COMMON HERITAGE

Judaism, Christianity and Islam developed in succession with Christianity developing out of Judaism and Islam developing out of both Judaism and Christianity. As a result of this common heritage the three faiths share several key features:

1. First and most important, Judaism, Christianity and Islam are monotheistic religions that believe in an all-powerful God that created the world and everything in it.
2. They all believe that this God is benevolent, trustworthy, and just.
3. In all three faiths, humanity is directed to follow God's will; those who obey are rewarded and those who do not are punished.
4. Next, the three faiths believe in divinely directed messengers, humans who bring God's message to the people.

- These messengers direct people's actions and beliefs and for all three faiths they are preserved in Holy Scripture.
- Judaism, Christianity and Islam share several of these messengers including, among others, Abraham, Noah, and Moses.
- Christianity and Islam also share John the Baptist and Jesus, however Islam does not recognize Jesus as a Messiah while Christianity does.

COMMON HERITAGE

Judaism, Christianity and Islam also share some scripture.

- While the value placed on this scripture varies from faith to faith, all three recognize much of the content of the Torah as religious truth.

- Christianity and Islam also share much of the New Testament of the Bible.

- The faiths also share a common spiritual geography in the city of Jerusalem. All three faiths consider Jerusalem profoundly important as a holy place.