

WORLD HISTORY

Course Review

Religious Beliefs within the Ancient World

Ancient River Valley Civilizations (3500 B.C.E. – 200 B.C.E.):

1. Theocracy (A Government highly influenced by Religious Beliefs and / or led by a Divine Ruler)
2. Polytheism (A Religion based on the belief in multiple Gods or Deities)

Ancient Mesopotamia (3500 B.C.E. – 200 B.C.E.):

1. Ziggurat (A Pyramid Shaped monument in the center of a city dedicated to the City-God, ie: Ur)

Ancient Egypt (3500 B.C.E. – 450 B.C.E.):

1. Pharaoh (Egyptian Monarchs who were considered “God Kings” due to their divine status)
2. Pyramid (A Large Tomb designed to assist the Pharaoh in their travel to the afterlife)
3. Mummification (Embalming and Drying process used to preserve Royalty / Nobility for the afterlife)
4. Canopic Jars (Clay Vessels used by embalmers to hold the brain, liver, and other internal organs)
5. Hieroglyphics (Form of Pictograph writing known as “Sacred Writing” used for spells, curses, and religious purposes to protect the dead on their passage to the afterlife)

Ancient China (2000 B.C.E. – 250 B.C.E.):

1. Mandate of Heaven (Belief that the royal authority of a monarch came from the God’s or Heaven)
2. Oracle Bones (Animal Bones or Tortoise Shells on which priest wrote scared questions to the Gods)

Ancient India (1500 B.C.E. – 200 B.C.E.)

1. Vedas (Sacred literature of the Aryans who migrated into the Indus Valley around 1500 BCE)
2. Brahmins (Priests within the Aryan social class structure)
3. Caste (Social Class Structure developed based on the Aryan traditions of Reincarnation)
4. Hinduism (Religion founded in India based on the Aryan Vedas, Caste system and Reincarnation)
5. Buddhism (Religion founded in India based on Hindu traditions & teachings of Siddhartha Guatama)
6. Jainism (Religion based on the belief that everything in the Universe has a soul and should not be harmed)
7. Reincarnation (The Hindu and Buddhist belief in rebirth of the individual spirit or soul)
8. Karma (The Hindu and Buddhist belief in the effects of good and bad deeds on the soul)
9. Dharma (The Hindu and Buddhist belief in a person’s moral duties in life)
10. Moksha (The Hindu belief of achieving Perfect Understanding with the Gods and a Release from Life in this World)
11. Enlightenment (The Buddhist tradition of seeking wisdom)
12. Nirvana (Buddhist belief in reaching the ultimate release from selfishness and pain)
13. Siddhartha Guatama (The Founder of Buddhism who’s search for wisdom caused him to become known as the “Enlightened One”)
14. Buddha (Name given to Siddhartha Guatama meaning “Enlightened One”)

Ancient Middle East (1800 B.C.E. – 200 B.C.E.)

1. Monotheism (A Religion based on the belief in only one God)
2. Hebrews (Tribal group cast out of Babylonia due to their adoption of the first Monotheistic Faith)
3. Abraham (Prophet and Patriarch of the Hebrew People who’s two sons – Ishmel and Issac would become promoters of the Monotheistic belief in Palestine and Arabia)
4. Torah (The Sacred Hebrew Scripture containing the first five books of God’s message)
5. Palestine (Major Province in the Middle East originally settled by the Phoenicians along the Mediterranean Sea – located in area adjacent to modern Israel)
6. Canaan (Ancient land of the Philistines traditionally granted to the Hebrews by God)
7. Covenant (A Mutual Promise between God and his followers - originally the Hebrews)
8. Moses (Hebrew Prophet who led his people on the Exodus, out of Slavery in Egypt to Canaan)

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Religious Beliefs within the Classical World

Classical Persia (1500 B.C.E. – 500 B.C.E.):

1. Zoroaster (A Persian Prophet who lived around 600 B.C.E. who promoted a Monotheistic belief that Earth was a battleground between Good & Evil and that People would be judge based on how well they fought for Good)

Classical China (2000 B.C.E. – 220 C.E.):

1. Confucius (A Chinese Philosopher credited with developing the ideologies of filial piety, social order, harmony and moral character that are considered life's philosophical guidelines)
2. Filial Piety (Confucian ideology promoting respect for parents, elders, and ancestors)
3. Daoism (A Philosophical belief promoted by the Chinese Philosopher Laozi based on the idea that a Universal Force called Dao, meaning "The Way," guides all living things.)

Classical India (600 B.C.E. – 400 C.E.)

1. Asoka (King of the Mauryan Empire who promoted the spread of Buddhism in India)
2. Tolerance (Ideology that promoted acceptance of people who held different religious beliefs)
3. Mahayana (Branch of Buddhism that gave up the idea of Nirvana for a new idea of Dedication to Save Humanity through good works and self-sacrifice)
4. Theravada (Branch of Buddhism that maintained a stricter, conservative, adherence to the original teachings of Nirvana)
5. Stupas (Mounded stone structures built over holy relics and serving as holy places of worship)
6. Brahma (Hindu God – "Creator of the World")
7. Vishnu (Hindu God – "Preserver of the World")
8. Shiva (Hindu God – "Destroyer of the World")

Classical Greece and Rome (2000 B.C.E. – 315 C.E.):

1. Mythology (Greek tradition of trying to understand the mysteries of nature and human passion through stories and legends about their Gods. Later adopted by the Romans)
2. Parthenon (Greek temple dedicated to the Goddess Athena)
3. Mount Olympus (Location where the Greek Olympics were dedicated in honor of the Greek God Zeus)
4. Stoicism (Greek Philosophy that proposed that people should live virtuous lives in harmony with the will of God or the natural laws that God established for the Universe)
5. Numina (The powerful spirits or divine forces the Gods worshipped by the early Romans)
6. Jesus (A Jew born in Bethlehem believed to be the Messiah in the Christian faith)
7. Messiah (A term used in both Christianity and Judaism meaning "Savior sent by God")
8. Apostles (The 12 Disciples or pupils of Jesus who spread God's message after the death of Christ)
9. Christianity (Religion that developed from the spreading of God's message by Jesus' Disciples)
10. Judaism (Religion that developed from the spreading of God's message by the Jewish prophets)
11. Diaspora (Initially used to describe the Driving out or Dispersal of the Jews from their Homeland by the Romans after the Fall of Jerusalem in 70 C.E.)
12. Constantine (Roman Emperor who converted to Christianity and named it the Religion of the Empire)
13. Bishop (A member of the Catholic Church who supervises several local churches)
14. Pope (The term used to identify the "Father" or Head of the Catholic Church in Rome)
15. Peter (One of the Apostles who became the first Bishop of Rome and first Catholic Pope)
16. Tribute (Tax or money paid by a weaker power to a stronger one to maintain peace)
17. Bible (Holy test or Sacred Scripture of the Christian faiths)

The Africa World (1500 B.C.E. – 700 C.E.):

1. Animism (Religious belief in which spirits are present in animals, plants, and other natural forces)
2. Aksum (City-State in Modern Ethiopia that is the oldest center of Judaism & Christianity in Africa)

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Religious Beliefs during the Age of Expansion

The Meso-American World (1500 C.E. – 1000 C.E.):

1. Calendar (Meso-American Civilizations had calendars that focused on Religious Festivals)
2. Sacrifices (Meso-American Civilizations conducted both animal and human sacrifices to their Gods in hopes of promoting good harvests and prosperity for their societies)
3. Pyramid Temples (Aztecs and Mayan Civilizations constructed Pyramid Temples dedicated to the Gods)
4. Mamakuna (Incan term meaning “Virgins of the Sun” used to identify young women trained for Religious Service as teachers, spinners, weavers, etc.)
5. Sun God (Primary God of most Mesoamerican Civilizations)

The Muslim World (600 C.E. – 1250 C.E.):

1. Allah (Arabic term meaning “God”)
2. Muhammad (The Last True Prophet of the Islamic faith)
3. Revelation (The realization of God’s word or message as revealed to his prophets - ie: Muhammad)
4. Islam (Arabic term meaning “Submission to the will of Allah.”)
5. Muslim (Arabic term meaning “One who has submitted to the will of Allah.”)
6. Mecca (The holy city of the Islamic faith where the Great Shrine is located in Saudi Arabia)
7. Hijrah (The Migration by Muhammad and his followers between Mecca and Medina)
8. Ka’ba (The Sacred Temple or Shrine in Mecca traditionally believed to be erected in God’s Honor by Ishmael and his father Abraham)
9. Mosque (An Islamic house of Worship)
10. Hajj (The Sacred Pilgrimage to Mecca required by each Muslim once in their lifetime)
11. Quran (The Holy Book or Scriptures of the Islamic Faith)
12. Caliphs (Traditional rulers of Islam who were considered the “Successors of Muhammad”)
13. Caliphate (Sub-Territory within the Islamic World ruled by a Muslim Ruler or successor)
14. Shi’a (A Sub-group of the Islamic Faith called the “Party of Ali” who believed that all Caliph’s should be descendents of Muhammad)
15. Sunni (A Sub-group of the Islamic Faith called the “followers of Muhammad” who believed that Caliph’s did not need to be descendents, but simply lead the people based on Muhammad’s examples)
16. Sufi (A Sub-group of the Islamic faith who pursued a life of poverty and devotion to Allah)
17. Umayyads (A Muslim Dynasty with a capital in Damascus, Syria, that followed the Sunni beliefs)
18. Abbasids (A Muslim Dynasty with a capital in Baghdad, Iraq, that followed the Shi’a beliefs)
19. Al-Andalus (Muslim state established in Southern Spain between 711 – 732 C.E.)
20. Fatimid (A Muslim Caliphate formed by Shi’a Muslims in North Africa in the late 1200’s C.E.)
21. Cordoba (The Muslim Capital of the Umayyad Dynasty in Spain)
22. Cairo (The Muslim Capital of the Fatimid Caliphate in Egypt)
23. House of Wisdom (Early Muslim Library, Academy, and Translation Center in Baghdad)

Eastern Europe (500 C.E. – 1500 C.E.):

1. Hagia Sophia (Magnificent Cathedral built in Constantinople during the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Justinian, which means “Holy Wisdom”)
2. Schism (Term used to describe the division of the Catholic Church by the 11th Century)
3. Patriarch (Leading Bishop or “Father” of the Eastern Orthodox Church in the Byzantine Empire)
4. Icons (Religious images of Saints or other figures used in the Eastern Orthodox Church)

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Religious Beliefs during the Middle Ages

Middle Age Europe (700 C.E. – 1500 C.E.):

1. Christendom (Large region of Europe unified under Charlemagne & dominated by the Christian Faith)
2. Divine Rights (The idea, established by the crowning of a Monarch by a Church Official, that the ruler and his family had been ordained by God to rule over their people)
3. Monasteries (Christian communities with large libraries dedicate to the preservation and dissemination of classical and religious knowledge)
4. Secular (A trend during the Middle Ages when the focus began to turn from spiritual matters to more worldly endeavors of wealth, nature and science)
5. Clergy (All the religious officials of the Catholic Church under the control of the Pope)
6. Sacraments (Important Religious ceremonies in the Catholic Church, ie: Marriage, Baptism, etc.)
7. Canon Law (Church rules and guidelines concerning the sacraments and religious practices)
8. Excommunication (Catholic punishment in which a church member is banished or cast out)
9. Interdiction (Catholic punishment that forbids a church member from receiving the sacraments)
10. Lay Investiture (Ceremony where Nobles were appointing church officials instead of Cardinals or Popes)
11. Concordat (An agreement or compromise between the Catholic Church and the State or Monarchy)
12. Concordat of Worms (Formal agreement between the Church and Holy Roman Emperor that was designed to put an end to the issue of Lay Investiture – held in the German city of Worms)
13. Simony (The practice of selling church positions or offices, or receiving bribes for church favors)
14. Heresy (Any act or practice by a Christian that went against the accepted policies or practices of the Catholic Church)
15. Crusade (Historical term used to describe the Christian Holy Wars designed to Reclaim the Holy Lands from the Muslims – Known at the time as “Taking up the Cross”)
16. Pope Urban II (Catholic Pope who called for Christian to “Take up the Cross” during the First Crusade)
17. Saladin (Muslim leader and Kurdish warrior who led the Arabs against the Christians during the Second and Third Crusades)
18. Reconquista (Crusade to drive the Muslim Moors out of Spain between the 1100’s and 1400’s C.E.)
19. Inquisition (Catholic Tribunal or Court designed to suppress Heresy)
20. Great Schism (Event during the Middle Ages when three Pope’s challenged each other for control over the Catholic Church)

Religious Beliefs during the Age of Change

Europe (1200 C.E. – 1800 C.E.):

1. Gutenberg Bible (The first Bible to be mass produced on the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg during the Renaissance)
2. Reformation (Period of major changes in the traditional practices of the Christian Church that created many new Christian Churches in Europe)
3. 95 Thesis (Document written by Martin Luther outlining the problems with certain practices in the Catholic Church)
4. Indulgences (The act of providing a pardon for sins in exchange for a monetary donation to the Catholic Church – Intended to raise money to build St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome)
5. Lutherans (The followers of Martin Luther’s teachings who formed their own church in Europe)
6. Papal Bull (A Decree issued by the Pope)
7. Diet of Worms (The formal Church Tribunal or Trial of Martin Luther on the charges of Heresy and Blasphemy – held in the German city of Worms)
8. Protestants (Christians where noble princes and their followers who protested against the Catholic Churches authority to put people on trial and banish them from the church)
9. Peace of Augsburg (Agreement signed in 1555 allowing the rulers of each kingdom to decide what Christian Religion their kingdom would adopt – signed in the city of Augsburg)
10. Annul (The act, reserved by the Pope’s authority, to set aside a marriage – to make it void)

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Religious Beliefs during the Age of Change (Continued)

Europe (1200 C.E. – 1800 C.E.) - Cont:

11. Anglican (The Church of England established by Queen Elizabeth, which combined practices from both the Catholic and Protestant religions, with the intent of ending religion conflict)
12. Calvinism (A Religion established during the Reformation based on the ideas of Predestination and Theocracy taught by John Calvin)
13. Predestination (Ideology promoted by John Calvin that God chooses a very few people to save and already decided who was to be saved)
14. Theocracy (Ideology supported by John Calvin that governments should be greatly influenced, or even led, by religious leaders and/or guidelines)
15. Presbyterians (A Religion established during the Reformation by John Knox in Scotland based on the idea that the Church Community should be governed by a group of laymen called elders)
16. Anabaptists (A Religion established during the Reformation that promoted baptism at birth and re-baptism at adulthood and taught that church and state should be separate)
17. Huguenots (The members of a Protestant Religion established in France during the Reformation)
18. Jesuits (Members of the “Society of Jesus” established as a Catholic order in 1540 as an effort to counter the Protestant reformation and preserve the Catholic Church through education and conversion)
19. Council of Trent (Conference of Catholic Bishops and Cardinals held in the Italian city of Trent in an effort to reform the Catholic Church)

The Muslim World (1300 C.E. – 1700 C.E.):

1. Ghazis (An Turkic term used to describe Turkish warriors for Islam)
2. Taj Mahal (Burial Tomb or Memorial dedicated to Mumtaz Mahal, wife of Shah Jahan of India)

Spanish America (1400 C.E. – 1800 C.E.):

1. Treaty of Tordesillas (An agreement established by Pope Alexander VI setting boundaries for exploration and conquest between Spain and Portugal to prevent possible armed conflict in the New World)
2. Conquistadores (Spanish Soldiers and Explorers given authority by the Monarchy and Church in Rome to spread the influences of Spain and the Catholic Church throughout the New World “By the Book or By the Sword.”)

Colonial North America (1650 C.E. – 1800 C.E.)

1. Pilgrims (Colonists who settled in Massachusetts after being persecuted for their Religious beliefs in England)
2. Puritans (Colonists who settled in Massachusetts after being persecuted by the Anglican Church in England)
3. Huguenots (Colonists who settled in Carolina and Georgia after being persecuted for their Religious beliefs in France and the Netherlands)

Religious Beliefs during the Age of Revolutions and Reform

Europe (1550 C.E. – 1800 C.E.):

1. Edict of Nantes (A Declaration by the King of France concerning religious tolerance in France)
2. Thirty Years War (A Thirty Year Conflict between Protestant and Catholic leaders in Europe)
3. Treaty of Westphalia (A Treaty that would end the religious wars in Europe)
4. Freedom of Religion (Concepts developed out of Voltaire’s ideas of Universal Tolerance)
5. Holy Alliance (A Pledge between European Nations to treat each other using Christian beliefs)

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Religious Beliefs during the Age of Imperialism

Western Imperialism (1850 C.E. – 1914 C.E.):

1. Missionaries (Religious Clergy and members of the Christian Church who promoted the spread of Christianity throughout the world as a part of Global Imperialism)
2. Sepoy Mutiny (The rebellion of Indian Soldiers against the British Army based on Hindu and Islamic beliefs concerning the use of animal fats to grease the cartridges for their weapons)

Religious Beliefs in the Modern World

New Nations (1946 – 1950)

1. Partition (Practice of dividing a country or state between two key groups based on ethnic or religious differences. This was done twice: Partition of India into Hindu dominated India and Muslim dominated Pakistan; Partition of Palestine into Jewish dominated Israel and Muslim dominated Palestine)
2. Muslim League (A Political organization in India created to protect the Muslim interests in India)
3. Zionists (Members of a Jewish organization determined to re-establish a Homeland for the Jews in the traditional holy lands of Palestine)

Middle East Conflicts (1947 – Present):

1. Arab-Israeli Wars (Series of conflicts between the country of Israel and the Arab Muslim states over the Political and Religious rights to control the holy lands and territories of Palestine)
2. Mujahideen (Farsi term used to describe the “Holy Warriors” of Afghanistan who opposed Soviet Or U.S. Control of their country)
3. Islamic Fundamentalists (Religious extremists who promote conflict with the west based on their interpretation of the Quran and other Religious Leaders)