

One Way



Religious Comparison: Compare & Contrast What the Bible Says

These days, people think it's not nice to say that one religion is "better" than another. Yet, the Bible tells us that Jesus is the only Way to God (John 14:6). Talking about this truth can sometimes bring about negative responses from non-Christians, so it's important to know the basis of our faith and whether what we believe stands up to the test of truth. It's simple to see that all religions can't be true because they make different claims. But with so many different religious books, how can we be sure which one is correct and, therefore, represents the truth? Let's do a brief review to check them out...

The Quran: According to the Islamic faith, the Quran was given to the prophet Mohammed by an angel 600 years after the Bible was completed. The Quran claims to be the true Word of God. Muslims often use four main arguments to support this: fulfilled prophecies, mathematical patterns, scientific truths and the unchanged nature of the text. But when we look closely at these arguments, they don't hold up well. For a more detailed exploration, read the book, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*, by Nabeel Qureshi.

The Book of Mormon: Joseph Smith said he translated the golden plates (the source of the Book of Mormon) letter-by-letter using God's power. Even though Joseph claimed that it's the most accurate book on earth, over 4,000 changes and corrections have been made in a short period of time. There were no witnesses to support the events recorded in the Book of Mormon, plus no archeological, scientific or language-based evidence to prove even its geographical claims.

The Holy Texts of Hinduism: Ancient Hinduism started as a culture and grew to include many different religious practices and beliefs. These were shared by word of mouth for almost one thousand years before the first book was written by unknown priests during times of deep meditation. However, there is limited reliable historical data about the origin of the Hindu texts. Hindus believe in a supreme deity called Brahman (whom they claim is the essence of the world and everything in it), as well as lesser gods referred to as "avatars." This word is familiar to Canadian ears because it has been introduced to our culture through video games and movies.

The Christian Bible: The Bible is made up of 66 books, all of which were inspired by God. Imagine 45 different authors from across three continents writing these books over a span of 1,600 years – and they all tell one main story! There is a lot of cool archeological evidence demonstrating that what was written back then is the same Bible we have today. Many people personally witnessed Jesus' burial, death and resurrection; and all four Gospels of the New Testament detail His life and death. Evidence from various archeological findings and historical records also confirm the events of the Bible and prove that Jesus really existed. If you would like to learn more in an investigative and straightforward way, check out *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel.

Weigh In

Weighing the facts about the Bible

1.

Note these three facts about the Bible that even non-Christian historians do not dispute: 1) there were numerous eyewitnesses of Christ's earthly ministry; 2) although the witnesses had different points of view, their stories were consistent; 3) evidence proves that a large number of nearly perfect written copies exist.

2.

In a university textbook, the Chinese government twisted the wording of John 8:3-11 so it would read that Jesus decided to stone the woman caught in adultery after admitting that He too was a sinner.

3.

Taking Scripture out of context is a common error in Bible interpretation. For example, Muslims deny that Jesus was killed on the cross.

4.

The Bible is banned, illegal or severely restricted in 52 countries of the world.



Corresponding Question Points:

(1) How do the first three facts provide assurance that the Bible we have today is the accurate, unchanged Word of God?

(2) How does the Communists' distortion of Scripture align with their ideas about God? What do their attempts to hide the truth of His deity say about their view of God's Word and His power?

(3) (Biology question for teens) Were the three hours that Jesus suffered on the cross enough to end His life? Research these three points to decide: 1) what were the "cat o' nine tails" lashings? 2) how does crucifixion affect a person's lungs? 3) why did fluid flow from Jesus' side when it was pierced (John 19:34)?

(4) Visit vomcanada.com/prayermap and discuss what percentage of the world's countries have restrictions and limited access to Bibles versus those that don't.