World Religions

Christianity

Ross Arnold, Summer 2015
World Religion Lectures

- August 21 – *Introduction: A Universal Human Experience*
- August 28 – *Hinduism*
- September 4 – *Judaism*
- September 18 – *Religions of China & Japan (Taoism, Confucianism, Shinto)*
- **September 25 – *Christianity***
- October 2 – *Islam*
- October 9 – *Animism, New Age, Atheism, Secularism*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Pop. (000s)</th>
<th>% of World</th>
<th>Founded (c.)</th>
<th>Where</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hinduism</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td>12.65%</td>
<td>4000-2500 BC</td>
<td>Indus Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judaism</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>0.20%</td>
<td>2000 BC</td>
<td>Palestine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddhism</td>
<td>488,000</td>
<td>5.29%</td>
<td>560-490 BC</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Trad.¹</td>
<td>394,000</td>
<td>5.54%</td>
<td>500 BC</td>
<td>China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shinto</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>0.06%</td>
<td>500 BC</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jainism</td>
<td>4,200</td>
<td>0.06%</td>
<td>500 BC</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christianity</td>
<td>2,200,000</td>
<td>29.52%</td>
<td>30 AD</td>
<td>Palestine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>1,600,000</td>
<td>21.09%</td>
<td>622 AD</td>
<td>Arabia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sikhism</td>
<td>28,000</td>
<td>0.32%</td>
<td>1499 AD</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bah'aimism</td>
<td>7,300</td>
<td>0.10%</td>
<td>1863 AD</td>
<td>Persia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other²</td>
<td>690,000</td>
<td>9.70%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-relig.³</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td>15.46%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Includes Confucianism, Taoism, Shamanism
² Includes all other smaller religious affiliations identified
³ Includes secular, non-religious, agnostic and atheist
1. **Abrahamic** monotheisms of Judaism, Christianity & Islam.

2. **Dharmic** religions that began in India, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism & Sikhism.

3. **Taoic** religions of the Far East, especially China and Japan, including Taoism, Confucianism and Shinto (*along with versions of Buddhism*).

   And sometimes also ... 

4. **Iranian** religions that predate Islam, including Zoroastrianism, Madaeism and the Kurdish Yazdanism faiths (Yazidi, Alevi, etc.).
Father Abraham – the world’s first monotheist, and source of all three great monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
The Call of Abram: Genesis 12:1-5

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

2 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

4 So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. 5 He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.
"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Daniel 7:13-14
The 1st Century AD & the Birth of Christianity

1. The Jewish people had a historic expectation of God’s “Messiah.”
2. Palestine was, in Jesus’ time, very much center of the world, cross roads of three continents.
The 1\textsuperscript{st} Century AD & the Birth of Christianity

1. The Jewish people had a historic expectation of God’s “Messiah.”

2. Palestine was, in Jesus’ time, very much center of the world, cross roads of three continents.

3. Politically and culturally, it was the perfect environment for a new faith to start and grow.
   a) The \textit{Pax Romana}
   b) The Roman Roads
   c) The Greek language.

4. Economically, the 1\textsuperscript{st} Century was a perfect time for a new message of hope.

5. Morally and religiously, the world was tired and frustrated and ready for a change. (So many “God-fearing Gentiles” seeking monotheism.)
History Of the Early Church

- **Jewish Roots (2000 BC-29 AD)**

  Christianity began as an offshoot of Judaism, at a time when the great Jewish expectation was that God would send a Messiah (the *Christ*, or *Anointed One*) to bring freedom to the Jews, and establish the Kingdom of God on earth – which Jews thought meant elevation of Israel both religiously and politically, as it had been under King David, and with a Jewish ruler like David.
Abraham

Hagar

Ishmael

12 Tribes of Ishmael

Sarah

Isaac

Jacob/Israel

12 Tribes of Israel

Jesus
Jesus the Christ
– Messiah, 
Anointed One 
(c. 6 BC-27 AD)
Jesus LOOKED like he might be the Messiah the Jews expected…

• He was a Jew, a descendant of David, who met all the prophetic requirements.
• He observed Jewish Law and traditions (mostly).
• He frequently quoted the Law and Prophets.
• He spoke in the synagogues, where Jews gathered.
• He was clear that his ministry was (first) to the Jews, and then to the Gentiles.
• He performed miracles and was clearly gifted by God as a leader and teacher.
• His Transfiguration in Matthew 17 was in the presence of Moses and Elijah.
But …

• He was not the political leader (like King David) they expected.
• He spoke on his own authority: “I say unto you…” rather than “Thus saith the Lord…”
• He claimed to be the fulfillment of the Law and Prophets.
• He broke some of the rules – like healing on the Sabbath.
• He hung around with a bad crowd, including tax collectors and sinners.
• He openly criticized Jewish religious leaders.
• And – worst of all – he claimed to be the Son of God.

So the Jewish authorities rejected Him.
The Early Christian Church

- c. 6 BC – Jesus Christ is born in Bethlehem
- 26-36 AD – Pontius Pilate is procurator of Palestine
- c. 26 – Jesus is baptized; begins public ministry
- c. 30 – Jesus is crucified, resurrected, ascended
- c. 30 – The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost; the Church grows; Jewish persecution
- c. 34 – Stephen becomes 1st Christian martyr; Christian Diaspora starts
- c. 34 – Saul, Jewish persecutor of Christians, is converted and becomes Paul
- c. 46 – Start of Paul’s missionary journeys
- c. 49-50 – Council of Jerusalem welcomes Gentiles
- 54-68 – Emperor Nero; 1st Roman persecution
- c. 62 – Peter is martyred in Rome
- c. 62-68 – Paul is martyred in Rome
Growth of Christianity by AD 70

Christianity in A.D. 70

- **Known Christian Communities**
- **Possible Christian Communities**

- **Legend**
  - Known Christian Communities
  - Possible Christian Communities

- **Scale**
  - 0
  - 200 Miles
The Missionary Journeys of the Apostle Paul
Map 7
PAUL’S FIRST AND SECOND JOURNEYS

First missionary journey, with Barnabas and Mark (c. A.D. 46–48)
Second missionary journey, with Silas (c. A.D. 49–52)
Growth of Christianity, 1st & 2nd Centuries

THE EXTENT OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE 1ST AND 2ND CENTURIES A.D.

Extent of Christian Church, 1st century A.D.
- Significant Christian community, 1st century A.D.

Extent of Christian Church, 2nd century A.D.
- Significant Christian community, 2nd century A.D.
- Significant Christian community in both 1st and 2nd centuries
State of Christianity c.AD 565
THE

HOLY BIBLE

CONTAINING THE

OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS
How We Got The New Testament

- There are more than 5800 surviving Greek manuscripts & manuscript fragments of the New Testament.
- Oldest extant portion is from Gospel of John, c. AD 125.
- All New Testament books were written in the 1st Century.
  - Earliest is likely *Letter to the Galatians*, c. AD 51 (possibly earlier).
  - *Book of James* was possibly even earlier, pre- AD 50.
  - Earliest Gospel: *Mark*, from 50s or early 60s.
- Four Gospels established as authoritative by AD 180, per Iraneus, Bishop of Lyon.
- By AD 190 the “Muratorian Canon” was common – a list of acceptable writings including all of our NT, plus two later excluded: *Revelation of Peter* and *Wisdom of Solomon*.
- Earliest exact listing of 27 NT Books in AD 367, by Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria.
- NT canon officially recognized by Church Councils in Rome in AD 382 and Carthage in AD 397.
Basic Christian Beliefs

1. There is one God, who reveals himself in three persons (the Holy Trinity) – FATHER, SON (Jesus Christ) and HOLY SPIRIT – a unity, sharing one substance.

2. God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and omnipresent. He created the world as distinct from Himself but is active within it as Creator, Sustainer and Sanctifier.

3. Jesus was and is the promised Messiah, the co-eternal, divine Son of God; who became a human man, Jesus, but was fully God and fully man.

4. No one can earn God’s mercy or be righteous in his eyes, but one can receive forgiveness and mercy by accepted Jesus as God’s Son who sacrificed himself on the cross to atone for human sins.
Christianity Today

• Roman Catholicism

• Orthodoxy (Great Schism - 1054)
  – Eastern Orthodoxy
  – Oriental Orthodoxy, etc.

• Protestantism (Reformation – 16\textsuperscript{th} cent.)
  – Lutheran, Reformed, Anglican, Anabaptist, etc.
THE GROWTH OF PROTESTANT DENOMINATIONS IN THE U.S.

This simplified diagram charts the development of some of the main Protestant churches that broke with Catholicism in the Reformation, many of which divided into splinter denominations and separate churches when immigrants arrived in the United States.

ANABAPTIST CHURCHES

European National Groups
- North American Baptist (German)
- Baptist General Conference (Swedish)
- Advent Christian
- Seventh Day Adventist

Mennonite
- Amish
- Conservative Mennonites
- General Conference Mennonite
- (Old) Mennonite Church

Brethren
- Brethren in Christ
- Hutterite Brethren
- Independent Brethren
- Mennonite Brethren

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Seandinavian
- Lutheran Brethren
- Evangelical Covenant
- Evangelical Free

Danish/General Synod
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

German
- Missouri Synod Lutheran
- Wisconsin Synod Lutheran

Moravian
- Moravian Church

REFORMED CHURCHES

Presbyterian (Scottish)
- Presbyterian Church in USA
- Presbyterian Church in America
- Orthodox Presbyterian
- Reformed Presbyterian

Dutch
- Reformed Church in America
- Christian Reformed

Irish
- Churches of Christ
- Disciples of Christ
- Christian Churches

ANGELICAN CHURCH

Puritans
- United Church of Christ (Congregational)
- Baptists
- Free Will Baptist
- Conservative Baptist
- Progressive National Baptist
- American Baptist

Separatists
- Episcopal
- Plymouth Brethren

Friends
- Friends United
- Friends General Conference

Methodists
- United Methodist
- African Methodist
- Episcopal
- Nazarene
- Wesleyan
- Free Methodist
- Assemblies of God
- Pentecostal
- Church of God