus in Heaven; those lost suffer separation from God (Hell).	Group worship in churches; no secret rites; Baptism; Communion; Jesus said His followers would be known by their love for one another.
<b>Hinduism</b>	1800-1000BCE in India	Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad-Gita and many others	God is "Absolute" universal spirit; everyone is part of God (Brahman) like drops in the sea.	Jesus was a teacher (guru) or an avatar (an incarnation of Vishnu); his death does not atone for sins.	Not part of this belief.	Release from the cycles of reincarnation; achieved through meditation; final salvation is union with Brahman.	Reincarnation into a better status (good karma) if person has behaved well.	Worship many gods and goddesses that are manifestations of Brahman.
<b>Buddhism</b>	525BCE by Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha) in India; offshoot of	The Tripitaka (three baskets) with over 100 volumes.	Mostly atheistic; Buddha is a universal enlightened consciousness	Not part of this belief, although generally viewed as an enlightened	Not part of this belief.	Goal of life is nirvana, to eliminate all desires/cravings and in this way escape	People do not have a soul/spirit, but one's feelings can be	Eightfold path... right knowledge, intentions, speech, conduct,

	Hinduism.		or god.	man.		suffering.	reincarnated ; no heaven or hell.	livelihood, effort, mindfulness and meditation.
<b>Judaism</b>	ca. 2000BCE by Abraham in the middle east	The Tanakh (Old Testament) and Torah (first 5 books of OT), Talmud (explanation of Tanakh), writings of sages.	God is spirit; to Orthodox Jews, God is personal and compassionate; to other Jews, God is impersonal.	Jesus seen as either an extremist false messiah or a good but martyred teacher. Orthodox Jews await the Messiah.	Another name for God's activity on Earth.	Some Jews believe that prayer, repentance and obeying the Law are necessary for salvation.	There will be a physical resurrection; obedient will live forever with God and unrighteous will suffer.	Sabbath is Friday eve to Saturday eve; circumcision; many holy days; Jerusalem is holy city.
<b>Islam</b>	610CE by Muhammad (570-632) in Mecca and Medina.	Koran in Arabic; Hadith (Muhammad's words and deeds); certain Biblical works accepted but considered corrupted.	God (Allah) is one; revealed the Koran to Muhammad through Gabriel; God is a severe judge (sometimes merciful) and is not depicted as loving.	Jesus is one of 124,000 prophets; born of a virgin but not Son of God; was sinless; ascended to heaven without dying (not crucified); a messiah and ayatollah (sign of God).	See the angel Gabriel as the Holy Spirit.	Humans basically good; balance between good and bad deeds determines eternal destiny in paradise or hell; God's mercy is arbitrary and uncertain.	Resurrection of bodies; final reckoning; eternal hell for infidels, those who reject Islam.	Five pillars... one God with Muhammad as prophet, pray 5 times daily, give money (alms), fast during month of Ramadan, pilgrimage to Mecca.
<b>Baha'i World Faith</b>	1844CE by Mizra Ali Muhammed (the Bab) and Mizra Husayn Ali (Baha'u'llah, glory of Allah) in Iran; HQ in Haifa, Israel.	Writings of founders; Kitab-i-Aqdas and Kitab-i-Iqan; The Bible	God is an unknowable divine revealed thru 9 manifestations, including Moses, Buddha, Confucius, Jesus, Muhammad and	One of many manifestations of God; is not God and did not rise from the dead; not the only way to God; returned to Earth in the form of Baha'u'llah.	Divine energy from God.	Faith in the manifestation(s) of God; knowing and living by Baha'u'llah's principles and teachings.	Personal immortality based on good works; heaven and hell are conditions not places.	Originated as Islamic sect; teaches that all religions have the same source, principles and aims.

			Haha'u'llah.					
<b>Scientology</b>	1954 by L. Ron Hubbard in California. HQ in LA.	Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health and others by Hubbard; The Way to Happiness.	Does not define God; everyone is a "thetan", an immortal spirit.	Not a part of this belief.	Not a part of this belief.	No sin or need to repent; salvation is freedom from reincarnation; one must work with an "auditor" on his "engrams" (hang-ups) to achieve the state of "clear" then progress up the "bridge to total freedom".	Hell is a myth; people who get clear of engrams become operating thetans.	Observe birth of Hubbard; much controversy follows this faith.
<b>Mormonism (Latter-day Saints)</b>	1830CE by Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805-1844) in western NY; HQ in Salt Lake City	The Bible (King James version); Book of Mormon; Doctrine and Covenants; Pearl of Great Price	God the Father (Elohim) was once man but became God; he has a physical body and a wife; no trinity, 3 separate gods; worthy men may one day become gods themselves.	Separate from Elohim; created by sexual union of Elohim and Mary; Jesus was married; death on cross does not provide full atonement for all sin, but does provide all with resurrection.	Separate from Father and Son; an electricity-like emanation from God.	Resurrected by grace, but saved (exalted to godhood) by works, incl. faithfulness to church, baptism, tithing, marriage and rituals; no eternal life without Mormon membership.	Three separate kingdoms (heavens) with some achieving godhood; apostates (heathens) and murderers go to outer darkness.	No alcohol, tobacco, or caffeine; near-mandatory 2-year mission; secret temple rituals members only; extensive social work; Blacks not granted full access to priesthood and privileges until 1978.
<b>Jehovah's Witnesses (Watchtower)</b>	1879CE by Charles Russell (1852-1916) in Pennsylvania	The Bible (New World only); Watchtower publications	One-person God, Jehovah; no trinity.	First creation of Jehovah; Jesus is not God; before coming to Earth, was	Impersonal Holy Spirit not God, but invisible force from	Baptism as JW; must earn everlasting life on Earth by door-to-door work; salvation	The 144,000 (already reached) live as spirits in heaven; rest must live	Anointed ones may take part in yearly Lord's Evening Meal; do not

	a, later Joseph Rutherford; HQ Brooklyn, NY.			Michael the archangel; Jehovah made the universe thru Michael; died on a stake, was resurrected as a spirit; returned visibly in 1914; very soon he and the angels will destroy all non-Jehovah's Witnesses (Armageddon).	Jehovah.	in heaven limited to 144,000 anointed ones.	on Earth for 1000 years or be annihilated.	observe holidays or birthdays; do not vote, salute flag, work in military, or accept blood transfusions.
--	--	--	--	---	----------	---	--	--

