

COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS

Ms. Rosenberg
Western Civilizations I

WHAT IS RELIGION?

- How do you define the word ‘religion’?
- My definition: a set of beliefs, practices, and traditions agreed upon by a number of people who live their lives according to its teachings



MONOTHEISM VS. POLYTHEISM

- Monotheism – a belief in one god
- Examples: Judaism, Christianity, Islam
- Polytheism – a belief in many gods
- Examples: Buddhism, Hinduism, Ancient Greek paganism



TIMELINE OF MONOTHEISTIC RELIGIONS

~1800 BC

Abraham receives the Covenant, moves to Canaan – birth of Judaism

~1250 BC

Moses leads the Israelites from Egypt to Israel – The Exodus

1 AD

Birth of Jesus

33 AD

Death of Jesus

622 AD

Muhammad flees Mecca – Hejira



Abraham



Married to Sarah

Servant was Hagar

Child was Isaac

Child was Ishmael



JUDAISM



ISLAM



JUDAISM

HISTORY

- First monotheistic religion

Biblical History

- Abraham – first Jew, Patriarch
- Promised Land (Canaan)
- Slavery & Exodus from Egypt

Post Biblical History

- The Diaspora
- Continued persecution



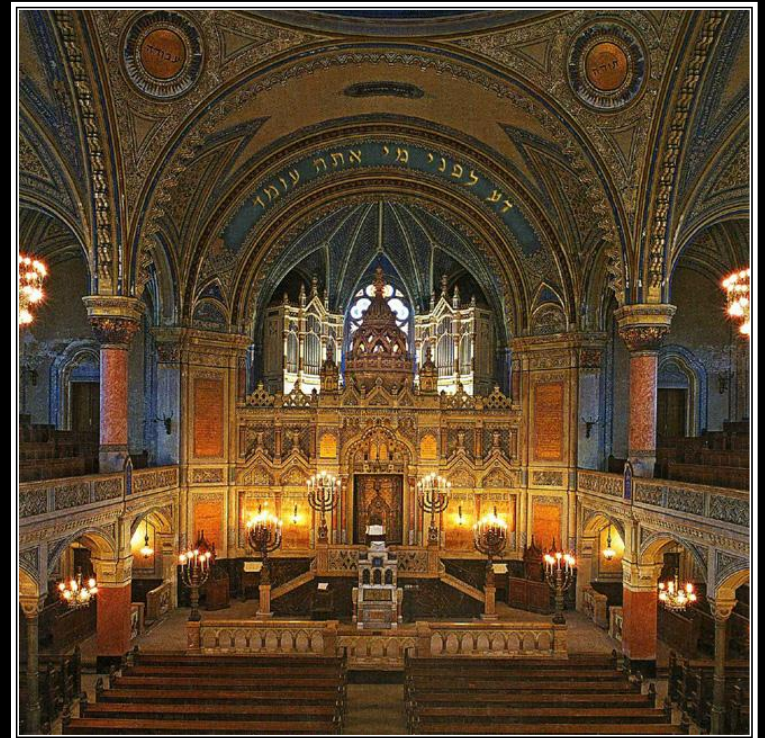
BELIEFS & TEACHINGS

- Ethical monotheism
- Performing good deeds (mitzvot) are essential
- Follow the Ten Commandments
- All-powerful G-d
- Awaiting the Messiah
- Lack of emphasis on the Afterlife
- The Torah



BASIC PRACTICES

- 14 million Jews worldwide (#12), Israel & the US
- Denominations: Orthodox, Conservative, Reform
- The Synagogue
- Life Cycle Events
- Holidays: Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Passover
- Dietary restrictions





CHRISTIANITY

HISTORY

- Jesus born ~1 AD in Palestine – was Jewish
- Followers believed he was the Messiah
- Sentenced to death by Roman opposition
- Followers spread Jesus' ideas, called themselves Christians – still viewed as a branch of Judaism
- Eventually separated and became the dominant religion in the Roman Empire and in Europe

BELIEFS & TEACHINGS

- The Trinity
- Belief in Jesus leads to salvation
- Jesus as the Messiah, born to the virgin Mary
- Resurrection
- Original Sin
- Writings found in the Bible (Old and New Testament)



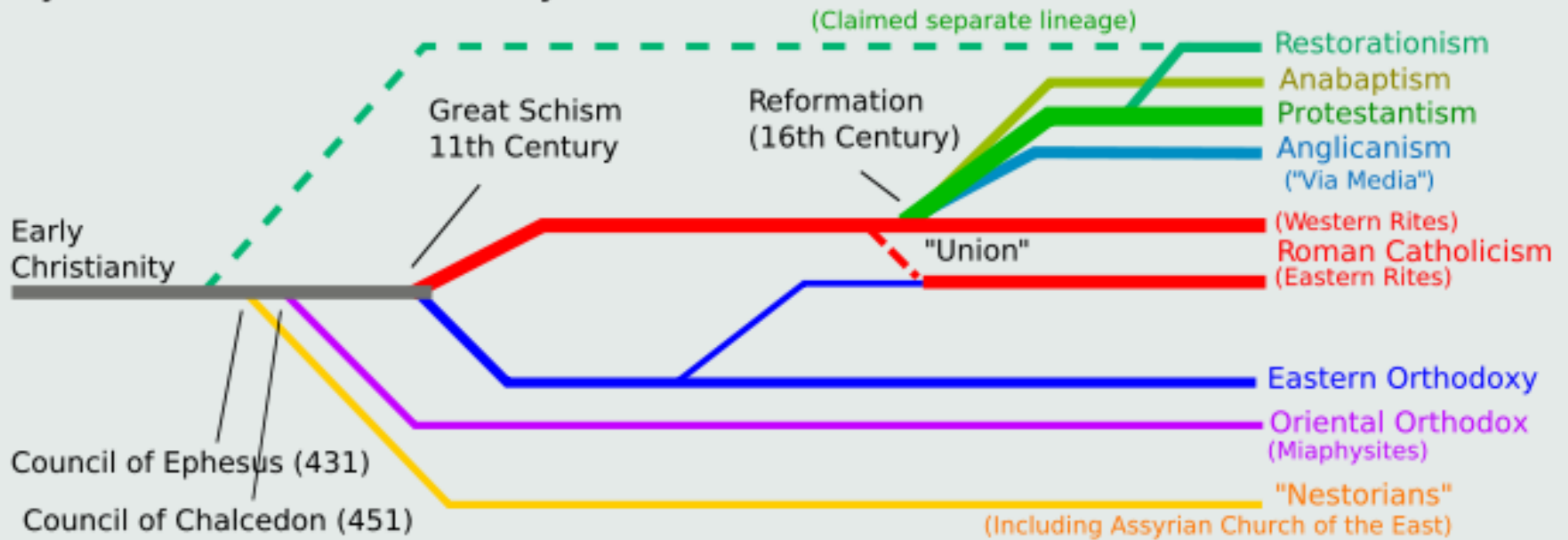
BASIC PRACTICES

- 2 billion Christians worldwide (#1)
- Denominations: Catholic, Protestant (includes many groups), Orthodox
- The Church
- The Sacraments
- Holidays: Easter, Christmas



DENOMINATIONS

Major branches within Christianity





ISLAM

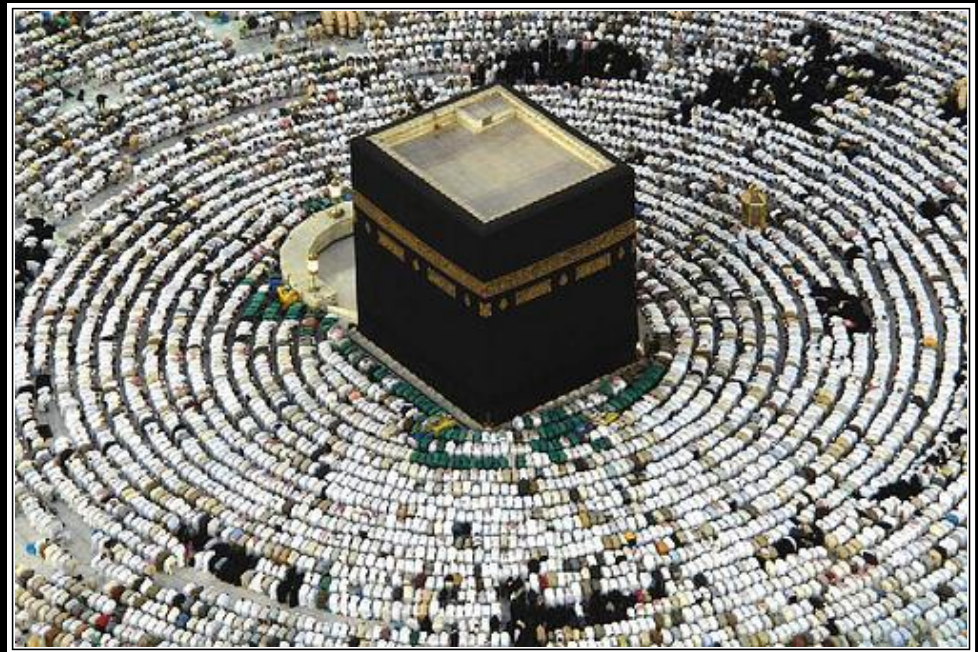
HISTORY

- Abraham, Ishmael, and the Kaaba
- The Life of Muhammad and the Hejira (622 AD)

Division within Islam

- Shiite
- Sunni

Religion vs. Culture vs.
Political Entity



BELIEFS & TEACHINGS

- Five Pillars
 1. Shahada – Declaration of faith in Allah
 2. Salat – Prayer 5x a day
 3. Zakat – Almsgiving
 4. Sawm – Fasting during Ramadan
 5. Hajj – Pilgrimage to Mecca
- The Koran
- Views on the Afterlife

BASIC PRACTICES

- 1.3 billion Muslims worldwide (#2) – Middle East, N. Africa, Indonesia
- Holy Days: Ramadan, Eid ul Fitr, Eid ul Adha
- The Mosque
- Misconceptions about Islam



RELIGION TODAY

