

World Religions & God

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The text in this presentation

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*Recommended
Reading*

There is A God

(How an

Atheist Scientist

changed his mind)



John M. Kinson

Does Science Point to God?

(Is there scientific evidence for God?)

God & Science – Book 2



John M. Kinson

Inexpensive Kindle Books → [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

World Religions



Introduction

- I am an ex-atheist, a philosophical Theist, and a Mere Christian.
- My view is that there are varying degrees of truth in all religions.
- However, Jesus Christ is the Highest (and the clearest) manifestation (or revelation) of God to humanity.
- In some sense, all religions point to God. And this pointing can (and does) lead many people from a variety of faiths, ultimately, to Jesus Christ.

- As a Christian, I do not have to see all other religions as being completely false.
- I can recognize the elements of truth and beauty in each of them.
- And I can see these elements of truth and beauty as finding their fulfillment in “God with us” (Jesus Christ).
- In the rest of these slides, we will briefly look at the major world religions (and see how they are pointing many individuals to Christ).

The Major Religions

- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Islam
- Judaism
- Native religions
 - Poly-spiritism
 - Poly-theism
 - Animism

-We will discuss each in turn

Hinduism

Hinduism



Hinduism

- Points to one Highest God
- All other Hindu “Gods” are Avatars (manifestations, visitations) of that highest God
- Is open to Jesus being the incarnation of God (avatar)
- Is open to Jesus being God in human form
- Is open to Bhakthi Vedanta (salvation through love of God; personal relationship with God)
- Is open to the idea of sacrifice to pay for sins
- And so is ok (in principle) to the idea of Jesus paying for our sins (by his sacrifice on the cross)
- Is ok with Jesus’ sacrifice paying for Karma (of our sins)
- And so thousands of Hindus are accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior

Hinduism

- BUT – if you commit your life to Christ, stay Hindu in as much of your ancestral customs as possible
- following Christ does not mean becoming a Westerner;
- you can
 - stay vegetarian
 - avoid alcohol
 - dress modestly
 - honor your parents etc

- By doing so
 - You will bring honor to your parents, to your family, and to God
 - And you will avoid strife in your family
- But, when you worship God
 - Remember that you are worshipping the God of the Bible (as manifested in Jesus Christ)

Buddhism

Buddhism



Buddhism-1 (agnostic)

- Buddha himself was Agnostic
- When asked, he said he does not know if there is a God
- But he wanted to address the problem of pain and suffering
- So he taught the Middle Way
- Moderation in all things
 - Neither Hedonism
 - Nor Asceticism

- Buddha's teachings (on how to live life) are similar to Jesus' teachings
- But Jesus also tells us that God is real, and we can come to know Him in this life (and in the next)
- So, many Buddhists are coming to Christ

Buddhism-2 (folk, polytheistic)

- Arises from Hinduism
- Points to one Highest God
- All other Spirits/“Gods” are manifestations, visitations or creations of that highest God
- Is open to Jesus being the incarnation of God (avatar)
- Is open to Jesus being God in human form
- Is open to salvation through love of God; personal relationship with God
- Is open to the idea of sacrifice to pay for sins
- And so is ok (in principle) with the idea of Jesus paying for our sins (by his sacrifice on the cross)
- Is ok with Jesus’ sacrifice paying for Karma (of our sins)
- And so many Buddhists are accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior

Buddhism

- BUT – if you commit your life to Christ, stay Buddhist in as much of your ancestral customs as possible
- following Christ does not mean becoming a Westerner;
- you can
 - stay vegetarian
 - avoid alcohol
 - dress modestly
 - honor your parents etc
- By doing so
 - You will bring honor to your parents, to your family, and to God
 - And you will avoid strife in your family
- But, when you worship God
 - Remember that you are worshipping the God of the Bible (as manifested in Jesus Christ)

Islam

Islam



Islam

- Points to One Highest God
- Is open to Jesus being the Messiah of God
- The Quran teaches that Jesus
 - Was born of a Virgin
 - Performed miracles
 - Was Messiah
 - Was raised up to God

- The Quran points to Jesus
- And points to the Injil
- Tells us to read the Injil (the New Testament)
- Reading the Injil is leading many Muslims to Christ
- And many Muslims are seeing visions that point them to Jesus (as they pray to God)
- I have personally met such Muslims who are now followers of Christ

Islam

- BUT – if you commit your life to Christ, stay Islamic in as much of your ancestral customs as possible
- following Christ does not mean becoming a Westerner;
- you can
 - abide by Halal
 - avoid alcohol
 - dress modestly
 - honor your parents etc
- By doing so
 - You will bring honor to your parents, to your family, and to God
 - And you will avoid strife in your family
- But, when you worship God
 - Remember that you are worshipping the God of the Bible (as manifested in Jesus Christ)

Judaism

Judaism



Judaism

- Points to one Highest God
- Tanakh/OT discusses Theophanies (God visiting in the form of a man)
- The Tanakh teaches that Messiah
 - Will be suffering servant
 - And victorious general/king
- So some Rabbis taught there would be two messiahs
 - suffering servant
 - victorious general/king
- Jesus teaches that both sets of OT passages are fulfilled in him
 - First as suffering servant (his first coming) to suffer for us/ pay for our sins
 - Later, as victorious general/king (at his future second coming)
- Many Jews are now accepting Jesus as Messiah (Messianic Jews)
- And many Messianic Jewish Congregations are arising around the world

Native Religions

Native Religions



Native Religions (poly-spiritism, poly-theism)

- All point to one Highest God
 - All other “Gods” are manifestations, visitations, creations of that highest God
 - Is open to Jesus being a incarnation of God
 - Is open to Jesus being God in human form
 - Is open to salvation through love of God; personal relationship with God
- Is open to the idea of sacrifice to pay for sins
 - And so is ok (in principle) to the idea of Jesus paying for our sins (by his sacrifice on the cross)
 - Is ok with Jesus’ sacrifice paying for our sins
 - And so many Spiritists are accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior

Mere Christianity

Mere Christianity



Jesus → Cross

(the ultimate self-sacrifice)



- **God created you to be his Son/Daughter**
 - in this life and in the one to come (if you so choose)
- **Because of our actions (“sin”) we often cause harm**
 - to ourselves, and/or to others; **this separates us from God**
- **Jesus suffered** in solidarity with our suffering
 - and **to enable reconciliation between us and God**
- **If we accept this, and commit our lives to Him, we can be “Saved”**
 - we can be in relationship with God now, and in the life to come
- **This will start the process of us growing** to be the kind of person who will be a Joy to be with in Heaven for eternity
- **All we have to do is commit our lives to God**
 - based on what Jesus did on the cross for us.

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Contact

- Please email me at LogicalTheist@gmail.com if you have questions or comments, or ...
- If you wish to commit your life to Christ
 - and if you need any help with that
 - or in how to grow in your relationship with God