

“Do All Roads Lead to Heaven?”

God Questions

Part 4

1 Peter 3: 15 “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,”

Whenever you learn more about God:

- **You learn more about yourself**
- **You understand more about Life**
- **You can worship God more deeply!**
- **You become more equipped to have meaningful “God conversations”**

John 14: 1-6 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ² In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.”

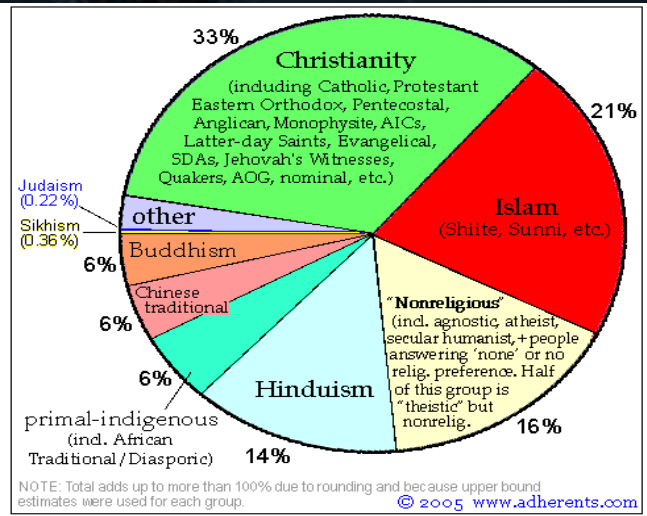
Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” *know the way?”*

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it" Matthew 7:13–14

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved" Acts 4:12



African Traditional Religion

Followers = 100 million, primarily in Africa

Views of God = Animism/Polytheism

Means to God = Sacrifices

Animism is the spiritual belief that all creation ... has animation or life within it

Primal-Indigenous

Followers = 300 million

View of God = Polytheism

Chinese Traditional Religion

Followers = 394 million (mostly in China)

Founders = Lao-Tzu (604 – 531 BC) and Confucius (551 – 479 BC)

View of God = No particular deity/impersonal force

Means to God = more of an ethical system than a religious one

Buddhism

Followers = 488 million

Founder = Siddhartha Gautama (563 – 483 BC)

View of God = not stressed

Means to God = The Four Noble Truths

Four Noble Truths

- 1. Suffering is universal**
- 2. Craving is the root cause of suffering**
- 3. The cure for suffering is to eliminate craving**
- 4. Craving is eliminated by following the Eightfold Path:**
 - (1) Right views**
 - (2) Right Thought**
 - (3) Right speech**
 - (4) Right behavior**
 - (5) Right occupation**
 - (6) Right effort**
 - (7) Right contemplation**
 - (8) Right meditation**

Hinduism

Followers = 1 billion

Founded = 1800 – 1000 BC

View of God = Pantheism

Means to God = The Transmigration of Souls/Reincarnation

View of the Afterlife = “Release”

Hindus believe there is one uniform force in the universe to meld into the inanimate force of the universe, to be reabsorbed into the great cosmic unconsciousness

Hindus view of God is called pantheism. This belief is that God is in everything and everything is God

Secularism/Nonreligious/Agnostics/Atheists

Followers = 1.1 billion – nonreligious; agnostics and atheists

“Sociologists point out that there are no truly ‘secular’ societies.’ . . . ‘Nonreligious’ people . . . are those who derive their worldview and value system from alternative, secular, cultural or otherwise nonrevealed systems rather than traditional religious systems.”

Islam

Followers = 1.6 Billion

Founder = Muhammad

View of God = Monotheism

Means to God = The Five Pillars of Islam

View of the Afterlife = Paradise

Five Pillars of Islam

- 1. Recite the Shahada = which is the Islamic creed that states, "There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet."**
- 2. Pray five times a day facing the city of Mecca**
- 3. Give to the poor**
- 4. Fast during daylight hours during the month of Ramadan**
- 5. Hajj—Take a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in your life,**

Christianity is the largest religion in the world

Followers = 2.2 billion

Founder = Jesus Christ

View of God = Monotheism

Means to God = Atonement/Substitution

View of the Afterlife = Heaven

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God” 1 Peter

3:18

Heaven is a place in the presence of God Himself, where we will have meaningful responsibilities, full knowledge of ourselves and God and experience unspeakable joy

‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away” Revelation 21:4

Do all Roads Lead to Heaven?

- 1. Every religion claims to be the only way to God***
- 2. Every religion has different road map***
- 3. Every religion has different ideas of the afterlife***
- 4. These religions represent 95 percent of all humanity, so likely the right choice is among them.***
- 5. Some people ask, "Would a loving God let sincere people miss heaven?"***

***A. How much More loving could God be than to give us
"The way The truth & His own life for us"***

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Christianity teaches that there is nothing you can do to achieve heaven

Romans 3:23 "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Since God is perfect, the only way to get into His presence is to be perfect or be forgiven of all you've done wrong

"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" Romans 6:23

"To all who did receive Him, to show who believed in His name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12

***“Lord Jesus,
I admit that I am a sinner in need of a Savior.
Come into my life, and live Your life through
me.
Give me the courage to live the rest of my life
for you.
In Jesus’s name, amen!”***

This week:

- 1. Read Acts chapter 4***
- 2. Memorize John 16:6 or Acts 4:12***
- 3. Invite someone to join you next week for
“How can a good God allow suffering?”***

the way?”