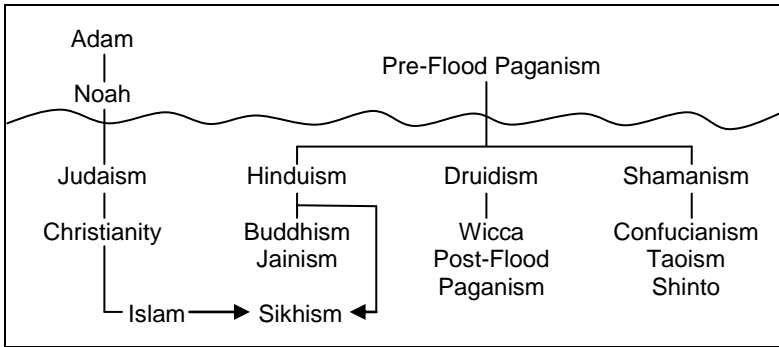


## Definition of a False Religion



Jesus teaches things about Himself and commands us to believe Him and follow His ways. There are other religions that will truthfully admit they are not Christian and do not follow the teachings of Jesus. Since prophecy proves the Bible is true, it follows then that all those groups are false religions, and those who hold to them will die and spend eternity in hell.

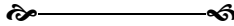
These four great non-Christian false religions include:

- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Paganism
- Islam

Each false religion will have subgroups or denominations that are considered orthodox to that religion. But each false religion will also have cults. These cults claim to be the true religion but deny some major doctrine of that

religion's holy book (the Bible, Qur'an, Vedas, Pali texts, etc.).

For example, the Nation of Islam claims to be the real Islam, but it is considered an Islamic cult by all Muslims. Sikhism mixes Hinduism and Islam together and is therefore considered a cult by both of these false religions. Rasta claims to be the real Judaism, but it is considered a Jewish cult. Jehovah's Witnesses claim to be the real Christianity, but are considered a Christian cult because they deny Jesus' own teaching that He is divine.



## Hinduism

The holy books of Hinduism are called the Vedas and the Upanishads. The basic tenets of Hinduism are:

**Evolution:** Life on planet earth is constantly changing into new and higher forms of life.

**Reincarnation:** the belief that when a person dies he will then be reborn into the body of another human or lower form of life.

**Karma:** the belief that if a person was evil in this life he might be reborn into a lower form of life, and if he was good, he could be born into a higher form of life. This is also called transmigration of souls or the caste system.

**Pantheism:** the belief that god is a force that is in everything (people, animals, plants, rocks etc.) This is the opposite of the Christian God, who is personal and completely separate from His creation. Because of the belief in pantheism, the Hindu religion has thousands of gods and goddesses. Each is supposed to represent a different part of god.

**Brahman:** the impersonal god.

**Emanation:** The doctrine that part of what the original god was/is, is in each and every human being.

**Atman:** the essence of that impersonal god, that is in each human being.

### Hinduism

According to the ancient post-flood history of the Jews, Noah's descendants knew and worshiped the one true God. An evil king, Nimrod, was the first to rebel against God and bring back the corrupt pre-flood religion. After Nimrod's death, about 1800 BC, some of his posterity,

along with their corrupt religious ideas, were driven away from the Middle East to the Indus valley of India. They became known as the Dravidians or the Vedic race. We have many of their writings; but, their language has never been deciphered. A century or two later, a Japhetic race came down and intermarried with the Hamatic Dravidians. They brought with them the Aryan language, Sanskrit.

The oldest copy of the Rig Veda (a Hindu poem written in Sanskrit) is dated about 1450 BC. The difference between Nimrod's death at 1800 BC and 1450 BC is 325 years. So the development of the Hindu Religion, as we know it, happened in only 325 years.

Even inside Hinduism there are memories of real history. Hinduism teaches that the earth has been destroyed many times. In the last destruction, a man named Satyavarata (also called Manu) built a ship and escaped a great flood, landing on Mt. Hivamet in northern India. (This is according to the Hindu poem Mahabarata.)

When we look at the oldest parts of the Hindu holy books, the Vedas and the Upanishads, we see references to animal sacrifice to "God." There are no verifiable prophecies in any of the Hindu holy books. Hinduism teaches that humans are evolving into gods or will become part of the gods by escaping the cycle of reincarnation and enter into nirvana. The divine part of man is called the "Atman."

### **The Shastabad**

Voltaire, Benjamin Franklin, and other founding fathers believed Hinduism originally taught monotheism. An ancient Hindu manuscript called the *Shastabad of Brahma*

teaches that there was one God and He created angels and man. Regarded as gods today by Hindus, Brahma, Shiva, and Vishnu were originally three of these angels. The Shastabad tells of the fall of the angels and man and the worldwide destruction of the earth by a flood. This was proof enough for America's founding fathers to conclude that Hinduism has a memory of the real history of the earth as described in the Bible and that Hinduism itself was a cultic break off of the true religion now completely revealed by the Scriptures.

### **Cultic Break-offs of Hinduism**

Buddhism and Jainism are break offs of Hinduism and Hindus consider each a cult. The Self Realization Fellowship and the Hare Krishna's are examples of Hindu cults that mix Hinduism with Christianity. Sikhism is an example of a Hindu cult that mixes Hinduism with Islam.

### **Jainism**

Jainism was founded in fifth century BC (the same time as Buddhism). While Buddhism is the "middle way," Jainism is the "strict way." Jainism and Buddhism are both offshoots of Hinduism.

Jainists reject the Hindu gods but believe everything is an inferior god. The chief god is Mahavira. But he can't help you gain salvation (release from karma and reincarnation). They teach five tenets: destroy no life, do not lie, practice charity, practice chastity, possess nothing and want nothing.

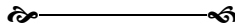
They have two denominations: the Diganbara, monks and nuns living in monasteries who make a vow of nudity; and Svatembara, monks and nuns who wear white robes.

**Sikhism**

Sikhism was founded in the fifteenth century AD by Guru Nanak in an effort to unite Hindus and Muslims. “Sikh” means disciple. Two of the original ten gurus who started the religion were murdered. Originally a pacifist religion, after being persecuted by both Hindus and Muslims they became militant and took up arms. They are recognized by their heavy beards and long-coiled turbans which are a symbol of the unity of the brotherhood.

From Hinduism Sikhs adopt the teachings of reincarnation, karma, and the Hindu festivals, but reject the caste system and Hindu gods. From Islam they adopt the concept that there is only one god, who is truth, creator, immortal, and omnipresent. They teach that this god has never incarnated into a human being. They also forbid images in their temples. They are vegetarians and abstain from alcohol and tobacco.

They pray/meditate using the “Nama,” the constant repetition of the name of god. They think that by doing good works a Sikh will obtain union with god, but if they disobey their holy book, the Granth Sahib, they will be doomed to an endless cycle of reincarnations, and denied a reunion with god. Sikh’s have no concept of proving the truth of their beliefs by using verifiable prophecy.



## Buddhism

Buddhism is an outgrowth of Hinduism. Hinduism and Buddhism alike teach man is trapped in an endless cycle of reincarnation. The goal of the Buddhist is to escape this cycle and go back into Nirvana, which is defined as the nothingness from which he came. This is not the same thing as the Christian concept of heaven, where a person continues to exist. This is a total extinction of life. They teach no individual has a soul and yet each man is divine. They believe in pantheism (everything is god) and self-salvation.

Gautama Buddha was a Hindu priest in India around 500 BC. About 477 BC, after the death of Gautama, his disciples put together the Sutra's (Sayings of Buddha) and the Vinaya (rules and regulation of the Buddhist order). Together these form the Dharma (teachings of Buddha). In 245 BC, the third Buddhist council was held. This council formed the definitive canon called the Pali texts. These teachings deny the authority of the Hindu Vedas. This is why Hindus regard Buddhism a heretical cult that broke away from Hinduism. Today we have four distinct schools of Buddhism.

**Theravada Buddhism:** This is the oldest school of Buddhism. They follow the Sutra and Vinaya very strictly. They consider Buddha a great ethical teacher. Only Buddhist monks are allowed to study the Sutra and Vinaya. Buddhists are encouraged to become Arhats (Buddhist saints who have achieved their own deliverance from the cycle of reincarnation). Nirvana is not limited to monks.

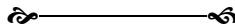
**Mahayana Buddhism:** This school was formed about 400 AD. They consider Buddha to be a god. Everyone is allowed to study the Pali texts. Nirvana is reserved only to those who follow the discipline of the Pali texts rigidly. Buddhists are encouraged to become Bodhisattvas (people who are destined for Buddha-hood, or godhood, but delay this for the purpose of teaching others.)

**Zen Buddhism:** This school of Buddhism formed in Japan. It teaches that one reaches enlightenment through certain ways of meditation and thought. This cannot be defined or put into words but must be experienced.

**Tibetan Buddhism:** This school formed about 700 AD. This is basically Buddhism mixed with Shamanism, magic, and nature worship. While in the other forms of Buddhism the monks are celibate, Tibetan Buddhist practice Tantra. Tantra teaches a method of obtaining enlightenment, or godhood, through sex. The dark side of Tantra is very perverted. They have also borrowed the concept of the mantras (repeated words or phrases) and mudras (physical positions) from Hinduism. The Dali Lama is the leader of this form of Buddhism. It is also called Lamaism.

### **Cultic Break-offs of Hinduism**

The Unification Church, also known as the Moonies, is one example of a Buddhist cult that combines Buddhism with Christianity.





## Paganism

Most religions are based on a specific writing, or holy book, which tells followers how to practice their religion: Christianity, the Bible; Islam, the Qur'an; Buddhism, the Pali texts; etc. Unlike these, pagan religions usually have no written guide or holy book.

### **Wicca / Druidism**

The most well known pagan groups are Wicca (witchcraft) and Druidism. Each group of Wiccans, usually called a coven, writes its own code in what is called a Book of Shadows. This means many who call themselves witches actually teach conflicting views. A large number of Wiccans teach their religion is nearly identical with that of Druidism, which did not leave any written records, either. The basic teachings of Wicca and Druidism are just like those of pre-flood paganism.

In Druidism the Holy days were celebrated on the solstices and equinoxes and mid-seasonal festivals (Halloween being the chief New Year celebration). Both animal and human sacrifices were practiced. Mistletoe and oak trees were used for sacred meetings.

Two commonly taught doctrines of these pagan religions are reincarnation and emanation. Even though many adherents of these religions teach they can develop occult powers and predict the future, none of them left any written records and have no concept of proving their religion correct by giving verifiable prophecy.

Other pagan religions include:

### **Asatru**

Asatru is a modern revival of the Old Norse religion and the worship of Odin and Thor. Although the original worship of Odin required human sacrifice, this modern movement has removed that and other evil practices that would be unpalatable to civilized cultures.

### **Ellinaiis**

This is a modern revival of the worship of the Greek gods, Zeus, Hera, and the others, again without the human sacrifice, of course!

### **Confucianism**

Confucius was a disciple of Lao-Tze (the founder of Taoism), but left to start his own school. It is very similar to Taoism in respect to its being a system of morality that adapts to any religion; but the main difference is Confucius believed that the highest goal is the morality of the individual or “Jen,” also referred to as social virtue. Lao-Tze taught the highest goal is union with the Tao. Confucianism was founded around 551 BC. There is no mention of priests, god, or the afterlife. Later, early Confucianism was combined with Shamanism to form the modern Confucianism of today.

### **Hoodoo**

Hoodoo is an offshoot of Voodoo that mixes in elements from Protestant Christianity. They incorporate the Psalms as spells for their incantations.

### **Order of Oriental Templars, (OTO)**

Formed by famous occultist Aleister Crowley, this started as a secret society much like the Golden Dawn. It was

patterned after freemasonry. Its religious arm is the Gnostic Catholic Church. Their teachings include pantheism along with god consciousness. This, in effect, denies the doctrine of the trinity. They practice various forms of magic rituals and rites, including sex magic, Hermeticism, and it has aspects of Rosicrucianism.<sup>4</sup>

### **Shamanism**

Shamanism is a pagan religious idea that everything in nature has a spirit: from plants and animals to man. Through meditation or drugs, one can make contact with these spirits and heal, kill, or learn the mysteries of the universe.

### **Santeria**

Santeria is a form of Voodoo mixed with Roman Catholic ideas. Many of the saints are worshiped as forms of Loa spirits. Animal sacrifices are common, but occasionally human sacrifice is practiced as well.

### **Shinto**

The Shinto religion was founded in 660 BC in Japan, and was the official religion until 1945. Shinto means “the way of the gods.” Shinto believes the world is good as opposed to Buddhism, which teaches the world is evil. Japanese frequently hold weddings in Shinto shrines and funerals in Buddhist temples. The main Shinto deity is Amaterasu. She is a sun and fertility goddess and ancestor of the emperor (ancestor worship). The Kami is the divine spirit or essence that exists in all living creatures, rocks, and mountains. The religion’s holy books are the Kojiki (ancient masters) written about 710 AD and the Nihon Shoki (chronicles of Japan) written about 720 AD.

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<sup>4</sup> See cults section for Hermeticism and Rosicrucianism.

## **Spiritistic Practices**

There are several practices that come from the idea of contacting spirits for healing purposes. This is partly seen in TM, an offshoot of Hinduism. Some forms of acupuncture teach that the chi that is manipulated with the needles is a spirit energy. Therapeutic Touch is a more modern type of massage that is based on the idea of using spirit energy to heal. Reiki is another healing massage technique with the occultic idea of invoking spirit guides to help in the healing process. Even the name Reiki is Japanese for a transcending spirit, or spirit guide. It is the same technique taught in some forms of Tibetan occultism. There is even a “Christianized” form called Angel Reiki.

## **Taoism**

Taoism is a religion of ancient China. It was founded in 604 BC by Lao-Tze. The holy text of this religion is “Tao-Te King” meaning “The Way to Virtue Canon.” This is mainly a text for morality and ethics. Lao-Tze never spoke about a god or used other “religious terms.” Now, however, it has combined its original teachings with the shamanism, animism, and dualism of ancient China.

Taoism teaches each soul goes through nine levels of purgatory, each headed by demon king. Prayers and offerings get ancestors out of purgatory faster and into their own unique heaven where they then can be worshiped and prayed to.

Religious classes of Taoism include:

**Mediums** use a trance to allow an ancestor spirit to speak through them.

**Oracles** speak the words of bystanding spirits and are the healers, seers, and village leaders.

**Shamans** travel into the afterlife, either to heaven or hell, and make healing rituals, alchemical formulae, medicine, and herbal texts.

**Black hooded priests** are mainly concerned with rituals, exorcism, and controlling spirits.

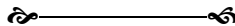
**Spirit Cloud Taoists** are mainly concerned with meditation, not rituals.

The heart of Confucianism, like Taoism, is adaptable to many religions.

### **Voodoo**

Voodoo came from Africa to Haiti and is an African word for spirit. The religion is animistic. They believe in white and black magic, zombies, and the use of voodoo dolls.

Practitioners worship spirits called Loa in ceremonies that include: spirit possession, astral projection, and the speaking in an unknown spirit language. Many items from Roman Catholicism are used (images of saints, etc). Drums, music, and dancing are used until one is possessed by a Loa. An animal sacrifice of a goat, sheep, chicken, or dog is then made. The one possessed by the Loa sometimes drinks the blood of the sacrifice. Cultic break-offs of Voodoo are Santeria and Hoodoo.



## Islam

Islam is a religion started by Muhammad about the year AD 600. Pure Islam is normally divided into four groups: Shiite, Sunni, Wahhabies, and the Alawite.

- **Shi'ite** - A little less than 20% of Muslims are Shi'ite. They teach that leaders should be descendants of Mohammad, stress authority of these Immans (pope-like leaders), and believe civil and religious authorities should be combined.
- **Sunni** - About 80% of Muslims are Sunni. They believe leaders should be elected, stress the tradition (Hadith<sup>5</sup>), and separate religious and civil authorities.
- **Wahhabies** - These are a radical, very legalistic branch of the Sunnis (mainly in Saudi Arabia).
- **Alawite** - Mainly in Syria, this group teaches that Allah could incarnate in the form a man. They teach women do not have souls and have added a form of astrology to their religion.

Cultic break-offs of the Muslims include the Druze (Islam mixed with paganism), Sufi (Islam mixed with paganism), Sikh (Islam mixed with Hinduism).

- **Sufi** - The mystical branch of Islam, teaching pantheism, union with god, and self-deification. They take their teachings from Ali, the cousin of the prophet Muhammad.

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<sup>5</sup> The Hadith tells of the coming time of destruction when the Muslims will rise up and kill every last Jew, then destroy all the Christians. Their Madhi, or Messiah, will come and start this destruction.

- **Druze** - Mainly in Lebanon, Syria, and northern Israel, Druze combine Shiite Islam with Neoplatonism, Gnosticism, and other philosophies. They believe their Tajalli, or Messiah, will come and unite all religions and he will be born from a man instead of a woman.
- **Sikhism** - A combination of Islam and Hinduism. See Hinduism for details.
- **Nation of Islam** - an Islamic cult teaching black supremacy. See the end of this chapter for details.
- **Baha'i** - A mixture of Islam, paganism, and various other religions. See end of this chapter for details.

When comparing Christianity and Islam, we must compare the teachings of the Bible with the Qur'an. The Bible is the Holy Book of the Christians, and was completed in the first century AD. The Qur'an is the Holy Book of the Muslims, and was completed in the seventh century AD.

The Qur'an agrees with the Bible in that:

- Jesus is a prophet, born of the Virgin Mary. Surah 3:47, 9:20-31
- Jesus was taken up. Surah 3:54, 4:158
- God never had sex with anyone (including Mary) in order to have a child. Surah 6:101, 4:171, 112:3
- No one is to be forced to convert. Surah 2:256
- God ordained the Holy Land for the Jews. Surah 5:24
- Christians are loved by God, and have eternal life (who are men of learning and not arrogant) Surah 5:85-88
- Christians and Jews who love God will be saved. Surah 2:62

But the Qur'an also says:

- Muslims should not be friends with Christians or Jews. (Who do not believe in the oneness of God) Surah 5:51
- Christians who believe that Jesus is the Son of God are like pagans and Allah's curse is on them. Surah 9:30
- Jesus never commanded us to worship Him or His mother Mary. Surah 5:116
- Jesus was not crucified; it just appeared so. Surah 4:157
- There is no Trinity. Surah 4:171
- The revelations given to Mohammed are to be judged by the “book” or the Bible. Surah 10:94

In many places in the Qur’an, Christians are referred to as the “people of the book.”

And in their footsteps we sent Jesus the son of Mary, confirming the Torah that had come before him: We sent him the Gospel: therein was guidance and light. And confirmation of the Torah that had come before him: A guidance and an admonition to those who fear Allah. Let the people of the gospel judge by what Allah hath revealed therein.

*Surah 5:49-50*

Before this We gave Moses the Book [Torah]. You should, therefore, have no doubt on receiving the same. We had made that Book a Guidance for the children of Israel; *Surah 32:23*

If thou wert in doubt as to what we have revealed unto thee, then ask those who have been reading the Book from before thee (the Bible): the Truth hath indeed come to thee from thy Lord: so be in no way one of those in doubt. *Surah 10:94*



Nor be of those who reject the Signs of “I AM” (the Trinity), or thou shalt be of those who perish.  
*Surah 10:95*

We have, without doubt, sent down the Message (The Bible); and we will assuredly guard it (from corruption). *Surah 15:9*

So just as the early Christians judged the New Testament by the Old Testament, so modern Christians are to judge the Qur'an by the Bible.

All the prophets in the Bible proved themselves by miracles and prophecies. Muhammad was unable to perform miracles to prove he was a prophet (Surah 29:50).

The only prophecy recorded in the Qur'an is that Allah will make the Christians victorious over the pagan Persian Empire (Surah 30:2-4).

Jesus performed numerous miracles, was a prophet born of the Virgin Mary (Surah 3:47, 9:20-31), and was taken up to heaven (Surah 3:54, 4:158). Muhammad never did any of these things and yet he is considered the last and greatest of the prophets (Surah 33:40).

The Bible declares the Gospel to be:

- ...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once.

*1 Corinthians 15:1-6*

Jesus in the Gospels, Peter, Jude, and Paul warned about false teachers and prophets who would teach things that are not true. In Galatians 1:8, Paul says if “an angel from heaven” should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

- For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. *John 3:16-18*
- For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; *Romans 3:23*
- But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. *Romans 5:8*
- For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Romans 6:23*
- That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. *Romans 10:9-10*

There is only one God; but the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all called that one God. This is defined as a Trinity. It is not polytheism.

All copies of the Qur'an say Jesus was not crucified and there is no Trinity; and all copies of the Bible say Jesus is God incarnate and that He did die on a cross to pay for our sins and reconcile us to God the Father. There is no evidence that these teachings in the Qur'an have been changed. The oldest copy of the Qur'an is dated about 790AD, although it is not available to the public.

There is overwhelming evidence that the teachings in the Bible have not been changed. The Dead Sea Scrolls show the Old Testament is accurate down to the letter. Over 5300 ancient Greek manuscripts show that the New Testament is exactly the same as it was in the first century. Whole Bibles, called codices, dating all the way back to AD 350 are available in museums around the world. Those codices date back to 250 years before Muhammad.

In conclusion, the Gospel of John states that in order to be saved we must believe Jesus is God, and that He died on a cross. The Qur'an says the opposite. So if the Qur'an has not been altered, and the present day Gospel of John is the same as it was in the first century, then the Qur'an must be a false writing. The only possible way for the Qur'an and Islam to be true would be if another gospel of John were found that agreed with the Qur'an. Then the debate could begin. Until then the issue is seems settled.

### **Nation of Islam**

The Nation of Islam is a raciest group, headquartered in Chicago, now led by Louis Farrakhan. All the Islamic and Christian groups consider it a dangerous cult. The basic teaching of the Nation of Islam is as follows: Allah created the black man 66 trillion years ago. Six thousand years ago a mad scientist (one of the 24 black scientist-

gods), called Jacob, Adam or YaKub, rebelled against Allah and the council of gods by creating the white man. He did this by breeding out their blackness. By doing this he also bred out their intellectual, moral, and physical virtues as well. Nothing was left except treachery. Yakub was then expelled from paradise. The Nation of Islam forbids interracial marriage because black men are superior to white men. In 1930 Allah appeared as Wallace D. Farad and chose Elijah Mohammed to carry on the work of Islam and free the black man from Christianity and restore the black man to his rightful place ruling the planet. (Allah has appeared many times on earth in the form of a black man). The blacks will inherit the earth after Armageddon (around 1970), and the whites will be judged.

They believe man has no immortal soul (Farad was a student of Rutherford, president of the Watchtower Society), hell does not exist, and the gods are not eternal. The god that made the world does not exist today. (This means there is no Trinity, Jesus is not God, polytheism is true.) They teach that the Bible has been tampered with by the white man, and refer to it as the “poison book.” They abstain from pork and alcohol.

### **Baha’i**

This is an eclectic cult based on Islam. Its international headquarters is in Haifa, Israel. Ali Mohammed was the forerunner of Bahu Allah.

They teach that there is no Trinity and that Moses, Jesus, Zoroaster, Buddha, Confucius, Mohammed, and Bahu Allah, were all manifestations God. All religions are the same and are divine in origin. The universe is without beginning or creation, but is an emanation of God.

They believe there is no such thing as sin or hell, but after death a spirit continues on until perfection. They also believe that man cannot know God; man is basically good; there is no such thing as a sin nature; and Jesus did not physically resurrect.

