

ReligionFacts (/)

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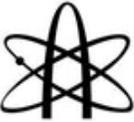
The Big Religion Chart

This "Big Religion Chart" is our attempt to summarize the major religions and belief systems of the world - Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and dozens more - into a quick-reference comparison chart. Oversimplification is unavoidable in charts like these, and it is not intended to be a substitute for advanced religious study and exploration, but simply a fast overview. It is our hope that this chart becomes a useful tool for you to compare basic religious beliefs and practices of the world's religions and belief systems.

Over 40 religions and belief systems are currently listed. If a group does not appear, it doesn't mean it's not a religion or doesn't matter; the chart is not comprehensive and will continue to grow. See also our list of religions ([/religions](#)) and definitions of religion ([/religion](#)). Links within the chart will take you to more detailed information on ReligionFacts on that religion or topic.

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	Adherents	History	Gods	Meaning of Life	Afterlife	Practices
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	Adherents	History	Gods	Meaning of Life	Afterlife	Practices
Aladura (/aladura)	1 million	Various prophet-healing churches founded since c.1918, West Nigeria.	Generally monotheistic; a mix of Anglican, Pentecostal and traditional African beliefs.	Strong emphasis on healing and salvation in this life.	Not emphasized; views vary.	Spiritual healing is central. Mix of Anglican and African rituals; a prophet plays a prominent role. Aladura Practices (/aladura/practices)
Asatru (/asatru)	unknown	Revival of Norse and Germanic paganism, 1970s Scandinavia and USA. History of Asatru (/asatru/history)	Polytheistic, Norse gods and goddesses, Norse creation myths. Asatru Gods (/asatru/gods)	Salvation or redemption not emphasized. Fatalistic outlook.	Valhalla (heaven) for death in battle; Hel (peaceful place) for most; Hifhel (hell) for the very evil.	Sacrifice of food or drink, toast to the gods, shamanism (less frequently), celebration of solstice holidays. Nine Noble Virtues is moral code. Asatru Practices (/asatru/practices)
Atheism  (/atheism)	7.4 million self-identified atheists; 1.1 billion are religiously "unaffiliated"	Appears throughout history (including ancient Greek philosophy), but especially after the Enlightenment (19th cent).	There is no God or divine beings.	Not addressed. But many atheists believe that since there is no afterlife, this one life is of great importance. Only humans can help themselves and each other solve the world's problems.	none	none

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Baha'i Faith  (/bahai)	5-7 million	<p>Founded by Bahá'u'lláh, 1863, Tehran, Iran.</p> <p>History of the Baha'i Faith (/bahai/history)</p>	<p>One God, who has revealed himself progressively through major world religions.</p> <p>Baha'i Beliefs about God (/bahai/gods)</p>	<p>The soul is eternal and essentially good. Purpose of life is to develop spiritually and draw closer to God.</p> <p>meaning of life (Bahai) (/bahai/meaning-life)</p>	<p>Soul separates from the body and begins a journey towards or away from God. Heaven and hell are states of being.</p> <p>afterlife (Baha'i) (/bahai/afterlife)</p>	<p>Daily prayer, avoidance of intoxicants, scripture reading, hard work, education, work for social justice and equality.</p> <p>Baha'i Practices (/bahai/practices)</p>
Bon (/bon)	100,000	11th-century Tibet	Nontheistic Buddhism, but meditation on peaceful and wrathful deities.	Gain enlightenment.	Reincarnation until gain enlightenment	Meditation on mandalas and Tibetan deities, astrology, monastic life.
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Buddhism  (/buddhism)	500 million	<p>Based on teachings of Siddharta Gautama (the Buddha) in c. 520 BC, NE India.</p> <p>History of Buddhism (/buddhism/history)</p>	<p>Buddhist gods include buddhas, bodhisattvas, arhats and deities; such as Tara, Kuan Yin, and Amida Buddha.</p> <p>Buddhist Gods & Deities (/buddhism/gods)</p>	<p>Escape the cycle of rebirth and attain nirvana (Theravada Buddhism). Become a bodhisattva then help others attain enlightenment (Mahayana Buddhism).</p> <p>The Meaning of Life in Buddhism (/buddhism/meaning-life)</p>	<p>Rebirth or nirvana. Nirvana is seen simply as the cessation of suffering by some and as a heavenly paradise by others.</p> <p>Buddhism on the Afterlife (/buddhism/afterlife)</p>	<p>Meditation, mantras, devotion to deities (in some sects), mandalas (Tibetan)</p> <p>Buddhist Practices (/buddhism/practices)</p>

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Cao Dai  (/cao-dai)	4-6 million	Founded in 1926, Vietnam by Ngo Van Chieu and others based on a séance.	God represented by Divine Eye. Founders of Buddhism, Taoism, Hinduism, Islam, and Christianity venerated, and saints including Victor Hugo.	Goal is peace and harmony in each person and in the world. Salvation by "cultivating self and finding God in self."	reincarnation until Nirvana/Heaven	Hierarchy similar to Roman Catholicism. Daily prayer. Meditation. Communication with spirit world (now outlawed in Vietnam).
Chinese Religion  (/chinese-religion)	394 million	Indigenous folk religion of China. History of Chinese Religion (/chinese-religion/history)	Dualistic yin and yang; mythological beings and folk deities. Chinese Traditional Religion Theism (/chinese-religion/gods)	A favorable life and peaceful afterlife, attained through rituals and honoring of ancestors.	judgment, then paradise or punishment and reincarnation afterlife (Chinese Religion) (/chinese-religion/afterlife)	Ancestor worship, prayer, longevity practices, divination, prophecy and astrology, feng shui. Chinese religious rituals and practices (/chinese-religion/practices)
Christian Science  (/christian-science)	400,000	Founded by Mary Baker Eddy in 1879, Massachusetts. History of Christian Science (/christian-science/history)	One God. No Trinity (in traditional sense). Matter and evil do not exist.	"Life, Truth, and Love understood and demonstrated as supreme over all; sin, sickness and death destroyed."	Heaven is "not a locality, but a divine state of Mind in which all the manifestations of Mind are harmonious and immortal."	Spiritual healing through prayer and knowledge, Sunday services, daily Bible and Science & Health reading. Christian Science Practices (/christian-science/practices)

	Adherents	History	Gods	Meaning of Life	Afterlife	Practices
Christianity  (/christianity)	2.2 billion Christianity Adherents (/christianity/adherents)	Life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth (born c. 4 BCE), a Jew from Palestine under Roman rule Christian History (/christianity/history)	One God, who is a Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit; angels; demons; saints God & Spiritual Beings in Christianity (/christianity/gods)	All have sinned and are thereby separated from God. Salvation is through faith in Christ and, for some, sacraments and good works.	Resurrection of body and soul; eternal heaven or hell (most denominations); temporary purgatory (Catholicism) Christianity on the Afterlife (/christianity/afterlife)	Prayer, Bible study, baptism, Eucharist (Communion), church on Sundays, numerous holidays. Christian Practices (/christianity/practices)
	Adherents	History	Gods	Meaning of Life	Afterlife	Practices
Confucianism  (/confucianism)	5-6 million	Based on the teachings of Confucius (551–479 BCE, China) History of Confucianism (/confucianism/history)	not addressed	To fulfill one's role in society with propriety, honor, and loyalty.	not addressed	none Confucian Practices (/confucianism/practices)
Deism (/deism)	unknown	Especially popularized in the 18th-cent. Enlightenment under Kant, Voltaire, Paine, Jefferson, and others	One Creator God who is uninterested in the world. Reason is basis for all knowledge.	not addressed	not addressed	None prescribed, although some deists practiced prayer.

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Druze  (/druze)	500,000	Founded by Al-Darazi in 11th century, Cairo, Egypt. Roots in the Isma'iliyya sect of Shia Islam.	Universal Intelligence (al-Aql al-Kulli) or Divine Essence (akin to Neoplatonism), of which al-Hakim is believed to be an incarnation.	Live a good life for a favorable reincarnation. Await the re-appearance of al-Hakim (a Fatimid caliph who disappeared in 1021), who will usher in a Golden Age for true believers.	Reincarnation. Heaven is a spiritual existence when one has escaped reincarnation. Hell is distance from God in lifetime after lifetime.	Modest lifestyles, fasting before Eid al-Adha. Beliefs and practices are hidden for protection from persecution. Special group of initiates called uqqal.
Eckankar  (/eckankar)	50,000-500,000	Founded by Paul Twitchell in Las Vegas, 1965 History of Eckankar (/eckankar/history)	The Divine Spirit, called "ECK."	"Each of us is Soul, a spark of God sent to this world to gain spiritual experience." Salvation is liberation and God-realization.	Reincarnation. The Soul is eternal by nature and on a spiritual journey. Liberation possible in a single lifetime.	Spiritual Exercises of ECK: mantras, meditation, and dreams. These enable Soul travel and spiritual growth. Eckankar practices (/eckankar/practices)
Epicureanism (/epicureanism)	n/a	Based on the teachings of Epicurus, c. 300 BCE, Athens.	Polytheism, but the gods take no notice of humans.	Pursue the highest pleasures (friendship and tranquility) and avoid pain.	No afterlife. The soul dissolves when the body dies.	none
	Adherents	History	Gods	Meaning of Life	Afterlife	Practices
Falun Gong  (/falun-gong)	3 million (acc. to official sources); 100 million (acc. to Falun Gong sources)	Li Hongzhi in 1992 in China History of Falun Gong (/falun-gong/history)	Countless gods and spiritual beings. Demonic aliens.	Good health and spritual transcendence, achieved by practicing Falun Gong.	Not addressed	Five exercises to strengthen the Falun. Cultivation of truthfulness, benevolence and forbearance. Meat eating discouraged. Falun Gong Practices (/falun-gong/practices)

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Gnosticism (/gnosticism)	ancient form extinct; small modern revival groups	Various teachers including Valentinus, 1st-2nd cents. AD	The supreme God is unknowable; the creator god is evil and matter is evil.	Humans can return to the spiritual world through secret knowledge of the universe.	Return to the spiritual world.	Asceticism, celibacy
Greek Religion (/greek-religion)	ancient form extinct; various modern revivals	Indigenous religion of the ancient Greeks, c. 500 BCE to 400 CE.	Olympic pantheon (Zeus, etc.) mixed with eastern deities like Isis and Cybele. Ancient Greek Gods (/greek- religion/gods)	Human life is subject to the whim of the gods and to Fate; these can be partially controlled through sacrifice and divination.	Beliefs varied from no afterlife to shadowy existence in the underworld to a paradise-like afterlife (mainly in mystery religions).	Animal sacrifice, harvest offerings, festivals, games, processions, dance, plays, in honor of the gods. Secret initiations and rituals in mystery religions. Greek religious practices (/greek-religion/practices)
Hare Krishna  (/hare-krishna)	250,000-1 million	Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, 1966, USA (with roots in 15th- century Hindu movement)	Krishna is the Supreme God.	Salvation from this Age of Kali is by a return to Godhead, accomplished through Krishna- Consciousness.	Reincarnation until unite with the Godhead.	Chanting, dancing, evangelism, vegetarianism, temple worship, monastic-style living

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Hinduism  (/hinduism)	1 billion	<p>Indigenous religion of India as developed to present day. Earliest forms (Vedic religion) date to 1500 BCE or earlier; major developments 1st-9th centuries CE.</p> <p>Hindu History (/hinduism/history)</p>	<p>One Supreme Reality (Brahman) manifested in many gods and goddesses</p> <p>Hindu Gods & Goddesses (/hinduism/gods)</p>	<p>Humans are in bondage to ignorance and illusion, but are able to escape. Purpose is to gain release from rebirth, or at least a better rebirth.</p> <p>meaning of life (Hinduism) (/hinduism/meaning-life)</p>	<p>Reincarnation until gain enlightenment.</p>	<p>Yoga, meditation, worship (puja), devotion to a god or goddess, pilgrimage to holy cities, live according to one's dharma (purpose/role).</p> <p>Hindu Rituals & Practices (/hinduism/practices)</p>
	Adherents	History	Gods	Meaning of Life	Afterlife	Practices
Islam  (/islam)	1.6 billion	<p>Based on teachings of the Prophet Muhammad; founded 622 CE in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.</p> <p>History of Islam (/islam/history)</p>	<p>One God (Allah in Arabic); the same God revealed (imperfectly) in the Jewish and Christian Bibles</p>	<p>Submit (islam) to the will of God to gain Paradise after death.</p>	<p>eternal Paradise or eternal Hell</p> <p>Islamic Beliefs About the Afterlife (/islam/afterlife)</p>	<p>Five Pillars: Faith, Prayer, Alms, Pilgrimage, Fasting. Mosque services on Fridays. Ablutions before prayer. No alcohol or pork. Holidays related to the pilgrimage and fast of Ramadan.</p> <p>Muslim rituals and practices (/islam/practices)</p>

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<p>Jainism</p>  <p>(/jainism)</p>	4 million	<p>Founded by Mahavira, c. 550 BCE, eastern India</p> <p>History of Jainism (/jainism/history)</p>	<p>Polytheism and pantheism. The universe is eternal; many gods exist. Gods, humans and all living things are classified in a complex hierarchy.</p> <p>Jain theism (/jainism/gods)</p>	<p>Gain liberation from cycle of rebirth, by avoiding all bad karma, especially by causing no harm to any sentient being.</p> <p>meaning of life (Jainism) (/jainism/meaning-life)</p>	<p>Reincarnation until liberation.</p> <p>afterlife (Jainism) (/jainism/afterlife)</p>	<p>Monasticism under the Five Great Vows (Non-Violence, Truth, Celibacy, Non-Stealing, Non-Possessiveness); worship at temples and at home. Meditation and mantras.</p> <p>Jain practices (/jainism/practices)</p>
<p>Jehovah's Witnesses</p>  <p>(/jehovahs-witnesses)</p>	6.5 million	<p>Founded by Charles Taze Russell, 1879, Pittsburgh</p> <p>History of the Jehovah's Witnesses (/jehovahs-witnesses/history)</p>	<p>One God: Jehovah. No Trinity. Christ is the first creation of God; the Holy Spirit is a force.</p>	<p>Salvation is through faith in Christ and obeying Jehovah's laws. The End of the World is soon.</p>	<p>Heaven for 144,000 chosen Witnesses, eternity on new earth for other Witnesses. All others annihilated. No hell.</p>	<p>No blood transfusions, no celebration of holidays, no use of crosses or religious images. Baptism, Sunday service at Kingdom Hall, strong emphasis on evangelism.</p> <p>Jehovah's Witnesses Practices (/jehovahs-witnesses/practices)</p>
<p>Judaism</p>  <p>(/judaism)</p>	14 million	<p>The religion of Abraham (c. 1800 BCE) and the Hebrews, especially after the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE.</p> <p>History of Judaism (/judaism/history)</p>	<p>One God: Yahweh (YHVH)</p> <p>God in Judaism (/judaism/gods)</p>	<p>Obey God's commandments, live ethically. Focus is more on this life than the next.</p>	<p>Not emphasized; views vary: no afterlife, shadowy existence, World to Come (similar to heaven), Gehenna (similar to hell), reincarnation</p> <p>The Afterlife in Judaism (/judaism/afterlife)</p>	<p>Circumcision at birth, bar/bat mitzvah at adulthood, observing Sabbath, wearing tallit and tefilin, prayer services</p> <p>Jewish Rituals and Practices (/judaism/practices)</p>

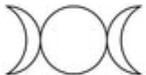
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Mayan Religion (/mayan-religion)	Several million Maya practice a Catholicism that retains many elements of traditional Mayan religion.	Began c.250 CE (rise of the Mayan civilization)	Many gods, including Itzamná, Kukulcán, Bolon Tzacab, and Chac	Appease and nourish the gods; determine luckiest dates for various activities.	The soul journeys through dark and threatening underworld; but sacrificial victims and women who die in childbirth go to heaven.	Astronomy, divination, human sacrifice, elaborate burial for royalty, worship in stone pyramid-temples
	Adherents	History	Gods	Meaning of Life	Afterlife	Practices
Mormonism  (/mormonism)	12.2 million	Revelations to Joseph Smith, 1830, New York. Mormon History (/mormonism/history)	God the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost are three separate individual beings	Return to God by faith in Christ, good works, ordinances, and evangelism.	All return to spirit world instruction before resurrection. Then Mormons to heaven with God and families; others rewarded apart from God; hell for those who still reject God. The Afterlife in Mormonism (/mormonism/afterlife)	Abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, coffee and tea; baptism for the dead; eternal marriage; temple garments under daily clothes; active evangelism. Mormon Practices (/mormonism/practices)
Nation of Islam ()	10,000-100,000	Founded by Wallace Fard Muhammad, 1930, Detroit, USA.	"One God whose proper name is Allah." Wallace Fard Muhammad became the divine messiah and incarnation of Allah in 1930.	"The Blackman is the original man." Live righteously and worship Allah.	Mental resurrection of the righteous. Black people will be mentally resurrected first.	Prayer five times a day. Work for the equality of the African race. Respect laws of the land, don't carry arms, don't make war. Healthy living and abstinence from alcohol, smoking and substance abuse. Modest dress.

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New Age (/new-age)	5 million	Helena Petrovna Blavatsky and Annie Besant in the 19th C, Alice A. Bailey (1880-1949), flourished in 1970s and 80s	The Divine is an impersonal life force that pervades all things	Dawning of a New Age of heightened consciousness and international peace. Individuals can obtain a foretaste of the New Age through spiritual transformation ("Ascension"). More emphasis on the latter now. Evil comes from ignorance.	Reincarnation	Astrology; mysticism; use of crystals; yoga; tarot readings; holistic medicine; psychic abilities; angelic communications; channeling; amulets; fortune-telling
New Thought (/new-thought)	160,000	Phineas Parkhurst Quimby (1802-66) and others, late 19th century, USA.	Generally monism (all is One), but members might be theists, pantheists or panentheists. God is immanent; the universe is essentially spiritual.	Man is divine, essentially spirit, and has infinite possibility. Mind can control the body. Sin and sickness caused by incorrect thinking. Man can live in oneness with God in love, truth, peace, health, and prosperity.	"Life is eternal in the invisible kingdom of God."	Emphasis on spiritual and mental healing, but without rejection of modern medicine. Worship services; prayer for the sick; discussion of New Thought authors and ideas.
Olmec Religion (/olmec-religion)	extinct in original form	Indigenous religion of the Olmecs, Guatemala and Mexico, c. 1500-400 BCE	Mostly unknown due to lack of written records. Many gods represented in art, including the Olmec Dragon, Maize Deity, Bird Monster, and Were-Jaguar.	unknown, but art indicates importance of fertility (rain, corn, etc.)	unknown	sacrifices, large sculptures of human heads, cave rituals, pilgrimages, ball-courts, pyramids

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Rastafarianism (/rastafarianism)	1 million	<p>Founded by Marcus Garvey in the slums of Jamaica in the 1920s and 30s</p> <p>History of Rastafarianism (/rastafarianism/history)</p>	God is Jah, who became incarnate in Jesus (who was black); Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie I was messiah.	Humans are temples of Jah. Salvation is primarily in this world and consists of liberation from oppression and return to Africa.	Some Rastas will experience "everliving" (physical immortality). Heaven is a return to Eden, which is in Africa.	<p>Many practices based on Jewish biblical Law. Abstinence from most or all meat, artificial foods, and alcohol. Use of marijuana in religious rituals and for medicine. Wearing of dreadlocks.</p> <p>Rastafarian Practices (/rastafarianism/practices)</p>
Satanism (/satanism)		The Church of Satan was founded in 1966 by Anton LaVey				
Scientology  (/scientology)	70,000 or several million, depending on the source	<p>Founded by L. Ron Hubbard, 1954, California</p> <p>History of Scientology (/scientology/history)</p>	God(s) not specified; reality explained in the Eight Dynamics	Human consists of body, mind and thetan; capable of great things. Gain spiritual freedom by ridding mind of engrams.	Reincarnation	Auditing, progressing up various levels until "clear". Focus on education and drug recovery programs.

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Seventh-Day Adventism  (/seventh-day-adventism)	25 million	Rooted in Millerite movement; founded 1863 in New England; early leaders: Ellen White, Hiram Edson and Joseph Bates	Trinitarian monotheism	Live in accordance with the Bible, including the Old Testament. The Second Coming will happen soon.	A "peaceful pause" after death until the coming of Christ, then resurrection to judgment, followed by eternity in heaven or nonexistence. No hell.	24-hour Sabbath observance starting Friday at sunset; adult baptism by immersion; church services emphasizing sermon
Shinto  (/shinto)	3-4 million	Indigenous religion of Japan Shinto History (/shinto/history)	kami: ancient gods or spirits	Humans are pure by nature and can keep away evil through purification rituals and attain good things by calling on the kami.	Death is bad and impure. Some humans become kami after death.	Worship and offerings to kami at shrines and at home. Purification rituals. Shinto Practices (/shinto/practices)
	Adherents	History	Gods	Meaning of Life	Afterlife	Practices
Sikhism  (/sikhism)	23 million	Founded by Guru Nanak, c. 1500, Punjab, India. History of Sikhism (/sikhism/history)	one God: Ik Onkar	Overcome the self, align life with will of God, and become a "saint soldier," fighting for good.	Reincarnation until resolve karma and merge with God.	Prayer and meditation on God's name, services at temple (gurdwara), turban and five Ks. Balance work, worship, and charity. No monasticism or asceticism.

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Spiritualism (/spiritualism)	11 million	c.1850, USA, UK, France	Generally accepts the Christian God	Body and spirit are separate entities. Morality and contact with spirits affect afterlife.	A spiritual existence with access to the living. Condition depends on morality of life and advancement is possible.	Sunday services. Seances and other communication with departed spirits. Spirit healing.
Stoicism (/stoicism)		Zeno in c.313 BC, Athens.	Pantheism: the logos pervades the universe.	Happiness, which is achieved by living reasonably.	Possible continued existence of the Soul, but not a personal existence.	Ethical and philosophical training, self-reflection, careful judgment and inner calm.
Taoism  (/taoism)	20 million specifically of Taoism (Chinese religion contains Taoist elements)	Based on teachings of Lao-Tzu, c. 550 BC, China.	Pantheism - the Tao pervades all. Taoist Pantheism (/taoism/gods)	Inner harmony, peace, and longevity. Achieved by living in accordance with the Tao. meaning of life (Taoism) (/taoism/meaning-life)	Revert back to state of non-being, which is simply the other side of being. Afterlife in Taoism (/taoism/afterlife)	General attitude of detachment and non-struggle, "go with the flow" of the Tao. Tai-chi, acupuncture, and alchemy to help longevity.
Unification Church (/unification-church)	over 1 million (3 million acc. to official sources)	Founded by Sun Myung Moon, 1954, South Korea.	Monotheism, with the duality of God (esp. masculine and feminine) emphasized. No Trinity.	True love and world peace instead of selfish love. True love and the kingdom of God on earth will be restored by the creation of "true families."	Eternal life in a spirit world.	Blessing Ceremony
	Adherents	History	Gods	Meaning of Life	Afterlife	Practices

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Unitarian Universalism (/unitarian-universalism)	800,000	<p>Formal merger of Unitarians and Universalists in 1961, USA.</p> <p>History of Unitarian-Universalism (/unitarian-universalism/history)</p>	Has no set beliefs, which is its defining characteristic.	Salvation is "spiritual health or wholeness." Members seek "inner and outer peace," insight, health, compassion and strength.	Not specified. Some believe in an afterlife, some do not. Very few believe in hell - "Universalism" indicates the belief that all will be saved.	<p>Ceremonies for marriages, funerals, etc. Church services have elements from various religions. Emphasis on civil rights, social justice, equality and environment. Most UUs are anti-death penalty and pro-gay rights.</p> <p>Unitarian Universalist practices (/unitarian-universalism/practices)</p>
Wicca  (/wicca)	1-3 million	<p>Based on ancient pagan beliefs, but modern form founded early 1900s. Founder generally said to be Gerald Gardner.</p>	Polytheism, centered on the Goddess and God, each in various forms; also a belief in a Supreme Being over all	"If it harms none, do what you will."	<p>reincarnation until reach the Summerland</p> <p>afterlife (Wicca) (/wicca/afterlife)</p>	<p>Prayer, casting a circle, Drawing Down the Moon, reciting spells, dancing, singing, sharing cakes and wine or beer</p> <p>Wiccan practices (/wicca/practices)</p>
Zoroastrianism  (/zoroastrianism)	200,000	<p>Based on teachings of Zoroaster in 6th cent. BCE Persia. Official religion of ancient Persia. May have influenced Judaism and Vedic religion.</p> <p>History of Zoroastrianism (/zoroastrianism/history)</p>	One God, Ahura Mazda, but a dualistic worldview in which an evil spirit, Angra Mainyu, is almost as powerful.	Humans are free to do good or evil, must choose the side of good.	Judgment followed by heaven or hell. Hell is temporary until final purgation and return to Ahura Mazda.	<p>prayers; tending the sacred fire; coming of age rituals; burial by exposure in the Tower of Silence</p> <p>Zoroastrian rituals and practices (/zoroastrianism/practices)</p>

For sources, please see linked articles.

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