



FACT SHEET

ISLAM, JUDAISM, AND CHRISTIANITY

Monotheistic Religions

The 3 main 'monotheistic' (mono- one, the only; Theo – god, or one god), religions are Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. Each of these 3 religions originated in the Middle East. The oldest of these religions is Judaism, followed by Christianity, and then Islam.

The following table compares aspects of these religions:

Religion	Judaism	Christianity	Islam
Name given to followers	Jews	Christians	Muslims
Who do they worship?	Yod Heh Vav Heh (YHVH), Messiah	God, Holy Father	Allah
Doctrinal Book	Torah, Talmud	Bible	Qur'an
Name of Founder	Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (patriarchs)	Jesus Christ	Mohammad
Symbol	Magen-David (Star) 	Cross 	Crescent/star 
Holy Sites	Jerusalem, Israel	Jerusalem, Israel	Mecca, Medina (Saudi Arabia) Jerusalem, Israel
Place of Worship	Synagogue, Temple	Church	Mosque
Day of Worship	Sunset Fri-Sunset Sat (Shabbat)	Sunday	Friday
Religious Leader	Rabbi	Pope/Archbishop/Priest	Ayatollah/Imam/Mullah
Important Ceremonies	Passover/Yom Kippur/Hannukah	Christmas/Easter	Ramadan
Dietary Laws	Kosher	Some observe dietary restrictions during Lent	Halal
Numbers worldwide	approx 14 million	approx 2 billion	approx 1 billion
Percentage Worldwide	0.23%	33%	17%
Approx date of origin	2500 BCE	4 CE	622 CE
Branches of faith	Orthodox, Conservative Reform	Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, Quakers, Maronite etc...	Sunni, Shi'a, Sufi
Dress Code	Observed by Orthodox & some Conservative Jews	Some faiths require modest dress	Modest dress code for men and women. Varies around the world.
Main areas of faith	Israel, US, Europe	Europe, Americas, NZ, Africa, Aust, Pacific	North Africa, West & Central Asia, SE Asia
Numbers in New Zealand	6,636- 01 census	2,043,840- 01 census	23,631- 01 census
% of NZ population	0.17%	53%	0.62%

http://www.religioustolerance.org/comp_isl_chr.htm
Comparing & Contrasting Christianity & Islam