

Counterfeit Christs

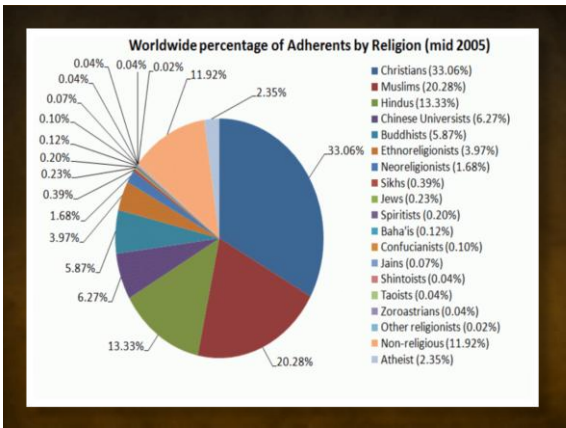
A study of false saviors and false salvation

"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." - John 8:24

Counterfeit Christs

The Counterfeit Christ of False Religions

"Desist, it is better for you; Allah is only one God; far be it from His glory that He should have a son"
- The Koran, Sura 4:171







Islam ~ Hinduism ~ Buddhism

Brief Overview of Islam

- Islam: means "submission"
- Muslim: means "submitted one"
- Worldview: Absolute monotheism
- Deity: "Allah", the standard Arabic word for God
- Authority: The Koran / Qur'an
- Founded: A.D. 610
- Founder: Muhammad



Brief Overview of Islam



The global Muslim population stands at 1.57 billion, meaning that nearly 1 in 4 people in the world practice Islam, according to a report (Oct 2009) billed as the most comprehensive of its kind.

The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life report provides a precise number for a population whose size has long has been subject to guesswork, with estimates ranging anywhere from 1 billion to 1.8 billion.

Brief Overview of Muhammad

- Born in A.D. 570 in the vicinity of Mecca, Saudi Arabia
- Arabs of Mecca were originally animists and polytheists
- Orphaned at an early age; raised by uncle
- Basically illiterate through his life; worked as a camel driver
- Married wealthy widow. Began to come into contact with monotheistic religions
- Began receiving visions in A.D. 610 at age of 40
- Gabriel appeared to him and commanded him to "recite"
- Had revelations dictated to him over 22 years that culminated in the compilation of the Koran





Who is the Islamic Jesus?



At first, the Islamic Jesus looks like the Biblical Jesus...

Born of a virgin:

"She said: My Lord! when shall there be a son (born) to me, and man has not touched me? He said: Even so, Allah creates what He pleases; when He has decreed a matter, He only says to it, Be, and it is."

Sura 3: 47



At first, the Islamic Jesus looks like the Biblical Jesus...

Proclaimed to be the Messiah:

“When the angels said: O Marium, surely Allah gives you good news with a Word from Him (of one) whose name is the Messiah, Isa son of Marium, worthy of regard in this world and the hereafter and of those who are made near (to Allah).”
Sura 3: 45



At first, the Islamic Jesus looks like the Biblical Jesus...

Performed miracles:

“And (make him) an apostle to the children of Israel: That I have come to you with a sign from your Lord, that I determine for you out of dust like the form of a bird, then I breathe into it and it becomes a bird with Allah’s permission and I heal the blind and the leprous, and bring the dead to life with Allah’s permission and I inform you of what you should eat and what you should store in your houses; most surely there is a sign in this for you, if you are believers.”
Sura 3: 49



At first, the Islamic Jesus looks like the Biblical Jesus...

More:

- Confirmed to be righteous (Sura 6:85)
- Confirmed to be sinless (Sura 3:46)
- Had disciples (Sura 3:52-53)
- Sent with a gospel (Sura 3:46)
- His words should be believed (Sura 4:171)
- Was taken to Heaven by God (Sura 4:156-159)
- Will come again (Sura 3:55)



Further study shows the Islamic Jesus is a Counterfeit...

Created out of dust – not virgin born:

“Surely the likeness of Isa is with Allah as the likeness of Adam; He created him from dust, then said to him, Be, and he was.”

Sura 3: 59



Further study shows the Islamic Jesus is a Counterfeit...

Not the Son of God or God:

“O People of the Scripture! Do not exaggerate in your religion nor utter aught concerning Allah save the truth. The Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, was only a messenger of Allah, and His word which He conveyed unto Mary, and a spirit from Him. So believe in Allah and His messengers, and say not “Three” - Cease! (it is) better for you! - Allah is only One God. Far is it removed from His transcendent Majesty that He should have a son. His is all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth. And Allah is sufficient as Defender.”

Sura 4:171



Further study shows the Islamic Jesus is a Counterfeit...

Not Supreme; compared to Muhammad:

“They will go to Jesus who will say, ‘I am not fit for this undertaking, but you’d better go to Muhammad whose sins of the past and future had been forgiven (by Allah).”

Hadith Volume 9, Book 93, Number 307



Further study shows the Islamic Jesus is a Counterfeit...

Was not crucified; did not die:

“And their saying; Surely we have killed the Messiah, Isa son of Marium, the apostle of Allah; and they did not kill him nor did they crucify him, but it appeared to them so (like Isa) and most surely those who differ therein are only in a doubt about it; they have no knowledge respecting it, but only follow a conjecture, and they killed him not for sure.”

Sura 4:157



Further study shows the Islamic Jesus is a Counterfeit...

More:

- Not a Jew nor are his disciples (Sura 5:48, 53, 5:111)
- Was not resurrected (because he did not die)
- Prophesied the coming of Muhammad (Sura 61:6)
- Should not be worshipped (Sura 5:116)
- Will return, die and be judged (Sunan Abu Dawud Book 37, Number 4310)

Salvation in Islam

- No need for a savior as Islam teaches there was no Fall; no subsequent sin nature is present in humans; no need for redemption.
- No assurance of not facing Hell; all based on a person's deeds in living in harmony with Allah's will.



Five Pillars of Islam



1. Confession of faith
2. Daily Prayer
3. Fasting
4. Almsgiving
5. Pilgrimage to Mecca

Salvation in Islam

“Then those whose balance (of good deeds) is heavy - They will attain salvation: But those whose balance is light, will be those Who have lost their souls; In Hell will they abide”
- Sura 23:102-3



Brief Overview of Hinduism

- Hindu: Name derived from the Indus River; means people who live across the Indus River
- Worldview: Pantheism and Polytheism
- Deity: 300 million gods. Some gods have come pre-eminent: Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva
- Authority: The Vedas
- Founded: No specific date
- Founder: Unknown





Who is the Hindu Jesus?



"I can say that the historical Jesus never interested me. Nothing would change for me if someone proved that Jesus never lived and that the Gospel narration was a fictitious story. Because the message of the Sermon on the Mount would always remain true for me."
- Gandhi



"During many years of my life I considered Jesus of Nazareth a great Master, perhaps the strongest the world has ever known...I can say that Jesus holds a special place in my heart as a teacher who has exerted a considerable influence on my life".
- Gandhi



A brief study shows the Hindu Jesus is a Counterfeit...

- Jesus was a man who attained God-realization
- Jesus' teachings reflect Hindu philosophy
- Jesus was one of many holy men who communicated spiritual truth
- Not a savior; not uniquely the Son of God
- A great master; in league with other masters

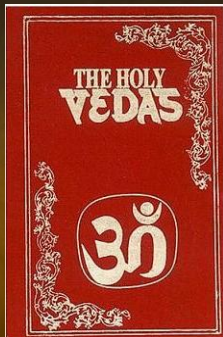


A brief study shows the Hindu Jesus is a Counterfeit...

- Greater men than Jesus; one is Prabhupada who founded the Hare Krishna movement
- Some Hindus think Jesus was an avatar (an incarnation of a god)
- Lower than Brahman
- Not sinless or perfect; anger in driving moneychangers from temple and withering fig tree was wrong

Salvation in Hinduism

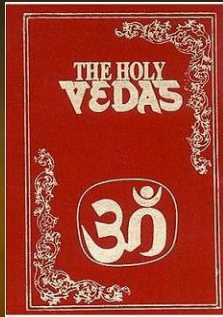
- Man's problem is not sin, but a lack of enlightenment
- The failure of not obtaining enlightenment is wrong living, which results in bad karma, which results in reincarnation into another life
- The goal is moksha, or liberation from rebirths through breaking karma



Salvation in Hinduism

• Moksha is accomplished in one of three ways:

1. Way of right action – living in accord with one's place in life
2. Way of knowledge – a realization of one's essential identity with Brahman
3. Way of devotion – love or adoration for a particular deity

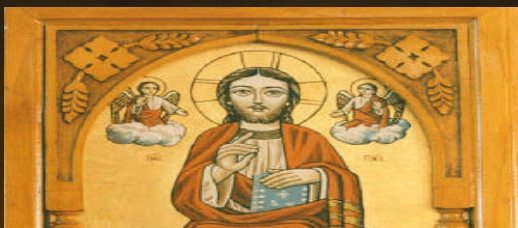


However one views Hinduism, it is a work's based salvation paradigm

Brief Overview of Buddhism

- Buddha: means "light-bearer" (also what Lucifer means) or "awakened one"
- Worldview: Pantheism or Atheism
- Deity: Depends on school. Buddha or no god at all
- Authority: Depends on school. Lotus Sutra, Book of the Dead, etc.
- Founded: 500 B.C.
- Founder: Gautama Buddha. Died after eating a spoiled piece of pork that was presented to him as an offering





Who is the Buddhist Jesus?

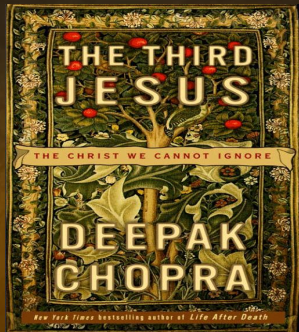
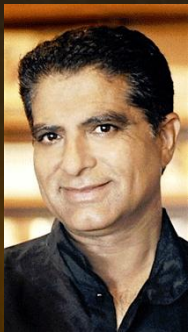


A brief study shows the Buddhist Jesus is a Counterfeit...

- Regarded as a wise teacher, not God
- Traveled in Tibet and other Far East regions. These are Jesus' supposed 'lost years'
- Learned Buddhist teachings
- Considered a "bodhisatva." In Buddhism, a bodhisatva is one who has achieved enlightenment but puts off leaving the plane of illusions, puts off entering into Nirvanah in order to help fellow beings.



"Buddhists and Christians have sometimes, in a search for common ground, pointed out some intriguing parallels between the "life stories" of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, and Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha. Jesus' mother Mary was visited by a divine being, Gabriel, who told her how she, a virgin, would conceive and give birth to the divine Son of God. Maya, Gautama's mother, had a dream vision in which a white elephant approached her and entered into her to emerge nine months later as the future enlightened one. The white elephant was a symbol of holiness. Jesus was born in a poor setting but his birth was attended by angels and kings. Buddha came into the world in a sacred garden. He emerged from his mother's side. His birth was attended by goddesses. His mother was herself a queen so the royalty angle was there too. Jesus was hailed by Simeon, an elderly devout man as the future savior when he was taken to the temple for circumcision. Similarly an elderly holy man came to visit the newborn prince Siddhartha and burst into tears on meeting the boy."
Unitarian Universalist Sermon



There is not one Jesus, Chopra writes, but three.

"First, there is the historical Jesus, the man who lived more than two thousand years ago and whose teachings are the foundation of Christian theology and thought. Next there is Jesus the Son of God, who has come to embody an institutional religion with specific dogma, a priesthood, and devout believers. And finally, there is the third Jesus, the cosmic Christ, the spiritual guide whose teaching embraces all humanity, not just the church built in his name. He speaks to the individual who wants to find God as a personal experience, to attain what some might call grace, or God-consciousness, or enlightenment.

When we take Jesus literally, we are faced with the impossible. How can we truly "love thy neighbor as thyself"? But when we see the exhortations of Jesus as invitations to join him on a higher spiritual plane, his words suddenly make sense. Ultimately, Chopra argues, Christianity needs to overcome its tendency to be exclusionary and refocus on being a religion of personal insight and spiritual growth. In this way Jesus can be seen for the universal teacher he truly is—someone whose teachings of compassion, tolerance, and understanding can embrace and be embraced by all of us."

Salvation in Buddhism

- Everything is maya; an illusion
- There is nothing beyond this illusion
- Man's problem is not sin, but desire. The reason pain and suffering exists is because of desire
- The goal of Buddhism is 'Nirvana', which means 'extinction'

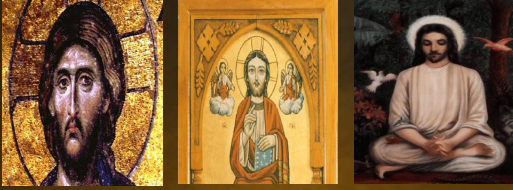


Salvation in Buddhism

- Salvation from this life of reincarnation is reached when one realizes their place of 'non-self' in the world
- All desire is overcome
- Salvation is solely dependent upon the person and not upon a savior
- Non-existence is the only reality

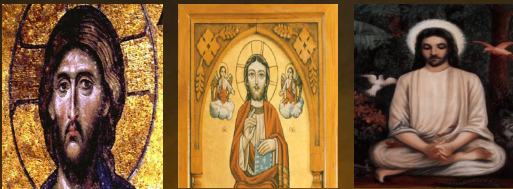


The False Religions' Counterfeit Christ



What do they have in common?

The False Religions' Counterfeit Christ



1. Jesus is just a man - not God nor the unique Son of God
2. Jesus is inferior - less than the false religion's prophets
3. Jesus is irrelevant - he is not needed to procure salvation

The Real Jesus

Jesus is the Son of God and God Himself

"Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am." Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple."
 (John 8:58-59)

The Real Jesus

Jesus is Superior to All

"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."
(Matthew 28:18)

"For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."
(Colossians 1:16-17)

The Real Jesus

Jesus is the Only Way of Salvation

"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."
(John 14:6)

"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."
(Acts 4:12)

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"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." - John 8:24
