

CLASS NOTES - WORLD RELIGIONS

Taught By Robert Stapleton



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WORLD RELIGIONS

Robert Stapleton

CLASS DESCRIPTION:

1. This class seeks to conduct an overview study of several world religions, with an emphasis being placed on the religion of Islam.
 - A. We will seek to study them in view of their origin, their history, and the present progression.
2. In our more detailed study of Islam we will seek to better understand this religion as it continues to grow throughout the world.
 - A. We will also examine whether there is a need for us to be concerned with that growth in so far as terrorism is concerned.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

1. During the quarter each student is to read the following three booklets and outline book and keep a reading log: A Reply To A Moslem; Why Not Be A Moslem, Guy V. Caskey; Survey of World Religions, Rod Rutherford.
 - A. Instructions concerning log.
 1. Keep a typewritten log of your reading, with dates and pages read.
 - A. Your log should be turned in to instructor no later than the beginning of class day during the finals week
 - B. Your log will count for 10% of your total course grade.
2. Tests:
 - A. One scheduled test will be administered.
 1. It will account for 70% of your total score.
 2. Additional credit will be at the instructor's discretion.
3. Each student is to write a report on one world religion and submit no later than the beginning of class day during the finals week – late papers count one grade per day off.
 - A. Your report should be between seven and ten double-spaced typed pages, Times New Roman 12 Font.
 1. It should cover the following items:
 - A. Brief history of the chosen religion.
 - B. Brief overview of the chosen religion.
 - C. Discussion of the major doctrinal positions of the chosen religion.
 - D. Danger of the chosen religion.
 - E. What we can do to reach people of that religion with the gospel.
 - B. Watch for misspelled words and check your grammar.
 - C. Report will count for 20% of your total grade.
 - D. Your report should be turned in to instructor no later than the beginning of class day during the finals week – late papers count one grade per day off.
5. Recommended reading:
 - A. The Kingdom of the Cults, Walter Martin
 - B. Some Modern Cults, Sects, Movements and World Religions, Garland Elkins,

- Thomas B. Warren, editors *
- C. New Age Cults & Religions, Texe Marrs
 - D. Unholy Spirits, Occultism and New Age Humanism, Gary North
 - E. The Occult, Josh McDowell & Don Stewart
 - F. Chaos of the Cults, J.K. Van Baalen
 - G. A Christian Confronts The New Age, Apologetics Press Manuscript, Brad T. Bromling *
 - H. Religions of the World, Thomas Burks
 - I. The World's Living Religions, Robert E. Hume
 - J. Christianity and Other World Religions, Erich Voehringer
 - K. Religions of the World, Lewis M. Hopfe, Mark R. Woodward
 - L. Buddhism, Edited by Richard A. Gard
 - M. Hinduism, Edited by Arthur Hertzberg
 - N. Hinduism, Edited by Louis Renou
 - O. Islam, Edited by John Alden Williams
 - P. Islam, A Simple Study of the Fastest Growing Religion in the World, L.E. Cranford
 - Q. Islam and Christianity, Badru R. Keteregg, David W. Shenk
 - R. The Hutto – El Dareer Debate, Hiram O. Hutto *, Salah El Dareer
 - S. Introducing Islam, J. Christy Wilson
 - T. Islam Revealed, Anis A. Shorrosh
 - U. Unveiling Islam, Ercun Mehmet and Emir Gethi Caner
 - V. The Great Debate, Ring and Chism (Spiritualism)

* Indicates a member of the church.

WORLD RELIGIONS – WHY THE NEED TO STUDY

Robert Stapleton

INTRODUCTION:

1. Starting at the point in time where religion is evident unto the present day, it has continued to be influential upon humans.
 - A. Presently, numerous challenges and problems are faced by humans from every possible background, location and social class.
 - B. We must face issues of health, safety and mortality.
2. Because of these daily challenges religion continues to be an important part in man's life.
 - A. It is often the universal tool used for explaining things which we do not understand.
 - B. Questions such as:
 1. "From where did I come?"
 2. "Why am I here?"
 3. And, "Where am I going?" are only provided an answer within the realms of religion.
3. Our values are often transmitted from one generation to another through religion.
 - A. Therefore, the practice of religion is of utmost importance to many.

BODY:

1. With the world having grown "smaller" due to the advancement in communications and travel, Christians are coming more and more into contact with those of other religions.
 - A. More Christians are traveling abroad on vacations, which brings them into contact with those of other religious beliefs and practices.
 - B. Additionally, the United States has allowed those of all religious backgrounds to enter the US to live and work.
 1. As they have come here, they have brought with them their religion.
 - A. Because of that we come in contact with neighbors and fellow shoppers who differ from us in their religious practices including dress and other styles of life.
 - C. The bottom line is, it is impossible to avoid contact with those of other religious backgrounds in all major cities, and many minor ones.
2. As time has past we have seen a drastic change in the overall attitudes of the religions of the world.
 - A. Especially is this true of religions like Islam.
 1. They are more aggressive and militant than they have ever been.
 - A. And all signs indicate they will become even more so as time passes.
 - B. Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world today, including the US.
 1. It has not been that long ago that the Middle East and North Africa were considered to be "Christian" in so far as their religious preferences were regarded.

3. Christians need to better equip themselves to defend the faith and share the gospel with others.
 - A. With the increase in population, there is a greater need, numerically speaking, to be evangelistic.
4. To safeguard ourselves against false teaching.
 - A. Biblical ignorance runs rampant in the church today.
 1. Few people are prepared to deal with the “milk” of the word.
 2. And even fewer are prepared to deal with matters connected with the doctrines of the religions of the world.
5. To test beliefs and teachings in light of the Scriptures.
 - A. Consider 1 John 4:1.
6. To take a Biblical approach to exposing religious error – Jude 3.
7. In order to understand what is happening in the world today.
 - A. Much of that which is going on is religiously motivated.
 1. The religion of Islam is clearly in the forefront of such issues.
8. The spread of religion.
 - A. See Appendix # 1, pages 93, 94.

WORLD RELIGIONS – BUDDHISM

Robert Stapleton

INTRODUCTION:

1. See Comparative Religions Chart # 1, Appendix # 2, page 95.
2. Buddhism is often referred to as a religion of wisdom, enlightenment and compassion.
3. It is believed that a person can overcome the misery of the world and reach their own Buddha status by a process of mental and moral purification.
- 4.

GLOSSARY	
Caste System	Social groups in India that rank in a hierarchic order and within which there is a minimum of social mobility.
Pali Canon	The most complete and generally regarded as the earliest collection of canonical literature in Buddhism.
Sanskrit	The sacred language of India, which the Indians consider “the language of the gods”; means “perfected” and “cultured.”
Theravada (Theravadin tradition)	The oldest surviving Buddhist tradition, which flourishes in parts of Southeast Asia and is known as “the doctrine of the elders.”

BODY:

1. ORIGIN OF BUDDHISM:

- A. Buddhism began as an offspring of Hinduism in the country of India.
 1. The founder was Siddhartha Gautama.
- B. It is not easy to give an accurate historical account of the life of Gautama since no biography was recorded until five hundred years after his death.
 - A. Much of his life story is clouded in myths and legends which arose after his death.
 1. Even the best historians of our day have several different, and even contradictory, accounts of Gautama's life.
- C. Gautama was born in approximately 560 B.C. in northern India.
 - A. His father, Suddhodana, was the ruler over a district near the Himalayas which is today the country of Nepal.
 1. He sheltered his son from the outside world and confined him to the palace where he surrounded him with pleasures and wealth.
 - B. Despite his father's efforts, however, Gautama one day saw the darker side of life on a trip he took outside the palace walls.

1. He saw four things that forever changed his life:
 - A. An old man
 - B. A sick man.
 - C. A dead man.
 - D. An ascetic (one who chooses a life of self-denial).
 2. He was deeply distressed by the suffering he saw and decided to leave the luxury of palace life and begin a quest to find the answer to the problem of pain and human suffering.
 - A. He left his family and traveled the country seeking wisdom.
 - B. In pursuit of wisdom he studied the Hindu scriptures under Brahmin priests, (the first of the four Hindu castes, the members of which are priests and scholars of Vedic literature) but became disillusioned with the teachings of Hinduism.
 - C. He then devoted himself to a life of extreme asceticism in the jungle.
 1. He soon concluded, however, that asceticism did not lead to peace and self-realization but merely weakened the mind and body.
 - C. Gautama eventually turned to a life of meditation.
 1. While deep in meditation under a fig tree known as the Bohdi tree (meaning, “tree of wisdom”), he experienced the highest degree of “God-consciousness” called nirvana.
 2. He then became known as Buddha, which means the “enlightened one.”
 - A. He believed he had found the answers to the questions of pain and suffering, and that his message needed to be proclaimed to the world.
 3. As he began his teaching, he gained a quick audience with the people of India since many had become disillusioned with Hinduism.
 - A. By the time of his death at age 80, Buddhism had become a major force in India.
- 2. EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT OF BUDDHISM:**
- A. Buddhism remained mostly in India for three centuries until King Ashoka, who ruled India from 274-232 B.C., converted to Buddhism.
 1. Following his conversion he sent missionaries throughout the world, and Buddhism spread to all of Asia.
 - B. Prior to its expansion, two distinct branches developed.
 1. A conservative branch.
 - A. The conservative school is labeled Theravada, and became the dominant form of Buddhism in Southeast Asia.
 - B. Because of this it is called Southern Buddhism.
 1. Southern Buddhism has remained closer to the original form of Buddhism.
 - C. This school follows the Pali Canon of scripture, which, although written centuries after Gautama’s death, contains the most accurate recording of his teachings.
 2. A liberal school of thought.
 - A. The liberal school is Mahayana Buddhism, which traveled to the north into

China, Japan, Korea, and Tibet.

1. It is called Northern Buddhism.
- B. As it spread north, it adopted and incorporated beliefs and practices from the local religions of the land.
3. The two branches of Buddhism are so different they appear to be two different religions rather than two branches of the same tree.
 - A. Listed below are a few differences.
 1. Theravada Buddhism sees Buddha as a man.
 - A. Gautama never claimed to be deity, but rather a “way shower.”
 - B. Mahayana Buddhism worships Buddha as a manifestation of the divine Buddha essence.
 1. It is believed that since Gautama, many other manifestations or bodhisattvas have appeared.
 - A. An example is Tibetan Buddhism, which worships the spiritual leader the Dalai Lama as a bodhisattva.
 2. Theravada adheres to the Pali Canon and Buddha’s earliest teachings.
 - A. Since Mahayana believes there have been many manifestations, this branch incorporates many other texts written by the bodhisattvas as part of their canon.
 3. Theravada teaches that each person must attain salvation through their own effort, which requires one to relinquish earthly desires and live a monastic life and only those few who have chosen this lifestyle will attain nirvana.
 - A. Mahayana teaches that salvation comes through the grace of the bodhisattvas (a deity or being that has attained enlightenment worthy of nirvana but remains in the human world to help others) and so many may attain salvation.
 4. Divine beings do not have a place in Theravada as the primary focus is on the individual attaining enlightenment, and a divine being, or speculations of such, only hinders the process which results in several sects of this branch being atheistic.
 - A. Mahayana has many diverse views of God since this branch is inclusive, and has adopted the beliefs and practices of various religions.
 1. Many schools are pantheistic (the belief that God and the material world are one and the same thing and that God is present in everything) in their worldview while others are animistic (the belief that things in nature, for example, trees, mountains, and the sky, have souls or consciousness).
 2. Buddha is worshipped as a divine being.
 3. Some schools pay homage to a particular bodhisattva sent to their people.
 - A. Other schools have a mixture of gods whom they worship.
 1. For example, Japanese Buddhism blended with

Shintoism (Japanese religion in which devotees worship and make offerings to numerous gods and spirits associated with the natural world) and includes worship of the Shinto gods with the teachings and worship of Buddha.

3. THREE IMPORTANT CONCEPTS TO UNDERSTAND:

A. Karma

1. Refers to the law of cause and effect in a person's life, thus a reaping of what one has sown.
 - A. Buddhists believe that every person must go through a process of birth and rebirth until he reaches the state of nirvana in which he breaks this cycle.
2. According to the law of karma, "You are what you are and do what you do, as a result of what you were and did in a previous incarnation, which in turn was the inevitable outcome of what you were and did in still earlier incarnations." Davis Taylor and Clark Offner, *The World's Religions*, Norman Anderson, ed. (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1975), p. 174.
3. For a Buddhist, what one will be in the next life depends on one's actions in this present life.
 - A. Unlike Hindus, Buddha believed that a person can break the rebirth cycle no matter what class he is born into.

B. Samsara or transmigration

1. This is one of the most perplexing and difficult concepts in Buddhism to understand.
 - A. The law of Samsara holds that everything is in a birth and rebirth cycle.
 - B. Buddha taught that people do not have individual souls.
 1. The existence of an individual self or ego is an illusion.
 2. There is no eternal substance of a person, which goes through the rebirth cycle.
 3. What is it then that goes through the cycle if not the individual soul?
 - A. What goes through the rebirth cycle is only a set of feelings, impressions, present moments, and the karma that is passed on.
 4. The new individual in the next life will not be exactly the same person, but there will be several similarities.
 - A. Just how close in identity they will be is not known.

C. Nirvana

1. Nirvana means "the blowing out" of existence.
 - A. Nirvana is very different from the Christian concept of heaven as it is not a place like heaven, but rather an eternal state of being.
 - B. It is the state in which the law of karma and the rebirth cycle come to an end.
 1. It is the end of suffering; a state where there are no desires and the individual consciousness comes to an end.
 - C. To our Western minds this may sound like annihilation.
 1. However, Buddhists would object to such an understanding.

- D. Gautama never gave an exact description of nirvana, but his closest reply was this, “There is disciples, a condition, where there is neither earth nor water, neither air nor light, neither limitless space, nor limitless time, neither any kind of being, neither ideation nor non-ideation, neither this world nor that world. There is neither arising nor passing-away, nor dying, neither cause nor effect, neither change nor standstill.” Taylor and Offner, *The World's Religions*, p. 177.

2. Of course such an idea contradicts Hebrews 9:27.

4. THE FOUR “NOBLE TRUTHS”:

- A. “The Truth of Suffering (Dukkha)
1. As a synonym for the bond of earthly existence and not being freed from the chain of rebirth. Birth is suffering, sickness is suffering, old age is suffering, death is suffering. Association with what is unpleasant is suffering, disassociation from what is unpleasant is suffering. PAIN, GRIEF, SORROW, LAMENTATION AND DESPAIR are suffering. Not to obtain what one wants is suffering. In short, the five factors of individuality are suffering.
- B. The Truth of Arising / Origin of Suffering (Samudaya)
1. It is the thirst or craving (tanha) which gives rise to rebirth, which is bound up with passionate delight and which seeks fresh pleasure here, now, and there in the form of thirst for existence, thirst for sensual pleasure, thirst for no-existence. Additionally ignorance (lack of knowledge), aversion, seeking to possess.
- C. The Truth of Cessation / Elimination of Suffering (Nirodha)
1. The utter cessation of craving (tanha), the withdrawal from it, the rejection of it, liberation from it, non-attachment to it. Thus, the loss of ‘things’ substituted for “oneness” and/or enlightenment (peace).
- D. The Truth of the Path / The Dharma Path / The Eightfold Path.”
1. See: http://www.asunam.com/noble_truths.htm

5. THE EIGHT FOLD PATH OF BUDDHISM:

- A. The Eightfold Noble Path of Buddhism is the means to ending anguish and attaining Nirvana.
- B. These eight stages are:
1. Right Views:
 - A. Right Understanding.
 1. Composed of the Four Noble Truths:
 - A. All is suffering (dukkha).
 1. “No single English word adequately captures the full depth, range, and subtlety of the crucial Pali term *dukkha*. The translators of the passages quoted in these pages have used various translations of the word (‘stress,’ ‘unsatisfactoriness,’ ‘suffering,’ etc.) in an attempt to get to the heart of it. There may be value in not getting too comfortable with any one particular translation of the word *dukkha*, since the entire thrust of the Buddha's teaching is to continually widen and deepen

one's understanding into the nature of *dukkha*. One helpful rule of thumb: as soon as you think you've found *the* best translation for *dukkha*, think again: for no matter how you describe *dukkha*, it's always larger, subtler, and more unsatisfactory than that.”

A. See: <http://www.accesstoinight.org/ptf/dukkha.html>

B. Suffering is caused by desire.

C. If one can eliminate desire, suffering can be eliminated.

D. The Noble Eight-fold Path can eliminate desire.

2. Right Intent:

A. Right Thinking.

1. One must aspire to realization of Perfect Wisdom, the Ultimate True Permanent Reality.

A. This requires that one will abstain from all evil thoughts, do away with all cravings, and renounce all manifestations of all “created realities”, which are considered to be make-believe.

1. To achieve this, one must practice dispassion, total detachment, absolute renunciation and self-surrender.

3. Right Speech:

A. One must abstain from lying, perjury, and evil and frivolous speech.

1. It is important to engage in permanent and real speech that leads to Nirvana.

4. Right Conduct:

A. Right Action.

1. One must abstain from killing of all creatures, from stealing, from sensual and sexual misconduct, from all evil acts, and from all forms of intoxication.

5. Right Livelihood:

A. Right Living.

1. One must abstain from all evil ways of living and livelihood.

6. Right Effort:

A. One must destroy all evil states of mind that already exist and keep new evil states of mind from arising.

1. One must maintain and develop good states of mind that already exist and create new states of mind that espouse loving kindness, compassion and pity for all creatures.

A. One will develop sympathetic joy and equanimity.

7. Right Mindfulness:

A. One must perceive the following as impermanent, ill and selfless: Body, Feelings, Perception, Mind, Consciousness, Thought, Mental States, Mental Objects and Mental Activity.

1. This requires that one will remain aloof from both the pleasures and the pains that arise from the senses and sensuality.

8. Right Concentration:

- A. One will remain aloof from the world, from evil states, from all sensuality, and will dwell in solitude, seclusion and self-resolution in order to develop through meditation one-pointedness of Mind.

6. THE TEN WORLDS OF BUDDHISM:

- A. Buddhism often explains life through the concept known as “the ten worlds.”
 - 1. In essence these are ten states or conditions of life that they experience within themselves and are then manifested throughout all aspects of their lives.
 - A. It is claimed that each adherent possesses the potential for all ten, and they shift from one to another at any moment, according to their interaction with the environment.
 - B. This simply means that at any given moment one of the ten worlds is being manifested and the other nine are dormant.
- B. From lowest to highest, these “ten worlds” are:
 - 1. Hell - the state of suffering and despair, in which they perceive they have no freedom of action.
 - A. This state is characterized by the impulse to destroy themselves and everything around them.
 - 2. Hunger - the state of being controlled by insatiable desire for money, power, status, etc.
 - A. It is believed that while they are in this state they are at the mercy of their cravings and cannot control them.
 - 3. Animality - in this state, they believe they are ruled by instinct.
 - A. It is believed that they neither exhibit reason, moral sense, nor the ability to make long-range judgments.
 - B. In this state they operate by the law of the jungle.
 - 1. In this state they will not hesitate to take advantage of those who are weaker.
 - 4. Anger - in this state, awareness of ego emerges, but it is a selfish, greedy, distorted ego, determined to best others at all costs and seeing everything as a potential threat to itself.
 - A. In this state they value only themselves and tend to hold others in contempt.
 - B. They are strongly attached to the idea of their own superiority and cannot bear to admit that anyone exceeds them in anything.
 - 5. Humanity (also called Tranquility) - a flat, passive state of life, from which they can easily shift into the lower four worlds.
 - A. They generally behave in a humane fashion in this state, but are highly vulnerable to strong external influences.
 - 6. Heaven (or Rapture) - a state of intense joy stemming, for example, from the fulfillment of some desire, a sense of physical well-being, or inner contentment.
 - A. Though intense, the joy experienced in this state is short-lived and also vulnerable to external influences.
- C. The six states from Hell to Heaven are called the six paths or six lower worlds.

1. They have in common the fact that their emergence or disappearance is governed by external circumstances.
2. In these six lower worlds, they base their happiness, or identity, on externals.
- D. The final four states are referred to as the four noble worlds.
 1. Learning - in this state, they allegedly seek the truth through the teachings or experience of others.
 2. Realization - a state similar to the previous one, except they seek the truth not through others' teachings but through their own direct perception of the world.
 - A. Learning and Realization are together called the "two vehicles."
 - B. Those in this state allegedly have a measure of independence and are no longer prisoner to their own reactions as in the six paths.
 - C. They often tend to be contemptuous of people in the six paths who have not yet reached this understanding.
 - D. Additionally, their search for truth is primarily self-oriented, so there is a great potential for egotism in these two states; and they may become satisfied with their progress without discovering the highest potential of human life in the ninth and tenth worlds.
 3. Bodhisattva - Bodhisattvas are those who aspire to achieve enlightenment and at the same time are equally determined to enable all other beings to do the same.
 - A. Those in this state realize that any happiness they alone enjoy is incomplete, and devote themselves to alleviating others' suffering.
 - B. In this state they find their greatest satisfaction in altruistic behavior.
 - C. The states from Hell to Bodhisattva are collectively termed "the nine worlds."
 4. Buddhahood - is a dynamic state that is difficult to describe.
 - A. It can be partially described as a state of perfect freedom, in which they claim they are enlightened to the ultimate truth of life.
 - B. Allegedly it is characterized by infinite compassion and boundless wisdom.
 - C. In this state, they resolve harmoniously what appears from the standpoint of the nine worlds to be insoluble contradictions.
 1. A Buddhist sutra describes the attributes of the Buddha's life as a true self, perfect freedom from karmic bonds throughout eternity, a life purified of illusion, and absolute happiness.

7. CHRIST AND BUDDHA CONTRASTED:

- A. Buddha did not claim to be divine.
 1. Theravada remains true to his teaching that he was just a man.
 2. The idea that he was divine was developed in Mahayana Buddhism 700 years after his death.
 3. Northern Buddhism teaches that there have been other manifestations of the Buddha or bodhisattvas and some believe Jesus to be one as well.
 - A. However, Jesus did not claim to be one of many manifestations of God; He claimed to be the one and only Son of God.

- B. This teaching was not the creation of his followers but a principle He taught from the beginning of His ministry.
 - B. Buddha claimed to be a way shower.
 - 1. He claimed to show the way to nirvana, but it was up to each follower to find his or her own path.
 - 2. Christ did not come to show the way; He claimed to be the way – John 14:6.
 - 3. Buddhism teaches that salvation comes through Buddha's teachings.
 - A. Christ taught salvation is found in Him.
 - C. Buddha taught that the way to eliminate suffering and attain enlightenment was to eliminate all desire.
 - 1. Christ taught that one should not eliminate all desire but that one must have the right desire – Matthew 5:6.
 - 2. Christ taught that we should desire to know Him above all other wants.
 - D. Buddha performed no miracles in his lifetime.
 - 1. Christ confirmed His claims to be divine through the miracles He performed.
 - 2. He demonstrated authority over every realm of creation: the spiritual realm, nature, sickness, and death.
 - A. These miracles confirmed the claims that He was more than a good teacher, but God incarnate.
 - E. Buddha is buried in a grave in Kusinara, India (north-eastern part) at the foot of the Himalaya Mountains.
 - 1. Christ, however, is alive.
 - 2. He alone conquered sin and the grave.
 - A. His death paid the price for sin, and His resurrection makes it possible for all people to enter into a personal and eternal relationship with God.
- 8. BUDDHISM AND CHRISTIANITY COMPARED:**
 - A. Since about 75% of American adults identify themselves as “Christian” and only 0.5% view themselves as Buddhist, it may be useful to compare Buddhism with the U.S.'s dominant religion.
 - 1. In the information below we define as “Christian” any person or group who thoughtfully, sincerely, prayerfully regard themselves as Christian.
 - A. This is the definition that pollsters use.
 - 2. Such includes the full range of faith groups who consider themselves to be Christians.
 - B. Beliefs not shared:
 - 1. Buddhists do not share most of the core beliefs of historical Christianity.
 - A. These include:
 - 1. An original golden era in the Garden of Eden, and a subsequent fall of humanity.
 - 2. A world-wide flood in the time of Noah, causing the greatest human genocide in history.
 - 3. A transcendent or immanent or any other type of God.
 - 4. The need for a personal savior whose death enabled individual salvation.

5. A God-man savior who was born of a virgin, executed, resurrected and ascended to heaven.
6. Salvation achieved through specific beliefs and works.
7. The power of prayer.
8. Eternal life spent in either a heaven or hell after death.
9. Return of the savior at some time in the future.
10. An end of the world as we know it.

C. Shared beliefs:

1. Ethic of Reciprocity:

- A. Actually, many of the other major world religions share a basic rule of behavior which governs how they are to treat others.
 1. Note the following two quotations from Buddhist texts which reflect this:
 - A. "...a state that is not pleasing or delightful to me, how could I inflict that upon another?" Samyutta Nikaya v. 353.
 - B. "Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful." Udana-Varga 5:18.

2. These, of course, remind us of Matthew 7:12 and the "golden rule."

2. Life after death:

- A. Nearly every religion teaches that a person's personality continues after death.
 1. However, they conceive of life after death in very different forms:
 - A. Buddhism teaches that humans are trapped in a repetitive cycle of birth, life, death and rebirth.
 1. One's goal is to escape from this cycle and reach Nirvana.
 2. The mind experiences complete freedom, liberation and non-attachment.
 3. Suffering ends because desire and craving -- the causes of suffering -- are no more.
 - B. Christianity has historically taught that everyone has only a single life on earth – Hebrew 9:27.
 1. After death, an eternal life awaits everyone, either in Heaven or Hell – Mathew 25:46; John 5:28, 29.
 - A. There is no suffering in Heaven; only joy.
 2. Suffering is eternal without any hope of cessation for the inhabitants of Hell.

3. Themes of morality, justice, love:

- A. These themes are found in both Buddhism and Christianity.

4. As we see, even though there are areas of similarity, the areas of difference are so striking that it is not possible to reconcile these two forms of religion.

- A. One cannot be both Buddhist and Christian at the same time, although some have tried to mix the two religions together.

8. COMPARISON CHART THERAVADE BUDDHISM, MAHAYANA BUDDHISM, AND CHRISTIANITY:

	Theravada Buddhism	Mahayana Buddhism	Christianity
Meaning of birth	We are reborn from a previous life until we reach nirvana (extinction of all desire and release from suffering). The cycle of death and rebirth is called samsara.	We are reborn from a previous life until we reach nirvana (extinction of all desire and release from suffering). The cycle of death and rebirth is called samsara.	We are made in God's image but due to our giving into temptation redemption is needed.
Way to Truth	Follow the teachings of Buddha, e.g., the Four Truths and the Eightfold Path. The written Scripture, the Tripitaka ("three baskets"), includes the teachings of Buddha.	Through the study of scriptural texts running to more than five thousand volumes.	The Bible, both Old and New Testaments, are divinely inspired. It is the final arbiter. The teachings of the New Testament will serve to judge us in the last day. Jesus is the ultimate embodiment of truth.
Goal of spirituality	Deliverance from samsara through reaching nirvana.	Deliverance from samsara through reaching nirvana is not to be sought for the individual alone.	To know God. To serve God and others.
Way to spirituality	Practice of some disciplines leads to nirvana. No personal God. One can achieve deliverance from samsara and become a Buddhist saint. But this deliverance is only for the few who can attain it.	Seeking personal deliverance and assisting in others' salvation. Ideal follower is a bodhisattva, one who forsakes his own salvation to aid others. Salvation is not merited, open to all.	Faith in Jesus as God's requisite for atonement and salvation. Continued spiritual growth and blessings come through living a life of service and love following one's conversion.
Meaning of death	Leads to rebirth from which we can be delivered by reaching nirvana. Rebirth is not by chance but is based on the universal law of cause and effect (karma).	Differs from Theravada Buddhism in accepting the existence of the individual soul, in which case rebirth is also called transmigration.	Cessation of human life and entrance into either heaven or hell following the judgment.
Afterlife	Until nirvana is reached, after life is rebirth. Nirvana itself is neither continued existence of the soul nor annihilation.	On the way to nirvana, the individual soul may pass through a variety of heavens and hells.	Bodily resurrection after death with judgment to follow. Heaven and hell are eternal destinies to which all people go based on choices made in this life.

WORLD RELIGIONS – HINDUISM

INTRODUCTION:

1. See Comparative Religions Chart # 2, Appendix # 3, page 96.
2. It is said by many that Hinduism is the most complex of all religious systems.
 - A. This is due in part to the inability to provide an adequate history for the development of Hinduism.
 1. This is so since it has no specific founder or theology and originated in the religious practices of Aryan tribes who moved to India from central Asia more than three thousand years ago.
 2. The Aryans attacked the Harappan people who lived in modern day India around 1500 BC.
 3. Eventually, through adaptation to the religious beliefs of the other, both groups developed similar religious belief systems, founded on the polytheism of the Aryans and the sanctity of fertility of the Harappans.
 4. Soon, the predominantly Aryan society developed the caste system, which ranked society according to occupational class.
3. The caste system is as follows:
 - A. The elite caste is the Brahman, or priest caste.
 - B. Kshatriyas soldiers, king-warrior class.
 - C. Vaishyas merchants, farmers, Sutras laborers, craftspeople.
 - D. Harijahns “untouchables” - those thought to be descended from the Harappan aboriginal people-extremely poor and discriminated against.
4. The higher a person's caste, the more that person is blessed with the benefits and luxuries life has to offer.
 - A. Although the caste system was outlawed in 1948, it is still important to the Hindu people of India and is still recognized as the proper way to stratify society.
 - B. Since the early days of Hinduism, it has branched and now encompasses a wide variety of religious beliefs and religious organizations.
 1. Not only is it the primary religion of the region around India, but portions of Hindu beliefs have found their way across oceans to other countries and have been influential in the foundations of other religions, such as Transcendental Meditation and Buddhism.
5. Important Hindu terms to be familiar with:
 - A. Atman - The real self, the eternal life principle.
 - B. Brama - The creator god
 - C. Brahman - Ultimate Reality
 - D. Brahmin - A member of the priestly caste, the highest class.
 - C. Dharma - The teachings of virtue and principle
 - D. Karma - The culminating value of all of one's life actions, good and bad, which together determine one's next rebirth and death.
 - E. Mahabharta - One of the national epics of India.
 - F. Maya - The power that produces the phenomena of physical existence.
 - G. Moksha - The term for liberation from the bondage of finite existence.

- H. Puranas - Part of the Hindu scriptures consisting of myths and legends mixed with historical events.
- I. Samsara - The rebirth of souls passing on from one existence to another until release can be achieved, reincarnation.
- J. Upanishads - Part of the Hindu sacred texts containing treatises on the nature of ultimate reality and the way to achieve union with the absolute.
- K. Veda - The oldest of the Hindu scriptures, consisting of four collections of sacred writings.
- L. Yoga - The Hindu path of union with the divine. Any sort of exercise (physical, mental or spiritual) which promotes one's journey to union with Brahma.

BODY:

1. ORIGIN OF HINDUISM:

- A. Hinduism differs from Christianity and other Western religions in that it does not have a single founder, a specific theological system, a single system of morality, or a central religious organization.
 - 1. It consists of “thousands of different religious groups that have evolved in India since 1500 BCE.” David Levinson, “Religion: A cross-cultural Dictionary,” Oxford University Press, (1998).
 - 2. Hinduism has grown to become the world's third largest religion, after “Christianity” and Islam.
 - A. It claims 700 - 900 million followers - 13% of the world's population.
 - B. It is the dominant religion in India, Nepal, and among the Tamils in Sri Lanka.
 - C. It is estimated that there is somewhere between 750,000 and 1.1 million Hindus living in the US as of 2001.
 - 1. This is a very significant increase from 227,000 in 1990.
 - 3. These numbers do not include the followers of New Age and other religious movements that share a common bond with the Hindu religion from which they developed.
- B. The many forms of Hinduism are henotheistic religions.
 - 1. Henotheism recognizes a single deity, and views other gods and goddesses as manifestations or aspects of that supreme God.
- C. Hinduism is rooted in the merging of two basic religious systems: that of the ancient civilization residing in the Indus River Valley from the third millennium B.C., and the religious beliefs brought to India by the Aryan (European) people who began moving into the Indus Valley sometime after 2000 B.C.
- D. Hinduism is among the most ancient of the eastern religions, and one that has had a profound influence on western civilization.
 - 1. Over the years, as indicated above, it has given birth to other cults and religious movements.
 - A. Buddhism.
 - B. The New Age Movement.
 - C. Transcendental Meditation.

- D. Wicca (the name for a contemporary pagan revival of witchcraft).
- E. Plus numerous other forms of pagan worship are offspring of Hinduism.
- 2. Hinduism is a religion of varied interpretations, practices, and doctrines.
 - A. It cannot be said, "This is the Hindu orthodoxy, from which there is no deviation."
 - A. There are, however, certain commonalities, which we will explore.
- 2. HINDU "SACRED TEXTS:"**
 - A. The Hindu scriptures are massive, and were written between 1400 B.C. and A.D. 500.
 - 1. The oldest is what is referred to as the Veda, which literally means "wisdom" or "knowledge."
 - A. It contains hymns, prayers, and ritual texts composed from about 1400 to about 400 B.C.
 - 2. The Upanishads are a collection of writings composed between 800-600 B.C.
 - A. Something over 100 of them still exist.
 - B. They marked a definite change from the sacrificial humans and magic formulas in the Vedas, to the mystical ideas about man and the universe – specifically the Brahman, and the atman (the self or soul).
 - C. They had a great influence on Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism.
 - 3. The Ramayana is one of the two major epic tales of India, the other being the Mahabharata.
 - A. A sage-poet named Valmiki wrote the Ramayana.
 - 1. The work consists of 24,000 couplets based upon the life of Rama, a righteous king who was supposedly an incarnation of the god Vishnu.
 - B. The Mahabharata is the second epic.
 - 1. It is the story of the deeds of Aryan clans, and consists of some 100,000 verses and was composed over an 800-year period beginning about 400 B.C.
 - 2. Contained within this work is the Bhagavad Gita, or the "Song of the Blessed Lord."
 - A. The Bhagavad Gita is not only the most sacred book of the Hindus, but it is also the best known and the most read of all Indian works in the entire world, despite the fact it was added late to the Mahabharata, sometime in the first century A.D.
 - B. The story revolves around man's duty, which, if carried out, will bring nothing but sorrow.
 - 1. The significance this story has on Hindu belief is its endorsement of bhakti, or devotion to a particular god, as a means of salvation, since Arjuna, the story's main character, decides to put his devotion to Vishnu above his own personal desires.
 - 2. The Gita ends with Arjuna devoted to Vishnu and ready to kill his relatives in battle.

3. HINDU BELIEFS:

- A. As indicated above, it is difficult to assign a dogmatic orthodoxy to Hinduism.
 - 1. Many variations have developed from Hinduism over the years, and many non-Hindu cults and religious movements gained their inspiration from Hinduism.
 - A. In India today, the most orthodox divisions of Hinduism have changed significantly over the last three thousand years.
- B. One of the oldest aspects of Hinduism is as much social as religious, and that is the caste system, discussed above.
 - 1. Outside the caste system are the untouchables.
 - A. These are the outcasts of Hindu society.
 - 1. Though outlawed in India in the 1940s, the untouchables are still a very real part of Indian society.
 - B. One does not get to decide his or her caste as that matter is decided when one is born into a particular caste.
- C. As previously indicated, there is not a strict orthodoxy in Hinduism.
 - 1. However, there are numerous principles that share a commonality among the various sects as indicated below:
 - A. The three-in-one god known as “Brahman,” which is composed of: Brahma (the creator), Vishnu (the Preserver), and Shiva (the Destroyer).
 - B. The Caste System.
 - C. Karma.
 - 1. I.e. the law that good begets good, and bad begets bad.
 - 2. Every action, thought, or decision one makes has consequences – good or bad – that will return to each person in the present life, or in one yet to come.
 - D. Reincarnation.
 - 1. Also known as “transmigration of souls,” or “samsara.”
 - A. This is a journey on the “circle of life,” where each person experiences a series of physical births, deaths, and rebirths.
 - 2. With good karma, a person can be reborn into a higher caste, or even to godhood.
 - A. Bad karma can relegate one to a lower caste, or even to life as an animal in their next life.
 - E. Nirvana.
 - 1. This is the goal of the Hindu.
 - A. Nirvana is the release of the soul from the seemingly endless cycle of rebirths.
 - 2. Hinduism is both polytheistic, and pantheistic.
 - A. Three “gods” compose Brahman – Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva.
 - 1. Hindus also worship the “wives” of Shiva, such as Kali, or one of Vishnu’s ten incarnations (avatars).
 - B. This is only the beginning.

1. There are literally millions of Hindu gods and goddesses – by some counts, as many as 330 million.
3. Hinduism teaches that all living things are Brahman in their core.
 - A. In other words, all living things are Brahman, or god.
 - B. “Enlightenment” is attained by becoming tuned in to the Brahman within.
 1. Only then can one reach Nirvana.
 2. The release from the wheel of life that allows access to Nirvana is known as “moksha.”
 - A. Hindus recognize three possible paths to moksha, or salvation.
 1. The first is the way of works or karma yoga.
 - A. This is a very popular way of salvation and lays emphasis on the idea that liberation may be obtained by fulfilling one’s familial and social duties thereby overcoming the weight of bad karma one has accrued.
 2. The second way of salvation is the way of knowledge, or jnana yoga.
 - A. The basic premise of the way of knowledge is that the cause of our bondage to the cycle of rebirths in this world is ignorance.
 - B. According to the predominant view among those committed to this way, our ignorance consists of the mistaken belief that we are individual selves, and not one with the ultimate divine reality – Brahman.
 - C. It is this same ignorance that gives rise to our bad actions, which result in bad karma.
 - D. Salvation is achieved through attaining a state of consciousness in which we realize our identity with Brahman.
 1. This is achieved through deep meditation, often as a part of the discipline of yoga.
 3. The third way of salvation is the way of devotion, or bhakti yoga.
 - A. This is the way most favored by the common people of India.
 1. It satisfies the longing for a more emotional and personal approach to religion.
 2. It involves the self-surrender to one of the many personal gods and goddesses of Hinduism.
 - B. Such devotion is expressed through acts of worship, temple rituals, and pilgrimages.
 1. Some Hindus conceive of ultimate salvation as absorption into the one divine reality, with all loss of individual existence.
 2. Others conceive of it as heavenly existence in adoration

of the personal God.

D. Hindu obligations:

1. Worship, upasana:

A. Young Hindus are taught daily worship in the family shrine room--rituals, disciplines, chants, yoga and religious study.

1. They learn to be secure through devotion in home and temple, wearing traditional dress, bringing forth love of the Divine and preparing the mind for serene meditation.

2. Holy days, utsava:

A. Young Hindus are taught to participate in Hindu festivals and holy days in the home and temple.

1. They learn to be happy through sweet communion with God at such auspicious celebrations.

B. Utsava includes fasting and attending the temple on Monday or Friday and other holy days.

3. Virtuous living, dharma:

A. Young Hindus are taught to live a life of duty and good conduct.

B. They learn to be selfless by thinking of others first, being respectful of parents, elders and swamis, following divine law, especially ahimsa, mental, emotional and physical non injury to all beings.

1. Thus they resolve karmas.

4. Pilgrimage, tirthayatra:

A. Young Hindus are taught the value of pilgrimage and are taken at least once a year for darnana of holy persons, temples and places, near or far.

B. They learn to be detached by setting aside worldly affairs and making God, Gods and gurus life's singular focus during these journeys.

5. Rites of passage, samskara:

A. Young Hindus are taught to observe the many sacraments which mark and sanctify their passages through life.

B. They learn to be traditional by celebrating the rites of birth, name-giving, head-shaving, first feeding, ear-piercing, first learning, and coming of age, marriage and death.

E. The four stages of life:

1. Student (studying the Veda in his teacher's house).
2. Householder (married, rearing a family, earning money).
3. Forest Hermit (gradually detaching oneself from the world).
4. Wandering Ascetic (homeless, searching for liberation).

F. The four goals of human life:

1. Wealth and power (artha).
2. Pleasure, both sensual and aesthetic (kama).
3. Righteousness or duty (dharma).
4. Spiritual Liberation (moksha).

G. Nine Essentials Beliefs of Hinduism:

1. A belief in the divinity of the Vedas, and venerate the Agamas as equally revealed.
 - A. These primordial hymns are the bedrock of Sanatana Dharma, the eternal religion which has neither beginning nor end.
 2. A belief in a one, all-pervasive Supreme Being who is both immanent and transcendent, both Creator and Un-manifest Reality.
 3. A belief that the universe undergoes endless cycles of creation, preservation and dissolution.
 4. A belief in karma, the law of cause and effect by which each individual creates his own destiny by his thoughts, words and deeds.
 5. A belief that the soul reincarnates, evolving through many births until all karma have been resolved, and moksha, spiritual knowledge and liberation from the cycle of rebirth, is attained.
 - A. Not a single soul will be eternally deprived of this destiny.
 6. A belief that divine beings exist in unseen worlds and that temple worship, rituals, sacraments as well as personal devotionals create a communion with these devas and gods.
 7. A belief that a spiritually awakened master, or satguru, is essential to know the Transcendent Absolute, as are personal discipline, good conduct, purification, pilgrimage, self-inquiry and meditation.
 8. A belief that all life is sacred, to be loved and revered, and therefore practice ahimsa, or “noninjury.”
 9. A belief that no particular religion teaches the only way to salvation above all others, but that all genuine religious paths are facets of God’s Pure Love and Light, deserving tolerance and understanding.
- H. There seven mothers of Vedic philosophy
1. The birth mother
 2. The nurse
 3. The wife of the father (if she is not the birth mother)
 4. The wife of the king
 5. The wife of the spiritual master
 6. The earth
 7. The cow
 - A. The cow is considered a mother because she gives her milk.
 1. It is believed that since one does not kill and eat one's mother, the cow should not be killed and eaten.
 - B. The bull is considered father because he can plow the earth to produce food grains.
- I. What does the mark on the forehead mean?
1. The colored dot is variously referred to as a “tilaka,” “bottu,” “bindiya,” “kumkum,” or “bindi.”
 2. It is a sign of piety, and reveals to other people that the wearer is a Hindu.
 3. It symbolizes the third eye -- the one focused inwards toward God.

4. Both men and women wear it, although the practice among men is slowly going out of style.
5. In the past, many unmarried women wore black marks, whereas many married women wore red.

4. CONTRAST OF BUDDHISM AND HINDUISM:

A. Differences between Buddhism and Hinduism:

1. No need for priests (brahmins) or rituals.
2. Within Buddhism anyone can enter Nirvana, no matter how lowly, whereas in Hinduism only the brahmins could achieve moksha.
3. In Theravada Buddhism, there are no gods.
4. Karma is not earned by following the dharma of one's caste but moves toward entry into Nirvana by following the eightfold path.
5. Buddhism rejects extreme asceticism as well as great wealth while the ideal in Hinduism is extreme asceticism.

B. Similarities between Buddhism and Hinduism:

1. Both believe in reincarnation.
2. Both believe there are many different paths to enlightenment.
3. Both believe that human suffering is caused by excessive attachment to things and people in the physical world.
4. Both believe in an ultimate spiritual reality beyond the illusions of the physical world.
5. Both practice meditation and other forms of yoga.
6. Both believe that eventually all living spirits will achieve enlightenment and liberation, even if it takes many incarnations.
 - A. In Mahayana Buddhism, the original teachings of the Buddha are assimilated to Hindu practices, including prayers..
 - B. Mahayana Buddhism also introduces the idea of (temporary) heavens and hells.

6. WORSHIP WITHIN HINDUISM:

A. Within Hinduism worship takes on a totally new twist.

1. In the Hindu religion, one worships all of the deities, which is referred to as Puja.
 - A. It is conducted to an idol made of gold, silver, bronze, or even clay.
 1. This idol is not the deity itself; rather, it is believed to be filled with the deity's cosmic energy.
 2. It is a focal point for honoring and communicating with the god.
 - B. Before the worship of Puja one bathes to signify outer purification.
 - C. The Puja is then surrounded by flowers because of the beautiful smell of flowers.

B. Some traditional modes of worship, like the creation of ritual fires during temple ceremonies -- including weddings -- began in Vedic times.

1. The Vedas are sacred texts belonging to the Aryan-speaking people believed to originate in an ancient oral tradition extending back to about 3000 B.C.E.

7. COMPARISON CHART HINDUISM AND CHRISTIANITY:

God	A vast plurality of gods and goddesses exist as part of the impersonal Brahman.	There is one God, who cares deeply for each one of us - Deuteronomy 6:4; Ephesians 4:6.
Man	Humans, as with all living things, are just manifestations of Brahman. We have no individual self, or self-worth.	God created man and gave him free will. He cares deeply for His creation, and places a great deal of worth on His creation – Genesis 1:27; John 3:16.
The World	The world and everything on it are manifestations of Brahman.	God created the universe, the world, and everything on it - Genesis chapters 1 and 2.
Sin	Sin is committed against oneself, not against God.	God gave man rules because He cares about him. He also gave man free will so we can choose to disobey. Disobedience (sin) is an offense against God – Psalms 51:4; Romans 3:16; 1 John 3:4.
Sin's Penalty	Since “sin” is committed only against oneself, the penalties are accrued only against the self. The penalty is the repeated cycle of rebirths, until you can escape to Nirvana.	Sin cannot exist in the presence of God. Therefore, the penalty of sin is spiritual death, or separation from God – Romans 6:23.
Salvation	Salvation is the release from the wheel of life, the cycle of rebirths, through which we must work to better ourselves, and realize our oneness with Brahman. It must be worked out by each individual through successive lives.	Salvation is a free gift from God to man. One must obey to gain it. We cannot earn it. Jesus bought man's salvation by taking all our sin upon Himself on the cross, dying as a sacrifice for man – Romans 6:23; Hebrews 5:9; Ephesians 2:8, 9; 1 Peter 1:18, 19; 2 Corinthians 5:21.

WORLD RELIGIONS – NEW AGE MOVEMENT

INTRODUCTION:

1. As the New Age Movement has made its move on the religious world one thing has become quite evident, it is difficult to define as a singular religion.
 - A. Actually, it is just what it is – a movement.
 - B. Essentially, it has become a collection of eastern-influenced metaphysical ideologies, a hodge-podge of theologies and philosophies that are bound together by “universal tolerance” and moral relativism.
 - C. It can easily be said that this movement is the natural progression of humanism.
 1. It teaches that humans have evolved biologically, and must now evolve spiritually.
 - D. Beyond that, it is difficult to define, as there is no hierarchy, doctrine, creed, or membership.
2. The central figure of this movement is man.
 - A. He is viewed as divine, and progressing toward a kind of godhood, or “Christ-Consciousness”.
3. Many divisions of this movement are pantheistic.
 - A. They believe God is in everything, and everything together makes up God.
 1. Thus, as a part of nature, man is part of God.
 - B. Numerous practices of this movement are designed to push man through the spiritual evolution to “godhood.”
 1. Astral projection, which is the training of the soul to have out-of-body experiences.
 2. Contacting spirit guides, and using crystals to purify the body and mind’s energy systems are among these practices.
 3. Many adherents of this movement believe in reincarnation and Karma.
4. There are numerous terms that are commonly heard among adherents of this movement.
 - A. Holistic - including or involving all one’s physical, mental, and social conditions.
 - B. Synergistic - the doctrine that the human will and the Holy Spirit work together.
 - C. Unity – reference to the concept of “Global Unity.”
 - D. Oneness - all matter, including human beings, are of the same origin.
 - E. Harmony – the union of flesh and spirit.
 - F. Transformation - the act or process of transforming somebody or something.
 - G. Personal growth - development focusing on self-improvement and esteem.
 - H. Human potential - belief that one is in complete control of one’s destiny.
 - I. Awakening – reference to an awakened consciousness.
 - J. Networking – conspiring together, with the New Age Plan in mind.
 - K. Energy – the idea of flowing streams of power in the Earth.
 - L. Cleansing – the purging of the earth of undesirables.
 - M. Consciousness - the awareness of one’s existence.
5. A large amount of their written material contains the word “self”.
 - A. That is because man is the central figure.

1. One must improve one's "self" to become one with nature and god.
6. It is not uncommon to hear adherents use Christian terms.
 - A. This is because they view Jesus as a man who excelled at spiritual evolution and progression, and was tuned into his "Christ Consciousness."
 - B. However, be aware that these terms will have a totally different meaning to the New Age adherent than they will for you.

BODY:

1. ORIGIN OF THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT:

- A. The origin of the New Age Movement dates back to around 1875 with the theosophical teachings of Helena Blavatsky.
 1. And then later in the 1920's with the teachings of Alice Bailey.
- B. The Theosophical Society, as it was called, espoused the abolishment of Christianity, Judaism and Islam, promoting the unity of other world religions.
 1. They claimed that their teachings were revealed by "spirit" or elemental guides.
 2. They emphasized heavily the evolution of a self deified, master aryan society, and a one world "new age" religion and social order.
- C. In the year 1922, Bailey founded the "Lucifer Publishing Company," which printed and distributed their teachings.
 1. These teachings were very complete in their intent and goals.
 2. Step by step they plotted the coming new age with instructions for the institution of the necessary new world order.
- D. Much of the modern pursuits of the new age movement were derived from experiences gained through mind and consciousness altering drugs, very popular during the '60's and '70's.
 1. Those who took part in such saw and experienced things that started them on quests for life's answers.
 - A. They believe that man is invested and divested with untapped powers and wisdom that can be realized if diligently and purposefully sought after.
 2. It was at this time that the infamous atheistic propaganda, "God is dead" grew out of these awakenings; and, since God was now dead, mankind was compelled to search elsewhere for answers and hope.
 - A. Where better to search than one's self?
 - B. Drugs were not the only devices used; philosophy, education, and various forms of religion were also employed by seekers to find the higher planes that they knew existed.
 1. Some of these religions became the modern day cults which tickled the fancies and satisfied the longing for mystical and spiritual experiences and self enlightenment.
 - A. These pursuits have ancient origins in such systems as Gnosticism, alchemy (enchanting power and transformation), mesmerism (the power to fascinate somebody in a way that is almost hypnotic), mysticism (the belief that personal communication or union with

the divine is achieved through intuition, faith, ecstasy, or sudden insight rather than through rational thought), theosophy (the teachings of the Theosophical Society, a religious movement founded in New York in 1875, incorporating chiefly Buddhist and Brahmanic theories such as reincarnation and karma) and spiritualism (belief that the spirits of dead people can communicate with the living, especially through mediums).

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT:

- A. It is a compilation of metaphysical and Eastern-influenced thought systems.
 - 1. They unite theology, nature, and philosophy.
- B. The movement comprises countless “theologies” that often center on religious tolerance and moral diversity.
- C. The main phrases that reveal the focal point of this movement are:
 - 1. “Feel-goodism” - do whatever feels good, as long as you are not hurting someone else.
 - 2. “Moral relativism” – nothing other than situational ethics.
 - 3. “Pluralism” - universal tolerance.
- D. The phrase “New Age” refers to the “Aquarian Age” which, according to adherents, is now beginning.
 - 1. This Age is expected to bring in peace and enlightenment, as well as reunite humans with “god.”
 - A. New Age doctrine claims that humans are currently estranged from God due to a lack of insight concerning His real nature and reality.
- E. In New Age understanding, mankind is central.
 - 1. Humans are considered to be divine, as co-creators, and as the ultimate hope for the future of the world.
- F. The New Age Movement is generally tolerant of almost any world religion or philosophy, it is opposed to the “narrow-mindedness” of Christianity that teaches Jesus Christ is the only way to eternal salvation.
- G. As already indicated, the New Age philosophy is complicated to define because there is no centralized hierarchy, doctrine, or membership.
 - 1. At its foundation, it is a religious system with two main doctrines:
 - A. Evolutionary Godhood.
 - 1. The idea that all humans will become gods some day.
 - B. Global Unity.
 - 1. This is to be accomplished through three things:
 - A. Man unified with God.
 - B. Man unified with man.
 - C. Man unified with nature.
- H. Various other names such as, Higher Consciousness Movement, Occultism, Eastern Mysticism, Eastern Spirituality, Ancient or Perennial Wisdom, Age of Aquarius, Holistic Health Movement have been applied to this movement.
 - 1. The song Aquarius by The 5th Dimension, from the musical Hair, presents the basic statement and outward goals of the New Age Movement.

- A. “Harmony and understanding,
Sympathy and trust abounding.
No more falsehoods or derision,
Golden living, dreams of vision.
Mystic crystal revelations,
And the mind's true liberation.
Aquarius! Aquarius!
When the moon is in the southern half,
And Jupiter aligned with Mars.
Then peace will guide the planet,
And love will steer the stars.
This is the dawning of the Age of Aquarius!
Age of Aquarius!
Aquarius! Aquarius! Aquarius! Aquarius!”

Fifth Dimension (Arista Records 1972)

- I. Randall Baer, a former top New Age leader expresses the nature of the conspiracy of the New Age movement in his book, *Inside The New Age Nightmare*.
 - A. “This agenda is nothing less than the complete revolutionizing of the very foundations of not only America but the entire world. Such a plan calls for the total restructuring of planetary civilization into an enlightened One World Federation in which national boundaries and sovereignty are secondary, and ‘planetary citizenship’ in the ‘global village’ is the order of the day. This (conspiracy) offers a world in desperate need a grand solution to profound global problems. Apparent world peace and unprecedented opportunities ... are to be unveiled.”
- J. This system encompasses thousands of autonomous (and sometime contradictory) beliefs, organizations, and events.
 - 1. Generally it borrows its theology from pantheistic Eastern religions and its practices from 19th century Western occultism.
 - 2. The phrase “New Age” is used herein as an umbrella term to describe organizations, which seem to exhibit one or more of the following beliefs:
 - A. All is one; all reality is part of the whole.
 - B. Everything is God and God is everything.
 - C. Man is God or a part of God.
 - D. Man never dies, but continues to live through reincarnation.
 - E. Man creates his own reality and/or values through transformed consciousness or altered states of consciousness.
- K. Major areas of support of this movement:
 - 1. Homosexual-rights
 - 2. Abortion
 - 3. Feminism
 - 4. Undermining education
 - 5. Communism/ Socialism/ Globalism
 - 6. Abolition of the death-penalty and leniency on criminals

3. COMPARISON CHART NEW AGE MOVEMENT AND CHRISTIANITY:

New Age Movement	Christianity
God is an impersonal force.	God is personal. He is the Heavenly Father who loves man.
God is all and all is God. He is part of creation, as are all of us.	God is the Almighty Creator of the universe, and all within it. Man is finite, and one of God's creations.
There is no sin, only misunderstanding of truth.	Rebellion from God is sin. All accountable people have sinned, and all are, therefore, in need of salvation.
Man saves himself.	Jesus Christ paid the penalty for man's sins. Only through faith and obedience in him may man be saved.
Heaven and Hell do not exist. They are states of mind.	There is a literal Heaven, and a literal Hell.
Jesus is a man who exemplified "Christ Consciousness", and the divinity that is man.	Jesus is the Son of God, and is part of the triune nature of God.

4. A BIBLICAL RESPONSE TO THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT:

- A. God is personal.
 - 1. He speaks and has a self given name: "I AM" - Exodus 3:14.
 - 2. He is long suffering - Psalm 86:15; 2 Peter 3:15.
 - 3. He forgives - Ephesians 1:7.
 - 4. He hates sin - Psalm 5:5, 6; Habakkuk 1:13.
- B. Man is not divine, but a sinner - Romans 3:10, 23.
 - 1. He is deceitful - Jeremiah 17:9.
 - 2. He is full of evil - Mark 7:21-23.
 - 3. He loves darkness rather than light - John 3:19.
 - 4. He is unrighteous, does not understand, does not seek for God - Romans 3:10-12.
 - 5. He is helpless and ungodly - Romans 5:6.
 - 6. He is dead in his trespasses and sins - Ephesians 2:1.
 - 7. He fails to understand spiritual things - 1 Corinthians 2:14.
- C. Salvation is not correct thought, but deliverance from the consequence of sin - Romans 6:23.

1. Salvation is God's deliverance from condemnation - Ephesians 2:8, 9; Romans 1:18; 2:5; 5:9.
2. Salvation is found in no one but Jesus – John 14:6; Acts 4:12.
- D. Miracles were from God and not from the mind of man - Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 6:30-44; John 2:1-11.
 1. Miracles imply an action by someone that is greater than man.
 - A. If God is impersonal, miracles could not have occurred.
 1. But they did occur in Bible times and were not simply thoughts or understanding.
- E. Christ means “anointed.”
 1. Jesus was the Christ, the “anointed one.”
 - A. This does not mean a consciousness or quality of people.
 2. Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah, the Deliverer from sin - Matthew 16:16, 20; Luke 9:20.
- F. Only the Bible has the message of God today.
 1. It is a message of grace.
 - A. Grace is the unmerited favor of God upon mankind.
 - B. Grace is the undeserved kindness of God.
 - C. Grace is getting the blessings we do not deserve.
 2. Only Christianity has the message of free forgiveness given – Romans 6:23.
 - A. Every other religious system on earth has some form of salvation dependent totally or in part on what the adherents do.
- G. True morality is that which is revealed by God in the Bible.
 1. Anything else is only an imitation, a set of ideas laid down by man that originate from the mind of sinful man.
- H. The Bible opposes almost all the tenets of the New Age Movement.
- 5. THE "NEW AGE" IN A NUTSHELL:**
 - A. Men are powerful spirit beings
 - B. Man pre-existed before our present lives on earth – Reincarnation.
 - C. Humans will evolve into its Christ consciousness or God state.
 - D. God is a force, everyone and everything is part of this force.
 - E. Because God is in everything, man’s collective thoughts create reality.
 - F. The mother earth is part of the force and she is a living entity.
 - G. If the abuse of mother earth continues she will have to defend herself with severe natural upheavals.
 - H. Population must be reduced and eliminate all the negative thinking people (Monotheistic fundamentalism) by education or removal
 - I. Some in the "new age" believe that man’s parent species are alien life forms.
 1. They claim that these Aliens planted man here sometime in the past and that they are due to return.

WORLD RELIGIONS – SPIRITUISM

INTRODUCTION:

1. Spiritism or spiritualism is the belief and practice of communication with the spirits, supposedly of the dead.
 - A. Modern Spiritism had its beginning in the mysterious raps heard in 1848 in the home of a farmer named Fox in Hydesville, New York
 1. Previous occupants of the house where Fox lived had allegedly been disturbed by unexplained raps at night.
 2. Allegedly, Kate Fox, the youngest daughter, was said to have successfully challenged the supposed spirit to repeat the number of times she flipped her fingers.
 3. After communication had apparently been established a code was agreed upon which the raps given could answer questions:
 - A. One rap means "yes".
 - B. Two raps means "no"
 4. The "spirit" eventually identified himself as Mr. Splitfoot, who had been murdered in the house.
 - A. Supposedly a skeleton was later dug up in the basement.
 5. At a later date Margaret and Leah, two other sisters, joined Kate.
 6. In 1855 Kate and Margaret publicly admitted at the New York Academy of Music that they themselves had caused the rapping noises with their toes.
 - A. However, they later retracted this confession, claiming to have been bribed into making it – see <http://psychicinvestigator.com/demo/Foxtxt.htm>.
 - B. Both sisters died alcoholics with dipsomania.
 - C. They gave much of their lives to acting as mediums in the US and England, and Spiritism flourished through the world.
 - B. The tale of the Fox sisters spurred immediate interest, and the growth of Spiritualism was underway.
 1. In 1852 a Spiritualist Convention was held in Cleveland, Ohio with the help of Horace Greeley, the editor of the New York Tribune.

BODY:

1. SPIRITISM TERMS:

- A. Séance - a gathering of spiritualists to receive messages from the spirits, usually in small groups, talking with or receiving information from the dead.
- B. Medium - is the center of the stage.
 1. Supposedly this is a person who is sensitive to vibrations from the spirit world and is able to convey messages between that world and this one and to produce other spiritualist phenomena.
 2. The Medium may start with the "ectoplasm", which is a foul-smelling, milky-white substance that exudes as an umbilical cord from the medium's mouth.
 - A. The Medium claims that it is an energy form that will not function properly without darkness.

3. If this is not done the Medium may be taken over by a “spirit control”, who is a spirit that answers through the Medium all inquires of those gathered.
4. In New Age terminology, the name “Medium” has been substituted by the word “Channeler”.
- C. Spirit Guide - usually a departed human being who speaks through the Medium.
 1. During these activities the presence of other phenomena has been reported.
- D. Poltergeists – these are supposed ghosts who make much noise, move objects, and conduct levitation of objects or persons.
- E. Materialization – this is the supposed appearance of a spirit in matter.
- F. Telepathy - is the communication of ideas through other than physical normal means.
- G. Clairvoyance - is seeing through means other than the physical eye.
- H. Clairaudience - is hearing without the ears.
- I. Psychometry - to foretell a person's future by possessing an object belonging him.
- J. Spirit healings or spirit helpers – whose purpose it is to solve any problem.
- K. Apports – the appearance of solid object in or through other solid objects.
- 2. THE “CREED” OF SPIRITUALISM:**
 - A. Spiritualistic groups have basically codified their beliefs in what they call the “7 Principles”:
 1. The Fatherhood of God.
 2. The Brotherhood of Man.
 3. Continuous Existence.
 4. Communion of Spirits and Ministry of Angels.
 5. Personal Responsibility.
 6. Compensation or Retribution Hereafter for Good or Evil Done on Earth.
 7. A Path of Endless Progression.
- 3. ARTICLES OF BELIEF:**
 - A. They believe in Infinite Intelligence.
 - B. They believe that the phenomena of Nature, both physical and spiritual, are the expression of Infinite Intelligence.
 - C. They affirm that a correct understanding of such expression and living in accordance there with, constitute true religion.
 - D. They affirm that the existence and personal identity of the individual continues after the change called death.
 - E. They affirm that communication with the so-called dead is a fact scientifically proven by the phenomena of Spiritualism.
 - F. They believe that the highest morality is contained in the Golden Rule.
 - G. They affirm the moral responsibility of the individual, and that he makes his own happiness or unhappiness as he obeys or disobeys nature's physical and spiritual laws.
 - H. They affirm that the doorway to reformation is never closed against any human soul here or hereafter.
 - I. They affirm that the precept of Prophecy contained in the Bible is a divine attribute proven through Mediumship.

4. COMPARISON CHART SPIRITISM AND CHRISTIANITY:

Subject	Spiritism	Christianity
God	The spark of Divinity dwells in all.	There is one God, who cares deeply for each one of us - Deuteronomy 6:4; Ephesians 4:6.
Jesus Christ	Christ was not divine. He is now an advanced spirit in the sixth sphere. He never claimed to be God manifest in the flesh. He was only the Son of God as we are the sons of God. The biblical story of the conception of Christ is false. There is no special atoning value in his sufferings and death.	Christ was God in the flesh – John 1:1, 14. He is God incarnate, and therefore the only sure path to salvation. Many religions may offer ethical and spiritual insights, but only Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
The Holy Spirit	The Holy Spirit is the spirit of some holy person who has once been in the flesh.	The Holy Spirit is a distinct personality in the God head.
Sin	Whatever is, is right. Evil does not exist. Evil is good. No matter what man's path may be, good or bad, it is the path of divine ordination and destiny.	God gave man rules because He cares about him. He also gave man free will so we can choose to disobey. Disobedience (sin) is an offense against God – Psalms 51:4; 1 John 3:4.
Salvation	There is no atoning value in the death of Jesus Christ. Salvation by the vicarious atonement is a wicked and soul destroying delusion.	Salvation is a free gift from God to man. One must obey to gain it. We cannot earn it. Jesus bought man's salvation by taking all our sin upon Himself on the cross, dying as a sacrifice for man – Romans 6:23; Hebrews 5:9; Ephesians 2:8, 9; 1 Peter 1:18, 19; 2 Corinthians 5:21.
Hell	The biblical doctrine of Hell is wrong.	The final abode of the unrighteous dead. It will be a place of everlasting punishment – Matthew 25:46.

5. A BIBLICAL RESPONSE TO SPIRITISM:

- A. The Law of Moses strictly forbade attempts to communicate with the dead through spirit mediums - Leviticus 19:26, 31; 20:6; Deuteronomy 18:9-14; Isaiah 47:12; Micah 5:12.
- B. Jeremiah gave warning against the deceptions of “enchanters” and “sorcerers” - Jeremiah 27:9, 10.
- C. Witches were to be executed according to the Law – Leviticus 20:27.
- D. Occasions found in the Bible where those who practiced such are dealt with:
 - 1. Pharaoh’s magicians meet Moses and Aaron - Exodus 7:8-13.
 - 2. The Witch of En-Dor meets Samuel - 1 Samuel 28:7-14.
 - A. It seems evident that it was by the power of God that Samuel was called forth and not due to the power of this woman.
 - 1. Notice her reaction when Samuel actually appears – 1 Samuel 28:12.
 - 3. The King’s sorcerers meet Daniel - Dan 2:1-13, 19; 2:27-30.
 - 4. King Ahab’s prophets meet Micaiah - 1 King 22:1-28.
 - 5. Simon the sorcerer meets Philip - Acts 8:4-24.
- E. If one consults a medium or seeks out spiritists they are defiled by them – Leviticus 19:31.
- F. God is against anyone who follows after such, and they will be cut off - Leviticus 20:6.
- G. Those that practice sorcery, witchcraft and the like are detestable to the Lord - Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 2 Kings 17:17, 18.
- H. Ahaziah sought to know the future about his own injury and died because he consulted one he should not have consulted - 2 Kings 1:2, 16.
- I. Paul cast a fortune telling demon out of a girl - Acts 16:16-18.
- J. When one consults a medium for guidance they show themselves unfaithful to God - 1 Chronicles 10:13.
- K. Communication with the dead is not something taught within the Scriptures.
 - 1. Lazarus or the rich man could not do so – Luke 16:19-31.
- L. Consider Acts 13:6-11 and Paul’s response to the sorcerer who opposed him and Barnabas as they sought to preach the Word of God to a man who wanted to hear it.
- M. Note the response of the ex-sorcerers at Ephesus who converted to Christianity and how they publicly burned their scrolls - Acts 19:18, 19.
 - 1. This is how they proved their repentance - Acts 26:20.
- N. Consider Revelation 21:8 and 22:15.
- O. Those who practice such will one day bow their knees and confess that “Jesus Christ is Lord” - Philippians 2:9-11.

WORLD RELIGIONS – ISLAM

INTRODUCTION:

1. See Comparative Religions Chart # 3, Appendix # 4, page 97.
2. The need to study Islam.
 - A. The number of Muslims in North America is in dispute:
 1. Estimates range from under 3 million to over 6 million.
 2. The primary cause of the disagreement appears to be over how many Muslim immigrants have converted to Christianity since they arrived in the US.
 3. Over the last several years the Muslim population of the United States grew, at least, by six fold.
 - B. In 37 nations Islam is the majority religion.
 1. The following countries are 99.5% Islamic:
 - A. Bahrain
 - B. Comoros
 - C. Kuwait
 - D. Maldives
 - E. Mauritania
 - F. Mayotte
 - G. Morocco
 - H. Oman
 - I. Qatar
 - J. Somalia
 - K. Saudi Arabia
 1. Saudi Arabia is spending \$50 million in the US to promote Islam on our soil.
 - L. Tunisia
 - M. United Arab Emirates
 - N. Western Sahara
 - O. Yemen
 - C. There are over 1 Billion Muslims in the world.
 1. Top 10 Largest National Muslim Populations:

A. Indonesia	170,310,000
B. Pakistan	136,000,000
C. Bangladesh	106,050,000
D. India	103,000,000
E. Turkey	62,410,000
F. Iran	60,790,000
G. Egypt	53,730,000
H. Nigeria	47,720,000
I. China	37,108,000
 - D. Islam is growing at about 2.9% per year which is faster than the total world population which increases at about 2.3% annually.

1. It is projected that in the year 2005 Islam will pass “Christianity” in comparison to religious preference world wide.
2. It is projected that such countries as Tanzania and Macedonia, will see Islam become a majority within the next twenty years.
3. In 2004, seven percent of babies born in European Union countries were Muslims.
 - A. In Brussels, the figure was 57%.
4. Islam is already the second religion of almost every European state.
3. Various principles to be understood up front:
 - A. Not all Muslims are radical, violent, or terrorists.
 - A. Many are gentle, kind, friendly, and outraged at the terrorists.
 - B. Practically all Arabs are united in the opposition to Israel.
 - C. The religion of Islam is strong on moral issues such as abortion, adultery, alcohol consumption, pornography, smoking, stealing.
 - D. Islam teaches that Jesus is a prophet equal to Muhammad.
4. Areas that we will consider as part of this course:
 - A. Glossary of words and terms.
 - B. History and Background
 1. Consideration will be given to the background of Muhammad and the origin of Islam.
 - C. Qur'an
 1. Main area of consideration:
 - A. What is the origin of the Qur'an?
 - D. Islamic Beliefs
 1. Consideration of the five pillars of Islam, worship, Holy places.
 2. Various beliefs of Islam.
 - E. Divisions
 1. Consideration of the various factions of Islam.
 - F. Radicals
 1. Where do radical views come from?
 - G. Convert
 1. How do you reach Muslims?
 2. What are the differences and areas of agreement with Christianity?

BODY:

1. GLOSSARY OF WORDS AND TERMS:

- A. Ali - His full name is Ali ibn Abi Talib. He is Muhammad's first cousin and adopted son. He married Muhammad's daughter, Fatima. He was Muhammad's second convert.
- B. Allah - Allah the Supreme Being of Islam.
 1. It is claimed that Judaism, Christianity and Islam all follow the same God.
- C. Allahu Akbar - The Arabic phrase, “God is the Greatest” that serves as the Islamic call to faith and battle. Part of the phrase that is called from the loud speakers at the mosque to call them to prayer.

- D. Al-Shariah - The law of Islam. The Shariah is not just considered a spiritual guide but a physical law as well. In Islamic countries there is no separation of politics and religion.
- E. Amir - The “commander of the faithful.”
- F. Arab - Arab is a vague term that sometimes refers to an ethnic group (descendants of Ishmael); at other times to the common Arabic language; and at times to the religion of Islam which is an improper application. All who speak Arabic or are of Arab descent are not Muslims. Not all Muslims are in nations that speak Arabic. Only about 20% of Muslims live in the Arabic speaking world.
- G. Ayatollah - Used as a title, the word means, “reflection of Allah.”
- H. Bin - The word means “son of”. The word is used to show relationship. In Hebrew the word is “bar” as in Simon bar Jonah. Bin Laden means the son of Laden. Many last names developed from this use - Peterson, Smithson, Johnson, etc.
- I. Caliph - This “successor of the messenger of God” used by the Sunnis for the leader of Islam.
- J. Fatima - the daughter of Muhammad by Khadija and who married Ali.
- K. Hadith - “Tradition.” The Hadith is the second source of authority in Islam. These are the sayings and things that Muhammad did. There are more than 20,000 sayings passed down by word of mouth and eventually recorded.
- L. Hijra - More often seen in its Anglicized form “Hegira”. This is the flight of Muhammad from Mecca to Medina.
- M. Ijma - The principle of consensus used by the Sunnis. Many statements in the Hadith are not Ijma. That is, there is no consensus that the statement is correct or authority.
- N. Islam - Submission to Allah. Islam is the name of the religion. Muslims are members of this religion.
- O. Imam - Spiritual leader
- P. Jihad - The word means, “Struggle”. Many think that this word means “holy war.” It can, and is used in this sense. It is also used to describe some personal struggle with temptation to sin. Most Muslims insist that the only war included in jihad is a defense and was never used as an offensive act.
 - 1. When a country is conquered the inhabitants are offered three choices:
 - A. Convert to Islam and become a citizen of the new nation.
 - B. Pay the poll-tax (Jizyah) as a protection.
 - C. Death by the sword to those who will not pay the tax.
 - 2. There are numerous “Jihad” passages in the Qur'an that trouble non-Muslims.
- Q. Kaba - A square building in the great Mosque in Mecca. Pilgrims march around it seven times and kiss the sacred stone, which is supposed to have been placed there by Muhammad himself.
- R. Kafiye - Men's headdress. It is cool in the summer and warm in the winter.
- S. Minaret - A tall steeple that is part of every mosque. Loud speakers are attached which call out the time of prayer.
- T. Monotheism - The belief in one God.

- U. Muslim - Also spelled Moslem. One who submits to Allah.
- V. Muhammad - Also spelled Mohammed. Islam claims him to be the last prophet of God. Born in Mecca in 570 AD and died in 632 AD.
- W. Mosque - A place of worship for Muslims.
- X. PBUH - Written after the name of a “prophet of God.” It is the abbreviation for “peace be upon him” and is written to show the name was written with respect.
- Y. Prayer Police - Special police who exist in Saudi Arabia to herd people into the mosque, if they fail to enter of their own free will.
- Z. Qiyas - Case studies based on earlier decisions of Muhammad.
- a. Qur'an - Also spelled Koran, and means “recitation.” It is the supreme authority in Islam.
- b. Ramadan - The month of fasting. It marks the anniversary of the first month of the Muslim calendar year, which was established in 622, the year that Muhammad fled to Medina from Mecca. During this month Muslims are not allowed to eat food or drink during daylight hours. They are permitted to eat and drink after sundown. It is claimed that this is the month that Gabriel met with Muhammad and revealed the Qur'an to him.
- c. Symbol - The symbol of Islam is the crescent moon and a star.
- d. Ulama - The learned doctors of Islam who would correspond to the scribes in Judaism.
- e. Umma - The ideal utopia state when all are converted to Islam.

2. HISTORY AND BACKGROUND:

- A. Prior to the time of Muhammad, most Arabs were nature worshippers.
 - 1. They worshipped the sun, moon, stars, and other parts of our natural world.
 - 2. They had 360 idols, representing each day of the Arab year.
- B. Muhammad was born in Mecca, in 570 AD.
 - 1. His mother died when he was six (Father, Abdullah, died before his birth).
 - 2. He lived with foster parents and became a camel driver.
 - 3. He soon gained a reputation as a caravan leader.
 - 4. Khadija, a widow, 15 years older than Muhammad, hired him and they later married.
 - 5. Muhammad was distressed by the idolatry, drunkenness and gambling of the Arab people and tried to improve the moral conditions.
 - 6. He had no formal schooling and could neither read nor write.
 - A. This should be kept in mind when one studies the origin of the Qur'an.
 - 7. His wife's cousin spent many hours reading the Bible to him and he became convinced that Arabia needed a prophet like Jesus to lead them from their evil ways.
 - 8. While meditating one day, allegedly the angel, Gabriel, visited him with some golden tablets in his hand.
 - A. Very similar to Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon.
 - B. He informed his wife of this occurrence and she urged him to return to the same place and wait for Gabriel to return with new revelations from heaven.

- C. Slowly the idea possessed Muhammad that he was the prophet chosen by God and began to gather followers.
- C. The message of Muhammad was really the message of Judaism, Christianity and his own ideas of reform combined.
 - 1. His small group of followers called their religion Islam (submission) and the followers of this new religion were called Muslims (true believers).
 - 2. By 750 AD Islam had expanded to China, India, along the Mediterranean and into Spain.
 - A. By 1550 they had reached Vienna.
 - B. Wars resulted, expelling Muslims from Spain and Europe.
 - 3. Their trading routes were mostly over land which prevented them from developing a sea trade.
 - A. Due to this Islam did not get a strong hold in the settling of America.
- D. Beginning in 1099 and lasting into the thirteenth century, "Christian" armies under the orders of the popes and European leaders launched wars known as the "Crusades" to retake Jerusalem and Palestine from the Muslims.
 - 1. In 1998 Osama bin Laden declared that his work was a continuation of the struggle against the "infidel" Crusaders of the Middle Ages.
- E. The marriage of Muhammad to the wealthy widow Khadija, provided him economic security.
 - 1. She became one of his first converts to Islam, and gave him a daughter, they called Fatima.
- F. The messages that he claimed came from God were later codified into the Qur'an.
 - 1. He called the Qur'an a perfect book from God.
- G. He preached monotheism and attacked the polytheism and animism of tribal worship at the Kaba in the center of Mecca.
 - 1. This resulted in both notoriety and persecution.
- H. As time past he won as a convert Ali, who later married his daughter Fatima.
 - 1. From this union two sons were born, Hasan and Husain.
 - 2. Ali became the first imam of the Shiites.
- I. In 622 AD Muhammad escaped to Medina.
 - 1. This is referred to as the "hegira" and marks the beginning of the Islamic calendar.
 - 2. Warring Arab and Jewish tribes inhabited Medina.
 - A. Seeking to appease the Jews, Muhammad proposed Friday as the Sabbath and praying to Jerusalem five times a day.
 - 1. When the Jews refused to follow his lead, he chose to pray facing Mecca and adopted Friday as the day of worship.
 - 3. In Medina he established a community of Islam, called the Umma.
 - A. There he built the first mosque, organized an army, and played the roles of prophet, ruler, judge, commander-in-chief, and prayer leader.
- J. Muhammad set out on a conquest of the Arabian Peninsula, subduing tribes (including Jewish tribes), killing thousands, collecting booty (including concubines), and consolidating his power.

1. He engaged in numerous battles and the Jewish tribes were expelled or executed.
 - A. In one battle with the last Jewish tribe around Medina, 700 to 800 men were slaughtered and their wives and children taken as booty.
 - B. He gained many wives and concubines, his favorite being Aisha, with whom he consummated marriage when she was nine years old.
 - K. When Muhammad gained control of Mecca in 630 AD, he purged the Kaba of idols and established it as the place of pilgrimage to worship Allah.
 - L. Muhammad died in 632 AD leaving behind no official successor.
- 3. A CONSIDERATION OF THE QUR'AN:**
- A. Origin of the Qur'an:
 1. Muhammad was aware of the fact that the Jews and "Christians" were people of the book.
 - A. By contrast, the Arab people were divided, warring, and idolatrous.
 1. They had no set of "scriptures" of their own to produce unity amongst them.
 - B. He believed that others who had such "holy books" would be impressed with the Qur'an, but they were not.
 1. He was initially accused of disseminating Christian and Jewish information.
 2. To the Muslim today the Qur'an is of utmost importance.
 - A. It is viewed as the incarnate Word of God in Arabic.
 - B. Given the fact that Muhammad could not read or write this has caused the very existence of the Qur'an to be viewed as a miracle from Allah.
 1. What is overlooked is that, similar to Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon, the words were dictated to others who recorded them.
 3. Second to the Qur'an in authority is the Hadith, which is the collected traditions, teachings, and stories of Muhammad compiled by a follower shortly after Muhammad's death.
 - A. It is basically a biography of his life.
 4. The Qur'an is one book with ten chapters (called surah) and verses.
 - A. Each chapter also has a name:
 1. The Sheep
 2. The Dinner Table
 3. The Cow
 4. Women
 5. The Cave, etc.
 - A. One may find a reference written as "The Cow 2:178".
- 4. ISLAMIC BELIEFS:**
- A. Five Pillars of Islam:
 1. To combat the many rules and regulations of Christianity and Judaism Muhammad developed five simple requirements.
 - A. The simplicity appealed to many who were discouraged at trying to keep all the requirements.

2. Shahadah - "There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet."
 - A. This statement is made several times each day (at times of prayer) and is required for one to convert to Islam.
3. Salah - Five times each day one must face Mecca and pray.
 - A. There are certain prayers that are prescribed for each time of prayer.
 1. Prayers are to be said morning, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset, and just before sleeping.
 2. Calls go out from the Minaret (the tall slender tower attached to a mosque, from which the muezzin (the mosque official who calls Muslims to prayer) calls the faithful to prayer for each time of prayer.
 - B. The Moslem call to prayer:

God is Great.
 God is Great.
 God is Great.
 God is Great.
 I testify that there is none worthy of worship except God.
 I testify that there is none worthy of worship except God.
 I testify that Muhammad is the messenger of God.
 I testify that Muhammad is the messenger of God.
 Come to prayer!
 Come to prayer!
 Come to success!
 Come to success!
 God is Great!
 God is Great!
 There is none worthy of worship except God.
4. Swam - Fasting during daylight hours through the month of Ramadan (in the Islamic calendar, the ninth month of the year, made up of 30 days).
 - A. Since the Arab calendar is only 360 days, this month gradually moves earlier by our calendar.
5. Zakat - Setting aside 2.5% of your income to help the needy in the Muslim community is a requirement.
 - A. Called the "Jizyah" (protection money) for non-converts to live in a Moslem community.
6. Hajj - Everyone who can afford the trip is urged to make one pilgrimage to Mecca in his or her lifetime.
- B. Six basic doctrines of Islam:
 1. God - There is only one true god and his name is Allah who is all-seeing, all-knowing, and all-powerful.
 2. Angels - The chief angel is Gabriel, who is said to have appeared to Mohammad.
 - A. There is also a jinn (demon) named Shaitan (from the Hebrew, Satan), as well as the followers of Shaitan, the other djinni (demons).

3. Scripture - Muslims believe in four God-inspired books:
 - A. The Torah of Moses – i.e. the Pentateuch
 - B. The Zabur - Psalms of David
 - C. The Injil - Gospel of Jesus
 - D. The Qur'an – Being Allah's final word to mankind, so it supersedes and overrules all previous writings.
 4. Mohammad - The Qur'an lists 28 prophets of Allah.
 - A. These include Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Jonah, and Jesus.
 1. To the Muslim, the last and greatest prophet is Mohammad.
 5. The end times - On the last day the dead will be resurrected.
 - A. Allah will be the judge and each person will be sent to heaven or hell.
 1. Moslem concept of heaven is a place of sensual pleasure.
 2. Hell is for those who oppose Allah and his prophet, Mohammad.
 6. Predestination - Allah has determined what he pleases and no one can change what he has decreed.
- B. Human duties fall under four categories:
1. Duty to Allah
 - A. The first and foremost duty is to Allah.
 - B. There are three duties to Allah:
 1. Not to associate partners with Him.
 2. Not to worship anyone but Allah.
 3. Not to depend upon anyone for help but Allah.
 2. Duty to Other Human Beings
 - A. One person's rights are other person's duties.
 3. Community Duty
 - A. The duty to defend the family, the country and the community as a whole.
 - B. Provide for the poor, orphans, widows, handicapped, refugees and others.
 1. Every Muslim should be a part of such a support system.
 2. Every human being has five basic rights, namely, food, clothing, shelter, education and health maintenance.
 3. Every Muslim should be part of the system providing basic rights to all those who cannot provide for themselves.
 4. Duty to Manage the Earth
 - A. Allah has appointed man Khalifah on the earth, meaning that man is a trustee or manager of the earth for the owner, Allah.
- C. Worship within Islam:
1. The purpose of worship in Islam is to be "God conscious".
 - A. Thus worship, is a means in order that when one becomes conscious of God, in thought and in action, he is in a better position to receive His bounties both in this world and the hereafter.
 - B. Thus worship is everything one says or does for the pleasure of Allah.
 - C. "Worship is an essential and inseparable part of the religion of Islam. In Islamic terminology, Ibaadah (worship) is a comprehensive term that encompasses everything that Allah loves and is pleased with, of both

statements and actions – both apparent and hidden. It embodies (represents) utmost love of Allah through the utmost degree of submission. Hence, Salaat, Zakaat, Saum, Hajj, being truthful in speech, fulfilling one's trust, kindness towards parents, maintaining relations with kin; fulfilling pledges; commanding the good; forbidding the evil; Jihad against the disbelievers and the hypocrites, being beneficent towards the neighbor, the orphan, the poor person, the traveler and the owned human or animal, supplication, remembrance (of Allah), recitation (of the Qur'aan) and the like of all such, are types of worship."

<http://www.ahya.org/tjonline/eng/08/01Worship.html>

- D. "It is not righteousness that you turn your faces to the East or the West, but righteous is he who believes in God and the Last day and the Angels and the Book and the Prophets; and gives his wealth for love of Him to kinsfolk and to orphans and the needy and the wayfarer and to those who ask, and to set slaves free; and observe proper worship and pays the Zakah. And those who keep their treaty when they make one, and the patient in tribulation and adversity and time of stress; such are those who are sincere. Such are the God-fearing." (The Cow 2:177).

2. The place of worship - The Mosque:

- A. The major place of meditation and prayer is the mosque.
1. It is a large open building with room for each person to place a prayer rug on the floor for their prayers.
 2. Outside there is a fountain for washing and purification of hands, face, and feet before entering the mosque.
 3. In the mosque on Friday, the Qur'an will be chanted in Arabic, sermons preached, and classes taught.
 4. Larger mosques will also house schools for children and training religious teachers.

D. Holy Places in Islam:

1. The Country of Saudi Arabia considers itself to be the caretaker of Mecca.
 - A. No "Christian" missionaries are allowed to enter it and no church buildings are allowed to be built on its soil.
 - B. It is considered the sacred duty of every Muslim to make a hajj to Mecca once on their lifetime.
 1. Muhammad purged the Kaba of idols.
 2. In modern times pilgrims circle it seven times while reciting the prayers of the Qur'an.
2. The third most holy place in Islam is the "Dome of the Rock" in Jerusalem.
 - A. According to Muslim legend, Muhammad was supernaturally transported from Mecca to this spot and taken up to heaven, where he met Abraham, Moses, and Jesus, whom he led in prayer.
 - B. According to Jewish tradition, this same place marks the location where Abraham attempted to offer his son Isaac.

E. COMPARISON CHART ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY:

Subject	Islam	Christianity
Nature of God	Allah is one. He begets not and He is not begotten and there is none like unto Him. (The term "Father" is never used in the Qur'an of God.)	God is our Father. Jesus is His physically and spiritually begotten divine Son. God is working out a plan in which all humans come into the image of Jesus and become His divine children.
God's Purpose and Plan	Allah does as He pleases. "Allah has created mankind primarily so that they may know their creator through his creations."	God is currently working out a plan in which all humans come into the image of Jesus as His divine children. What He plans to do next is beyond our understanding.
What is "Spirit"?	An angel or created attribute. God is not spirit.	God is Spirit. He created angels. He can beget humans as His children by giving them His Spirit.
God's Spokesmen	OT Prophets, Jesus, culminating in Muhammad.	OT Prophets climaxing in Jesus followed by the apostles
Who is Jesus?	A prophet of God, born of Virgin Mary, by the word of the God as told to Mary by Angel Gabriel. He was taken up by Allah, but a phantom was crucified in his place."	The "one-of-a-kind" son of God, born of Mary, begotten by the Holy Spirit (the power and presence of God.) The "Incarnation" is a NT doctrine. He descended from Heaven, became human and died for us, so demonstrating God's love for us. We now come to the Father through Jesus the Son. He is our link to God.
God's Written Communication	<i>Al Qur'an</i> (the recitation) of 114 <i>suras</i> (units) supported by many volumes of <i>hadith</i> (traditions). The Qur'an was dictated to Muhammad by the Angel Gabriel in pure Classical Arabic. It is our link to God.	The Bible is composed of 39 Old Testament books in Hebrew and Aramaic and 27 New Testament books in Greek, composed by numerous authors across many centuries under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Written in the dialect of the common people.

Subject	Islam	Christianity
Nature of Man	Sinless at birth with capacity for unlimited moral and spiritual progress through belief in God and faithful adherence to the teachings	Sinless at birth. Obedience to the teachings of the NT provides man with that which is necessary to turn from their evil ways and become holy.
Personal Accountability	The activities of the wicked and of the saint, of the generous and of the grasping, are all Allah's creation. Allah may give up to seven spirits to a man. But those who choose good will be rewarded and evil punished.	All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. The wages of sin is death. God calls on humans to choose life and depart from evil.
Life after death	At the Resurrection, righteous go to the Garden of God, but do not see God. Wicked dwell forever in fire. Especially righteous do not need to await the Resurrection.	While in this life all have an opportunity to obey God. At the end of time all will be resurrected with a division of the sheep from the goats.
Believers are:	"My slaves"	"The children of God"
Destruction of the Present World	Allah will destroy all the nations except Islamic ones. At the end of Jesus' and the messianic Imam's rule, the angels will be destroyed and the earth will spill out its contents.	The Earth will be destroyed.
Levels of Reward	Seven levels of reward	Not levels, but possible degrees of reward

5. THE DIVISIONS FOUND WITHIN ISLAM:

- A. There are no “official” denominations in Islam.
 - 1. All Muslims are welcome at any mosque in any nation, at any time.
- B. However, there are two major factions of Islam.
 - 1. During his lifetime Muhammad established a “theocracy” with himself as the head.
 - 2. When he died, he did not leave any instructions about who should succeed him as leader of Islam.
 - 3. There, then, developed two major divisions, with several minor ones having developed.
 - A. Sunni - 90% of all Muslims are Sunni.
 - 1. They are the mainstream traditionalists.
 - 2. They believed that the successor to Muhammad should be from the Quraish tribe and chosen by consensus.
 - 3. Abu Bakr, was the first leader to follow Muhammad.
 - A. He is called the caliph (leader) of Islam.
 - 4. The early period of the caliphs was the golden age of Islamic conquest.
 - A. In this period of history the caliphs subjugated Damascus, Iraq, Jerusalem, Egypt, and Persia.
 - B. Shiite - A small minority of more radical and strict interpretation of the Qur'an are the Shiites.
 - 1. They believe in 12 heavenly Imams (perfect teachers) and that the 12th did not die but is in hiding and waiting for the right time to reappear and lead the religion.
 - 2. The Shiites believed the leader should be a descendent of Muhammad.
 - A. They chose, Ali, the son-in-law of Muhammad.
 - B. After the 12th Imam, they recognized the authority of the “Ayatollah” as the leader until the 12th Imam returns.
 - 3. Iraq is the leading Shiite nation.
 - C. Sufism - is a mystic branch that believes in receiving an inner knowledge from God by meditation and ritual dancing.
 - 1. They are not generally recognized as a part of Islam, but more like Buddhism with some African tribal customs included.
 - A. They are found more in North and sub-Saharan Africa.
 - D. Bahai World Faith - Bahai is an attempt to integrate all of the world religions.
 - 1. It started as a break away from Islam.
 - 2. Now it is a separate religion.
 - E. Ahmadiis - Followers of Ahmadiyya Movement believe that God sent Ahmad as a Messiah, “a messenger of His in this age who has claimed to have come in the spirit and power of Jesus Christ.”
 - 1. He lived from 1835-1908.
 - 2. The movement began in India.
 - 3. There are now more than 10 million members.

4. They are very heavily persecuted in Pakistan.
- F. Black Muslim Movement (BMM) - This is a largely black urban movement in the USA.
 1. It started in Detroit by Wallace Fard.
 - A. A second temple built in Chicago by Elijah Muhammad (born Elijah Poole).
 2. The driving force was a rejection of Christianity as the religion of the historically oppressing white race.
 - A. They began to teach that blacks were superior to whites and that a racial war was inevitable.
 - B. The most famous spokesperson was Malcolm X.
 - C. Presently, Louis Farrakan is the familiar spokesman of this view.
 3. Most Muslims reject the BMM because of its stand supporting one race as superior.

6. RADICALISM AND TERROISM ASSOCIATED WITH ISLAM:

- A. What about Muslim radicals?
 1. As previously indicated, during the early days of Islam, there was great persecution from the Arab tribes who worshipped nature.
 - A. There was also persecution from “Christians” and Jews who believed that the introduction of a new revelation was heresy.
 1. During the period of the Crusades, many Muslims were killed because they refused to convert to the religion of the Crusaders.
 2. During the days of Muhammad there was such persecution that he had to flee from Mecca to Medina.
 - B. In view of the persecution Muhammad offered incentives to fight back.
 1. When territory was gained in war, 20% belonged to Muhammad and the other 80% belonged to those who conquered the land.
 - A. This included land, property and people.
 2. When one studies the Qur'an they note there are many references to killing the “people of the book”.
 - A. This is understood to be in reference to those who follow some parts of the Bible.
 1. While some quotes are taken out of context, some are clearly written to urge protection and self-defense.
- B. Why is there a resurgence of Islamic fundamentalism today?
 1. First, Islam has always been an aggressive religion.
 2. Secondly, the clash between modern nationalism and tribal loyalties.
 3. Thirdly, the establishment of the modern nation of Israel.
 4. Fourthly, the moral weakness of an increasingly secularized Western culture.
 5. Fifth, the increase in Arabic emigration to Western Europe and America.
- C. It is often argued that Muslims do not advocate terrorism.
 1. And this may be true of some.
 - A. Muhammad often told soldiers not to kill women and children.

1. He is quoted as saying, "Do not be excessive; do not kill a newborn child."
 - A. But keep in mind, there is another reason for this command other than his being Mr. Nice Guy.
 1. Women and children could be taken as wives or slaves.
2. Notice the following from the Qur'an:
 - A. "O ye who believe! Take not the Jews and the Christians for friends. They are friends one to another. He among you who taketh them for friends is (one) of them. Lo! Allah guideth not wrongdoing folk." (The Table Spread, 5:51 – p. 146)
 - B. "And fight them until persecution is no more, and religion is all for Allah. But if they cease, then lo! Allah is Seer of what they do." (Spoils of War, 8:39 – p. 231).
 - C. "Fight against such of those who have been given the Scripture as believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, and forbid not that which Allah hath forbidden by His messenger, and follow not the Religion of Truth, until they pay the tribute readily, being brought low. 30. And the Jews say: Ezra is the son of Allah, and the Christians say: The Messiah is the son of Allah. That is their saying with their mouths. They imitate the saying of those who disbelieved of old. Allah (Himself) fighteth against them. How perverse are they!" (Repentance 9:29, 30 – Page 243)
 - D. "There is not a township but We shall destroy it ere the Day of Resurrection, or punish it with dire punishment. That is set forth in the Book (of Our decrees)." (The Al-Isra 17:58 – Page 371)
 - E. "Now when ye meet in battle those who disbelieve, then it is smiting of the necks until, when ye have routed them, then making fast of bonds; and afterward either grace or ransom till the war lay down its burdens. That (is the ordinance). And if Allah willed He could have punished them (without you) but (thus it is ordained) that He may try some of you by means of others. And those who are slain in the way of Allah, He rendereth not their actions vain. He will guide them and improve their state. And bring them in unto the Garden which He hath made known to them." (Muhammad 47:4-6 – Pages 671, 672)
 - F. "And there are among us some who have surrendered (to Allah) and there are among us some who are unjust. And whoso hath surrendered to Allah, such have taken the right path purposefully. 15. And as for those who are unjust, they are firewood for hell." (The Jinn 72:14, 15, Page 770)
- D. Why adherents of Islam hate those of other religious persuasions such as Christians:
 1. They believe that the Bible of the Christians is corrupt, unreliable, and inferior to the Qur'an.
 2. They believe that Christians follow untruthful doctrines.
 - A. For example, the doctrine of the Godhead (trinity) is especially considered to be blasphemous and sinful.

1. This is because they do not believe that Jesus is the Son of God, because God is too exalted to have a son.
 - B. They reject the teaching that Jesus was crucified and resurrected.
 - C. They do not believe Jesus is a savior or mediator and reject the idea that he could atone for the sins of the world.
 3. The “radical” part of Islam comes in when one is so convinced that they have the truth and want to force others to accept their views.
 - A. While most people seek to convert others with reason, logic, study and discussion, the Muslim seeks to convince men to their view by force and threat.
- 7. HOW DO WE REACH THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY WITH THE GOSPEL?**
- A. Islam views the US as a ripe mission field.
 1. Islam is the 3rd largest religious group in America with only the Catholics and Baptists being larger.
 - A. Between 1989 and 1998 the Islamic population in the US grew by 25%.
 - B. They have an aggressive missionary effort in the US.
 - C. There are Muslim chaplains in all branches of the military and most prisons have a Muslim chaplain and Islamic services.
 - D. There are weekly Muslim prayer services on Capitol Hill.
 - B. As far as Christians are concerned, it is not just what Islam teaches.
 1. We need to learn how we can reach them with the Gospel.
 2. There are four basic questions to discuss here:
 - A. On what issues do Christians and Muslims agree?
 - B. On what issues is there great contrast?
 - C. How does one become a Muslim?
 - D. What approach should we use in teaching a Muslim?
 - C. On what issues do Christians and Muslims agree?
 1. While we disagree about the nature of God - we both believe in one God.
 - A. He is supreme.
 - B. He is the creator.
 - C. He will judge men.
 - D. Monotheism is a teaching on which we agree.
 2. We agree on the teachings about heaven and hell.
 3. We agree about resurrection and judgment day.
 4. We agree that God revealed his commands to men in written form.
 5. We agree that Jesus was a prophet of God.
 - A. The Qur'an confirms his virgin birth – The Family of Imran 3:45-47.
 1. “(And remember) when the angels said: O Mary! Lo! Allah giveth thee glad tidings of a word from him, whose name is the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, illustrious in the world and the Hereafter, and one of those brought near (unto Allah). 46. He will speak unto mankind in his cradle and in his manhood, and he is of the righteous. 47. She said: My Lord! How can I have a child when no mortal hath touched me ? He said: So (it will be). Allah createth what He will. If He decreeth a

- thing, He saith unto it only: Be! and it is.”
- B. Jesus is given titles of honor - prophet, messiah, messenger, word, and spirit and mercy of God.
 - 1. He is mentioned 93 times in the Qur'an.
 - 2. He is called the son of Mary 23 times.
 - 6. We agree with a need for a high moral code.
 - D. On what issues is there great contrast?
 - 1. Islam began with a brief period of persecution and became powerful with armies and war.
 - A. Christianity began with persecution and grew in spite of continued persecution.
 - 2. Muhammad claimed to be a prophet of the one true God.
 - A. Jesus claimed to be the Son of the one true God.
 - 3. Muhammad amassed political power and created an earthly kingdom.
 - A. Jesus resisted the temptation of Satan to reign over an earthly kingdom.
 - 4. Muhammad put his enemies to the sword, confiscated their property and wives; commanded his followers to fight for their faith; taught that those who died in battle would enter paradise; and died a natural death after consolidating his power and wealth.
 - A. Jesus told his followers to put away the sword; healed the one wound inflicted by his followers; allowed enemies to take his life; and prayed for those who were executing him.
 - 5. Muslims may be peaceful when in the minority in a strong democratic nation.
 - A. Christianity makes a clear distinction between the temporal and the spiritual.
 - 6. Muhammad became the civil authority who put to death thousands who did not believe.
 - A. Jesus was put to death by the civil authorities.
 - E. How does one become a Muslim?
 - 1. By saying, “There is no true god but God (Allah), and Muhammad is the Messenger (prophet) of God.” (In Arabic - “La ilaha illa Allah, Muhammadur rasoolu Allah.”)
 - A. The first part, “There is no true god but God,” means that none has the right to be worshipped but God alone, and that God has neither partner nor son.
 - 2. To be a faithful Muslim one must also:
 - A. Believe that the Holy Qur'an is the literal word of God, revealed by Him.
 - B. Believe that the Day of Judgment is true and will come, as God promised in the Qur'an.
 - C. Accept Islam as his or her religion.
 - D. Not worship anything or anyone except God.
 - F. How do we go about teaching the Muslim?
 - 1. Understand their religion and what they believe about Christianity.
 - 2. Understand the differences between worldviews that leads to

misunderstandings.

3. Respect and friendship will break down the barriers that will then provide opportunities to share our faith.
4. Pray for and support mission efforts to the Muslim world.
5. A basic approach to use in discussing religion with a Muslim.
 - A. Without exception, every verse penned by the prophet of Islam demanded that the Bible be obeyed and believed.
 1. See Women 4:150, 151 – “Lo! those who disbelieve in Allah and His messengers, and seek to make distinction between Allah and His messengers, and say: We believe in some and disbelieve in others, and seek to choose a way in between; 151. Such are disbelievers in truth; and for disbelievers We prepare a shameful doom.”
 - A. The word “Messengers” in this passage refers to the prophets of God including Moses and Jesus.
 1. One cannot accept Muhammad and reject Jesus.
 - B. One finds within the Qur’an literally dozens of passages referring to the Bible in various ways:
 1. The Bible is a blessing – Cattle 6:155 – “And this is a blessed Scripture which we have revealed. So follow it and ward off (evil), that ye may find mercy.”
 2. Jews should hold fast to their scripture – The Heights 7:170 – “And as for those who make (men) keep the Scripture, and establish worship - lo! We squander not the wages of reformers.”
 3. The Qur’an confirms the Bible – Jonah 10:38, 39 – “Or say they: He hath invented it ? Say: Then bring a surah like unto it, and call (for help) on all ye can besides Allah, if ye are truthful. 39. Nay, but they denied that, the knowledge whereof they could not compass, and whereof the interpretation (in events) hath not yet come unto them. Even so did those before them deny. Then see what was the consequence for the wrong-doers!”
 4. The gospel accounts are of divine origin - Mary 19:29, 30 – “Then she pointed to him. They said: How can we talk to one who is in the cradle, a young boy? 30. He spake: Lo! I am the slave of Allah. He hath given me the Scripture and hath appointed me a Prophet,”
 5. Both Old and New Testament writers were inspired – The Prophets 21:7 – “And We sent not (as Our messengers) before thee other than men, whom We inspired. Ask the followers of the Reminder if ye know not?”
 6. Muslims should believe the Bible – The Spider 29:46, 47 – “And argue not with the People of the Scripture unless it be in (a way) that is better, save with such of them as do wrong; and say: We believe in that which hath been revealed unto us and revealed unto you; our God and your God is One, and unto Him we surrender. 47. In like manner

we have revealed unto thee the Scripture, and those unto whom We gave the Scripture aforetime will believe therein; and of these (also) there are some who believe therein. And none deny Our revelations save the disbelievers.”

- C. In view of this we are confronted with the question of why Muslims attack the Bible when their own book demands that they accept it?
 - 1. The reason for this is simple; they claim that the text is corrupted, with variant readings, etc.
 - 2. What is overlooked is that the same is true of the Qur'an.
 - A. There were in the early days, many variant readings until the various texts were destroyed.
 - 3. To reach them we need to show them that their book of authority approves of the Bible as from God.
 - A. Thus, if they reject the Bible, they are rejecting a message from God just as much as if they rejected the Qur'an.

WORLD RELIGIONS – KABBALAH

INTRODUCTION:

1. Kabbalah is the Hebrew word for tradition.
 - A. It originally designated the legal tradition of Judaism.
 1. But it was later applied to the Jewish mystical tradition, especially the system of esoteric (intended for or understood by only an initiated few, secret or highly confidential) mystical speculation and practice that developed during the 12th and 13th centuries.
2. When one considers Kabbalah they quickly see that its teachings are intermingled with the teachings of gnosticism, Neoplatonism, magic and the occult.
 - A. Gnosticism was an early Christian religious movement teaching that salvation comes by learning esoteric spiritual truths that free humanity from the material world, believed in this movement to be evil.
 - B. Neoplatonism is a philosophical system combining Platonism with mysticism and Judaic and “Christian” ideas and positing one source for all existence, developed by Plotinus and his followers in the 3rd century AD.
 1. Platonism is the philosophy or teachings of Plato, especially the theory that both physical objects and instances of qualities are recognizable because of their common relationship to an abstract form or idea.
3. Kabbalah means secret oral tradition and was coined by an eleventh century Spanish philosopher, Ibn Gabirol.
 - A. It appears that the philosophy developed in Babylon during the middle ages from earlier Hebrew speculation and numerology.
 1. Records seem to indicate that an early Kabbalist, Moses de Leon, developed and systematized the philosophy in his thirteenth century work, The Book of Zohar (sometimes spelled Zohar meaning “Splendor”).
4. Kabbalah is not considered divinely inspired or even reliable by Protestantism, Roman Catholicism, or Messianic Judaism.

BODY:

1. WHAT IS KABBALAH?

- A. It can be best summed up as an aspect of Jewish mysticism that consists of a large body of speculation on the nature of divinity, the creation, the origin and fate of the soul, and the role of human beings.
- B. It also consists of meditative, devotional, mystical and magical practices which were taught only to a select few and for this reason Kabbalah is regarded as an esoteric offshoot of Judaism.
 1. It appears that some aspects of Kabbalah have been studied and used by non-Jews for several hundred years
- C. As previously indicated, Kabbalists developed distinctive doctrines of creation and of redemption.
 1. Their doctrine of creation was built on a theory of emanations and asserted that the world derived from the transcendent and unknowable God (En Soph)

through a series of increasingly material manifestations (sephirot).

- A. According to some versions of Kabbalah the manifestations were repeated, in four interlocking series or “worlds.”
 - 1. Emanation (atzilut)
 - 2. Creation (beriah)
 - 3. Formation (yetzirah)
 - 4. Action or making (assiyah).
- 2. It is suggested that by the sin of Adam and the later sins of humankind, the immanent aspect of God, or the Shekhinah (divine presence), was exiled in the final sephirah, malkhut (kingdom).
- 3. It is seen that the sexual imagery of Kabbalah Shekhinah (the word is feminine in gender) is the female aspect of divinity.
 - A. It symbolically expresses the idea of the restoration of harmony (tikkun) as the reunion of the male and female aspects of the divine, that is, as the reunion of divine transcendence and immanence.
- D. Kabbalah includes reincarnation.
 - 1. It is believed that the pure soul, once the body dies, will be present among the emanations that control the world.
 - A. An impure soul must be reborn in another body, and the process continues until it has been made pure.
 - 2. Evil is only the negation of good, and in the Jewish setting is overcome through a strict adherence to the law.
- E. The hermeneutical principle of Kabbalah is most distinctive as it seeks to find hidden meanings in the texts of Scriptures.
 - 1. Recently another insight of Jewish mysticism that had previously been accessible only to a select few became known worldwide with the publication of books on the so-called Bible codes.
 - A. Studying the Torah by way of a special system that takes note of sequences of letters, mystics see predictions revealed, including events like the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.
 - 2. Human language in Scripture is examined not only allegorically and analogically, but also through the interpretation of words and letters according to their numerical equivalents, and by interchanging numerical equivalents new letters and words could be created, thereby allowing for new interpretations.
 - A. Code Finder Bible Code Software is used to produce these mystical codes allegedly hidden within the Bible.
 - 3. This raises the question of what a Bible code is.
 - A. Basically, it is a code involving an equidistant letter sequence code (ELS code) that has been allegedly found in the text of the Hebrew Scriptures.
 - 1. An ELS code is a form of writing in which one incorporates “hidden messages” within a text.
 - A. Consider the following short sentence which contains an example of an ELS code.

1. Take a look and see if you can find the hidden message in the sentence.
B. HE ATE THE LAST LUMP OF IT.
2. How do we determine what the hidden message is?
 - A. Pick the first letter, skip 3 letters and pick the 4th letter, then skip 3 letters and pick the 4th letter (an ELS interval of 4).
 - B. Then do this two more times and the word HELLO appears.
1. HE ATE THE LAST LUMP OF IT
 - C. This example is a very simple illustration of what an ELS code is.
 1. Governments have used this type of code for years to send secret messages.
3. Here is an old note, which appears to be non-sense, but spies used this note to communicate.
 - A. In this example, the phrase “meet at 8” is encoded at ELS of 7.
 1. Every seventh letter, starting with the first letter of the code, which is “m”.
 - A. “The **m**an walked out the door into the stands that seated **8**,000 fans” means to “**Meet at 8**” encoded at an ELS interval of 7.
4. Thus when people refer to the Bible codes they are referring to ELS codes allegedly found in the Hebrew texts of scripture.
 - A. You can go to the Internet and find numerous examples of ELS, with charts indicating how it is used.
4. Mathematician’s Statement on the Bible Codes.
 - A. “We are making this statement concerning what have been called "Bible codes" or "Torah codes". We recognize that many sincere people take this phenomenon seriously, which compels us to speak out on the basis of what our mathematical training tells us about the evidence claimed for this alleged phenomenon.
There is a common belief in the general community to the effect that many mathematicians, statisticians, and other scientists consider the claims to be credible. This belief is incorrect. On the contrary, the almost unanimous opinion of those in the scientific world who have studied the question is that the theory is without foundation. The signatories to this letter have themselves examined the evidence and found it entirely unconvincing. We refer in particular to the paper Equidistant Letter Sequences in the Book of Genesis, published in Statistical Science in 1994. This experiment suffers from major problems concerning both its execution and the interpretation of its conclusions. Even without these concerns, we would not take such extraordinary claims seriously without a vastly more systematic and thorough investigation. No such investigation has been carried out, nor has the work so far established a prima facie case. In addition, word clusters such as mentioned in Witztum's and Drosnin's books and the so called messianic codes are an uncontrolled phenomenon and similar clusters will be found in any text of similar length. All claims

of incredible probabilities for such clusters are bogus, since they are computed contrary to standard rules of probability and statistics. Among the signatories below are some who believe that the Torah was divinely written. We see no conflict between that belief and the opinion we have expressed above.”

B. Who Can Sign?

1. “All the individuals whose names appear above hold PhDs in Mathematics or Statistics or are faculty members in a Department of Mathematics or Statistics at a college or university. Anyone who meets this criterion and wants to add their name to this petition should send email to Barry Simon at bsimon@bigfoot.com.”

C. The above was signed by 55 men.

1. You can check out the following Web Site for a listing of their names:
<http://www.math.caltech.edu/code/petition.html>

5. See Appendix # 5, pages 106-109 and Wayne Jackson’s article entitled “Those Bogus ‘Bible Codes’”

F. Kabbalah grew out of two basic needs in the Jewish consciousness.

1. Since they had rejected their Messiah, God temporarily rejected the Jewish nation (Luke 13:35), and so, in the centuries that followed, there were no prophets; there was no immediate manifestation of God's presence among the Jewish people leading to the perceived need of such.

A. This left them feeling that God was far away and removed from them and made them more prone to be influenced by the philosophical climate of the people in whose lands they dwelt.

G. The Talmud, which is the compilation of Jewish oral law and scripture commentary, has a famous story about four great sages who entered “the orchard,” which is a metaphor to describe a mystical experience, in which they sent their souls “to the heavens” to gaze on the celestial spheres.

1. As a result of this intense experience one of the sages died, one became insane, one became a heretic, and only Rabbi Akiva walked away whole.
2. Supposedly, this was the Talmud's way of warning man that over-involvement with mysticism is dangerous.

H. Legend has it that Kabbalah also empowers its practitioners.

1. Rabbi Judah Loew of Prague (1525-1609) arranged the “secret names” of God in such a manner that he was able to create a golem, or a “man” brought to life out of clay.

A. This “man” was created in order to serve his bidding and protect the Jewish people.

2. This legend was the inspiration for Mary Shelley to write the book *Frankenstein*.

A. Thus, whether you knew it or not, when you read the book or saw the movie, you were reading of or watching an idea created by the masters of the Kabbalah.

I. Kabbalah resembles closely some of the beliefs held by the Greek Gnostics in that

both groups held that only a select few were given deeper understanding or knowledge.

1. It teaches that emanations from God did the work of creation rather than creation being directly from God.
 - A. With each descending emanation, the emanation became further away from God.
 1. The final emanation took the personal form of angels.
 2. This would be like God created a lesser god, and that one then created a lesser god, and this kept happening until the end result were angels.
 - A. Of course, this directly contradicts God's revelation of Himself in the Bible as it teaches that He is both separate from all of His creation and yet is directly accessible by those who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

2. KABBALAH TERMINOLOGY (adapted - kabbalah.info/engkab/terminology.htm)

- A. Rising Above
 1. The emulation of an upper phase by a lower phase.
- B. Above and Below
 1. That which is considered to be of high grade is discriminated as above and that of inferior grade as below.
- C. Afterwards
 1. A subsequent phase, resulting from a preceding one.
- D. Prior And Subsequent
 1. When discussing the relationship of cause and effect as pertaining to emanated beings, cause is expressed by “prior” and effect by “subsequent”.
- E. Below
 1. Less meritorious than another.
- F. Circle, Circles
 1. If no discrimination such as “above” and “below” can be made between the four grades of the will to receive, the latter is considered as a circle.
 - A. Thus, the four grades are defined as four circles one within the other, wherein it is impossible to realize any “above” or “below”.
- G. Creating
 1. The term is applied to any new revelation which is in the creation.
 - A. It is the manifestation of existence from non-existence.
- H. Cube
 1. A degree or grade which comprises all the four phases of the will to receive.
- I. Darkness
 1. The fourth phase of the “will”, which receives no Light, because of the restriction, is considered as the root of darkness.
- J. Union
 1. Similitude of phase; since wherever an affinity exists between spiritual entities, they are drawn together and become merged into one.
- K. Emanator
 1. Every cause is called “Emanator” of the grade or degree which it affects.

- A. The term "Emanator" is a comprehensive one as it comprises both the extension of the Light, and its vessel that which contains or receives the Light.
- L. Empty
 - 1. The place which is prepared for emendation, improvement and perfection.
- M. Empty Atmosphere
 - 1. The so-called Light of Mercy is called "empty atmosphere" before it clothes or enwraps the "Light of Wisdom".
- N. End, Limit
 - 1. The limit or boundary of each emanated being is achieved by the power of restraint, which is in the fourth phase or grade.
 - A. The "Upper Light" ceases to shine there because this fourth grade does not accept it.
- O. Extention
 - 1. The Light which comes forth from the inclusiveness of the Emanator and arrives at the stage of emanated being.
 - A. The word "extension" is applied only because of the will to receive which resides in the emanated being.
 - B. The Upper Light is not affected by this extension.
 - 1. It may be compared to a candle which lights another, yet does not suffer any diminution by the act.
- P. Fills
 - 1. This term designates that there is no lack whatsoever, and it is impossible to conceive of adding even an iota to the fullness.
- Q. Fashionior, or Molder
 - 1. The term "fashioner" specifies a Bestower of Light to the worlds.
 - A. This Light is all-inclusive, as it comprises the entire creation, with the exception of the substance of the vessels.
- R. From Above Downward
 - 1. This means the progression from the first grade down to the fourth.
 - A. The fourth grade, which was left without Light discriminated as the lowest of the grades.
 - B. That grade in which the will to receive is diminished is discriminated as higher in degree, and so on up until man finds the first grade or phase wherein the will to receive is smallest, being designated as the highest of the grades.
- S. Circular Light
 - 1. A light which does not reveal any gradations.
- T. Head
 - 1. That part of the emanated being which is in closest affinity with the Origin.
- U. Vacuum
 - 1. The fourth phase of the will, which has been deprived or voided of Light, is considered to be the dark grade in relation to the Light.
 - A. In relation to the vessel it is defined as a "vacuum" for the emanated being

does not lack the fourth grade even after the restriction, but has it in the form of a vacuum which is void of Light.

V. Interior

1. When Light shines into and is received in the interior of a vessel, that Light is measured and circumscribed by the vessel, whilst when it is extended to the exterior of the vessel there is no boundary to the Light which is received.

W. The Individualized One

1. See Unique One and the Individualized One

X. Kingdom of the Infinite

1. The will to receive which is inevitably there.

Y. Light

1. Light is the Essence of all bestowals made to the worlds and it is existence from existence.
 - A. In the Source, before it is ever extended, it is in the form of a simple Light, but it acquires diversity when it starts its journey to the lower worlds.
 - B. It is therefore called pre-existent Light, and is not new, for it came from the everlasting Light of the Infinite, and is an inclusive Light.
 - C. It comprises all properties, except the substance of the vessels.

Z. Light of Mercy

1. That Light which clothes the Light of Wisdom and which is extended to the emanated being with the first effort of the sephira Intelligence.

a. Light, Vessel

1. The Abundance which is received by the emanated being is the Light; the will to receive which is in the emanated being is the vessel.

b. Light Of Wisdom

1. The Light which is drawn to the emanated being at the first extension, which is for its general substance and sustenance.

c. Line

1. This term conveys the idea that the emanated being has distinctive grades such as “above” and “below”.
 - A. Naturally, before the appearance of the Line, no grades were distinguished.
 1. The word “line” also teaches that the shine of the Light is very meager compared to what it was before, that is before the withdrawal of the light from the Sephiroth Kingdom of the Infinite.

d. Middle/Middle Point

1. This is the name of the fourth phase of the Infinite, called Middle Point because of its absolute unity with the Infinite Light.

e. Motion

1. Each new phase is spoken of as a spiritual motion, because it severs itself from the previous phase abandons its precincts, and assumes an individual name; therefore it may be compared to tangible things which are separated and, through motion, leave their previous places.

f. Near

1. Any phase that has a closer affinity than any other of its adjacent phase is said to be “nearer” it.
- g. One
 1. The Upper Light which is extended from the Substance of the Creator is Simple and Absolute Unity, just as is His Substance; and as It is in the Infinite World, so is this Light an absolute Unity, even in this physical plane of the World of action, where it is without diversity or even a trace of supplementary phase.
 - A. Therefore it is called One.
- h. Place
 1. The will to receive, which the emanated being possesses, is the “place” for its entire abundance and Light.
- i. Pure
 1. The first phase in the will to receive is distinguished as purer than the three grades which follow it.
- j. Soul Hewn From the Origin
 1. The will to receive, which is an inherent trait in all souls and separates them from the Upper Light, since diversity of phase separates in the realm of Spirit.
 - A. The idea of a soul being hewn from its Source means the transition from the World of Emanation to the World of Creation.
- k. Restriction
 1. Subduing the will, or restraining the desire.
 - A. For instance, if a man restrains himself from receiving, although his craving is intense, it is said that he has restrained, restricted or curbed himself from receiving more.
- l. Right and Left
 1. At times the lower grade will rise to be in affinity with a grade which is of a higher degree.
 - A. This happens when the upper grade, for the purpose of attaining its own completion, is in need of the lower.
 1. Then the lower one is designated as the “left” and the upper grade as the “right”.
- m. Severance
 1. Two grades which are utterly unlike in character, so that they do not have even a trace of resemblance in their entire makeup, are designated as being severed, or completely separated one from the other.
- n. Similarity
 1. If there is no discrimination of grades between the four gradations of the will to receive, then it is said that they are equal or similar.
- o. Simple
 1. That which has no distinctions of grades or dimension.
- p. Simple Light/Simple Will
 1. Light which comprises in itself the vessel, and yet has no recognizable difference between the Light and the vessel.

- q. Unique One and the Individualized One
 - 1. The Unique indicates the Upper Light which shines into and reigns over all the multitude of differentiated grades for the purpose of converting all their multiple dissimilarities into the one likeness of His Unique Phase.
 - A. The word “Myuchad” relates to the Individualized one and is used to describe the state of all grades when the final goal of the above action has been achieved; namely, when all phases have been brought to similarity and all emulate His Unique Phase.
 - r. Spirit
 - 1. The Light of Mercy or Grace is called Spirit.
 - s. A Name (Holy Name)
 - 1. The Holy Names are explanations of the Lights defined by these Names.
 - A. What they convey to us enables us to grasp the concept of the Lights.
 - B. Thus, the name of any degree or grade is the clue to an understanding of it.
 - t. Time
 - 1. A definite number of phases, which branch from each other and are ramified into each other, in the order of cause and effect.
 - A. These are designated as a specific period of time as days, months and years.
 - u. Contact
 - 1. If the dissimilarity of a grade or degree to its root is not so great as to sever it from the origin, it is then described as touching or contacting the origin.
 - A. The same principle applies also to consecutive and adjacent grades.
 - v. Triangle
 - 1. A grade which has only the first three phases of the will to receive.
 - w. Unity
 - 1. Two dissimilar grades, after they have come to the stage of likeness, are considered to have united into one grade, which is called “unity”.
 - x. Upper
 - 1. That which is of superior merit is designated as upper.
 - y. Vessel
 - 1. The will to receive which the emanated being possesses.
 - z. Wisdom
 - 1. The Light which is the very substance for the sustenance of the emanated being.
- 3. THE ZOLAR**
- A. The most prominent book of Kabbalah is the Zolar, which appeared in 1300 under Moses de Leon, a Spanish Jew (c.1240-1305).
 - 1. It has been said that Moses de Leon was a brilliant homilectical rather than a systematic thinker.
 - A. He was concerned not with formulating a coherent metaphysical system, but with the elaboration and interpretation of verses of scripture from the Torah, often in the form of obscure mystical allegorization.

- B. It was this mass of imagery and allegory that the Zohar contains what served as the inspiration for all subsequent generations of Kabbalists.
- 2. Further development of the Zohar occurred in the sixteenth century in Safed, Israel, under Isaac Luria, who initiated a distinctive emphasis of redemption and messianism (belief in the coming of the Messiah or a messiah or messianic age).
- B. Written in Aramaic and, intentionally, in a style that is very difficult to comprehend.
- C. The Zohar is usually published in 4 to 6 volumes.
 - 1. It claims to be a revelation from the God of the Old Testament.
- D. The implications are immense.
 - 1. According to those involved in Kabbalah, the Zohar is essentially a commentary on the Old Testament, but it was written by people who are clearly Spiritualists.
 - A. A Spiritualist is a person who consults the dead, and who consults familiar spirits.
 - 2. Thus, in other words, the Zohar is actually a work of the Occult.
- E. The Zohar is not even old as is claimed by the adherents of Kabbalah.
 - 1. It did not exist before the Middle Ages.
 - 2. It claims to be authentic, but it is not.
 - A. There has never been any copy of the Zohar ever found, that is earlier than the Middle Ages.
- F. The translators of the Kabbalah are themselves Occult authors.
 - 1. It was not translated for English Speaking audiences until the late 1800s.
 - 2. And who translated it?
 - A. Occult authors who were steeped in Demonic Worship and Demonic books.
 - 3. It is not difficult to learn who the translators of the Kabbalah were.
 - A. They are mainly:
 - 1. Eliphas Levi who is the author who led the Occult Revival of the 1800s, that revived Satanism and Luciferianism (“Modern Luciferianism, like the Symbolist stance of Modern Satanism takes a symbolic stance, in that Lucifer is depicted as a mythic figure or symbol which represents admirable qualities or characteristics.”) <http://free.freespeech.org/Ascendancy/websites/ascendancy/newmain/satan/luciferian.html>.
 - A. He wrote numerous books about Ritual Black Magic and how to have contact with Demonic Spirits...because he was seeking them.
 - 2. MacGregor Mathers goes by several names.
 - A. He was one of the three founders of the Occult Society - known as the society of the Golden Dawn.
 - 1. This is a demonic society.
 - 2. It is one of the occult societies that covet demonic possession.
 - A. Their teachings should be considered Satanic.

- B. He is also one of the mentors of the Satanist Aleister Crowley.
 - 1. Was quite notorious during his life, and was dubbed “The Wickedest Man In the World”.
 - C. The first Translation of the Kabbalah into English was by MacGregor Mathers.
 - 1. He lived in the U.K. for most of his life, where he recruited a lot of the elites into his occult Golden Dawn society.
 - 3. H.P. (Helena Petrovna) Blavatsky is the founder of Theosophy.
 - A. Theosophy is the view that Lucifer is truly an angel of light and he is the one who deserves our worship and allegiance.
 - B. Blavatsky came from an occult family, and was already a Medium when she was a teenager.
 - 1. She sought out evil and the company of demonic spirits all of her life.
 - 2. During her lifetime she wrote numerous books about the occult.
 - A. The Secret Doctrine
 - B. The Secret Doctrine Index
 - C. An Invitation to The Secret Doctrine
 - D. Isis Unveiled
 - E. The Key to Theosophy
 - F. The Voice of the Silence
 - G. Studies in Occultism
 - C. She believed that the Jews - through books like the Kabbalah - had stolen books of black magic that had previously come from the Chaldeans.
 - D. She denied that Jesus was the Christ along with denying that salvation could come through him.
 - E. She was extremely hostile to Jehovah.
 - 4. A.E. Waite is an occult author.
 - A. He played a large role in helping many occult authors in the early 1900s.
 - B. He was involved in numerous occult societies including the Golden Dawn.
 - B. All of these authors were devoted to the Kabbalah and other forms of the Occult.
 - 1. They deliberately sought to be involved with demonic spirits.
 - F. It can best be said that the Zohar is a counterfeit book, a book that was written in Medieval Europe, so that some people would feel closer to God.
- 4. KABBALAH'S VIEW OF GOD**
- A. Kabbalah pictures God as being above all existence.
 - 1. It teaches that through a series of ten emanations the world was created.
 - B. Kabbalah is somewhat pantheistic since everything that exists has its place in God.

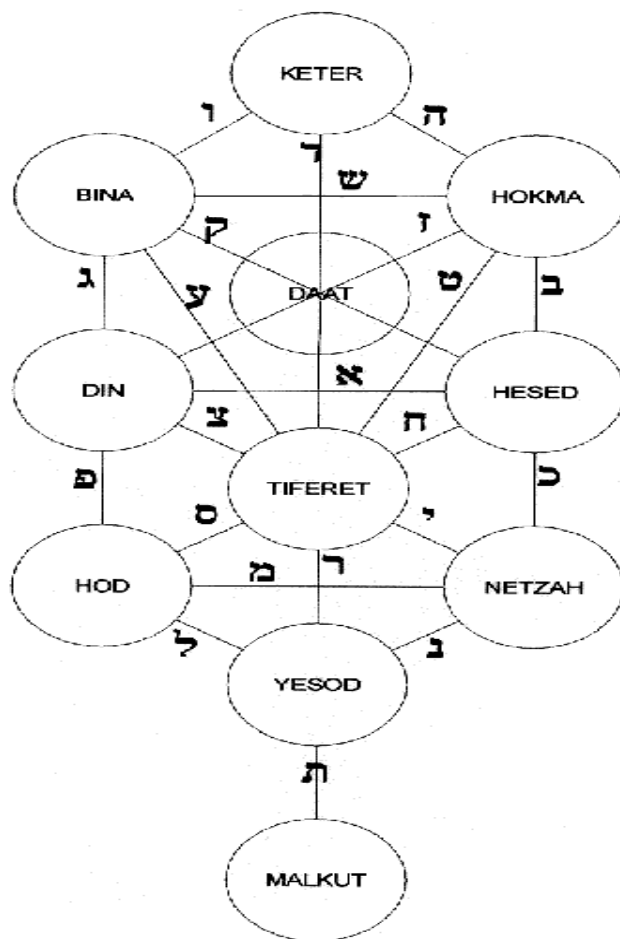
- C. The most basic philosophical presupposition behind Kabbalah is that the world is an emanation of the spiritual essence of God.
 - 1. God, or “En Sof” (Endless One) is infinite and transcendent, and could make no direct contact with finite beings.
 - 2. Man as a finite creation allegedly came into existence when En Sof voluntarily limited Himself by allowing Himself to become manifest through attributes or emanation (called Sephiroth).
 - A. These emanations are:
 - 1. Crown
 - 2. Wisdom
 - 3. Intelligence
 - 4. Greatness
 - 5. Strength
 - 6. Beauty
 - 7. Firmness
 - 8. Splendor
 - 9. Foundation
 - 10. Sovereignty.
 - B. Subsequently, each emanation would be further removed from En Sof, and thus further from God's perfection and transcendence.
 - 1. The Sephiroth would be repeated on four different levels, and these realms, according to descent, were called: “Atziluth” (the world of the supernals, or heavenless), “Briah” (the world of creation), “Yetzirah” (the world of formation), and “Assiah” (the world of material action).
 - 2. Taking on a personal form, these Sephiroth, as angels, served as intermediaries between God and man.
 - D. Kabbalah is classically divided into two systems: theoretical and practical.
 - 1. The theoretical is concerned with theosophical speculation upon God and His attributes, such as what is described above.
 - 2. The practical is concerned with bringing what has been theorized into the realm of everyday experience.
 - A. This is attempted through prayer, ascetic practices, and the employment of various occult means, such as numerology, talismans, amulets, and incarnation of divine names and words.
 - E. The god of the Kabbalah and the God of the Bible are 100% in opposition to each other.
 - 1. It cannot be denied, they cannot both be right.
 - A. The God of the Bible is the one true God.
- 5. KABBALAH'S VIEW OF THE SCRIPTURES**
- A. Intrinsic to Kabbalah is the belief that Scripture is inspired, not only in its obvious interpretations, but even to the degree that, through the use of occult symbol interpretation, one can find hidden meaning in the very numerical and alphabetical interpretation of the texts.

- B. Although Kabbalah claims to hold to the inspiration of Scripture, it does not seek the plain meaning of Scripture.
 - 1. As already indicated, their approach is mystical and very subjective, using such things as numerology to find “hidden” meaning.
 - A. It must be seen that through this method, almost any teaching that one desires could be “found” in Scripture.
 - 2. Of course this goes against the very heart of communication between God and man.
 - A. God provided Scripture that He might communicate with mankind and teach humanity of Him.
 - 1. It is obvious that Scripture is meant to be taken at face value and not mystical interpretation.
 - 2. This can be demonstrated by fulfilled prophecy.
 - A. God said something would happen, and it happened as He said it would.
 - 1. An example of this would be the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning the first coming of Jesus Christ.
 - 2. There are hundreds of verses referring to His coming, and they were fulfilled literally - Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Micah 5:2; Isaiah 53.
 - 1. This is why the Bible should be interpreted literally or normally.

6. THE KABBALAH’S TREE OF LIFE

- A. Consists of ten Divine qualities known as Sefirot.
 - 1. Allegedly, it is man’s roadmap to the Divine designed to bring forth man’s own Divinity.
- B. Supposedly, by aspiring to these qualities, man’s connection to themselves and Spirit is deepened.
 - 1. First Sefirah is Keter
 - A. Keter is the crown, the place of nothingness, expansion of consciousness.
 - 2. Second Sefirah is Hokhmah
 - A. Hokhmah is Divine wisdom.
 - 3. Third Sefirah is Binah
 - A. Binah is Divine understanding.
 - 1. This is the womb of the “Divine Mother”.
 - 2. Here is where She conceives the seven lower Sefirot.
 - B. The first three Sefirot are seen as the head of the Divine body.
 - 4. Fourth Sefirah is Hesed
 - A. Hesed is Divine love and grace.
 - 5. Fifth Sefirah is Gevurah
 - A. Gevurah is Divine power and judgment.
 - B. Hesed and Gevurah are the right and left arms of God.
 - 6. Sixth Sefirah is Tiferet
 - A. Tiferet is Divine beauty and compassion.
 - 1. This is the place of balance.

2. It is considered the center or trunk of God.
 7. Seventh Sefirah is Netsah
 - A. Netsah is eternity.
 8. Eighth Sefirah is Hod
 - A. Hod is splendor, the source of prophecy.
 1. Netsah and Hod are seen as the right and left legs of God
 9. Ninth Sefirah is Yesod
 - A. Yesod is the foundation, the “righteous One”.
 - A. This is the procreative life force of the universe.
 10. Tenth Sefirah is Shekhinah
 - A. Shekhinah is Divine presence, the feminine side of God.
 1. This is where all is possible, an opening to the Divine.
 - A. Consists of ten Divine qualities known as Sefirot.
 1. Allegedly, it is man’s roadmap to the Divine designed to bring forth man’s own Divinity.
- C. The Tree of Life Displayed:



7. WHAT IS THE CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO KABBALAH?

- A. This is an important question because in today's "occult revolution" where all dimensions of the occult are being probed; there is an increased interest in Kabbalah and similar religions.
 - 1. Although its Jewish origin makes it unique, Kabbalah is still essentially an occult system, and thus must be classified among all other such systems which are incompatible with Christianity.
- B. Its theology is essentially pantheistic in that it teaches that all reality springs directly from God's own essence.
 - 1. Even if one believes that these emanations from God's essence have gone through a descent of ten spheres on four different levels, the conclusion is inescapable that even the being on the lowest level is still of one essence with God; and thus, ultimately, he is God.
 - A. Such a view is incompatible with the biblical doctrine of God, who created the world out of nothing, not out of Himself - Genesis 1:1.
 - 1. The Hebrew word for "create" is "bara," which indicates something coming out of nothing.
- C. Although Kabbalah's insistence upon the inspiration of Scripture in its literal form was commendable; their carrying this point to the extent of seeking to find hidden meaning in its numerical arrangements was unwarranted.
 - 1. Depending upon one's assumptions, one may apply their methods to almost any piece of literature and draw almost any interpretation from it.
 - A. This has since been confirmed with War and Peace, Moby Dick, and other long texts.
 - 2. Their method of interpretation is neither acknowledged in the Bible, nor justified by it.
 - A. The application of this method of the Bible interpretation has produced interpretations that are not supported by Scripture, and, in fact, are sometimes directly opposed to it.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. As we examine these major belief systems and their views of God, we find tremendous diversity:
 - A. Hindus believe in 300,000 gods.
 - B. Buddhists say there is no deity.
 - C. New Age followers believe they are God.
 - D. Muslims believe in a powerful but detached God.
 - E. Christians believe in a God who is loving and approachable.

WORLD RELIGIONS – SCIENTOLOGY

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Founder of the Church of Scientology is Lafayette Ronald Hubbard (1911-1986).
 - A. He was born in Tilden, Nebraska March 13, 1911.
 1. He spent most of his childhood on his grandfather's Montana ranch while his parents served overseas in the U.S. Navy.
 - B. He allegedly traveled extensively during his youth, covering some quarter of a million miles by the time he was twenty years of age.
 1. He later stated that visits with parents to Asia in the 1920s introduced him to eastern philosophies and religions.
 2. However, Russell Miller in *Bare-Faced Messiah: The True Story of L. Ron Hubbard, Messiah or Madman?* (pp. 26, 27) Indicated that Hubbard actually attended High School in America at the time he claimed he had traveled abroad.
 - C. During the 1930's, he became a famous author known mostly for his science fiction.
 1. He also wrote other types of books including mystery, western and adventure.
 2. He was successful as a screen writer.
 3. His lifetime output of published fiction was over 200 novels, novelettes and short stories.
 4. In 1938, in an unpublished manuscript *Excalibur*, he delineated the common denominator of existence as "survive" and outlined the theory that "life is composed of two things: the material universe and an X-factor...that can evidently organize and mobilize the material universe."
 - A. This fundamental concept was to be the basis of his researches for both Dianetics and Scientology.
 1. The word "Dianetics" means "through the soul," and promises to reveal "the single source of all man's insanities, psychosomatic illnesses, and neuroses."
 2. The word "Scientology", according to Scientology, comes from the Latin "scio" which means "know" or "distinguish," and from the Greek word "logos" which means "reason itself" or "inward thought."
 - A. There it means the study of wisdom or knowledge -
http://www.scientology.org/en_US/religion/catechism/index.html
 - B. Due to the onset of World War II his first published work on Dianetics appeared in the Winter/Spring 1949-1950 issue of the Explorers Club Journal entitled "Terra Incognita: The Mind".
 1. He offered his findings on the mind to both the American Medical Association and the American Psychiatric Association.
 - A. Both rejected them and later attempted to discredit his work and reputation.
 - C. According to Walter Martin, Hubbard, "changed venues midstream by

announcing at a New Jersey science fiction convention, ‘Writing for a penny a word is ridiculous. If a man really wanted to make a million dollars, the best way would be to start his own religion.’”

<http://www.waltermartin.org/scient.html#hubbard>

5. In May of 1950 “Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health” was published.
 - A. It has since sold over 17 million copies worldwide.
 - B. He claimed that he received near fatal wounds in World War II and while recovering, he formulated his novel psychological theories that were revealed in his 1950 book Dianetics.
- D. In the fall of 1951, Hubbard formed the religious philosophy of Scientology.
 1. Scientology is based on his “discovery” that man is most fundamentally a spiritual being -- the X-factor.
- E. The first Church of Scientology was formed in Los Angeles February 18, 1954 by persons other than Hubbard.
- F. Hubbard claimed to be a war hero who was awarded from 21 to 27 medals, including two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star.
 1. However, Hubbard never saw combat and was relieved of duty three times for incompetence – see Appendix # 6, pages 110-112.
 2. He was awarded the four basic medals that every Navy serviceman earned in the Pacific Theater (the four medals: American Theater, American Defense, Asiatic-Pacific, and Victory).
 - A. If interested the following Web Site reveals a copy of his military service record - <http://www.scientology.com/stopscientology/service.php>.
 3. Scientology claims that Hubbard miraculously cured himself of nearly fatal combat wounds even though he did not see active combat.
 4. Following his discharge from the Navy in 1946, he was granted 40% disability pay for arthritis, bursitis and conjunctivitis.
 - A. Interestingly, he continued to collect this pay long after he claimed to have discovered the secret of how to cure such ailments.
- G. The founding Church of Scientology was founded in Washington, DC in July of 1955.
2. On January 4, 1963 the US Food and Drug Administration raided Scientology offices and seized hundreds of the Church's E-meters as illegal medical devices.
 - A. These devices are used in a Scientology counseling technique known as “auditing”.
 - B. They are now required to carry a disclaimer saying that they are a purely religious artifact.
3. During the 1970s Scientology, along with many other emerging religions, came under increasing attack from the anti-cult movement.
4. In 1977, as a result of an FBI raid, some senior people in the movement's Guardian's Office were convicted of stealing government documents.
5. In 1965, the Australian government banned Scientology; however in 1983 the High Court of Australia overturned the decision, contributing greatly to the scope of

- religious freedom in that country.
6. From 1968 to 1980, the British government restricted people who wished to enter the country to pursue a Scientology course.
 7. In October 1993 the Internal Revenue Service of the United States granted full religious recognition and tax exemption to all Scientology Churches, missions and social betterment groups.
 8. Scientology is officially recognized in every province in Canada where it has an organization.
 9. L. Ron Hubbard died in 1986.
 - A. Prior to his death Hubbard became a recluse.
 1. He spent most of his last years aboard his yacht being waited on hand-and-foot.
 - B. A copy of Hubbard's death certificate indicated he succumbed to a "cerebral vascular accident" (stroke) on January 24, 1986 – see Appendix # 7, page 113.
 1. Scientology's refusal to believe that such a great "science of the mind" master could die a horrific death, resulted in the words "dead" or "died" never being used at his eulogy.
 2. They simply announced that Hubbard decisively "discarded the body" to move onto the next level of research, outside his body.
 - C. Scientology survived the transition to new leadership.
 1. Mr. David Miscavige, Chairman of the Board of the Religious Technology Center, is now the head.
 10. Scientology is an applied religious philosophy that contains alleged methodologies intended to improve life and achieve spiritual freedom for oneself and society.
 11. The Church of Scientology claims that Hubbard graduated in civil engineering from George Washington University as a nuclear physicist, although the university records show that he attended for two years, during the second of which he was on academic probation, and failed physics.
 - A. It is claimed that his Ph.D. was from Sequoia University in California, although there is no proof of the existence of any accredited institution in California by that name that grants doctorates.
 1. Actually, Sequoia University was discovered to be an unrecognized diploma mill located in a two-story house in Los Angeles and was closed down in 1958 by an act of the California Legislature.
 12. The Church of Scientology claims to have over 8 million members with 2,318 churches and missions, in 107 countries.
 - A. They claim 500,000 new converts per year (*The Church of Scientology*, 40th Anniversary Booklet, p. 2).
 - B. They also claim that it "is the fastest growing church in the world today" (*What Is Scientology?*, p. 553).
 1. However, many believe this to be a highly inflated number.
 13. Hubbard's married life was nothing less than a shambles as his second wife, Sara Northrup Hubbard, sued him for divorce on April 23, 1951, in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

- A. Court records of the divorce procedure vanished, later to be recovered.
- B. They revealed a twenty-eight page complaint to dissolve their Chestertown, Maryland, marriage of August 10, 1946 as it was a bigamous marriage for Mr. Hubbard.
 - 1. It revealed that Hubbard pretended to be a bachelor to Miss Northrup, yet he had not divorced his first wife, Margaret Grubb Hubbard as his first marriage was not legally dissolved until over one year after his second marriage.
- C. His second wife's 1951 divorce allegations contained more than bigamy charges.
 - 1. Records revealed that she claimed sleep deprivation, beatings, strangulation, kidnapping of their child and fleeing to Cuba, and Hubbard counseling her to commit suicide, "if she really loved him."
- D. Hubbard's third marriage, to Mary Sue Whipp, lasted the remainder of his lifetime.
 - 1. In 1977 she captivated worldwide attention as the mastermind behind a covert operation against various levels of the United States government.
- E. Hubbard married Margaret "Polly" Grubb in 1933, with whom he fathered two children, L. Ron, Jr. (1934–1991) and Katherine May (born 1936).
- 14. Dianetics was declared by Hubbard as being "the spiritual heir to Buddhism in the Western world."
 - A. However, roots go much deeper than this as at one point in time Hubbard was closely associated with British Satanist Aleister Crowley.
 - 1. Some have suggested that the name "Dianetics" had its origin in the worship of the goddess Diana.
- 15. According to Walter Martin, "Numerous mental health organizations, professionals, and periodicals (including *Today's Heath*, and *Psychology Today*) have decried Scientology for its unorthodox methods which some see as psychologically dangerous." *The Kingdom of the Cults*, pp. 348, 349.
- 16. "In a nutshell, Scientology teaches that all humans descended from a race of uncreated, omnipotent gods called *Thetans*, who gave up their powers to enter the Material-Energy-Space-Time (MEST) world of Earth. [Hubbard's *Dianetics and Scientology: Technical Dictionary* explains, 'The Thetan is immortal and is possessed of capabilities well in excess of those hitherto predicted for man. In the final analysis what is this thing called Thetan? It is simply you before you mocked yourself up and that is the handiest definition I know of' (p. 432). The Thetan is thus that part of each individual which is immortal and which has become contaminated or debased by the influences of MEST.] Gradually, they evolved upward by reincarnation to become humans who could not remember their deified state. Scientologists are encouraged to awaken their dormant Thetan potential by removing all mental blocks called *engrams*. By doing so, they can realize their true personhood, achieving total power and control over MEST. Scientology offers a psychotherapeutic process for breaking through the engrams 'picked up from traumas in prior lives,' to 'realize' once again one's true identity as an 'operating Thetan' (God) beyond the limitations of MEST."

<http://www.rapidnet.com/~jbeard/bdm/Cults/scientol.htm>

BODY:

1. GLOSSARY:

- A. Aberration - a departure from rational thought or behavior.
- B. Assessment - the action of an auditor calling off questions or items to a preclear from a prepared list and noting down any E-METER reaction to the questions or items called.
- C. Auditing - the application of Dianetics or Scientology processes and procedures to someone by a trained auditor.
 - 1. The exact definition of auditing is: The action of asking a person a question (which he can understand and answer), getting an answer to that question and acknowledging him for that answer.
 - 2. Auditing is purchased in 12 ½ hour segments, with a total cost of between \$3,000.00 and \$11,000.00 each depending on where it is purchased.
- D. Auditor - a person trained and qualified in applying Dianetics and/or Scientology processes and procedures to individuals for their betterment - called an auditor because auditor means one who listens.
- E. Bank - see reactive mind.
- F. Beingness - the assumption or choosing of a category of identity.
- G. Bridge, The - the route to Clear and OT, which they call the Classification, Gradation and Awareness Chart.
 - 1. It is a term originating in early Dianetics days to symbolize travel from unknowingness to revelation.
- H. C/S - see case supervision.
- I. Case - a general term for a person being treated or helped.
 - 1. It also refers to his condition, which is monitored by the content of his reactive mind.
 - 2. A person's case is the way he responds to the world around him by reason of his aberrations.
- J. Case Gain - the improvements and resurgences a person experiences from auditing; any case betterment according to the pc.
- K. Case Supervision - referring to the actions of the Case Supervisor.
 - 1. The C/S directs what auditing actions are done for each individual preclear under his care.
 - 2. All case supervision is for the benefit of the preclear.
- L. Case Supervisor - see case supervision.
- M. Charge - harmful energy or force accumulated and stored within the reactive mind, resulting from the conflicts and unpleasant experiences that a person has had.
 - 1. Auditing discharges this charge so that it is no longer there to affect the individual.
- N. Clear - the name of a state achieved through auditing or an individual who has achieved this state.
 - 1. A Clear is an unaberrated person and is rational in that he forms the best possible solutions he can on the data he has and from his viewpoint.

- O. Co-audit - an abbreviation for cooperative auditing. It means a team of any two people who are helping each other reach a better life with Dianetics or Scientology processing.
- P. Confessional - a Scientology action which asks a person to straighten out his interpersonal relationships with others.
- Q. Dianetics - man's most advanced school of the mind.
 - 1. The word comes from Greek dia, through, and nous, soul.
 - 2. Dianetics is defined as what the soul is doing to the body.
- R. Doingness - the action of creating an effect.
 - 1. An effect in creation is action.
- S. Dynamics - there could be said to be eight urges (drives, impulses) in life.
 - 1. These are called dynamics.
 - 2. These are motives or motivations.
 - 3. These are urges for survival as or through:
 - A. Self
 - B. Sex and family
 - C. Groups
 - D. All mankind
 - E. Living things (plants and animals)
 - F. The material universe
 - G. Spirits
 - H. Infinity or the Supreme Being
- T. E-Meter (Electropsychometer) - an electronic device for measuring the mental state or change of state of Homo sapiens.
 - 1. It is not a lie detector.
 - 2. It does not diagnose or cure anything.
 - 3. It is used by auditors to assist the preclear in locating areas of spiritual distress or travail.



- U. Engram - a mental image picture which is a recording of an experience containing pain, unconsciousness and a real or fancied threat to survival.
- V. Exteriorization - the state of the thetan being outside his body.
 - 1. When this is attained, the person achieves a certainty that he is himself and not his body.
- W. Grade(s) - a series of processes which are run on a preclear with the purpose of

- bringing him to a particular state of Release.
- X. Grade Chart – see The Bridge.
 - Y. Mest - the physical universe.
 - 1. A word coined from the initial letters of Matter, Energy, Space and Time, which are the component parts (elements) of the physical universe.
 - Z. New Era Dianetics - a summary and refinement of Dianetics based upon thirty years of experience in the application of the subject.
 - 1. New Era Dianetics was released in 1978.
 - a. Objectives - Objective refers to outward things, not the thoughts and feelings of the individual.
 - 1. An Objective Process deals with the real and observable.
 - 2. It calls for the preclear to spot or find something exterior to himself in order to carry out the auditing command.
 - 3. It locates the person in his environment.
 - b. Operating Thetan - a thetan exterior who can have but doesn't have to have a body in order to control or operate thought, life, matter, energy, space and time.
 - c. Org - (Scientology slang) an organization that delivers Dianetics and Scientology training and processing.
 - d. OT – see Operating Thetan.
 - e. Outpoint - any one datum that is offered as true that is in fact found to be illogical; the anatomy of insanity.
 - f. PC – see preclear.
 - g. Pluspoint - a datum of truth.
 - h. Postulate - that self-determined thought which starts, stops or changes past, present or future efforts.
 - i. Preclear - a spiritual being who is now on the road to becoming Clear, hence pre-Clear.
 - j. Pre-OT - a thetan beyond the state of Clear who, through the pre-OT levels, is advancing to the full state of Operating Thetan (OT).
 - k. Process - a set of questions asked or commands given by an auditor to help a person find out things about himself or life and to improve his condition.
 - l. Processing - the action of asking a preclear a question (which he can understand and answer), getting an answer and acknowledging him for that answer.
 - 1. Also called auditing.
 - m. PTS - potential trouble source, somebody who is connected with a suppressive person who is invalidating him, his beingness, his processing, his life.
 - n. Randomity - a consideration of motion.
 - 1. There is plus randomness and minus randomness.
 - 2. There can be, from the individual's consideration, too much or too little motion, or enough motion.
 - 3. "Enough motion" is measured by the consideration of the individual.
 - o. Reactive Mind - that portion of a person's mind which works on a totally stimulus-response basis, which is not under his volitional control and which exerts force and the power of command over his awareness, purposes, thoughts, body

and actions.

1. The reactive mind is where engrams are stored.
- p. Release - the term for what occurs when a person separates from his reactive mind or some part of it.
- q. Roller Coaster - a slump after a gain.
- r. Rundown - a series of steps which are auditing actions and processes designed to handle a specific aspect of a case.
- s. Scientist - one who knows he has found the way to a better life through Scientology and who, through Scientology books, tapes, training and processing, is actively attaining it.
- u. Scientology - Scientology applied religious philosophy.
 1. It is the study and handling of the spirit in relationship to itself, universes and other life.
 2. Scientology means scio, knowing in the fullest sense of the word and logos, study.
 3. In itself the word means literally knowing how to know.
- v. Session - a precise period of time during which an auditor audits a preclear.
- w. SP - suppressive person.
- x. TA - tone arm; a control lever on the E-METER.
 1. The tone arm registers density of mass in the mind of the preclear.
 2. This is actual mass, not imaginary, and can be weighed, measured by resistance, etc.
- y. Theta - energy peculiar to life or a thetan which acts upon material in the physical universe and animates it, mobilizes it and changes it; natural creative energy of a thetan which he has free to direct toward survival goals especially when it manifests itself as high tone, constructive communications.
- z. Thetan - the person himself - not his body or his name, the physical universe, his mind or anything else; that which is aware of being aware; the identity which is the individual.
- aa. Tone Scale - a scale which shows the emotional tones of a person.
 1. These, ranged from the highest to the lowest, are, in part, serenity, enthusiasm (as we proceed downward), conservatism, boredom, antagonism, anger, covert hostility, fear, grief, apathy.
- bb. Track - time track; the consecutive record of mental image pictures which accumulates through a person's life or lives.
 1. It is very exactly dated.
- cc. TRs - training routines, often referred to as training drills.
 1. TRs are practical drills on the cycle of communication.
- dd. Upper Indoc - "Indoc" is short for "indoctrination" (meaning to teach) and Upper Indoc TRs are the series of TRs that follow Professional TRs in auditor training.
 1. They teach adroitness in starting, changing and stopping.
- ee. Withhold - an unspoken, unannounced transgression against a moral code by which the person was bound.
 1. Something the preclear did that he or she is not talking about.

- ff. Scientology has published a dictionary with 7,000 definitions for use of over 3,000 Dianetic words.

2. BELIEFS OF SCIENTOLOGY:

- A. It is claimed that L. Ron Hubbard was a modern genius who discovered the answers to life's questions and unraveled the secrets of our past, present, and future existences.
 - 1. His writings and speeches are considered absolutely authoritative, especially his book Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health.
 - 2. It is important to note that researchers not associated with Scientology have documented inaccuracies in Hubbard's account of his life.
 - A. They allege he fabricated and exaggerated many of his personal claims.
 - 3. His theories directly conflict with basic Christian teachings as only the Bible is the infallible basis for faith and practice – 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21.
- B. It is believed that people are immortal, divine beings who are composed of three dimensions: soul (thetan), mind (an accumulation of all past experiences in this and past lives), and body (the mortal, temporary physical component).
 - 1. The Bible teaches that people are souls created in the spiritual image and likeness of God - Genesis 1:26-30; 2:7.
 - A. Man is viewed as twofold in nature, body, and spirit.
 - B. The body is mortal and the spirit immortal.
 - C. There is no existence before earthly life.
- C. On mankind it is believed that "Engrams" are stored in one's "reactive mind" and learned from one's past lives, prenatal experience, and early childhood.
 - 1. These "engrams" prevent individuals from realizing their innate divinity and experiencing a happy and fulfilled life using their analytical minds.
 - 2. The Bible points to the fact that mankind's problem is sin, an attitude of rebellion or indifference toward God and His will, resulting in separation from God, both in this life and forever - Mark 7:20-23; Romans 3:23; 6:23; 1 John 3:4; 5:17.
- D. Scientology teaches that to solve the problem with these "Engrams" requires their removal from the mind only by an expensive process of dianetic counseling.
 - 1. This process, called "auditing," involves the utilization of an "E-meter" that supposedly indicates when a person has discovered an "engram" and helps the client expunge it from his or her unconscious reactive mind in order to achieve "Clear."
 - A. The person who has attained "Clear" may need further auditing to remove any "engrams" held over from previous lives.
 - B. Auditing sessions may cost as much as \$1,000 per hour.
 - 2. The Bible teaches that Christ is God's solution to the sin problem.
 - A. He was God Himself, in human form on earth - John 3:16; 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5, 6; 1 Peter 3:18.
 - B. He lived a sinless life, died as an atoning sacrifice for sin, and rose from the dead.
 - C. People who obey the gospel therefore receive salvation as a gift,

- both as a present reality and future hope, by grace through faith in Jesus Christ - John 14:1; Romans 10:9, 10; Galatians 2:15, 16; Ephesians 2:8, 9.
- E. The ultimate goal of Scientology is liberation from MEST.
1. A person will experience many “thetan” reincarnations in many lives over thousands of years.
 - A. Thus, “auditing” often must include clearing the client of “engrams” from past lives.
 - B. Eventually, the “thetan” can liberate itself completely from MEST and attain total spiritual awareness and become one with infinity.
 2. The Bible indicates that Christians will live forever with God in heaven - John 14:3-6; Romans 6:23; 8:35-39.
 - A. While on earth Jesus taught that the righteous would have eternal life, but the unsaved will suffer eternal punishment in hell - Matthew 25:46.
 - B. Reincarnation is nowhere taught in the Bible.
 1. People live one earthly life and eventually face God’s judgment - Hebrews 9:27.
- F. Scientology has no clear definition of the nature or person of God.
1. References to a Supreme Being are rare in Scientology literature, calling it the “eighth dynamic” or “infinity.”
 - A. The Supreme Being is defined in vague, pantheistic terms as embracing the “allness of all.”
 - B. Hubbard, in the Command of Theta Lectures, delivered in London, England in November of 1952, said, “Now, I’m going to ask you bluntly to reexamine some of your possible conclusions along this line: not because God is good, bad, not because one should be an atheist, not because one should be anything. But let’s take a look at it because the truth of the matter is that what you know of God, you know very intimately. Because that’s you. The life that beats in you and thinks in you and is in you connects up directly and is a part and parcel of an infinity which we could classify as the Supreme Being.”
 2. On the other hand, the Bible indicates that God is the eternal, infinite, personal Creator of the universe - Genesis 1; Deuteronomy 6:4.
 - A. He is Spirit (Numbers 23:19; John 4:24) and has existed from all eternity in a triune form: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6.
- G. Scientology’s View of Jesus and Christianity:
1. They falsely claim their religion “respects all religions,” and does “not conflict with other religions or religious practices” (*What is Scientology?* pp. 544, 545).
 - A. They further claim to be compatible with Christianity and respectful of Jesus.
 1. “Scientologists hold the Bible as a holy work, and have no argument with the Christian belief that Jesus Christ was the Savior of Mankind

- and the Son of God.... There are probably many types of redemption.”
(*Ibid.*, p. 545).
- B. Scientology further claims, “there is no attempt to change a person's beliefs or to persuade him away from any religion to which he already belongs” (*Ibid.* p. 544).
 - 2. “Neither Lord Buddha, nor Jesus Christ were OT's according to the evidence. They were just a shade above clear” (*Ability*, No. 81, 1959).
 - A. “Nobody but the individual can die for his sins” (*HCO Bulletin*, 2 January 1960).
 - 1. The HCO, or Hubbard Communications Office, was a division of the Church of Scientology which for many years served as the personal secretariat of L. Ron Hubbard.
 - B. “Religion... being basically a control mechanism used by those who have sent the preclear into a body. You will find the cross as a symbol all over the universe, and the Christ legend as an implant in preclears millions of years ago” (PAB #31, 23 July 1954.)
 - 1. PAB – Professional Auditor Bulletin.
 - 3. “The whole Christian movement is based on the victim.... A Scientologist is not a victim.... We can win by converting victims. Christianity succeeded in making people into victims. We can succeed by making victims into people” (*HCO Bulletin*, 18 July 1959).
 - A. “Somebody somewhere on this planet, back about 600 B.C. found some pieces of R6 [a suppressive implant], and I don't know how they found it, either by watching madman or something. But since that time they have used it and it became what is known as Christianity. The man on the cross, there was no Christ" In Scientology's Class 8 course, lecture 10, (3 October 1968) as seen in Corydon and Hubbard, *L. Ron Hubbard, Messiah or Madman?* p. 362)
 - 4. As part of his Phoenix Lectures (held in 1954 in Phoenix, Arizona) Hubbard affirmed, “Now the Hebrew definition of Messiah is one Who Brings Wisdom—a Teacher. Messiah is from ‘messenger’. Now here we have a great teacher in Moses. We have other Messiahs, and we then arrive with Christ, and the words of Christ were a lesson in compassion and they set a very fine example to the Western world.”
 - A. Hubbard was incorrect in his definition of the Hebrew word translated “Messiah” as it actually means “anointed.”
 - 5. Scientology asserts that Jesus may have believed in reincarnation, “There is much speculation on the part of religious historians as to the early education of Jesus of Nazareth. It is believed by many authorities that Jesus was a member of the cult of the Essenes, who believed in reincarnation.”
 - H. Scientology's Scriptures:
 - 1. Scientology's spokeswoman Leisa Goodman writes, "Mr. Hubbard's writings and lectures on the human spirit comprise the Scripture of Scientology religion.... As the sole source of the Scriptures, he has no successor" (*L. Ron*

Hubbard, Founder of Dianetics and Scientology, p. 1).

2. No one else is allowed to alter his issues.
 - A. They are to remain intact as only Hubbard can revise them (*Scientology Policy Directive 19*, 7 July 1982).
 - I. Scientology's View of Hell:
 1. "Hell is a total myth, an invention just to make people unhappy and is a vicious lie" (*PAB #130*, 15 Feb. 1958).
 - J. Scientology's View of Repentance:
 1. "It is despicable and utterly beneath contempt to tell a man he must repent, that he is evil" (*PAB #31*, 23 July 1954.).
 - K. Scientology's View of Salvation:
 1. They prefer to use the term "rebirth" instead of "reincarnation," even though reincarnation is found in their writings.
 2. The way to "salvation" is to erase "engrams" through "auditing".
 - A. The proof to Scientologists that they release "engrams" is the accompanying sign.
 1. "When one releases an engram," Hubbard wrote, "the erasure is accompanied by yawns, tears, sweat, odor, panting, urine, vomiting, and excreta."
- 3. ADDITIONAL SCIENTOLOGY CLAIMS:**
- A. Claimed it had the ability to cure homosexuality.
 1. False claim resulted in law suit, "Michael Pattison says he turned to the sect to 'cure' his homosexuality after it used 44-year old 'Face Off' star Travolta to illustrate how the church could turn gay people straight. Now Pattison is suing the church and 22 of its members for fraud, claiming he spent 25 years and a half a million dollars trying to deal with his own homosexuality - but is still gay." <http://www.lermanet.com/cos/pattinson1.htm>
 - B. Scientology claims there is a scientific basis for all their processes.
 1. Such is untrue.
 - C. Scientology claims it's compatible with other belief systems, like Christianity.
 1. False.
 - D. Scientology claims to be the fastest-growing religion in the world, with 8 million members, utilizing infallible technology developed by a physicist and war hero.
 1. Such is untrue.
 - E. Scientology claims that "public statements against Scientology or Scientologists," "writing anti-Scientology letters to the press," and "testifying as a hostile witness against Scientology in public" are all "Suppressive Acts" - high crimes, according to "Introduction To Scientology Ethics".
 1. The book claims that people who do such things "cannot be granted the rights and beingness ordinarily accorded rational beings."
 - F. Scientology claims to be a religion when, in reality, it is not viewed as such by numerous countries throughout the world.

1. "Among the countries that do not consider Scientology a religion are Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, and Spain, as well as Israel and Mexico." German Embassy Web Page -
<http://www.germany.info/relaunch/info/archives/background/scientology.html>
4. **COMMENTS BY FAMILY MEMBERS AND X SCIENTOLOGY MEMBERS:**
 - A. "...the same individual that transmitted the various Magick tech to Adolf Hitler as a young man also transmitted them to Dad. And like Dad, Hitler, when he came to power, promptly had his teachers and the occult field in general wiped out." Ron DeWolf, formerly known as L Ron Hubbard Jr., 1984 taped interview.
 - C. "The overall impact? Devastating!" wrote one ex-member. "I still tend to view the world in Scientological terms: 'Truth is only an illusion.' 'People are robots.' 'People are basically insane and dangerous.'" Another was even more bitter: "The only thing I got out of this scam was deep suicidal depression coinciding with the fear of death within five years after separation. We were told that ninety percent of all 'refund cases' eventually commit suicide."
<http://home.snafu.de/tilman/conway.txt>
 - D. "Church monies were used to purchase semi-automatic assault rifles (HK 91 assault rifles capable of firing 300-350 rounds of ammunition a minute, 45 caliber pistols, 380 automatic weapons and twelve gauge shotguns were stockpiled. These weapons were not registered. Church monies were also used to buy the ammunition." Andre Tabayoyon, former high ranking scientologist, left after 21 years.
 - E. "Another of my children, who once had a wonderful sense of humor, claims she lost her ability to laugh when she did the communication course as a six year old." Dennis Erlich, former high-ranking scientologist, left after 15 years.
5. **SCIENTOLOGY CELEBRITY LIST:**
 - A. John Travolta - actor
Chick Corea - influential American jazz pianist and composer
Brandy (Norwood) - R&B singer, actress
Tom Cruise - actor, movie star
Nancy Cartwright - voiceover artist best known as voice of "Bart Simpson" on The Simpsons
Jason Beghe - actor
Xavier Deluc - actor
Jason Dohring - actor
Michael Fairman - actor
Geoffrey Lewis - actor
Christopher Masterson - actor
Danny Masterson - actor
Haywood Nelson - actor
Eduardo Palomo - actor
Jeff Pomerantz - actor
Patrick Renna - actor
Giovanni Ribisi - (a.k.a. Vonni Ribisi) actor
Michael D. Roberts - actor

Bodhi Elfman - actor
Jason Lee - actor and professional skateboarder
Kirstie Alley - actress
Mimi Rogers - actress (2nd generation)
Anne Archer - actress
Jennifer Aspen - actress
Catherine Bell - actress
Erika Christensen - actress
Jenna Elfman - actress
Katie Holmes - actress
Kimberley Kates - actress
Juliette Lewis - actress
Priscilla Presley - actress
Leah Remini - actress
Marissa Ribisi - actress
Michelle Stafford - actress
Karen Black - actress
Kelly Preston - actress
Kate Ceberano - actress and musician
Judy Norton-Taylor - actress and musician
Lisa Marie Presley - singer; daughter of Elvis Presley
Billy Sheehan - rock and fusion bass player
David Campbell - musician
Dave Davies - musician
Isaac Hayes - musician
Nicky Hopkins - musician
Mark Isham - musician
David Pomeranz - musician
Rob Thomas - musician
Patrick Warren - musician
Edgar Winter - musician
Beck - singer (a.k.a. Beck Hansen)
Carina Ricco - singer, actress, composer
Gloria Rusch-Novello - singer, writer, composer
Karen Nelson Bell - producer, director and musician
Robert Zoller - author
Floyd Mutrux - screenwriter, director, producer
Terry Jastrow - TV producer and director
Peter Medak - film director
Carl W. Rohrig - (a.k.a. Pablo Roehrig) painter
Franca Cervení - radio and television announcer
James T. Sorensen - photographer
Keith Code - motorcycle racing instructor

Megan Shields - physician and author of health books, incl. Arthritis: The Doctor's Cure, etc.
Chaka Khan - singer
Sonny Bono - singer ("Sonny and Cher"), U.S. Representative (deceased)
Mary Bono - widow of Sonny Bono; U.S. Representative
 Heber Jentzsch - President of the Church of Scientology
 Ernest Lehman - screenwriter of The Sound of Music
 Greta Van Susteren - host of On the Record with Greta Van Susteren new show on FOX TV
 Werner Erhard - former Scientologist who founded est
 David Miscavige - important Church of Scientology religious leader; chairman of the board for Religious Technology Center
 Jim Johnson - owner and founder of Mr. Jim's Pizza chain
 Lee Purcell - actress, Big Wednesday, etc.
 Michael Wiserman - Predator 2, etc.
 Gary Imhoff - actor; Thumbelina, etc.
 Manu Tupou - actor and acting teacher; Hawaii
 Dror Soref - director; The Seventh Coin, etc.
 Amanda Ambrose - singer, vocal teacher
 Milton Ketselas - one of Hollywood's most successful acting teachers, who heads the Beverly Hills Playhouse
 Jim Rogers - celebrity producer, manager (ex-husband of Mimi Rogers)
 Linda Blair - actress best known for The Exorcist
 Arnaud Boetsch - tennis player
 Darius Brubeck - musician, member of "Brubeck Band"
 Sharon Case - actress
 Glenn Zottola - trumpeter
 Andrew Loog Oldham - writer
 Dick Zimmerman - celebrity photographer
 Jeffrey Tambor - actor
 Eddie Deezen - actor
 Corin Nemec - actor
 Anita Mally - actress, screenwriter
 Julia Migenes - opera singer
 Lightfield Lewis - actor, director
 Charles Lakes - Olympic gymnast
 Laura Prepon - actress
 Helga Wagner - jewelry designer; dated Prince Charles and Sen. Ted Kennedy
 Deborah Rennard - actress
 Sofia Milos - actress
 Placido Domingo, Jr. - singer
 Robert F. Lyons - actor and drama teacher
 Carolyn Judd - ad writer and producer
 Paul Haggis - screenwriter, story editor, TV producer

Josele Garza - racing car driver from Mexico
 Lenny Macaluso - musician, songwriter, producer
 Phillipe de Henning - racing driver, fashion designer
 Milton Katselas - acting teacher, director
 Maxine Nightingale - singer
 Mario Feninger - composer and concert pianist
 Jeffrey Scott - script writer, grandson of Moe Howard
 Pamela Roberts - actress, clothes designer
 Elena Roggero - Italian singer, songwriter
 Karen Nelson-Bell - producer
 Lamia Khashoggi - wife of wealthy and famous Saudi arms dealer Adnan
 Khashoggi
 Noelle North - dancer, voice-over actress
 Misha Segal - composer
 Andrik Schapers - singer from Netherlands
 Cass Warner - writer
 Jason Lee - actor ("Chasing Amy")
 Michelle Stafford - actress ("The Young and the Restless")
 Denice Duff - actress ("The Young and the Restless")
 Lynsey Bartilson - actress ("Grounded for Life")
 Tom Fair - (a.k.a. Tom Feher) lyricist for the 60s rock group the Left Banke
 Moon Martin - rock star; "Bad Case of Lovin' You"
 Clive Clerk - actor, singer
 Jim McMullin - actor
 Michael Wiseman - child actor ("Predator 2")
 Ludwig Fisher - actor and artist
 Ryan Paris - singer, musician
 Michael Schnitzler - violinist
 Peter Winsnes - actor
 Eric Sherman - director
 Peter Schless - composer, synthesist and producer
 Diana Venegas - beauty queen; Miss Venezuela; lace-gowns boutique in Beverly
 Hills
 Jackson Sousa - Hollywood celebrity trainer
 Michael Sellers - concert pianist
 Susie Coelho - actress
 Hans Gunter Arenz - race car driver
 Fermin Sanchez - race car driver
 Kit Carson - motorcycle racer
 Al DiMeola - jazz musician
 Janet Greeson - owner of Diet Centers
 Willie B. Wilson - oil billionaire
 Tony Morales - drummer with the Rippingtons

Hossam Ramzy - North African percussion ensemble leader, played with Peter Gabriel

Amanda Rice - (formerly "Raven") stripper; previously Kiefer Sutherland's girlfriend

1. http://www.adherents.com/largecom/fam_scientologist.html

6. SCIENTOLOGY AND CHRISTIANITY COMPARED:

A. Comparison chart:

	Christianity	Scientology
On revenge and enemies	"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who ill-treat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also." - Jesus Christ, <i>Luke 6:27-28, Matthew 5:38-39</i>	"An enemy... may be injured by any means or tricked, sued or lied to or destroyed." - L. Ron Hubbard, <i>Penalties for Lower Conditions</i> , HCO PL 18 Oct 67 "This is the correct procedure: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Spot who is attacking us.2. Start investigating them promptly for FELONIES or worse using our own professionals, not outside agencies.3. Double curve our reply by saying we welcome an investigation of them.4. Start feeding lurid, blood sex crime actual evidence on the attackers to the press. DON'T EVER tamely submit to an investigation of us. Make it rough, rough on attackers all the way."

		- L. Ron Hubbard, <i>Attacks on Scientology</i> , HCO PL 25 Feb 1966
About telling the truth	"Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes', and your 'No', 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one." - Jesus Christ NT: <i>Matthew 5:37</i>	"Handling truth is a touchy business ... Tell an acceptable truth." - L. Ron Hubbard, <i>The Missing Ingredient</i> , 13 August 1970.
About using religious deception	"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them." - Jesus Christ, <i>Matthew 7:15</i>	"Churches are looked upon as reform groups. Therefore we must act like a reform group." - L. Ron Hubbard, 1966, According to Jon Atack's <i>The total freedom trap</i>
About greed and money	"Give to everyone who asks you, do not demand it back." - Jesus Christ, <i>Luke 6:30</i> "Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven." - Jesus Christ, <i>Luke 18:22</i>	"MAKE MONEY. MAKE MORE MONEY." - L. Ron Hubbard, <i>HCO PL 9 Mar 72</i>
About the price charged for religion	"Freely you have received, freely give." - Jesus Christ, <i>Matthew 10:8</i>	"PROCESSING MAY NEVER BE GIVEN AWAY BY AN ORG. Processing is too expensive to deliver." - L. Ron Hubbard <i>HCO PL 27 Sep 70</i> (Issue I)
About the judicial system	"Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court." - Jesus Christ, <i>Matthew 5:25</i>	"The law can be used very easily to harass... the purpose of the suit is to harass and discourage rather than to win." - L. Ron

		Hubbard, <i>The Scientologist - A Manual on the Dissemination of Material</i> ", reprinted in <i>The Technical Bulletins of Dianetics and Scientology volume 2</i> , pp.151-171, 1979 printing.
About redemption in Christ	"... I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." - St. Paul, <i>Galatians 2:20</i>	"Christ died for his own sins." - L. Ron Hubbard, (<i>Uncertain ref; Saint Hill tape #12 or such. Readers are urged to post the correct ref, if possible</i>).
About using religion to make money	"... men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain." - St. Paul, <i>1 Timothy 5:5</i>	"I'd like to start a religion. That's where the money is." - L. Ron Hubbard to Lloyd Eshbach in 1949; quoted by Eshbach in <i>Over My Shoulder</i> .
About being open-minded	"Test everything. Hold on to the good." - St. Paul, <i>1 Thessalonians 5:21</i>	"Never permit an 'open-minded' approach. [...] Never let them be half-minded about being Scientologists..." - L. Ron Hubbard, <i>Keeping Scientology Working, HCO PL 7 Feb 65, reissued in 1980, 1991 edition</i> .
About society in general	"Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established." - St. Paul, <i>Romans 13:1</i>	"If we place the government on our chart of human evaluation we find a craven psychotic Governments are insane." - L. Ron Hubbard, <i>Ability Magazine, Issue No. 5</i>
About the great "knowledge" of cults	"Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some	"This is useful knowledge. With it the blind again see, the lame walk, the ill recover, the insane become sane and the sane become

	have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith." - St. Paul, <i>1 Timothy 6:20-21</i>	saner. By its use the thousand abilities man has sought to recover become his once more." - L. Ron Hubbard, <i>Scientology: A History of Man. Foreword.</i>
About the reality of Christianity	"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched - this we proclaim concerning the Word of Life." - St. John, <i>1 John. 1:1</i>	"I don't know how they found it; either by watching madmen or something. But since that time they have used it. And it became what is known as Christianity. The Man on the cross. There was no Christ! " - L. Ron Hubbard, <i>Class 8 Auditor's Course (Confidential)</i> , taped on the ship <i>Apollo</i> in Corfu, Greece.
Jeff Jacobsen:	Critic of Scientology	Since 1987
About who will own the universe	"Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth." (Jesus Christ, Mat. 5:5)	"The universe is a rough universe. It is a terrible and deadly universe. Only the strong survive it, only the ruthless can own it." - L. Ron Hubbard, <i>Scientology: A History of Man</i> , p.38)
Perry Scott:	Critic of Scientology	
About the law	"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil." - Jesus Christ, <i>Luke 5:17-18, (KJV)</i>	"Somebody some day will say 'this is illegal'. By then be sure the orgs say what is legal or not." -- L. Ron Hubbard, <i>HCOPL 4 January 1966</i>
About lawsuits	"And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also." - Jesus Christ, <i>Matt 5:40 (KJV)</i>	"The purpose of the suit is to harass and discourage rather than to win...The law can be used very easily to harass, and...will generally be sufficient to cause [the enemy's] professional

		decease. If possible, of course ruin him utterly." - L.Ron Hubbard, <i>Magazine articles on Level O Checksheet</i> , American Saint Hill Organization 1968.
About forgiveness	"And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other;" - Jesus Christ, <i>Luke 6:29 (KJV)</i>	"We are not a turn-the-other-cheek religion." - Liesa Goodman, cult spokesperson, on MTV's "New Religions: The Cult Question", June 1995

1. http://www.libertytothecaptives.net/scientology_vs_christ.html

7. OFFICIAL SCIENTOLOGY WEB SITE:

- A. http://www.scientology.org/en_US/religion/index.html

8. ANTI-SCIENTOLOGY WEB SITES:

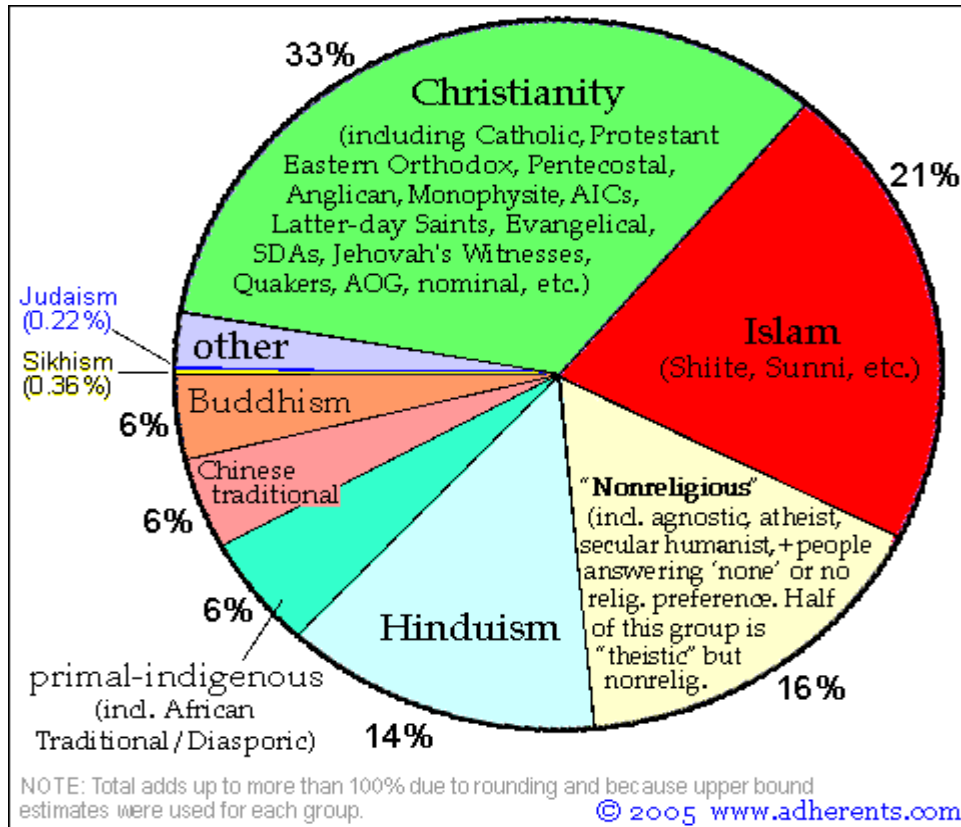
- A. "[Karin Spaink's Homepage](http://www.xs4all.nl/~kspaink) - Karin Spaink, the creator of this web page, is one of the persons sued by the Church of Scientology for copyright infringement. <http://www.xs4all.nl/~kspaink>
- B. [An Introduction to Scientology](http://www.modemac.com/cos) - Although this site first claims to be an introduction, further investigation proves that this site offers extensive links and articles about Scientology, ranging from practices to current events. Some parts of the site are factual and unbiased towards Scientology; however, most of the links are to sites considered anti-Scientology. <http://www.modemac.com/cos>
- C. [Operation Clambake - The Inner Secrets of Scientology](http://www.xenu.net) - Operation Clambake is a web page devoted to the negative aspects of Scientology. The site is well-organized into diverse categories, from articles about the Church and the court to personal accounts of Scientology to links to other anti-Scientology sites. This site also attempts to bring humor to the battle against Scientology with links to cartoons and parodies. <http://www.xenu.net>
- D. [FACTNet International Homepage](http://www.factnet.org) - According to the "Fight Against Coercive Tactics Network," this site is a "non-profit news source, referral service, and archive protecting freedom of mind from harms caused by psychological coercion." FACTNet's web site contains a daily newswire and information about cults and coercion. It does focus on other religious movements besides Scientology. <http://www.factnet.org>
- E. [German Scientology News](http://www.cisar.org) - The heated debate over Scientology in Germany is the main topic of this web site maintained by an individual not affiliated with any other Scientology organization. There are documents translated from German into English. The point of this web site is to offer information about Scientology's presence in Germany and give the details without fear of being sued. <http://www.cisar.org>

- F. Scientology: Cult of Greed and Power - The greed present in the Church of Scientology is the focus of this web page. There are links to other anti-Scientology sites listed here and stories from ex-Scientists. There are books archived on this site that the Church has tried to ban from publication. This site is consistently under construction so it changes frequently. <http://www.enttheta.net>
- G. NOTS Scholars Homepage (Scientology) - An excellent page that contains detailed, informative summary and review of the New Operating Thetan Scientology scriptures. This site has a link to obtain the actual scripture from the Swedish parliament, who has been given permission by the Swedish Supreme Court to make the documents public. <http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~dst/NOTs/index.html>
- H. Watchman Expositor Articles on Scientology - Multiple articles, categorized in numerous volumes, about topics ranging from Scientology's Internet wars to the controversial death of Lisa McPherson make up this site. The articles generate a counter-cult argument against the Church. The Watchman Fellowship is a major evangelical counter-cult organization. <http://www.watchman.org/scienta.htm>
- I. Lisa McPherson Memorial Page - Lisa McPherson was a Scientist whose death has prompted numerous civil suits claiming that the Church abused her and ignored her fatal symptoms. This site is mirrored on <http://www.lisamcpherson.org> and contains such interesting articles as McPherson's autopsy report. There is also a link to the page on <http://www.freedommag.org> that presents the Scientology side of the McPherson story. <http://www.lisamcpherson.org/>
- J. Critical Information about Scientology - Jeff Jacobson, a critic of the Church of Scientology, gives personal experiences with Scientists and research he has conducted on the group. He offers a copy of the text of his book on Hubbard's discoveries. There are also links to various Scientology- related web pages, particularly to those pertaining to the conflicts Scientology has been engaged in in recent years. <http://www.primenet.com/~cultxpt/cos.htm>
- K. NOTs on the Net - This web page focuses on the issue of Operating Thetan materials appearing on the Internet and Scientology's fight to remove the sacred texts. There are brief synopses of lawsuits initiated by the Church against those sites having to do with the sacred materials being posted for all to see. Some synopses have links to a more detailed description of the case. <http://www.modemac.com/notes>
- L. Extracts and Analysis of Scientology Scriptures - The title of this site sums up what it offers viewers. Specifically, there are excerpts from lectures and writings of L. Ron Hubbard and an interesting extract from the Church's official publication What is Scientology?, complete with comments in parentheses claiming lies present in the text. <http://starbase.neosoft.com/~dcs/posts/pulpindx.html>
- M. Social Control in Scientology - This site presents a book, primarily published on the Internet, written by Bob Penny, who is one of the founders of FACTNet, a group crusading against coercive tactics of new religious movements. The text

- focuses on the destructive nature of Scientology and the group's ethics.
<http://www.demon.co.uk/castle/xenu/scs.html>
- N. The Church of Scientology vs. the Net - The primary focus of this site is the ongoing war between Scientologists and the Internet. There are links to developing events in the battle. There are also news articles and links to other anti-Scientology sites.
<http://www2.thecia.net/users/rnewman/scientology/home.html>
- O. The Web Page of Total Freedom - Written under anonymity, the author of this site, a auditor in the Church, agrees with some aspects of Scientology but focuses more on what he disagrees with-primarily the Religious Technology Center. However, one must move deeper into the site to see the author's dislikes because the page begins with definitions of Scientology terms and appears to be a scholarly site. <http://www.igs.net/~michaelv/scnreform.htm>”.
- P. Above taken from -
<http://religiousmovements.lib.virginia.edu/nrms/scientology.html>

APPENDIX # 1

Major Religions of the World Ranked by Number of Adherents




(Sizes shown are **approximate estimates**, and are here mainly for the purpose of ordering the groups, not providing a definitive number. This list is sociological/statistical in perspective.)


1. Christianity: 2.1 billion
2. Islam: 1.5 billion
3. Secular/Nonreligious/Agnostic/Atheist: 1.1 billion
4. Hinduism: 900 million
5. Chinese traditional religion: 394 million
6. Buddhism: 376 million
7. Primal-indigenous: 300 million
8. African Traditional & Diasporic: 100 million
9. Sikhism: 23 million

10. Juche: 19 million
11. Spiritism: 15 million
12. Judaism: 14 million
13. Baha'i: 7 million
14. Jainism: 4.2 million
15. Shinto: 4 million
16. Cao Dai: 4 million
17. Zoroastrianism: 2.6 million
18. Tenrikyo: 2 million
19. Neo-Paganism: 1 million
20. Unitarian-Universalism: 800 thousand
21. Rastafarianism: 600 thousand
22. Scientology: 500 thousand


APPENDIX 2



Comparative Religions 19 major religions (a work in progress)


Buddhism / Hinduism / Judaism / Christianity / Jainism / Islam / Daoism / Shinto / Zoroastrianism / Manichaeism / Sikhism / Paganism (not neo) / Confucianism								
	# s	Dates	Founders	Specific symbols & beliefs	Religious writings (not just one but many)	where it developed and where it spread	Sects or divisions	Basic beliefs or tenets
Buddhism	362 m	500 BCE	Guatama Buddha Asoka adopted as state religion	 Stupas which contain relics of the enlightened people	The Tripitaka	south Asia then spread by monks such as Xuanzang (ca. 602–664), a famous Chinese Buddhist pilgrim into Eastern Asia (mostly south of the Hwang He) and Korean Peninsula and Japan note sects or divisions Revival of Hinduism and Islamic invasion wiped out Buddhism in India by 1000 CE	In first century split into Mahayana (northern Asia) and Theravada Mahayana delay entrance into nirvana to help others find enlightenment; use of additional texts Theravada: emphasis on seeking individual enlightenment; based more closely on teachings of Gautama Buddha Zen Buddhism: 700s in China an by 1200 in Japan, sudden enlightenment through meditation	Four Noble Truths Universality of suffering Desire as the cause of suffering Nirvana as the cessation of desire Eightfold Path as guide to entering nirvana rightness of : Knowledge of the cause and ending of suffering thought speech conduct livelihood effort mind meditation


	#'s	Dates	Founders	Specific symbols & beliefs	Religious writings (not just one but many)	where it developed and where it spread	Sects or divisions	Basic beliefs or tenets
Hinduism	786m		origins with Aryan invaders between 1700 and 1500 BCE; later groups added the ideas No one founder	 Om	Vedas	Originally spread throughout India (and modern Pakistan)	Yogi	<p>Varna is division of people into four classes, beginnings of caste as a measure of one's spiritual progress</p> <p>One ultimate reality, Brahma which is formless and nameless</p> <p>Rebirth (reincarnation) for spiritual progress, determined by karma</p> <p>Release from cycle of rebirth (mohka) and the soul (Atman) through oneness with the Ultimate Reality</p> <p>4 stages of Life: student, householder, anchorite, sannyasi (holy one)</p> <p>Dharma, duties and rules of conduct to be followed to achieve salvation</p>
Significance (role in history)								


APPENDIX # 4

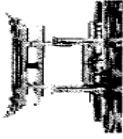
	#'s	Dates	Founders	Specific symbols & beliefs	Religious writings (not just one but many)	where it developed and where it spread	Sects or divisions	Basic beliefs or tenets
Islam	1215m	622-632 CE (HA)	Muhammad	<p>Islam means submission</p> <p>Muslim means believer in Islam (has same Arabic root)</p> <p>Kaabah (house)</p> <p>Khalifah (caliph means successor)</p> 	<p>Quran</p> <p>The sunnah (what the Prophet Muhammad said, did, or approved of) is the second source in Islam. The sunnah is comprised of hadeeths, which are reliably transmitted reports by the Prophet Muhammad's companions of what he said, did, or approved of. Belief in the sunnah is a basic Islamic belief.</p> <p>Hadith</p>	<p>From Arabian Peninsula spread through southwestern Asia (Middle East), Central Asia, to western South Asia, western China, sub-Saharan Africa, and Iberian Peninsula (Moorish Spain)</p>	<p>Sunni</p> <p>Shi'is</p> <p>Sunni: modern majority, originally adherents of the Ymayyad</p> <p>Shi'is: originally followers of Ali</p>	<p>HILAB - covering of female head</p> <p>Friday Sermon Khutba</p> <p>Juma</p> <p>"People of the Book"</p> <p>Al-Quadar - predestination</p> <p>5 pillars of Faith</p> <p>Haj</p> <p>Alms to poor</p> <p>Fast for month</p> <p>No god but Allah</p> <p>pray to Mecca</p> <p>Hijrah (Hegira)</p> <p>Development of the Sharia - legal code</p>
Significance (role in history)	Rose in absence of other belief systems following the fall of Rome in the west, Gupta in the east and Han in the north.							


#'s	Dates	Founders	Specific symbols & beliefs	Religious writings (not just one but many)	where it developed and where it spread	Sects or divisions	Basic beliefs or tenets
<p>Judaism 13-14 million Jews in the world, majority of these Jews live in either the United States and Israel, each with approximately 5 million Jews. There are less than 2 million Jews in Europe, 400,000 in Latin America and 350,000 in Canada. In Africa, there are less than 100,000 Jews, about 90% of whom live in the country of South Africa. There are about 100,000 Jews in Australia and New Zealand combined. There are about 50,000 Jews in Asia (not including Israel).</p>	1000 - 800 BCE	Hebrews and Israelites	<p>mezuzah, tefillin, tzitzit and tallit, yarmulke (kippah), menorah, Star of David</p>  <p>chai</p> 	Torah- beliefs set forth in this and in the Mosaic Law Talmud - collection of oral laws	Land of Canaan, ancient Israel Diaspora 130 CE by the Romans Middle East, North Africa, and Europe	<p>Ashkenazic Jews are the Jews of France, Germany, and Eastern Europe. Sephardic Jews are the Jews of Spain, Portugal, North Africa and the Middle East The word "Ashkenazic" is derived from the Hebrew word for Germany. The word "Sephardic" is derived from the Hebrew word for Spain.</p>	<p>One god Chosen people through a special relationship with Yahweh (god) Messiah to come Rabbi - A religious teacher and person authorized to make decisions on issues of Jewish law</p>
<p>Significance (role in history)</p>	<p>first monotheistic religion Greatly influence Christianity and Islam connections with all three in the Quran, Torah and Bible first chapters</p>						

	#'s	Dates	Founders	Specific symbols & beliefs	Religious writings (not just one but many)	where it developed and where it spread	Sects or divisions	Basic beliefs or tenets
Christianity	2015m	30CE	Jesus Paul of Tarsus		Gospel contained in the Bible Book of common prayer	From Palestine throughout the Roman World including Byzantine, Northern Europe Legalized in Roman Empire by Constantine in late 300s, accepted by others throughout history including Charlemagne, Yaroslav the Wise for Kievan Rus,	Catholic Church then division in Orthodoxy (Greek, Eastern, Russian) and post 1500 division in Protestantism (anti-Baptist, Anglican, Lutheran, etc... Gnostic	Monotheistic Jesus is Messiah Through God's grace people are saved through the gift of faith in Jesus Christ Through this faith sins are forgiven and receive new and eternal life Ethical behavior yields a place in heaven Gospels as main source of early teachings of Jesus Large body later developed to interpret and build on original teachings
Significance (role in history)	Roman Catholic Church power of the papacy came to rival that of European emperors and kings Strong, universal and hierarchial structure and discipline Strong missionary outreach Strong Monastic element Monks preserved much of ancient Greek and Roman learning after the breakup of the Roman Empire Persecuted by Romans (Masada)							

	#'s	Dates	Founders	Specific symbols & beliefs	Religious writings (not just one but many)	where it developed and where it spread	Sects or divisions	Basic beliefs or tenets
Daoism (Taosim)	20 m 30	400 - 300 BCE	Lao-Tzu (604-531 BCE) 440 CE adopted as state religion		<i>Humans model themselves on earth, Earth on heaven, Heaven on the Way, And the way on that which is naturally so.</i> -- Laozi (Lao Tzu) <i>Daodejing (Tao te ching), #25</i> <i>I Ching, The Book Of Changes</i>	China - Tiawan almost destroyed on the mainland of China following Mao Zedong's cultural revolution in 1966 CE Korea, Japan, Vietnam	Became mixed with Pagan peasant beliefs of the peasants and overtime became Polytheistic Fang-Shi syncretic	Social conventions such as Confucian rituals unnatural TAO- meaning the way indefinable but like nature, naturalness Live in accord with one's nature Oneness with everything through the Tao, meditation Interaction of the yin and yang passive and active principles, as influence on everything that happens wu-wei - actions based on nature
Significance (role in history)	Interest in nature influenced Chinese arts							

	#'s	Dates	Founders	Specific symbols & beliefs	Religious writings (not just one but many)	where it developed and where it spread	Sects or divisions	Basic beliefs or tenets
Jainism	3 - 4 million	5 th Century	Mahavira (599-527)	 <p>Janas - those who overcome Karma</p> <p>Reincarnation</p> <p>Ahimsa: "non violence in all parts of a person -- mental, verbal and physical."</p> <p>Committing an act of violence against a human, animal, or even vegetable generates negative karma which in turn adversely affects one's next life.</p> <p>Satya: speaking truth; avoiding falsehood</p> <p>Asteya: to not steal from others</p> <p>Brahma-charya (soul conduct); remaining sexually monogamous to one's spouse only</p> <p>Aprigraha: detach from people, places and material things. Avoiding the collection of excessive material possessions, abstaining from over-indulgence, restricting one's needs, etc.</p>	"Agama", the teachings of Mahavira; the "Cheda-sutras", the rules of asceticism; and the "Culika-sutras", texts concentrating on the nature of the mind and knowledge	India as a backlash to Hinduism	two Denominations: The "Digambaras" (naked) are monks and nuns with vow of "nudity", living in monasteries. The "Svatantrabaras" (white-robed)	<p>Buddhism is the "middle way". Jainism is the "most strict religion" have 5 rules:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Destroy no life. 2- Do not lie. 3- Practice charity. 4- Practice chastity. 5- Posses nothing, want nothing 6 Devotion of whole life to task (Moshka). <p>Jains are recommended to pass through four stages during their lifetime:</p> <p>Brahmacharya-ashrama: the life of a student</p> <p>Gruhashth-ashrama: family life</p> <p>Vanaprasth-ashrama: family and social services</p> <p>Sanyast-ashrama: life as a monk; a period of renunciation</p>
Significance (role in history)								

	#'s	Dates	Founders	Specific symbols & beliefs	Religious writings (not just one but many)	where it developed and where it spread	Sects or divisions	Basic beliefs or tenets
Shinto 1 million in Brazil	3 m	660 BCE	Shinto has no real founder, no written scriptures, no body of religious law, and only a very loosely-organized priesthood.	 Kami or deities guard certain clans and areas	<i>"Kojiki"</i> , ancient masters (710 A.C); <i>"Nihon Shoki"</i> , chronicles of Japan (720 A.C).			The essence of Shintoism is <i>"kami"</i> , the divine spirit found in all things in heaven and earth, mountains and rivers, sun and moon, plants, animals, and human beings... and very specially at Mount Fuji, the cherry blossoms, bonsai trees, formal gardens, and the Sakaki (the holy tree).
Significance (role in history)								

	#'s	Dates	Founders	Specific symbols & beliefs	Religious writings (not just one but many)	where it developed and where it spread	Sects or divisions	Basic beliefs or tenets
Zoroastrianism	115 t 30 t USA 2 m total	6 th Century BCE	Zoraster	 Faravahar	Avesta comprises of five Gathas which are songs composed by the prophet Zarathustra.	Persian Empire spread then eliminated by Alexander the Great		Zoroastrianism is "monotheistic", but with a "dualistic" System: Only one loving God, Ahura Mazda, the creator, who had 2 sons: One choose "Good", the other choose "Evil" (Angra Mainya, Ahriman), the destructive principle of greed, anger, and darkness (the Satan of Christianity)... there is a constant fight between Good and Evil, but at the end, in the year 2,600 AC Good will triumph, there will be a "Final Judgment", the dead will be resurrected, and there will be a Paradise on earth.
Significance (role in history)	Western religions get their concept of Heaven and Hell from Zoraster (The Sun and earth are sacred, so much that the dead can not be buried on earth)							

#'s	Dates	Founders	Specific symbols & beliefs	Religious writings (not just one but many)	where it developed and where it spread	Sects or divisions	Basic beliefs or tenets
Manichaeism	3 rd Century BCE	Mani 216 - 276 CE		<i>Shabuhagan</i> , in which Mani summarised his teachings in Middle Persian for Shapuhr I; the <i>Ardahang</i> , apparently his drawing of the cosmos, with a commentary, the <i>Ardahang Wifras</i> ; and the <i>Kephalaia</i> ("Discourses"), the words of the prophet collected after his death, among which is some apocryphal matter.	Founded in Parthian Empire maintained itself around Bagdad until the and spread throughout the silk road. In 762 Uigur Turks adopted it as their state religion.		that the world itself, and all creatures, was part of a battle between the good, represented by God, and the bad, the darkness, represented by a power driven by envy and lust
Significance (role in history)	Mani practised under the protection of the Persian emperor, Shapur 1 until he came in conflict with the Zoroastrian priests. He traveled as an advisor with Shapur throughout the known world, to Rome and Greece, and converted as he encountered others. Spread along the silk road to the Uigur Turks who adopted it as their state religion.						

#s	Dates	Founders	Specific symbols & beliefs	Religious writings (not just one but many)	where it developed and where it spread	Sects or divisions	Basic beliefs or tenets
Paganism (not neo)				anyone who worships the traditional gods or country dweller			
Significance (role in history)							

APPENDIX # 5

Those Bogus “Bible Codes”

By Wayne Jackson

Christian Courier: Feature

Saturday, June 1, 2002

The idea that certain pieces of literature are characterized by numerical codes that smuggle important messages to those who are able to decipher them, has roots that reach far back into antiquity. Within the past few years, interest in this issue has emerged again — with considerable sensationalism.

Ancient Theories

At ancient Khorsabad, a wall was supposed to have been constructed according to the numerical value of the name of Sargon the king.

Generally, the mystical use of numbers is traced to the Greek mathematician, Pythagoras (c. 569-500 B.C.), who founded a cult based upon the idea that numbers were basic to nature, and that any phenomenon could be explained in terms of numbers (see John J. Davis, **Biblical Numerology**, Baker, 1968, pp. 125ff).

There may be a reflection of this ideology in the Jewish apocryphal book, **The Wisdom of Solomon**, written by an unknown Alexandrian Jew in the late 2nd century B.C. (or later). A passage in that work states that God “by measure and number and weight” ordered all things (11:20).

Certain ancient Jewish writers attempted “exegetical wizardry” by the mystical use of numbers. For example in the Hebrew Talmud (B. Shabbat 70a), Nathan interprets the statement “these are the words” (in Exodus 35:1) in the following fashion. The Hebrew is *eleh haDebarim*, which is supposed to signify thirty-nine different categories of work forbidden on the Sabbath. “Thirty-nine” is derived “from the numerical equivalent of *eleh* — thirty-six — plus two for the plural form *debarim* and one more for the definite article *ba*” (Jacob Neusner, William S. Green, **Dictionary of Judaism in the Biblical Period**,

Hendrickson, 1996, p. 245). The absurdity of such a procedure is evident on the very face of it.

In the post-apostolic age, some of the “Church Fathers” were mesmerized by the mystical use of numbers. Others, however, opposed such speculations as a fanatical misappropriation of the sacred text (see Irenaeus – c. A.D. 130-200, **Against Heresies**, II.XXIV).

In Medieval times theologians began to imagine that they had discovered symbolic meanings in numbers. And while there is some basis to believe that occasionally numbers are used as symbols (e.g., “seven” in the book of Revelation), the mystical numerologists went much too far with their baseless views.

The Modern Resurgence

Within the last decade, highly publicized claims about mysterious numerical codes, hidden within the Bible texts, have heightened curiosity concerning this topic.

In the early 1990’s, some Israeli mathematicians contended they had discovered certain “letter codes” in the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament). Exploiting these claims, Michael Drosnin, a popular journalist (formerly affiliated with **The Washington Post** and **The Wall Street Journal**), produced a book that was titled, **The Bible Code** (Simon & Schuster, 1997). This volume quickly made the best-seller lists. The publisher boasted: “For three thousand years a code in the Bible has remained hidden. Now it has been unlocked by computer — and it may reveal our future.”

The following year, Grant Jeffrey, a popular “prophet of hysteria” of the “millennial-mania” community (who holds an “honorary doctorate” from Louisiana Baptist Theological Seminary), published a volume called, **The Mysterious Bible Codes** (Word, 1998), which made equally outrageous claims. Significantly, though, Jeffrey dismissed Drosnin’s efforts as not representative of “legitimate Bible Code research” — though his own procedure is as bizarre as his competitor’s, and they utilize some of the same ridiculous examples for “proofs.”

As mentioned above, Drosnin's work alleges that secret Old Testament messages, hidden for centuries, have now been unlocked by means of computer technology. The "discovery" was touted as a phenomenon that "may change the world." Supposedly, these obscured messages were prophetic in nature, foretelling such events as World War II, the Holocaust, the bombing of Hiroshima, and the exploration of the Moon. Reputedly, the assassinations of John F. and Robert Kennedy, the Watergate scandal, the Oklahoma City bombing, the exact date of the beginning of the Gulf War, and the assassination of Israel's Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin also have been "decoded." (See Note below.)

The Methods Employed

Oddly, in order to find these coded messages, one must go here and there in the books of the Torah (Law), making a "skip search" to assemble the coded words. A "skip search" attempts to frame terms by looking at sequential letter-occurrences, e.g., every 10th letter, 20th letter, 3,000th letter, etc., until a pattern seems to appear. The sequence can go forwards, backwards, up or down — even diagonally — in the computer-generated text, until the coveted "match" is located.

For example, the message about the great "economic collapse" of "1929," it is said, must be located in the records of both Exodus and Deuteronomy, while "Holocaust," "Japan," and "1945" must be assembled from the books of Numbers and Deuteronomy.

Jeffrey's work expands upon Drosnin's, supposedly unraveling messages that are "encrypted" in both the Old and New Testaments, and involving an even greater variety of prophetic names and events.

For instance, in connection with the Gulf War, coded messages in Genesis and Numbers reputedly contain the names George Bush, Norman Schwarzkopf, and even Peter Arnet, the CNN reporter! Allegedly, there are other detailed prophecies, including such events as the Oklahoma City bombing, and the death of Princess Diana!

Consider, for example, Jeffrey's claim about the Oklahoma City bombing. He asserts that by sequencing certain letters in the context that begins in Genesis 34:18, and continues

through 44:4, one can locate the following encoded words. “Oklahoma” and “terror” are in (35:5); “Murrrah”— the name of the Federal building is in (36:8), while “building” is in (36:24). “Slaughtered” and “death” are in (35:7). The name “Timothy” is (44:4), while “McVeigh” is back at (34:21). Then “day 19” is found at (32:13), while “ninth hour” is in (34:18). The phrase, “in the morning” comes two chapters later (36:10).

The only surprise is that one doesn’t find Timothy McVeigh’s Social Security number, or phone number, in the prophetic-mix!

Jeffrey argues that these are evidences of the divine origin of the Bible. Yet, disagreeing with Drosnin, he affirms that one cannot discover these “prophecies” to see into the future; he can only decode them *after the fact!* That is directly the opposite of the biblical position. The prophet Isaiah challenged the pagans of his day:

“Declare the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that you are gods” (Isa. 41:23).

Such outlandish claims are more inclined to produce infidels than believers! The Scriptures do not need this sort of “hocus-pocus” apologetics for verification.

Responses to the “Code” Claims

Responses to these fabulous claims have been swift and devastating. For example, some of the world’s foremost mathematicians have disputed Drosnin’s theory (and, by implication, Jeffrey’s as well). One document, signed by 55 scholars, all of whom hold the Ph.D. degree, states:

“There is a common belief in the general community to the effect that many mathematicians, statisticians, and other scientists consider the claims [of Drosnin and the Israeli scholars upon whom he relied] to be credible. This belief is incorrect. On the contrary, the almost unanimous opinion of those in the scientific world who have studied the question is that the theory is without foundation” (See: Mathematicians’ Statement on the Bible Codes).

Critics of the “Bible Code” theories point out that if one has a substantially lengthy text, and he does enough computer searches, if he can go anywhere in any direction in the text, he can “find anything.” Professor Don Foster of Vassar College, who specializes in using computers to analyze ancient texts, says that code searchers, employing the same techniques, could secure the identical results from “a telephone directory” (John Barry and Adam Rogers, “Seek and Ye Shall Find,” **Newsweek**, June 9, 1997, p. 66).

In 1997, in defense of his methodology, Drosnin issued this challenge: “When my critics find a message about the assassination of a prime minister encrypted in ‘Moby Dick’ I’ll believe them” (Barry/Rogers, p. 67).

Be careful about making rash challenges!

Professor Brendan McKay, of the Department of Computer Science at Australian National University, accepted Drosnin’s challenge. Running computer searches similar to those employed by Drosnin, he scanned the text of **Moby Dick**. By the Drosnin/Jeffrey method, he was able to construct “prophetic” messages foretelling the deaths of Abraham Lincoln, Indira Gandhi, Rene Moawad, Leon Trotsky, Martin Luther King, Sirhan Sirhan, John F. Kennedy, and Princess Diana! Must one now conclude that **Moby Dick** was inspired of God by means of the pen of Herman Melville?

McKay even found a “prophetic” utterance of the future grotesque murder of Michael Drosnin himself! See [The Demise of Drosnin](#) on McKay’s web site.

So much for Drosnin’s arrogant challenge, and for Grant Jeffrey’s boast that this coding business reflects the “signature of God.” Incidentally, Jeffrey’s book originally sold for \$21.99; now the volume has been dumped on the market by Christian Book Distributors for \$4.99.

For a kindly but devastating critique of Jeffrey’s work, see the book, **Who Wrote The Bible Code?**, by Randall Ingermanson, Ph.D., (Waterbrook, 1999). Dr. Randall suggested

that Jeffrey's "scholarship" was very sloppy; he ran his own "code" checks on three Greek texts of the New Testament (the Textus Receptus, the Byzantine Textform, and Nestle's Twenty-sixth edition), and "found no evidence of a Bible code in the New Testament."

Conclusion

These weird "code" theories bear no relation to the valid evidence found in genuine biblical prophecy. When God wanted to reveal who would issue the decree, releasing Israel from Babylonian captivity, he called Cyrus by name — some three centuries before the monarch's birth (Isa. 44:28 — 45:1). He did not need to "encode" the message.

Note: Michael Drosnin claims that after he discovered the coded message predicting Prime Minister Rabin's impending death, on September 1, 1994 he flew to Israel to warn the dignitary. Subsequently, on November 4, 1995, Rabin was assassinated. An interesting question is this: Did Drosnin think he could somehow thwart this "prophetic message," purportedly given three thousand years earlier?

APPENDIX #6



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL WASHINGTON, D.C. 20370

IN REPLY REFER TO
Pers-384/NMPC-03X:AT-
113392
11 May 1979

This is in reply to your recent request concerning former Lieutenant Lafayette Ronald Hubbard, United States Naval Reserve, made under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. 552).

The following information, releasable under the Freedom of Information Act, has been extracted from Mr. Hubbard's Navy Personnel Records:

<u>COMPONENT</u>	<u>ACTIVE DUTY</u>	<u>INACTIVE DUTY</u>
USNR-OFF		19 Jul 41-21 Sep 41
USNR-OFF	22 Sep 41- 6 Oct 41	7 Oct 41-23 Nov 41
USNR-OFF	24 Nov 41-16 Feb 46	17 Feb 46-30 Oct 50
6 Oct 1941	Honorably released from temporary active duty	
16 Feb 1946	Honorably released from active duty	
30 Oct 1950	Designation accepted and honorably discharged from the naval service	

Date of Birth: 13 March 1911
Place of Birth: Tilden, Nebraska

PROMOTION HISTORY

19 Jul 1941 Lieutenant (junior grade), U. S. Naval Reserve
15 Jun 1942 Lieutenant, U. S. Naval Reserve

<u>SHIPS AND STATIONS</u>	<u>PERIODS</u>	<u>DUTIES</u>
Hydrographic Office, Bureau of Navigation, Washington, DC	22 Sep 41- 6 Oct 41	
Headquarters, THIRD Naval District	24 Nov 41-14 Dec 41	Under instructio

<u>SHIPS & STATIONS (CONT'D)</u>	<u>PERIODS</u>	<u>DUTIES</u>
District Intelligence Office, TWELFTH Naval District	15 Dec 41-17 Dec 41	Under instruction
Office of the Naval Attache, American Legation, Melbourne, Australia	18 Dec 41- 2 Apr 42	Intelligence Officer
Headquarters, TWELFTH Naval District	3 Apr 42-30 Apr 42	Intelligence Officer
Office of Cable Censor, New York, NY	1 May 42-24 Jun 42	Intelligence Officer
Lawley and Sons, Ship- building, Newport, MA	25 Jun 42-28 Jul 42	In connection with conversion of USS YP-422
Naval Receiving Station, Long Beach, Long Island, NY	29 Jul 42- 1 Nov 42	Senior Watch Officer
Submarine Chaser Training Center, Miami, FL	2 Nov 42- 2 Jan 43	Under instruction
Fleet Sound School, Key West, FL	3 Jan 43-16 Jan 43	Student
Supervisor of Ships, Portland, OR	17 Jan 43-28 Apr 43	Prospective CO/ OINC of Fitting out USS PC-815
USS PC-815 Headquarters, ELEVENTH Naval District	21 Apr 43- 7 Jul 43	Commanding Officer Temporary Duty in the Issuing Office
Naval Small Craft Training Center, Terminal Island, San Pedro, CA	8 Jul 43-11 Oct 43	
Supervisor of Ship- building, Portland, OR	12 Oct 43- 1 Dec 43	Under instruction
	2 Dec 43-21 Jul 44	In connection with fitting out USS ALGOL (AKA-54) as Navigator/Training Navigator/Training Chief Ship's Cens
USS ALGOL (AKA-54)	22 Jul 44-28 Sep 44	
Naval Training Schools, Princeton, NJ	29 Sep 44-27 Jan 45	Under instruction
Naval Civil Affairs, Staging Area, Presidio of Monterey, CA	28 Jan 45- 4 Sep 45	Under instruction
Naval Hospital, Oakland, CA	5 Sep 45- 4 Dec 45	Patient Awaiting separation orders
Officer Separation Center, San Francisco, CA	5 Dec 45- 6 Dec 45	

MEDALS AND AWARDS

American Defense Service Medal
American Campaign Medal
Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal
World War II Victory Medal

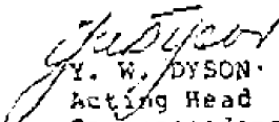
PERSONAL DATA

Wife: Louise Gubb of Port Orchard, Washington
Children: Lafayette R. Hubbard (Son)
Born: 7 May 1934
Catherine M. Hubbard (Daughter)
Born: 15 January 1936
Education: George Washington University, Washington, DC
(School of Engineering (2 years))

There is no record in the Bureau of Naval Personnel of any court-martial in the case of former Lieutenant Hubbard.

Mr. Hubbard performed additional service in the Montana National Guard from 19 October 1927 to 28 October 1928 and in the United States Marine Corps Reserve from 1 May 1930 to 22 October 1931.

Sincerely yours,


J. W. DYSON
Acting Head
Correspondence and
Services Branch
By direction of the
Chief of Naval Personnel

APPENDIX # 7

STATE OF CALIFORNIA CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD											
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA											
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH STATE OF CALIFORNIA											
LOCAL REGISTRATION DISTRICT AND CERTIFICATE NUMBER 3-86-40-0000											
DATE OF DEATH MONTH DAY YEAR January 24, 1986											
DECEDENT PERSONAL DATA											
1A NAME OF DECEDENT—FIRST LAFAYETTE				1B MIDDLE RONALD				1C LAST HUBGARD			
2 SEX Male		4 RACE/ETHNICITY White American		6 SPANISH/SPANISH NO NO		8 DATE OF BIRTH March 13, 1911					
6 BIRTHPLACE OF DECEDENT (IF NOT FOREIGN COUNTRY) NR				8 NAME AND BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER Harry Ross Hubbard - unk				10 NAME AND BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER Dora May Waterbury -			
11A CITIZEN OF USA		11B IF DECLARED WAS EVER IN MILITARY OR NAVAL SERVICE NO		12 SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER 568 09 9422		13 MARITAL STATUS Married		14 NAME OF SURVIVING SPOUSE (IF ANY) WITH NAME Mary Sue Whipp			
15 PRIMARY OCCUPATION Writer				16 NUMBER OF YEARS THIS OCCUPATION 40		17 EMPLOYER IF SELF-EMPLOYED, SO STATED Self		18 KIND OF INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS Writing			
USUAL RESIDENCE											
19A USUAL RESIDENCE—STREET ADDRESS (STREET AND NUMBER OR LOCATION) Star Route						19B CITY OR TOWN Creston					
19C COUNTY San Luis Obispo						20 NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT—RELATION Earle C. Cooley - attorney 9369 Nightingale Drive Los Angeles, CA 90069					
PLACE OF DEATH											
21A PLACE OF DEATH Residence						21B COUNTY San Luis Obispo					
21C STREET ADDRESS (STREET AND NUMBER OR LOCATION) Star Route (Donovan Road)						21D CITY OR TOWN Rural Creston					
CAUSE OF DEATH											
22 DEATH WAS CAUSED BY: IMMEDIATE CAUSE (ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR A, B, AND C) A cerebral vascular accident CONDITIONS IF ANY WHICH MAY BE DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF IC STATING THE UNDERLYING CAUSE LAST IC											
23 OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS—CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO CAUSE GIVEN IN 22A											
27 WAS OPERATION PERFORMED FOR ANY CONDITION IN 23? TYPE OF OPERATION no											
PHYSICIAN'S CERTIFICATION											
28A I CERTIFY THAT DEATH OCCURRED AT THE HOUR, DATE AND PLACE STATED FROM THE CAUSES STATED. ATTENDED DECEDENT SINCE I LAST SAW DECEDENT ALIVE ENTER MO. DA. YR. ENTER MO. DA. YR. 7-10-78 1-24-86						28B PHYSICIAN—SIGNATURE AND DEGREE OR TITLE Gene Denk MD 28C TYPE PHYSICIAN'S NAME AND ADDRESS Gene Denk, MD, 5336 Fountain Avenue, Los Angeles.					
29 SPECIFY ACCIDENT, SUICIDE, ETC.						30 PLACE OF INJURY		31 INJURY AT WORK		32A DATE OF INJURY—MONTH, DAY, YEAR 25 Jan 86	
INJURY INFORMATION											
33 LOCATION: STREET AND NUMBER OR LOCATION AND CITY OR TOWN						34 DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED: EVENTS WHICH RESULTED IN INJURY					
CORONER'S USE ONLY											
35A I CERTIFY THAT DEATH OCCURRED AT THE HOUR, DATE AND PLACE STATED FROM THE CAUSES STATED, AS REQUIRED BY LAW. I HAVE FILED AN AUTOPSY INVESTIGATION						35B CORONER—SIGNATURE AND DEGREE OR TITLE G 33017					
DISPOSITION											
37 DATE—MONTH, DAY, YEAR January 25, 1986						38 NAME AND ADDRESS OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY Arroyo Valley Crematory, Arroyo Grande, CA					
39 REMAINS' LICENSE NUMBER AND EXPIRATION DATE not embalmed						40 LOCAL REGISTRAR—SIGNATURE Reis Chapel					
41 LOCAL REGISTRAR—NAME Reis Chapel						42 DATE ACCEPTED BY LOCAL REGISTRAR 1/23 January 25					
STATE REGISTRAR											
43 HEALTH OFFICER—SIGNATURE [Signature]						44 HEALTH OFFICER—NAME Health Officer:					

133419

STATE OF CALIFORNIA }
COUNTY SAN LUIS OBISPO } SS DATE ISSUED: FEB

DATE ISSUED: FEB 27 2023

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