




Southwest Asia's

**World
Religions
#12**

Christianity, Islam (Sunni & Shi'a) &
Judaism



Monothetism

- **Belief in ONE god.**
- **Judaism, Christianity, & Islam are prominent religions practiced in Southwest Asia, and are all monotheistic**
- **90% of the region's population practices Islam, 4% are Christian, and 2% practice Judaism.**

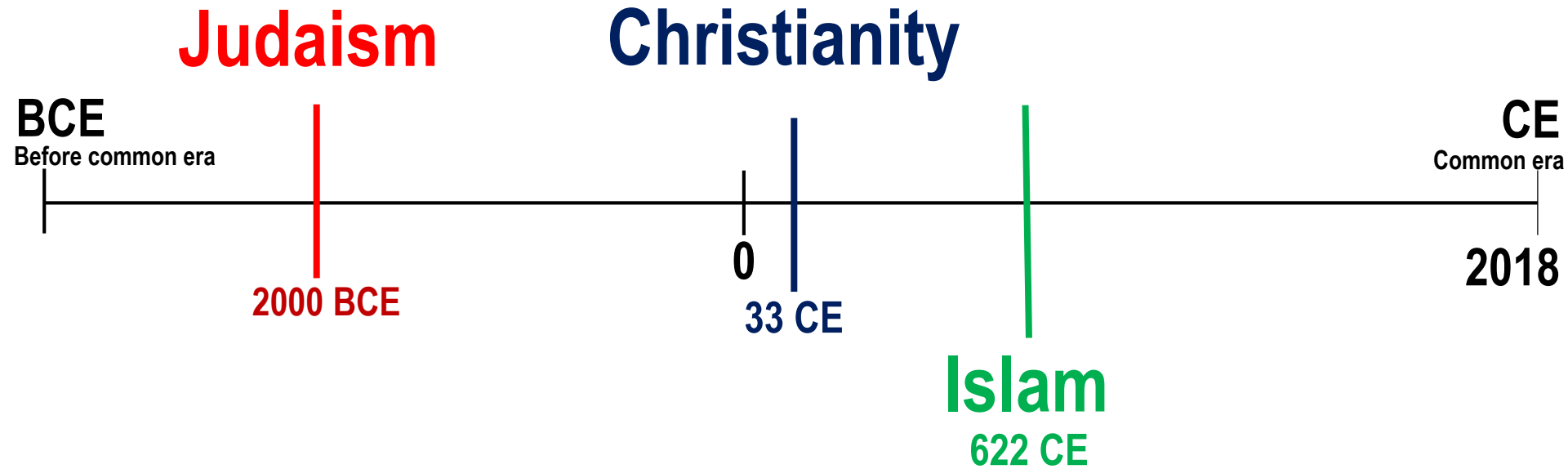
MAJOR RELIGIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST

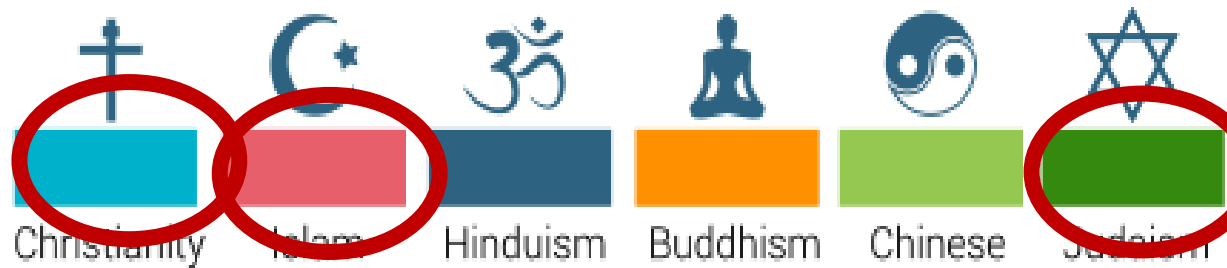
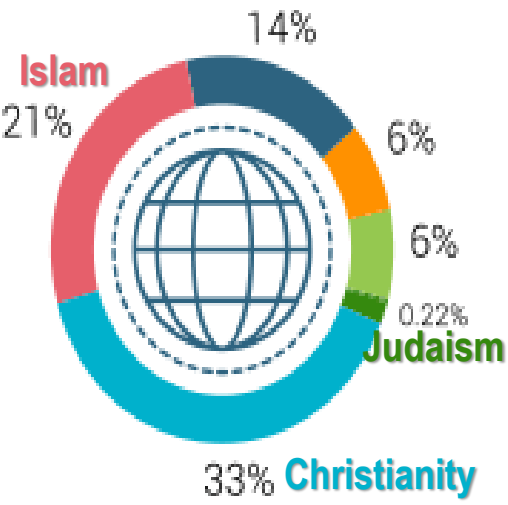
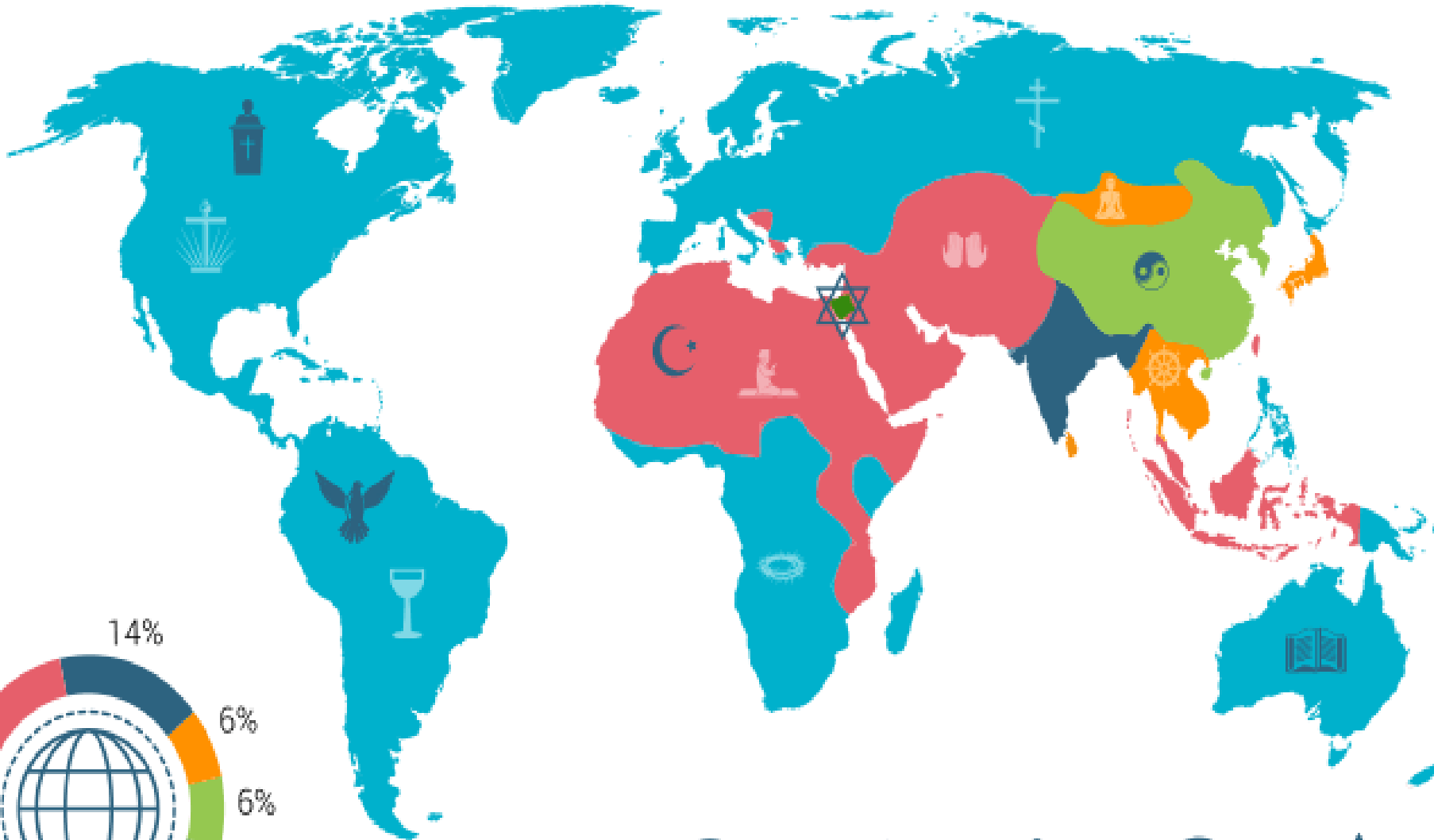


Similarities

- All three believe in one god (monotheistic).
- They all started in Southwest Asia.
- They can trace their roots to Abraham as the father of their faith.
- **Known as Abrahamic Religions**
- Jerusalem, Israel is the holiest city in the world for Jews and Christians, and the third holiest city for Muslims.
- All three have an important messenger and book of teachings.

Timeline:





Jerusalem, Israel





Lebanon

Syria

Ira

Jerusalem

Jordan

Egypt

Saudi Arabia



JUDAISM

Judaism

- **Followers of Judaism are called Jews.**
- **Judaism was founded by Abraham around 2000 BCE.**
- **The Jewish holy book is the Torah, which is the oral and written laws of the Jews.**



The Torah

Judaism

- **Abraham lived at least 3,700 years ago in the city of Ur along the Euphrates River (in what is now Iraq).**
- **The Ten Commandments are found in the Jewish holy book called the Torah, which are the written laws of the Jews.**



Abraham & Sarah

THE TEN

1. I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD.
YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE
LORD YOUR GOD AND HIM
ONLY SHALL YOU SERVE.

2. YOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE
NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD
IN VAIN.

3. REMEMBER TO KEEP HOLY
THE SABBATH DAY.

4. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND
YOUR MOTHER.

5. YOU SHALL NOT KILL.

COMMANDMENTS

6. YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT
ADULTERY.

7. YOU SHALL NOT STEAL.

8. YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE
WITNESS.

9. YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR
NEIGHBOR'S WIFE.

10. YOU SHALL NOT COVET
YOUR NEIGHBOR'S GOODS.

Jerusalem

- **The Israelites (now called Hebrews) claimed the city of Jerusalem and built a holy temple there.**
- **Between 700-500 BCE, Roman invaders captured Jerusalem and destroyed the temple.**
- **Today, the only remaining part of the temple is the **Western Wall, known as the Wailing Wall.****
 - **It is one of the most sacred sites recognized by the Jewish faith.**

Western Wall





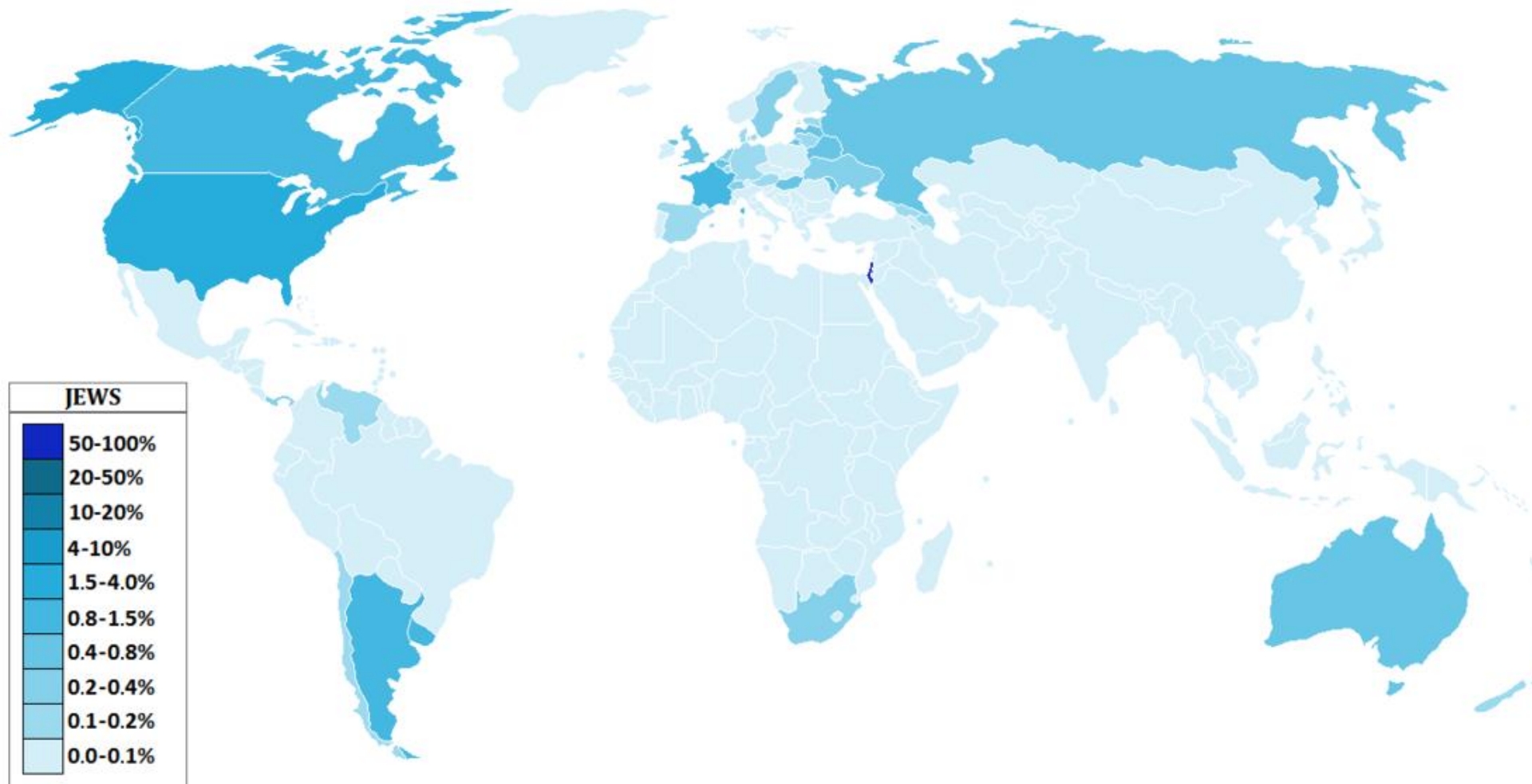
Prayers & wishes stuck
into cracks of the
Western Wall.

Diaspora

- This is called **diaspora, or spreading out.**
- The Jewish people were **forced out of Israel and moved to many places all over the world**
- The Jewish people did not return to their homeland until the modern state of Israel was created in 1948, after the Holocaust

Judaism

- There are about **13 million followers worldwide.**
- **Jews worship in synagogues and temples.**
- They believe that a messiah (savior) will lead them to the Promised Land.
- Jews believe in justice and righteousness.
 - “What is hateful to you, do not to your neighbor.”





Hurva Synagogue, Jerusalem

Holy Book

- **The sacred book is called the Tanuch, and it is a collection of writings compiled over a period of time.**
- **There are three parts to the book:**
 - 1. Torah – this is the most sacred part, it contains what Moses delivered to the Israelites. (the Old Testament, Christians use this too)**
 - 2. Eight books of psalms and proverbs**
 - 3. Talmud – writings on Jewish law, history, and folklore**



The Torah

Holidays

- **Hanukkah** celebrates a victory where the Jews were able to keep their religion after being captured by Greeks.
 - Jews were able to keep the Temple lit for 8 days despite only having enough lamp oil for 1 day.
- **Passover** celebrates the exodus (leaving) of the Hebrews from Egypt.

Holidays

- **Rosh Hashanah** celebrates the Jewish new year.
- **Yom Kippur** is known as the “Day of Atonement” (asking for forgiveness of sins).
 - **It is the holiest day for Jews.**
 - No work is allowed on this day and much of the day is spent in synagogue.
 - Many Jews fast during this day.



Prayers at the Western Wall during Yom Kippur

- https://youtu.be/m6dCxo7t_aE



CHRISTIANITY

Christianity

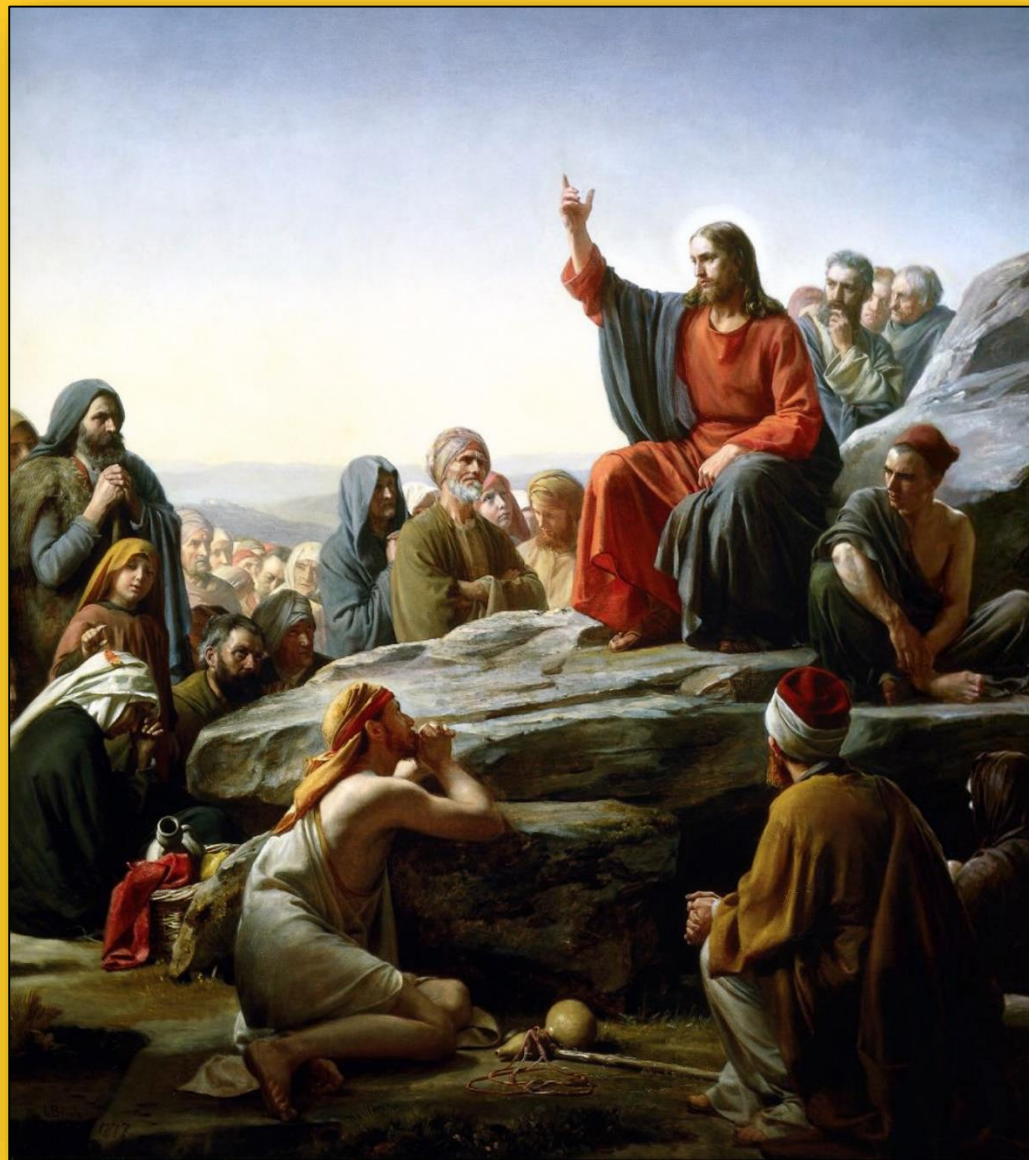
- **Christianity has its roots in Judaism.**
- **Christians believe in Jesus, a carpenter who began to travel and teach around 30 CE.- (important things)**
- **Jesus is the founder**
- **He believed that the old laws of Judaism should be replaced by a simple system based on love and kindness.**
- **Christians believe that Jesus was the messiah (savior).**

Jesus



Jesus

- **Jesus performed miracles and after people saw the results, they became followers.**
- **He laid his hands on people and could heal them.**
- **Jesus used parables (stories that teach lessons) to link his teachings to people's everyday lives.**
- **Jesus soon gained a large following.**



Sermon on the Mount —
Carl Bloch, 1890

Jesus

- **Jesus was not popular with Jewish leaders.**
- **They did not want him to threaten their power and had the Romans arrest him.**
- **Jesus was crucified at the age of 33.**

Messiah

- **Christians believe that Jesus rose from the dead and went to heaven three days later.**
- **They saw the Resurrection as a sign that Jesus was the Messiah (or savior).**
- **This date, 33 CE, is the beginning of Christianity with Jesus as the founder.**

Christians

- **There are about 2.4 billion Christians worldwide.**
- **Christians are grouped by many denominations.**
 - **Examples include Catholicism, Orthodoxy, and Protestantism.**
- **All denominations of Christianity follow the teachings of Jesus. (important things)**
- **Christians worship in churches and chapels.**

Christians





Christian Church in Lebanon

Holy Book

- The **Bible** is the main holy book for Christians.
- It consists of:
 1. The Old Testament -- contains the Ten Commandments (Jews use this too)
Torah
 2. The New Testament -- about Jesus and his teachings



Gutenberg Bible — 1450s
(The first printed book)

Holidays

- **Christmas** is the celebration of the birth of Jesus and is observed on December 25th.
- **Easter** celebrates the death and resurrection of Jesus.

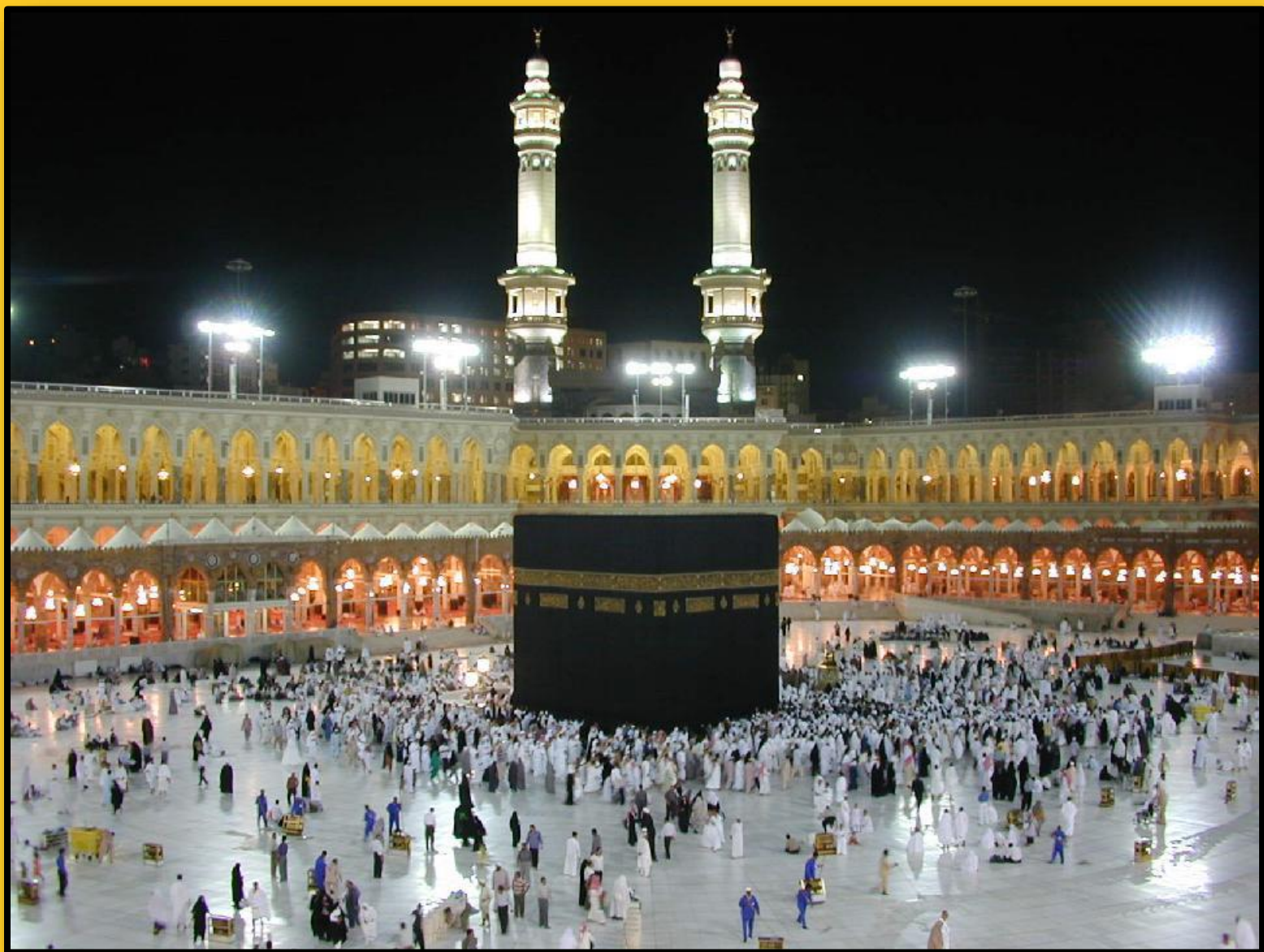


ISLAM

Islam

- **Islam began around 622 CE in Southwest Asia.**
- **In Arabic, *Islam* means “surrender to the will of Allah” (God).**
- **Followers of Islam are called Muslims, and the founder is Muhammad.**
- **Muslims believe that there is only one god (Allah) and that Muhammad is the last and greatest prophet of Islam.**
(important things)
 - **Other prophets include Abraham, Moses, & Jesus.**





The Kaaba at al-Haram Mosque (Mecca, Saudi Arabia) is the center of Islam.

Muhammad

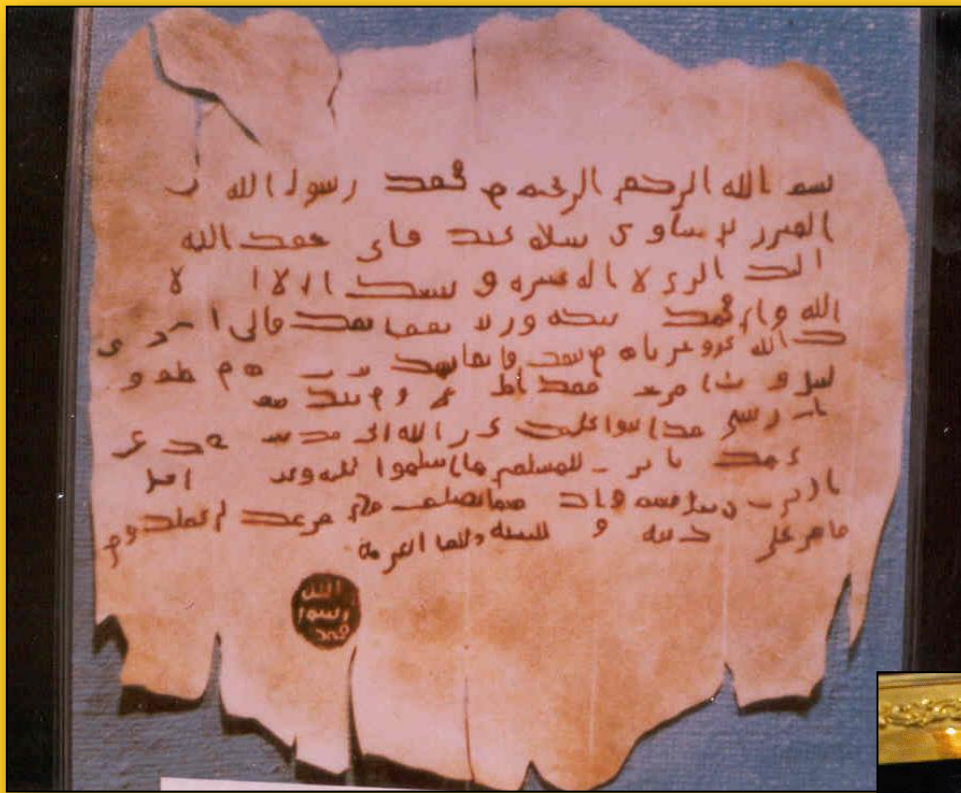
- **In 610 CE, Muhammad was an Arab merchant in Mecca who was concerned about how rich merchants refused to help the needy.**
- **He went to meditate on this in the Cave of Hira.**
- **While there, Muhammad received a message from the angel Gabriel, the messenger of Allah.**

Muhammad

- **Muhammad became known as a prophet of Allah, and he continued to receive messages until his death.**
- **These messages form the basis of Islam and were eventually written into **the Qur'an (the Muslim holy book).****

Muhammad

- **Eventually, others began to listen to Muhammad's messages and this angered Mecca's rulers.**
- **They threatened to kill Muhammad, so he & several hundred of his followers fled to nearby Medina.**
- **Muhammad became a political and spiritual leader in Medina.**
- **Eventually, all of the Arabian Peninsula came to accept Muhammad's teachings and turned to Islam.**



Two letters written by Muhammad.



Muhammad's Hat,
Robe, & Staff

Muhammad's Swords





A Piece of Muhammad's Hair



Muhammad's Sandal

The Green Dome in Medina



Muhammad's grave lies
under the Green Dome.



Followers

- **Muhammad died in 632 CE, but Islam continued to spread.**
 - **Muslim armies conquered empires throughout Southwest Asia, Northern Africa, and the Iberian Peninsula (Europe).**
- **Today, there are 1.8 billion Muslims worldwide.**
 - **1 in every 5 people in the world is Muslim.**
- **It's the second largest religion in the world (behind Christianity).**

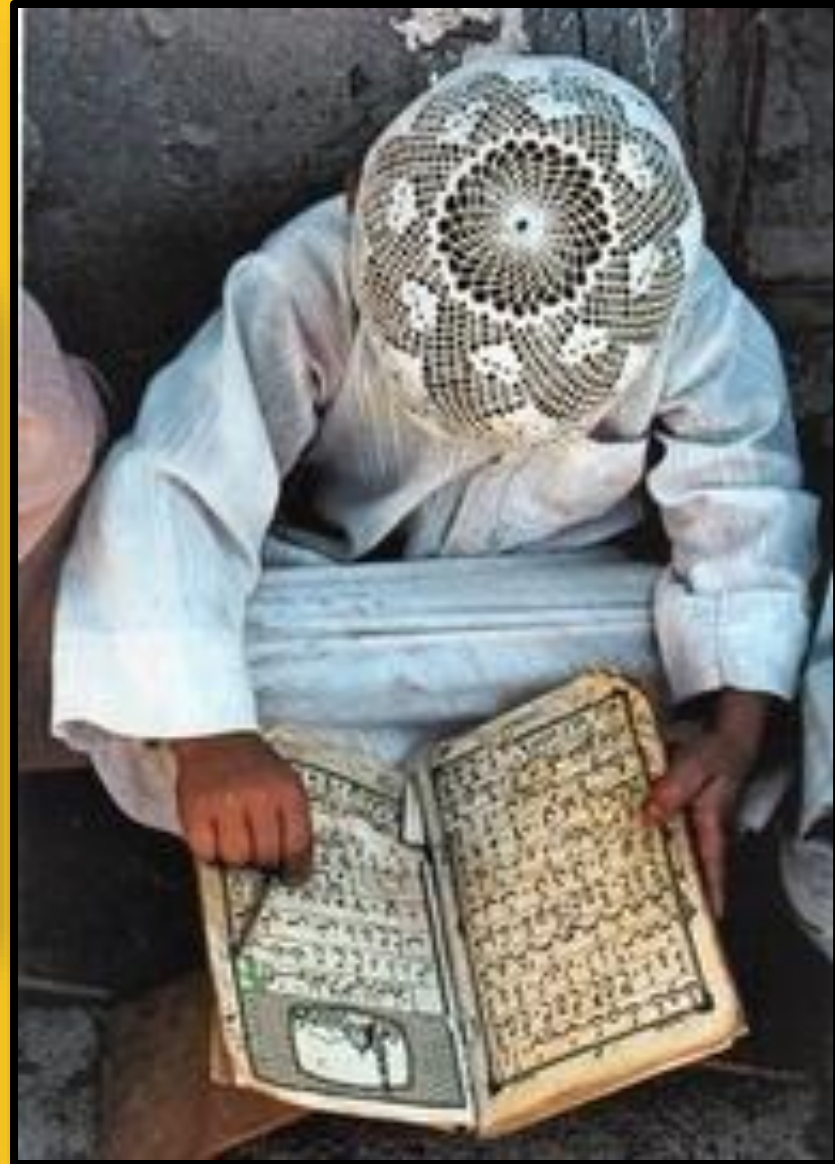
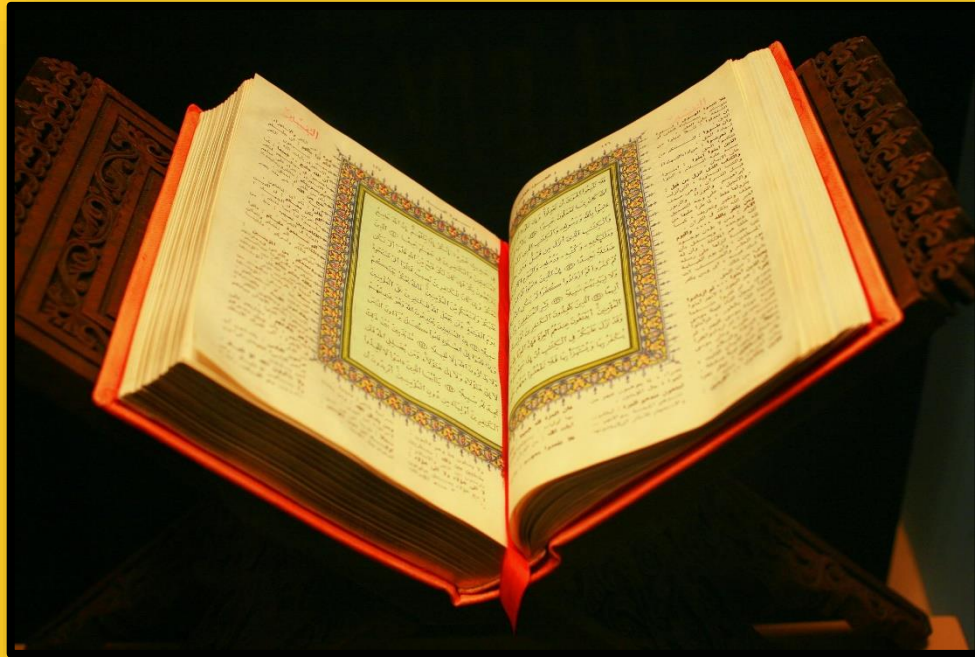


The Kaaba at al-Haram Mosque during the start of Hajj.

Holy Book

- **The Muslim holy book is the Qur'an (Koran).**
- **It states how people should live their lives.**
- **It describes the Five Pillars of Faith (obligations all Muslims must fulfill in their lifetime).**

The Koran



5 Pillars of Faith

(the main duties of Muslims)

- 1. Prayer,**
- 2. Giving to charity,**
- 3. Belief in and submission to one God (Allah),**
- 4. Fasting during the month of Ramadan,**
- 5. and a trip (hajj) to Mecca once in a lifetime.**

Five Pillars of Islam

Declaration
of faith

Obligatory
prayer

Compulsory
giving

Fasting in
the month of
Ramadan

Pilgrimage
to Mecca

شهادة

صلاة

زكاة

صوم

حج

The Grand Mosque in Mecca



Holidays

- **Ramadan** celebrates the time when the Qur'an was revealed to Muhammad.
 - It's the 9th month of the Islamic calendar, and lasts for 29-30 days.
 - Muslims fast during daylight hours during this month.
 - Prayer, reading the Qur'an, and charity are important parts of Ramadan.

Boys reading the Qur'an at a mosque during Ramadan.



Government

- Unlike the other religions, in Islam the Qur'an gives instructions on how laws should be enacted. (important things)
- **The governments of Muslim countries follow the Shari'a, or religious law.**
- **This creates a theocracy, a type of government in which religious leaders are in control.**



SUNNI
& SHI'A

The Split

- **After Muhammad's death, followers fought over who would be his successor and become the next leader.**
- **This fight caused Muslims to split into two groups:**
 1. **Shi'a**
 2. **Sunni**

Shi'a

- Followers of Shi'a believe that the supreme leader (called the Caliph) must be a **blood relative of Muhammad.**
- They are the **minority** branch. Roughly 10% of the world's Muslims are Shi'a.
- This branch of Islam is found mostly in **Iran** and some parts of Iraq.
 - This is the religion of most **Persians** (ethnic group in Iran).

Sunni

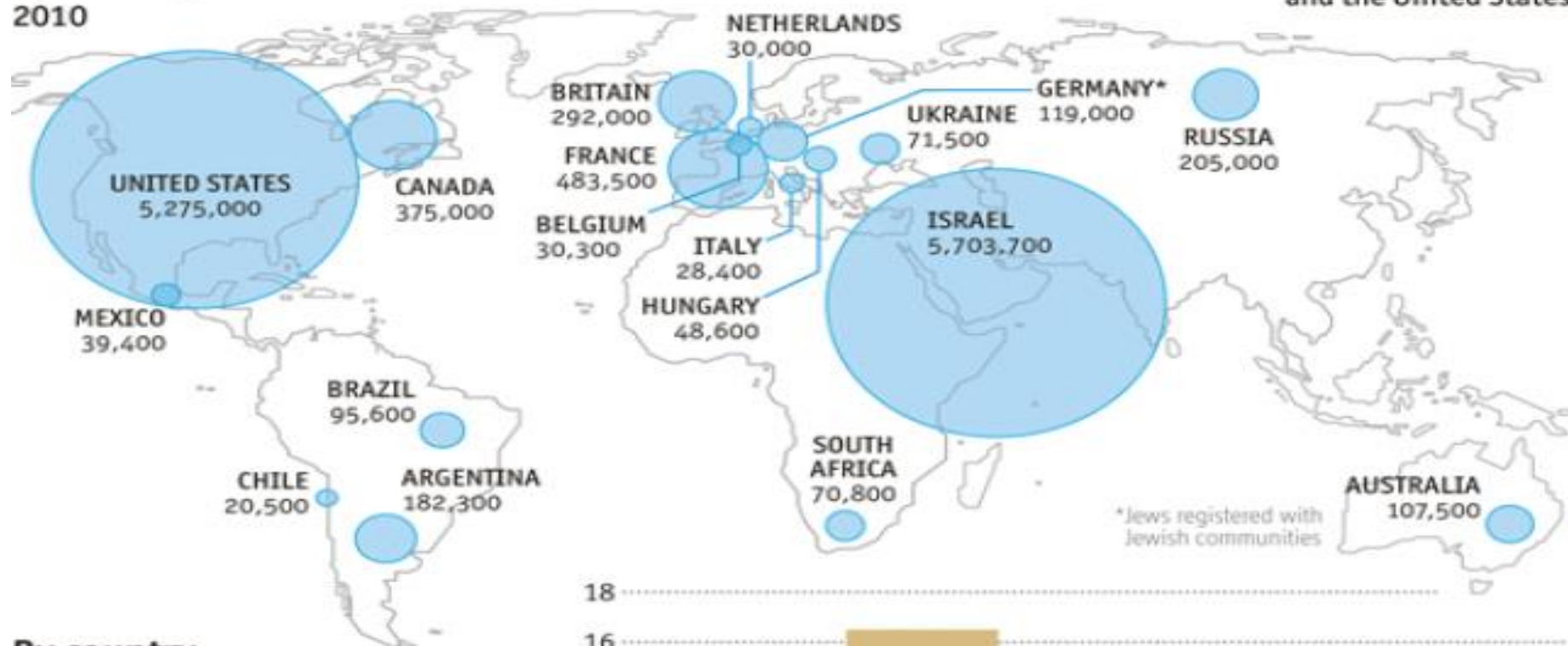
- Sunnis believe that the supreme leader (Caliph) does NOT need to be related to Muhammad.
- This is the **major branch** of the religion, representing about 90% of the world's Muslim population.

Jewish population

By country
2010

13,580,000
World total

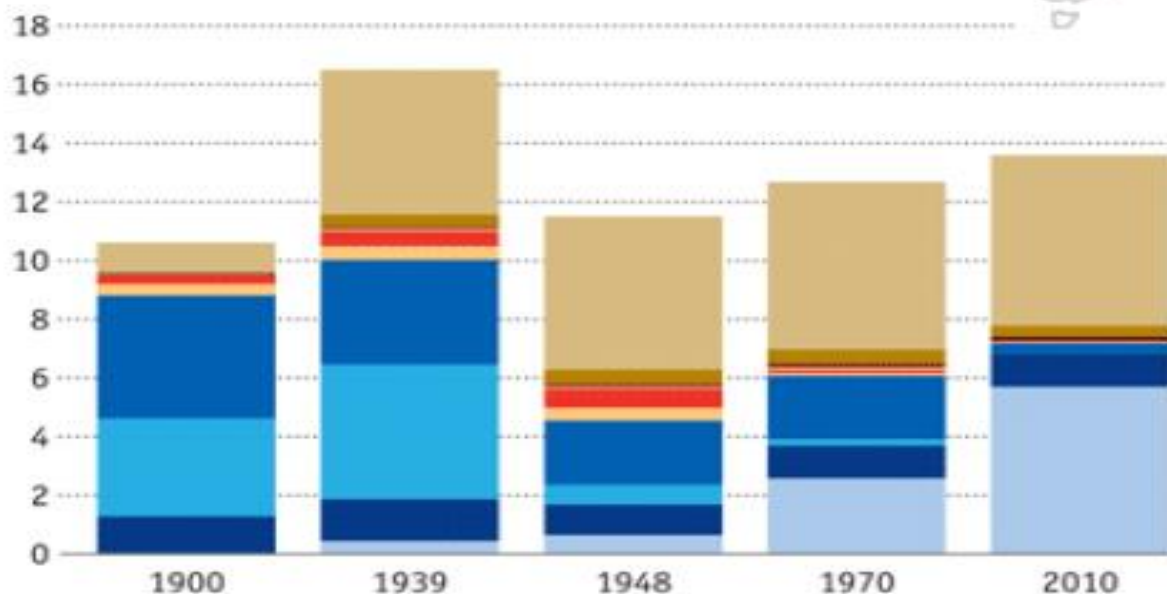
81%
of whom live in Israel
and the United States



*Jews registered with Jewish communities

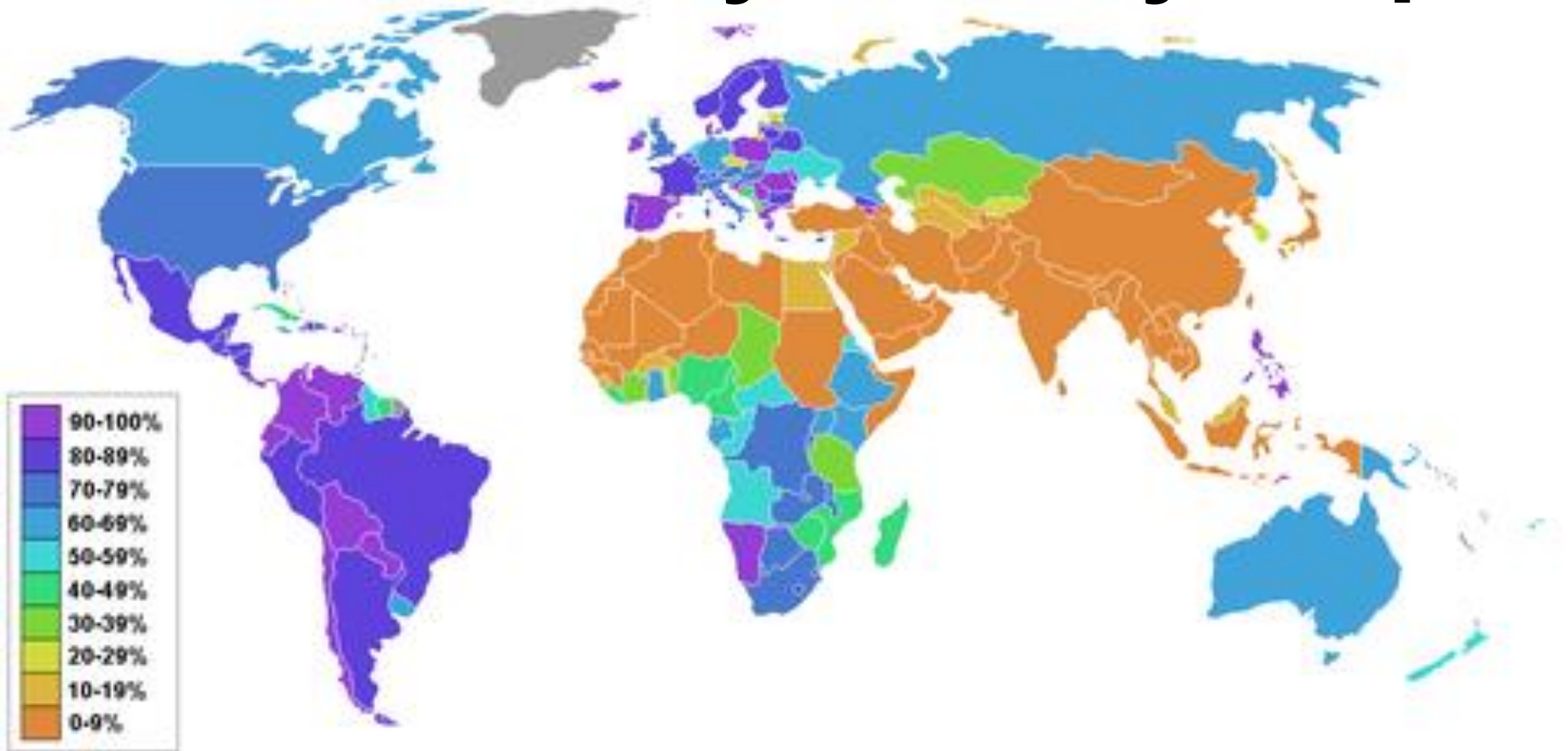
By country or region, m

- Israel (Palestine before 1948)
- Western Europe
- Eastern Europe and Balkans
- Former USSR
- Asia
- North Africa
- South Africa
- Oceania
- Latin America
- North America

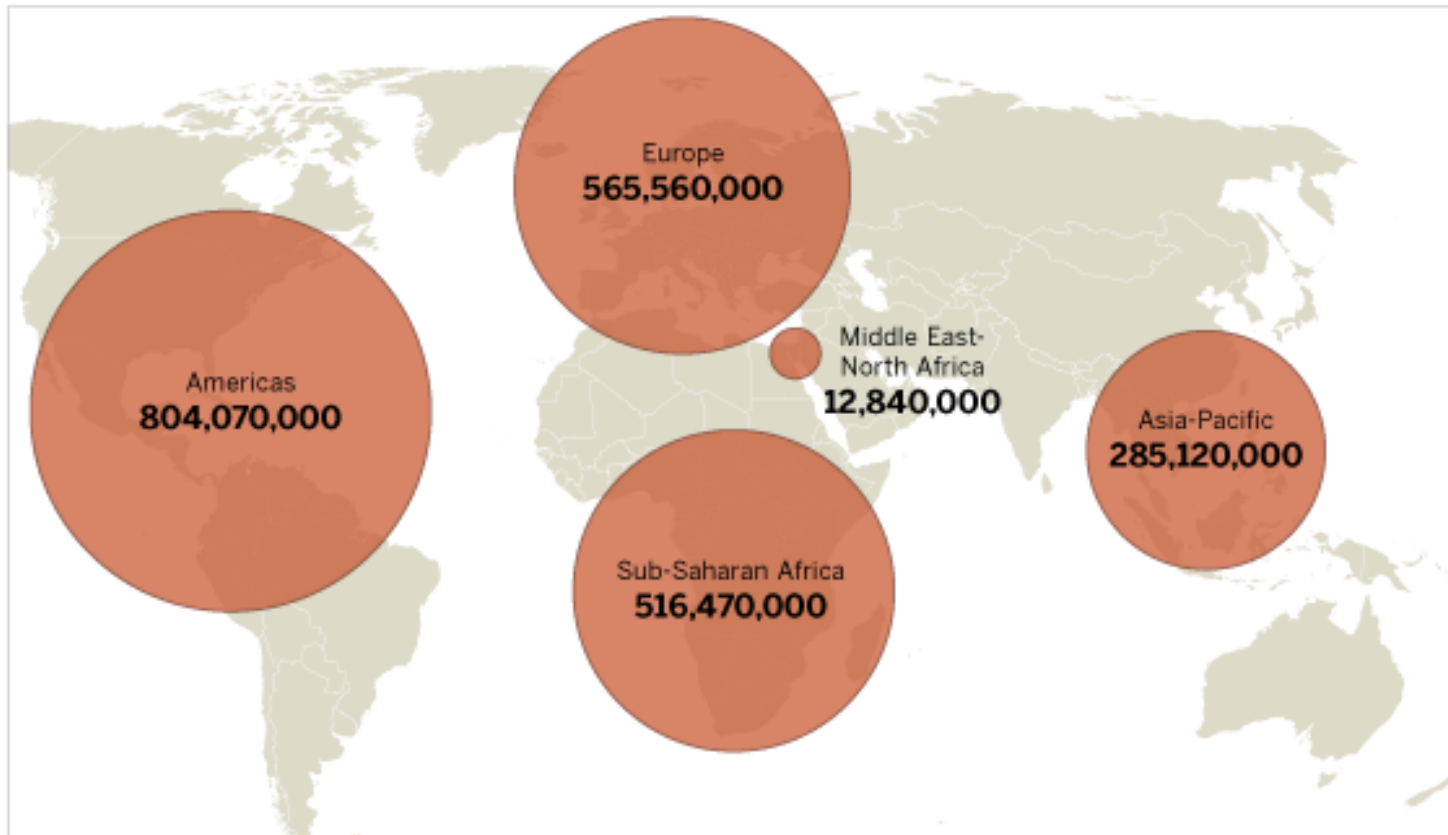


Source: "Jewish Demographic Policies", by Sergio DellaPergola, The Jewish People Policy Institute

Christianity density Map

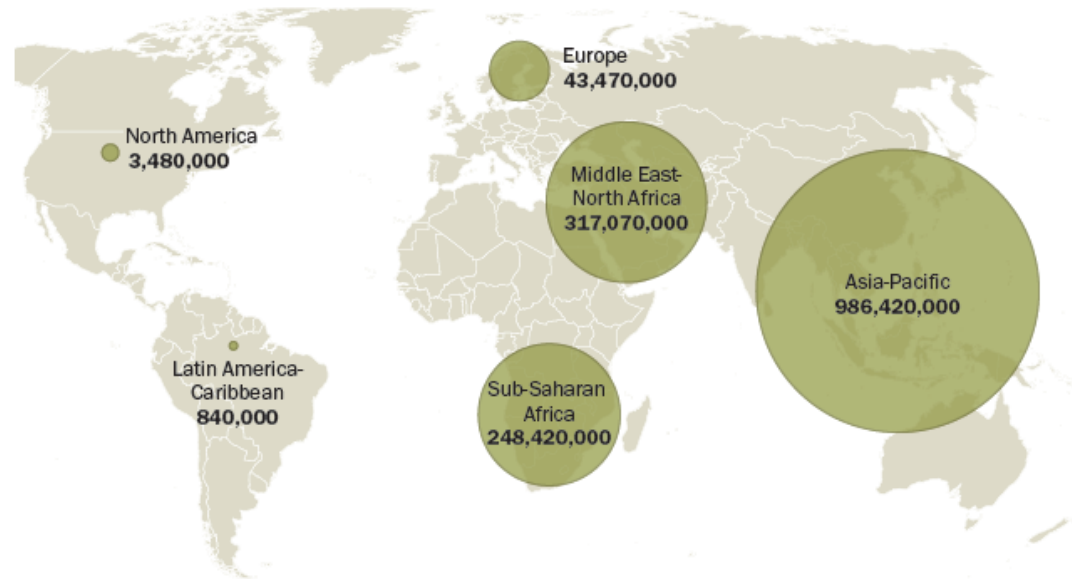


Distribution of Christian Population by Region



Regional distribution of Muslims

Population by region as of 2010



Percentage of world Muslim population in each region as of 2010



Note: Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

SW Asia's Prominent Religions

Directions: Complete the chart below with information that you learned during the presentation.

	Judaism	Christianity	Islam
Founder			
Date Began & Location			
Holy Book			
Followers & How Many			
Holidays			
Important Facts			

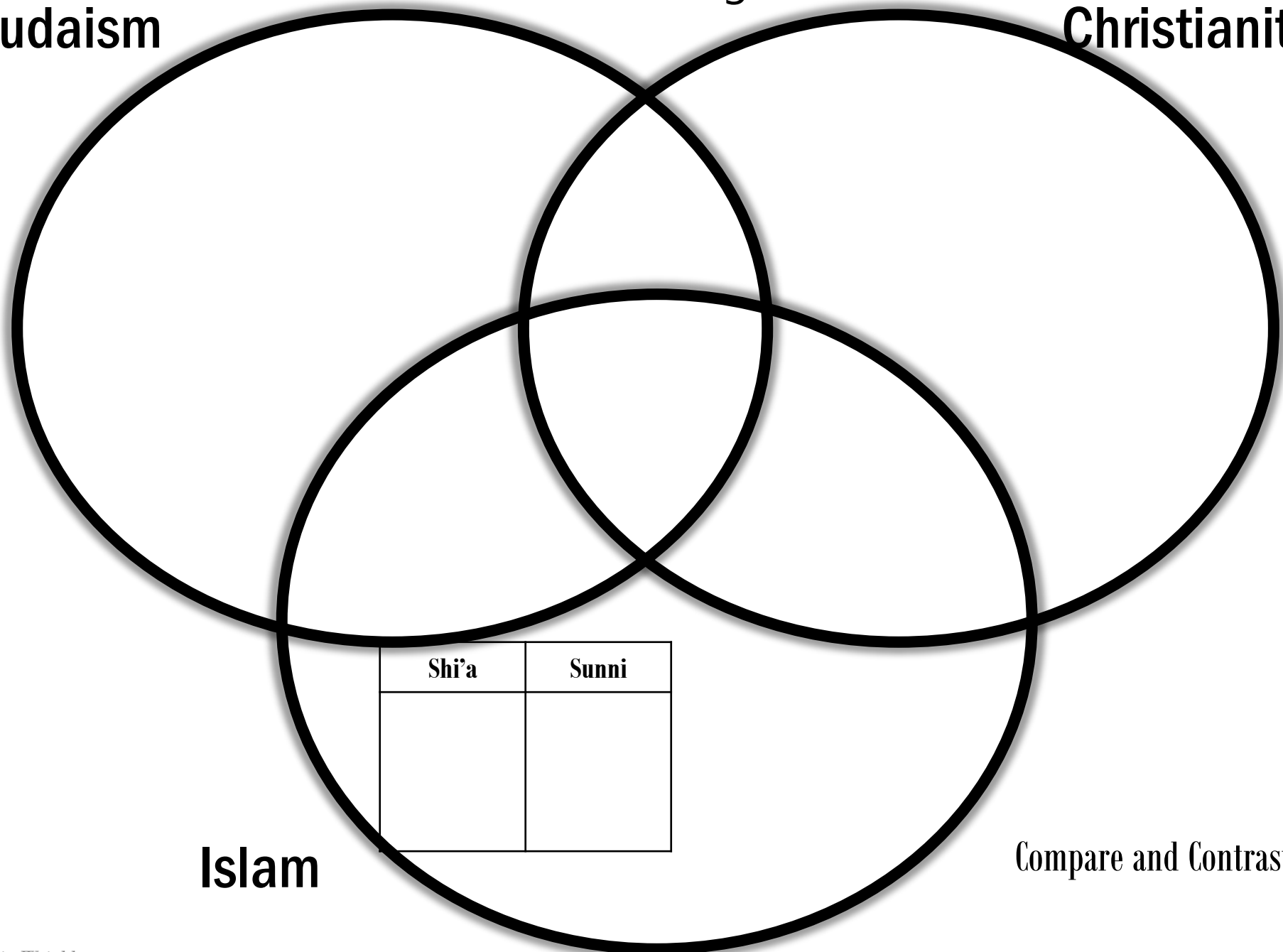
Southwest Asia's Religions -- KEY

	Judaism	Christianity	Islam
Founder	Abraham	Jesus	Muhammad
Date Began & Location	2000 BCE Iraq	30 CE Jerusalem, Israel	610 CE Saudi Arabia
Holy Book	Torah	Bible	Koran
Followers & How Many	Jews 15 million	Christians 2.1 billion	Muslims 1.2 billion
Holidays	Hanukah, Passover, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur	Christmas, Easter	Ramadan
Important Facts	<p>*Answers may vary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jews believe that God gave Moses Ten Commandments • Abraham lived 3,700 years ago in Iraq • Jews worship in synagogues & temples. 	<p>*Answers will vary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christianity has its roots in Judaism • Divided into three major groups: Catholic, Protestant, Eastern Orthodox • Bible consists of Old and New Testament 	<p>*Answers will vary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Islam means “surrender” to the will of Allah (God) • Five Pillars of Faith are obligations all Muslims must fulfill • Fastest growing religion in Western Europe • Two largest groups are Sunnis and Shiites

SW Asia's Religions

Judaism

Christianity



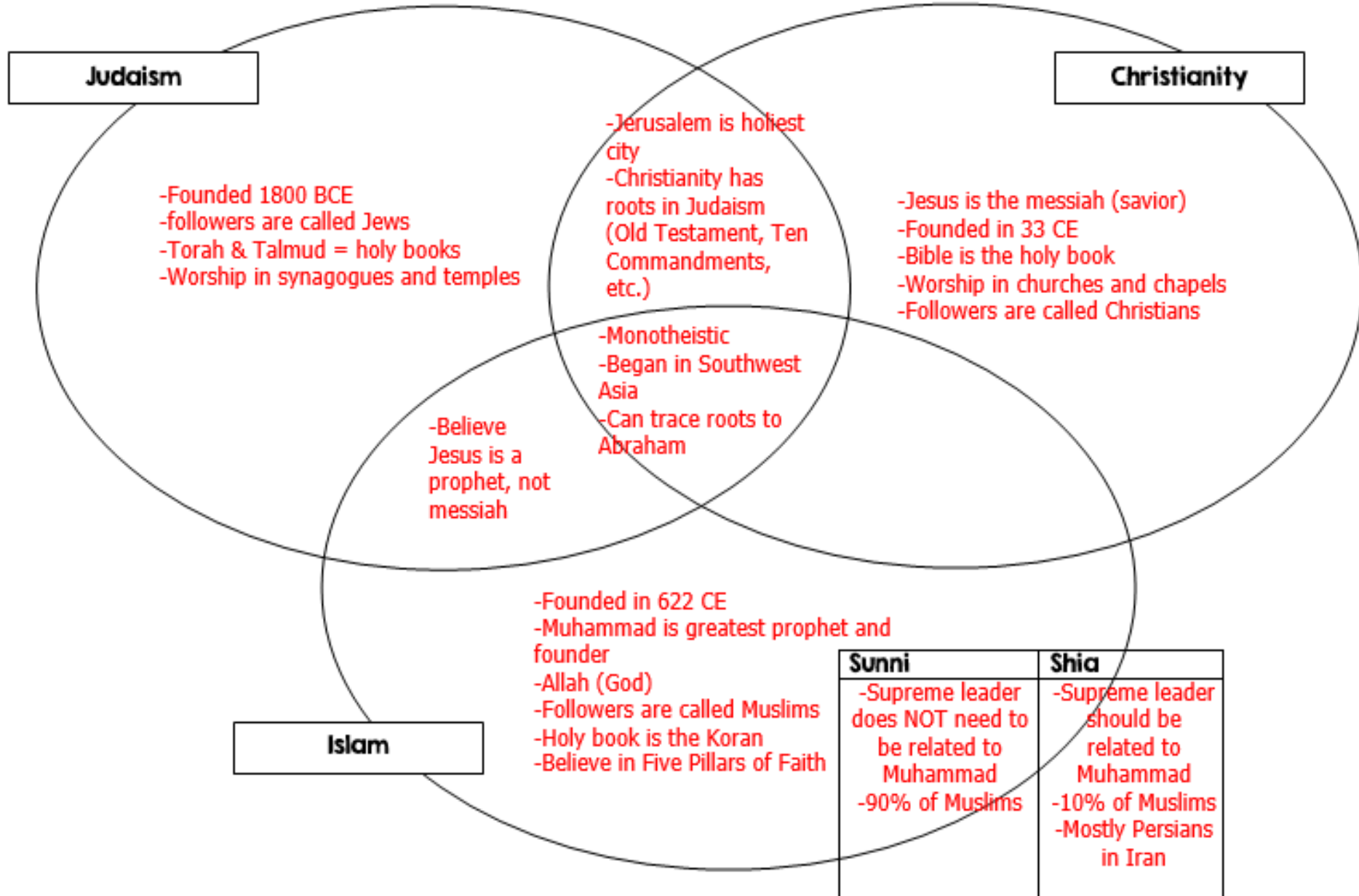
Islam

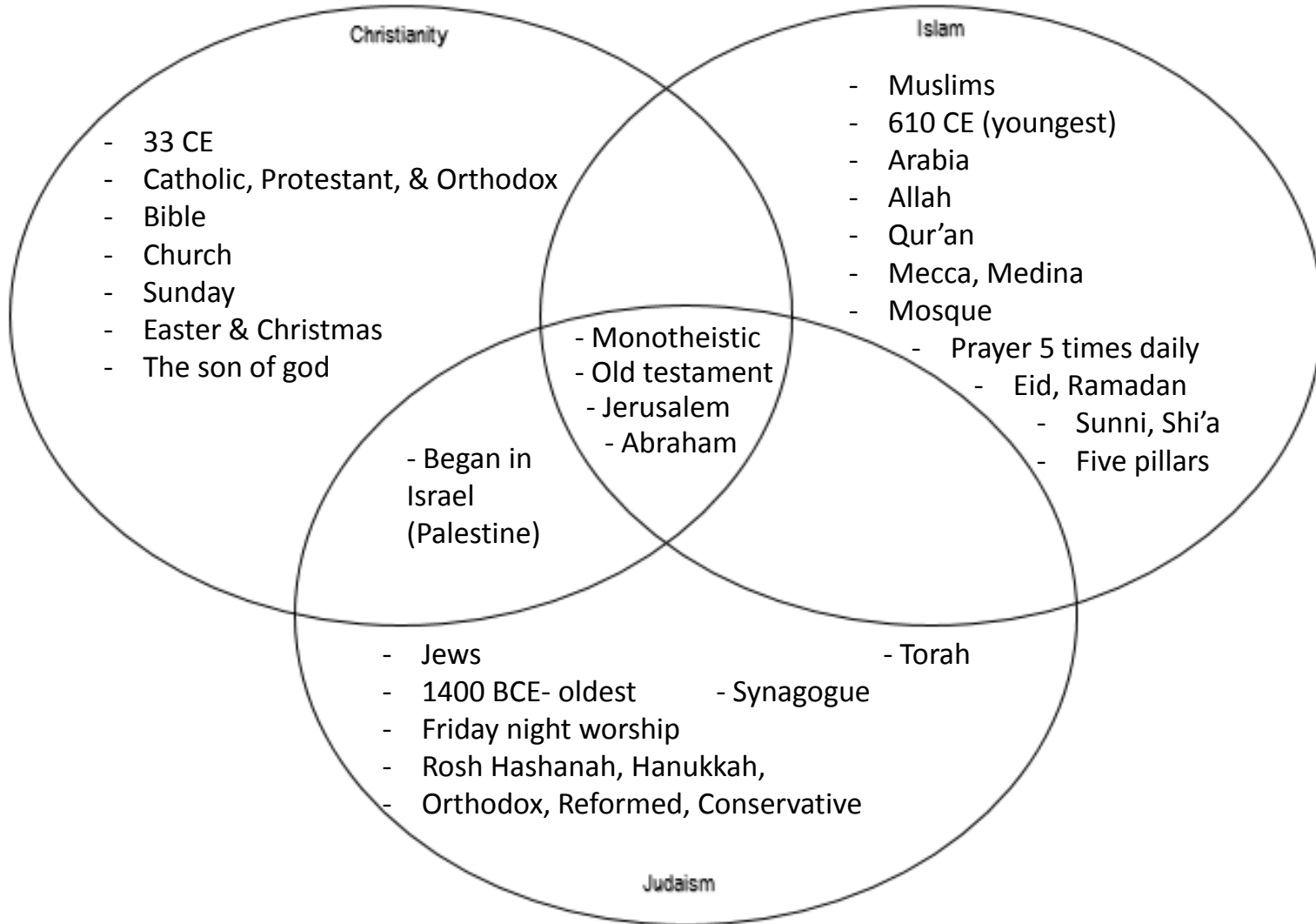
Compare and Contrast

Shi'a	Sunni

Compare and Contrast Southwest Asia's Religions

KEY





Directions: Decide whether each statement is True or False. If the statement is false, please correct it.

1. Judaism, Christianity, & Islam all began in Southwest Asia. _____
2. Jerusalem is a holy city for Muslims and Jews, but not Christians. _____
3. The oldest religion in Southwest Asia is Judaism. _____
4. Muslims believe that Muhammad was the last and greatest prophet. _____
5. In Judaism, Mecca is a sacred place. _____
6. The Koran is the holy book of Islam. _____
7. Abraham was an important prophet for all three religions. _____
8. Christians believe that Jesus is the Messiah. _____
9. Judaism began in the 7th century with Muhammad. _____
10. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are all monotheistic religions. _____

Directions: Decide whether each statement is True or False. If the statement is false, please correct it.

1. Judaism, Christianity, & Islam all began in Southwest Asia. **TRUE**
2. Jerusalem is a holy city for Muslims and Jews, but not Christians. **FALSE**
Jerusalem is a holy city for all three.
3. The oldest religion in Southwest Asia is Judaism. **TRUE**
4. Muslims believe that Muhammad was the last and greatest prophet. **TRUE**
5. In Judaism, Mecca is a sacred place. **FALSE** **Mecca is a sacred place for Islam.**
6. The Koran is the holy book of Islam. **TRUE**
7. Abraham was an important prophet for all three religions. **TRUE**
8. Christians believe that Jesus is the Messiah. **TRUE**
9. Judaism began in the 7th century with Muhammad. **FALSE** **Islam began in the 7th century with Muhammad.**
10. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are all monotheistic religions. **TRUE**

SW Asia's Religions Comprehension Check

Directions: Decide whether each statement is True or False. If the statement is false, please correct it.

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