



Religions Quest for Peace: A Comparative Study of Abrahamic Religions (Christianity, Islam, and Judaism)

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Abstract

Religion as a notion date back many centuries. Peace, a highly important commodity, is essential to the practice of faith, and religion is inextricably linked to faith. The great living religions of the world, both those whose teachings have been made public and those whose existence has remained secret, share Abrahamic religions such as Christianity, Islam, and Judaism are currently the most widely practiced worldwide. Sadly, recent global events in places like Palestine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Azerbaijan, and Armenia, and soon have highlighted the increased mistrust, hostility, and rage amongst members of these three faiths. However, these faiths actively promote and spread a sense of harmony and oneness among believers of other faiths. Tolerance is a central tenet of these faiths and is seen as a means to world peace. In other words, tolerance is a value promoted by many of these faiths. I have used a qualitative approach to conducting research for this paper. Since this is library-based research, we rely on a wide variety of printed and non-printed sources, including scholarly articles, monographs, newspapers, periodicals, and theses. In addition, the teachings of prophets associated with these religions as well as the canonical writings of the Quran, Bible, and Torah are consulted. This study investigates the concept of peace throughout these faiths, with the conclusion that the ultimate goal of each is tranquility and peace on Earth, and offering some suggestions for how to achieve this goal.

Keywords: *Christianity; Islam; Judaism; peace; religion; tolerance*

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Introduction

Thousands of people all around the world are at danger because of religiously motivated violence, civil strife, and war. In the face of such wars, what measures may be taken to alleviate the world's current crisis? The spread of these wars is facilitated by terrorist organizations that claim divine sanction for their acts of evil. Terrorism is generally regarded to be any act that targets an individual, a group, a municipality, a state, or a nation with the intent to kill or maim its inhabitants, destroy or damage property, or endanger the lives of innocent bystanders.

Though it was intended to be a force for good, some people have twisted religion into a justification for violence, leaving many people with a poor impression of their own faith. While religious teachings emphasize tolerance, compassion, and peace. If you want to bring people together, it helps to know how different faiths are related. Although they go by various labels, the core teachings of the world's major faiths are remarkably consistent.

There had been conflicts between the adherents of different faiths or religions for ages and still are going on. Today we are also aware of the conflict among nations in the



name of religion like Palestine and Israel, America Afghanistan, Armenia Azerbaijan, Iran Israel, America, and so on. Most Abrahamic religions (Christianity, Judaism, and Islam) are involved in conflicts from the past to till date, the best example of conflict in Abrahamic religions is Israel, America Iran conflict. These conflicts lead to the great loss of human lives and property destruction. It is the truth that these adherents are fighting in the name of their religion but in reality, their religion didn't permit them to do so. However, the Abrahamic faiths (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) and other world religions advocate for and spread a culture of harmony and unity among believers of all faiths.

In this paper, the researcher will look at whether the Abrahamic religions (Christianity, Islam, Judaism) propagate peace or not and demonstrate how these religions share similar views on peace and its importance.

In exploring the core concept of peace in Abrahamic religions (Christianity, Islam, Judaism). The goal of this study is to deradicalize conflict between residents of the chosen locations and for those who justify violence by citing their religion. And to dispel people's misplaced fear for this fundamentally peaceful religion.

Religious Perspective on Peace in Abrahamic Religions

"He has created for you the same religion that he enjoined on Noah, that which we have given by inspiration to thee and that which we enjoined on the Ibrahim, Moses, Jesus Christ."
(Al- Quran Surah Ash shura 42:13)

In the lives of people, communities, and nations, religion is significant. According to a 2012 study that was done. Eight out of 10 people on the planet identify as religious.¹Understanding the foundations of

different faiths and how they view peace may help understand the differences and similarities between people. Religious differences may seem quite distinct and have diverse views regarding the existence and actions of the divine. It becomes obvious that these religions have many characteristics when they are thoroughly examined. Fundamentally, religion exists to give people a sense of direction and to mould their lives into better ones.

More specifically, every type of religion that is commonly practiced encourages peace, love, and compassion. As means of establishing peace, many values are shared by all religions.

"A Muslim is one who kneel-downs Infront of Allah's will and works to bring peace (while Islam means the institution of peace, Muslim meansone who establishes through his activities and manners)" - Islam

"The purpose of the whole Torah is to promote peace". - Judaism

"Blessed are peacemakers for they will be called God's sons" -Christianity

It is clear that the world's major religions, especially the Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Islam, and Christianity), strongly encourage and propagate peace, tranquillity, and unity.

1.1 Judaism

Judaism, like other ancient monotheistic religions still widely practiced today, has its origins in the Middle East and has been around for more than three thousand years.² Israel, Canada, France, and the United States are home to almost half of Judaism's 14 million worldwide adherents. The Torah, Judaism's sacred text, serves as the basis for its teachings.³

The idea of peace is essential to Judaism. It is one of these three fundamental Jewish



principles, along with justice and truth. Hebrew's term for peace, "Shalom," is derived from one of God's names and means "complete" or "whole." ⁴ The history of Judaism spans more than three thousand years. Jewish legend holds that God handed the Israelites the fundamental Ten Commandments, which would govern their social existence after they fled Egypt and arrived in the Sinai desert. In reality, these laws and commandments are meant to act as principles for fostering a strong relationship with Allah (God) and other people (people). The following six to ten commandments were included by the researcher. ;(**Deuteronomy 5:6-21 & Exodus, 20:13)**

- Respect for the parents
- You must refrain from murder and adultery.
- You must not steal.
- You must not have any jealousy for your neighbor's home, wife, household staff, pets, or other possessions.
- A Jewish scholar notes that this passage says "you shall not kill";

"It is not enough to just remember the negative injunction not to murder, but rather to channel human energy and efforts into peaceful and beneficial deeds"

Here is another warning from the Torah. "Don't do to another man what you hate (or injure) about yourself." The Torah text is the entirety of the Torah, according to a Jewish scholar; the rest is merely commentary. Jewish sages say that the ultimate goal of the entire Torah is peace;as already stated above that:

"The Torah was authored with the goal of promoting peace." (Tanhumashoftim 18)

"God told Jerusalem that only through peace would they (Israel) be delivered. (Deuteronomy Rabah 5:15)

Here are some additional lyrics that convey the theme of love and peace:

"Seek the peace and pursue it" (Trans, from Psalms 34:14)

"And they shall turn the blades of their swords into plowshares, and the points of their spears into aedicule's, and there shall be no more wars, nor shall any more people learn how to use weapons of war. (trans from Isaiah2:4, Micah 4:3)

"Never put yourself on same footing with your enemy, and never hold a grudge against the offspring of your own people; instead, love your neighbour as you love yourself." (Translation from Leviticus 19:18)

"And if a foreigner is among you in your land, make no trouble for him; treat him as one of your own, and love him as you love yourself, for you were foreigners in a foreign land when you were in Egypt." (Leviticus 19:33-34)

"If you fear God and want to help your brother out financially, you should let him make his own way in life and not try to get a cut of what he earns..."(Leviticus 25:36)

"If your brother or any foreign proselyte among you ever becomes poor and unable to provide for him, you have a responsibility to help them survive."(Leviticus25:35)

"YHVH your God will bless you in all your work and the labour of your hands if you are generous to your brother and do not let your heart be upset when you do so."(Trans from Deuteronomy 15:10)

From the above verses it is clear that Judaism is the religion that stresses peace.

1.2 Christianity

As the largest religion in the world, Christianity is widely practiced today. Christians



believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the reincarnation of God the Father and that his teachings may be traced back to Abraham. The Bible is the central religious text for Christians. It tells the story of Jesus' life and provides guidelines for how to live as a Christian. As early as the first half of the first century AD, Christians were practicing what is now considered one of the world's major faiths. The crucifixion of Jesus Christ is central to Christian belief. The Bible employs a wide range of meanings for the term "peace." It includes things like people's health, safety, and happiness. The New Testament is the written record of Jesus Christ's teachings. The famous words from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount:

"If someone slaps you, offer the other cheek as well. Also, if someone asks to borrow your coat, don't refuse them just because you're wearing a tunic. Don't refuse anyone who asks for it. And don't bother the thieves by asking for your stuff back..." (Luke 6:29-30)

Attributing great importance to peace Jesus Christ (Issa) observed: *"blessed are peacemakers, for they shall be so-called the sons of God."* (Matthew 5:9)

"You shall love your neighbour as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than" Trans from (Mark 12:31)

Forgiveness, according to the scripture above, leads to tolerance, and tolerance leads to harmony. To follow Jesus is to be compassionate and to struggle for peace.

"Remove from yourself any and all ill will, including bitterness, rage, fury, noise, slander, and clamour. Show compassion and kindness to one another; forgive one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." (Trans from Ephesians 4:31-32)

"God, who is love, reconciled the world to himself in Christ by not holding past transgressions against those who have faith in Jesus and given us the task of spreading the good news of peace with one another..." (Trans from 2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

According to what we learned in the scriptures above, Christians believe that God sent his Son to earth to preach his message and to sacrifice himself so that the rest of God's children may be "reconciled" or forgiven and enter paradise after death. Through His death on the cross, Jesus taught us to have mercy on all people and to forgive those who have wronged us.

Jesus advocated for tolerance and peace among people by teaching compassion and forgiveness.

Jesus' teachings on ethics made up a sizeable amount of his body of work. After coming up to him, a religious young guy inquired, "What need I do to receive eternal life?" avoid all forms of violence, sexual misconduct, giving false evidence, and dishonesty. Jesus said in the earlier order. Be respectful to your parents.

The modern world would be a much worse place without the contributions of Christian missionary universities, hospitals, NGOs, aid, relief, rescue missions, and many other welfare programmes. Think about the books of the Bible from which excellent ethics emerge. The Bible also provides its followers with further details on Christian morality.

- The moral of the parable of the fig tree is that Christian's ought to focus on the welfare of others rather than seeking personal gain. (Luke, 13:6-8)
- • Pray for your oppressors to be adopted as sons of your heavenly Father and practice love towards them.



Because His light falls equally on the good and the bad." (Matthew 5;44-46)

- Treat others as you would like to be treated. "No one could expect others to be polite to him when he didn't care about their feelings." (Luke,6:3)

1.3 Islam

Among the world's major religions, Islam is the most recently revealed. It is not a completely new faith, but rather a revival of an ancient Divine faith that emphasizes God's unchanging unity (Tauheed), prophetic succession (Risala), and an afterlife (Akhira).

He has created for you the same religion that he taught on Noah, that which we have given by inspiration to thee and that which we commanded on the Ibrahim, Moses, Jesus Christ, all of whom are mentioned explicitly in the Quran. **(Al- Quran Surah Ashura 42:13)**

The main fallacy regarding Islam is that it supports terrorism. Today's mass media frequently highlights the violence and hatred of an extreme minority rather than the voice of love and peace that is at the heart of Islam. Sadly, knowledge about the actual Islamic religion is frequently limited, which causes people to have inaccurate perceptions of Muslims. The fundamental teachings of Islam do not advocate violence; rather, they work to uphold each person's human rights and to spread the values of justice, equality, and love.

Additionally, academics like Asgar Ali Engineer assert that Islam is a nonviolent religion. He said there is no connection between religion and violence (Islam or other religion). Instead, he sees violence as a social phenomenon brought on by unfavourable circumstances in some societies, where it is possible to control religion. ⁶ Therefore, due to the effect of "self-justifying groups" like religious or political organizations or cultural

qualities, what religion teaches may differ from how its adherents interpret it in practice.⁷

As is well known, the Arabic word "Islam," which signifies peace, is the root of the word "Islam." Additionally, the Arabic term "Aslam" denotes security and serenity, two of Allah's qualities mentioned in the Quran **(Al Quran Surah maida 5:16)**.

According to Islam, paradise is the ideal place for a person to live, hence the name "house of peace." Also mentioned is the fact that everyone in paradise will say "salaam" to one another (peace)⁸

Islam is a continuation of the teachings of previous prophets such as Abraham, Moses, and Jesus, culminating in the teachings of Muhammad (PBUH). Prophets in the eyes of Muslims are those selected by God (Allah) to spread his word and encourage unity among humanity. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is portrayed in the Quran as:

"We sent thee not, but mercy for all creatures". (Al Quran surah Al Anbiya 21:107)

In the verses quoted above, Allah confirms that Muhammad, peace be upon him, was sent as a prophet to all of humanity under the title "Rehmaten Lil al Aameen."

There are many passages in the Quran that emphasize the superiority of nonviolence and forgiving over hostility.⁹

Jihad, or holy war, is mentioned in only roughly 60 of the Quran's 6,666 verses, proving that the religion's emphasis is on defensive violence rather than terroristic killing. The Holy Quran and the sayings of the Prophet (PBUH) are full of instructions and encouragement to live in harmony with one another.

This is the book we retrieved for you so that you can lead humanity out of the shadows



and into the light. **(Al Quran surah Ibrahim 14:1)**

- The Quran serves as a manual for humanity and provides unmistakable evidence of morality and the separation of good and evil (Al Quran Surah Bakara 2:185)
- Allah calls for the abode of peace (Al-Quran, surah Younus 10:25)
- Killing one person is the same as eradicating humanity (Al Quran Surah Maidah 5:32)
- Don't wreak havoc on earth (Al Quran Surah Al Araf 7:50)

The Islamic prophet (peace be upon him) was a man of understanding and harmony. He advised his followers to ask God (Allah) for peace in their prayers. The prophet's primary responsibility was to share the divine with the populace, and doing so required a climate of harmony and benevolence.

- • God does not give to violence but gives peace. **(Muslim 2593)**
- • When someone wrongs you, you don't respond negatively; instead, you extend forgiveness and kindness. **(Muhammad Peace be upon him)**
- • A Muslim who is misled or injured is not one of us. **(Muslim 101,102)**
- • A Muslim is a person whose hands and tongue are clean. A believer is someone who others may trust with their money and lives. **(Bukhari, imam3,64,65)**

Islam, as a result, is a faith that forbids violence. Islam also forbids violence other from self-defense.

Concept of Jihad

Jihad is often associated with terrorism and extremism in Islam, as well as other negative connotations and mental images, particularly in western media and political discourse. Jihad is derived from the Arabic word "Juhud," which connotes exerting oneself to the maximum extent in order to achieve one's goals of a better and more spiritual existence. As a result, the Islamic meaning of jihad is to struggle or fight in Allah's cause in order to abstain from sin. 10 A well-known philosopher named Alfarabi (874–950) maintained the distinction between "Jihad and War" in his writings. The ultimate definition of jihad, in his view, is an interior conflict between good and evil that takes place within one's spirit. War is only one sort of jihad, which is described as military activity.¹¹

The term Jihad is of two types

1. **Lesser Jihad:** An obsession with Muslim leaders' military campaigns for peace or good causes; the use of force to protect Islam or Muslim territories.
2. **Greater Jihad.** It's always had a really intimate feel. Fighting one's own evil on the inside by working to become more spiritually pure and modeling one's behavior after divine attributes.

Like other major religions around the world, Islam recognizes a role for limited Jihad, or military conflict, according to Sayid Muhammad Rizvi. However, the scope and ramifications of such a campaign come with certain restrictions. When it gives permission



for Jihad, the Quran specifies exactly what those objectives are.

“Those who are fighting for liberation because they have been oppressed are allowed to do so, as are those who have been unjustly evicted from their homes.” (Al-Quran Al-Haj 22:39-40)

“If your enemy is willing to negotiate, you should do the same and put your faith in God.” (8:61)

Based on these verses, we can infer that Islam permits armed struggle under certain conditions, such as resistance to oppression (Surah Anfal 22:39,4:75), religious persecution (Surah Anfal 22:39-40), the development of military strength to intimidate the enemy (Al Quran 8:60), and self-defence (Al Quran Surah Al Baqarah 02:190)

Jihad was further distinguished from the random use of force since armed individuals were expected to adhere to certain guidelines. Muslims are expected to be physically capable of protecting themselves, but this does not give them license to resort to violence or injustice; the Quran makes it clear that attacks should be made only on military personnel and not on civilians. *“Look for people battling against you in the God's way, and don't go too far. Allah, truly, does not approve of those who push themselves too far.” (Al Quran Surah Al Baqarah 02:190)*

Abu Bakr, the first Caliph, said 'Yazid ibn Sufiyan, "I offer you ten commandments these are, don't murder a woman, kid, or elderly person for food or water; don't pull down trees; don't damage dwellings; don't kill sheep; don't be spiteful or unfair."¹²

Consequently, Islam is clearly a religion of peace rather than bloodshed. Furthermore, Muslims cannot be provoked to go to war by little acts of hatred.¹³ Because certain people misuse and concoct the term "Jihad" for their own political ends does not mean that other Muslims must renounce this magnificent concept of their faith. Many Muslims shy away from discussing violent Jihad and instead focus on the primary (spiritual) jihad. Only self-defense, or what Muslims call "lesser jihad," is permissible if they feel the need to wage war.¹⁴ The stereotype of Islam as a religion that promotes violence is false. In today's world, Black sheep commit crimes in the name of Islam in order to insult it, while all of Islam's teachings are founded on the idea of peace.¹⁵

2, Prophet Abraham (Ibrahim) Father of Three Faiths

As a religious prophet is someone who speaks on behalf of God, the researcher will examine the significance of the prophet Ibrahim in a few different religions in this section. Prophets' spiritual perception has earned them the nickname "seers." In religion, a prophet is a specific person who asserts to have had communication with supernatural beings and who speaks for them, serving as a liaison between humanity and the other people's supernatural beings. A true prophet of God will be committed to spreading the word. He or she will never go against what God has made known. Before the prophet Messiah's disastrous encounter with Ahab, a true prophet will make a statement. "I can tell him only what my God says," he said, "as assuredly as the Lord exists." **(Chronicles 18:13)**

Figure1 shows the connection/relation between prophets below.



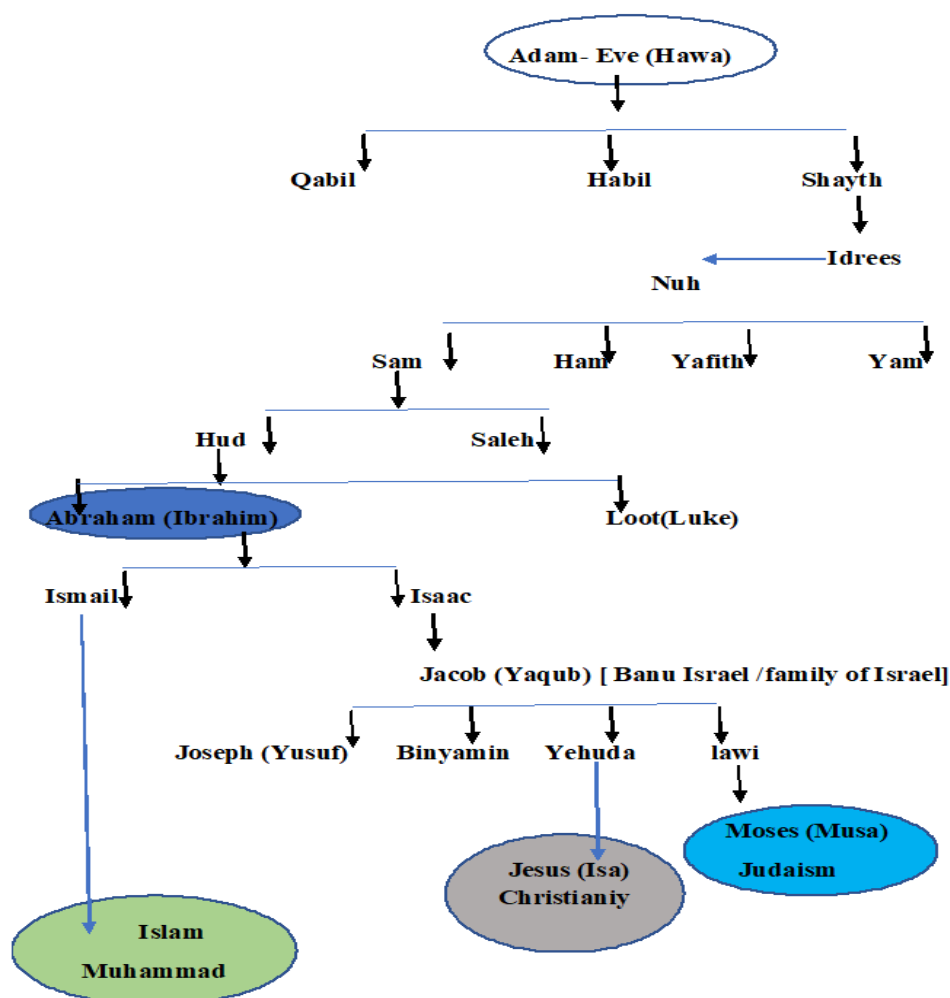


Figure 1 shows the family tree shows the relation between Abrahamic religion

Islam considers Prophet Ibrahim, also known as Prophet Abraham in the Hebrew Bible, to be the prophet and messenger of God (Allah). The notion that there was only one God was originally propagated by Prophet Ibrahim, so it is thought. All three religions see the prophet Ibrahim (Abraham), who belonged to Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad, as the prophets' entryway (peace be upon him). Prophet Abraham served as an example of trust, giving, commitment, and endurance. He is respected and recognized as a cornerstone in each of the world's three major religions. In this section, we'll look at how the prophet Abraham helped

build the framework for religion while also cultivating peace and order.

2.1In Judaism, The Jewish people regard Prophet Abraham to be their father. He was the son of Terah, the father of Isaac, who was born to Sarah, and he is also the father of Ishmael, who was born to Hager, according to the Bible. Most academics believe he lived in the eighteenth century before the Christian era.¹⁶

2.2In Christianity, the prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) is given significance in the Christian faith thanks to the prophet Jesus (PBUH), who is



seen as the key character. The generation of "Jesus Christ" is traced back to "Abraham (Ibrahim)" by St. Mathew in the New Testament, according to the Catholic Encyclopaedia volume 1 (1999 Kevin Knight, online edition).

Additionally, the New Testament establishes the carnal ancestry of all Jews by tracing their lineage back to the prophet Abraham (Ibrahim) PBUH. Christian trusts in God¹⁷

2.3In Islam, God says in Quran: salaam (peace) be upon Ibrahim (Abraham) **(Al Quran; 37:109)**

Islam holds that Abraham fulfilled all the requirements and endured all the tribulations through which God fed him throughout his life. God promised Abraham that because of his unwavering faith in God, he would be a leader to all the nations of the world. The Quran praises Ibrahim (Abraham) as an example, submissive, and someone who did not practice idolatry.

He is referred to as God's companion and the father of prophets in the "Quran." (Qur'an 4:125) Muslims consider him (Ibrahim) to be one of the Prophet Muhammad's ancestors (salalaalahi waslm). In fact, one cannot truly be a Muslim without acknowledging the significance of Ibrahim's (Abraham's) contribution. This is the part of the section that needs filler. We believe in God, what has been revealed to us, and what has been revealed to Ibrahim (Abraham), Ismail (Ishmail), Isaac, Yaqub (Jacob), and the Tribes, as well as in (scriptures given to) Moses (Moses), Essa (Jesus), and the prophets from their Lord: We make no distinction between one and another among them, and to God do we bow our will (in Islaam), according to the Quran (Al-Quran 3:84), which is seen in the graphic above.

According to the scriptures of these three faiths, as is made evident in the verse above, Prophet Ibrahim is Important to All Three Faiths.

Similarities among Abrahamic religions.

The prophets' primary goals were to promote peace, uphold brotherhood, and create a peaceful social order. Typical prophets of instruction in these Abrahamic religions include:

- Christianity, Judaism, and Islam are monotheistic religions; they emphasize that there is only one God and hold to this belief.
- These religions consider people to be the highest form of life on earth. We are Abraham's offspring. God gave us a mysterious nature, which means we are capable of both good and evil. When we grow in goodness, God will design humans who are good. When we abuse our freedom and do harm to others, we are not only rejecting God's commands but also our prophet's teachings. To live a happy life, we should turn to God and repent.
- These faiths hold that God and people can and ought to speak with one another. God speaks to humans through revelation, the most significant of which is the revelation of the prophets.
- The prophets of various faiths gave instructions for some fundamental standards for living contentedly.
- Doing well to others is one of the most prevalent themes that these religions promote. Honesty, harmony, aiding needy orphans, etc.



This indicates that morality and concern for the well and dignity of others are closely related to these religions¹⁸. The similarities between these religions are depicted in Figure 2.

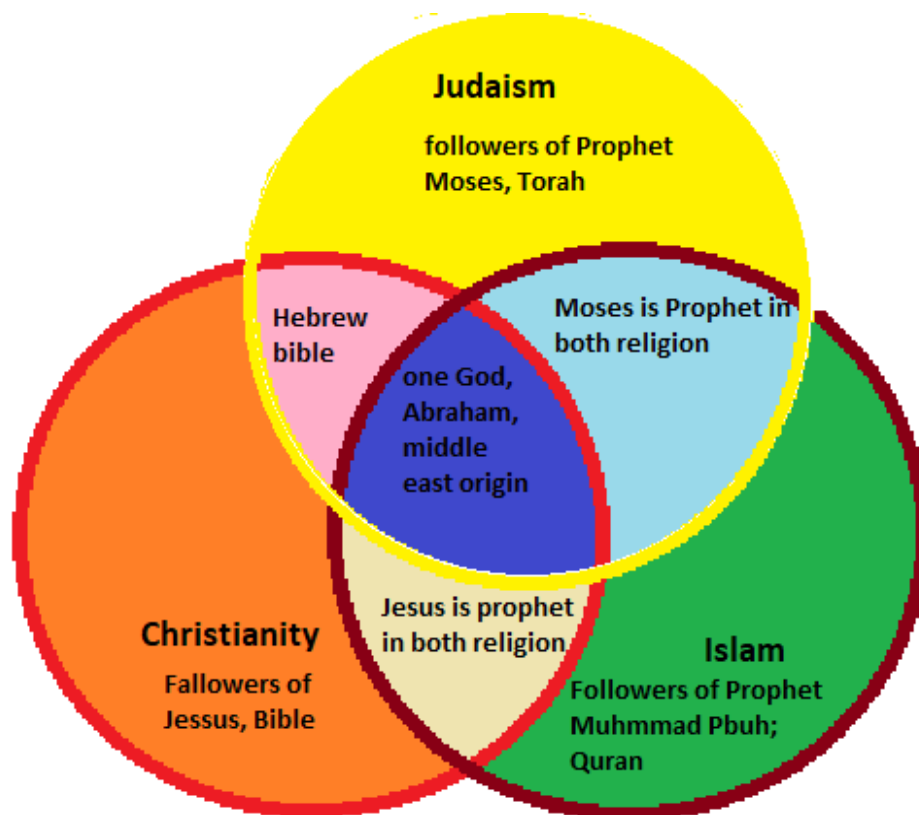


Figure 2 shows similarities among Abrahamic religion

3. Tolerance in Abrahamic religion

According to the dictionary, tolerance is "the willingness to accept or tolerate someone or something, especially opinions or behavior that you may disagree with or people who are not like you." Dictionary for Advanced Learners, Oxford If there is room for tolerance, the quarrel has no place in a community of civilization. Because of the information and technological revolutions, today's globalized world requires more tolerance and peaceful coexistence than ever before. This is because there are more similarities and parallels between cultures and civilizations than ever before, as well as more differences and differences between them. Giving space for conversation is one way to demonstrate

tolerance, which is a necessary requirement for peaceful coexistence. At the individual, group, municipal, national, and international levels, dialogue is desperately needed right now.

3.1 Tolerance in Islam

Islam actively encourages Muslims to adopt the quality of tolerance as one of their core values in order to promote peaceful interactions amongst Muslims and the coexistence of Muslims and non-Muslims. Islam encourages its adherents to uphold tolerance for various countries, religions, cultures, and civilizations. For our world's upkeep and preservation, everyone shares responsibility. Allah claims to be the one who created humanity from the soil and placed it on the



planet (Al-Quran 11:61) Islam supports and even encourages dialogue with different religions and cultures in a lovely way. It challenges us to spread Islam intelligently. In order for them to understand the unknown from what they already know, our education may take the shape of discourse, convincing evidence, as well as examples from the known. Our discussion or debate should be civil and well-mannered, not heated. Allah says: "O Muhammad (peace be upon You), welcome them to the way of your master, Islam, through wisdom, Divine inspiration, the Quran, and fair teaching. You should also plead your case more persuasively. Your Lord is the most aware of those who are led, and He genuinely knows who has wandered from His way. (An Nahl, Surah 16:125) By participating in discussions that are intelligent, persuasive, and emotion-free in their drawing, common ground between the religions can be found, leading to advancements. In other words, through debate, we can get to know one another better and, as a result, see how similar and different we are. Qur'an says: Say, "O Muhammad," "O people of the Scriptures "Jew and Christians," come to the word that is only between us and you that we do not worship anyone other than Allah, that we do not equate anyone with Him, and that none of us will establish anyone else as our lord except Allah." If they shun you, then say, "Be patient and testify that we are Muslims." (Quranic verse 3:64) While this was going on, Muhammad (SAW) himself was a kind person whose demeanour was imitated by his companions and was expected of Muslims in later times. He strengthened the tolerance, harmony, and unity among the inhabitants of Madina, which included Jews, Muslims, Christians, and others, when he moved to Medina. The written-up constitution guaranteed non-Muslims religious freedom as well as justice and equality for all. The first

caliph, Abu Bakr, followed the prophet Muhammad's example and backed the tolerance and accommodations made by the prophet to the Christians of Najran (s.a.w). Their homes and churches weren't destroyed. Because of their beliefs, neither their priests nor their adherents were persecuted. 20 He asked Khalid bin Walid to allow other religions to practice or exhibit a cross during their festival and to show tolerance and respect for them when they are deployed into battle. 21 Similar to what Umer Ibn Khatab accomplished, who set a wonderful example of tolerance for non-Muslims. After Muslims had taken control of the city, Umer Ibn Khatab traveled there and went to a church. He left the church when it was time to pray and went to a neighboring location to do so. In addition to that, he also allowed Jews to return to Jerusalem in 638 CE, after the Romans had driven them out, destroyed the city, and made them illegal by Christians who had taken over as the new imperial power.

Similar to this, when Salahuddin Ayubi took back "Jerusalem" from the Christian crusaders in 1187 C.E., "who afterwards exiled and massacred the Jews," he gave both Christians and Jews their "churches" and "synagogues," as well as protection over those lands. Until their decline, the Muslims ruled Spain for eight centuries, during which time people of all faiths coexisted peacefully. Muslim leaders showed the tolerance that Islam promotes by not treating any non-Muslims unfairly or harshly. 22 This showed that, despite the appearance that disputes are inevitable, violence is necessary, and war is imminent, Muslims choose peace to conflict. Muslims are commanded by Islam to fight for peace by any means necessary.



3.2 Tolerance in Christianity

Like other religions, Christianity encourages tolerance and teaches that in order to bring about world peace and harmony; everyone should practice nonviolent conflict resolution, no retaliation, and forgiveness. The Bible says

You've probably heard the saying, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." But I caution you about putting up a fight against a bad person. Turn to face the other person if they slap you on the right cheek. Go two miles with someone if they make you go one mile. (Bible, Mathew 5:38-41, Luke 6:29.)

Furthermore, the idea of seeking retribution was common law among ancient peoples, especially in Judaism, but when Jesus Christ arrived, he rejected the previous precepts of "an eye for an eye." He convinced his adherents to refrain from exercising their 'Lex Talionis' legal rights. In many circumstances, the offended party may overreact, leading to increased hostility between the parties. The second verse, on the other hand, discourages taking personal revenge but does not ban someone from defending their family or country (much like Islam calls for limited Jihad self-defence). In other words, "Jesus" calls for the "Lex Talionis" to be changed and suggests that it be replaced with the values of tolerance, including kindness, love, harmony, peace, charity, and justice.²³

According to the Bible, we should treat one another with all humility and lowliness, with patience and love. Attempting to maintain the bonds of harmony among the spirits. There is only one body, one spirit, and only one chance for you to fulfil your calling. (Eph. 4:2-4)

According to the foregoing passages, lowliness is thought of as humility because it involves having low or polite ideas. It is asserted

that Paul uses the phrase to suggest that he should be viewed as a minor figure. As a result, one needs exercise patience and forbearance in order to deal with others, as well as with disagreements and difficulties. Christianity places a significant emphasis on forgiving others.

When someone disagrees with someone else, they should be patient and forgiving, and they should do it in the same way that Jesus does (you). Invest your money on charity the most, as it is the key to perfection. And be thankful; let the peace of God rule in your hearts since you are all one body. (Colossians 3:13-5)

"Be compassionate just as your father is compassionate" (Luke 6:36)

The Christian academics concluded by noting that "Jesus called on his followers to work on bettering themselves" rather than passing judgment on others, highlighting the positive role played when those responsible for wreaking violence or allowing it to be waged offer repentance and seek forgiveness (Mathew: 6:12-15, 7:1-5). The authors write that "one can help to pull the thorn of resentment out from past injustices, atrocities, and massacres, which can allow individuals and communities to break the cycle of violence and move forward into a reconciled and constructive future" through the practice of forgiveness and taking responsibility for one's actions or failures to act.²⁴

3.3 Tolerance in Judaism

The concept of nonviolence can be traced back to the Jerusalem Talmud, which was written in the middle of the third century. Truth, justice, and peace are the three instruments



Judaism considers the most important for the preservation of the world, and while total nonviolence is not required by Judaism, the faith so severely forbids the use of violence that nonviolence is sometimes the only choice. Jewish law (both ancient and modern) prohibits the use of force unless in self-defence.²⁶ Anyone who simply threatens violence against another is bad.²⁷ Judaism's religious concept places a heavy emphasis on compassion and peace; the Hebrew Bible, after all, contains the famous injunctions to love God and to love one's neighbour as one loves oneself.²⁸ The essential elements of Jewish law are love, peace, and the search for peace. While there are exceptions to the no-war rule in Jewish law, one must always exhaust diplomatic options before resorting to force.²⁹

When battle time comes, Jewish troops are obligated by the Torah to fight in a certain way. According to Jewish military ethics, it is necessary to strike a balance between the worth of human life and the need of combat and battle. Judaism is unlike any other religion because it stresses fidelity to Jewish values. Even in conflict, the Torah lays down the following guidelines for conducting oneself in combat.

- Avoid choosing war as an option whenever possible.
- The ecological needs of the environment must be protected.
- Please don't lose sight of the fact that human life is precious.
- The goal, after all, is tranquillity.³⁰

4 Ways to forward peace

Followers of certain faiths can work toward a world where peace and harmony are the norm by taking the following actions:

While the media may play a vital role in promoting peace and communal harmony, they are not doing so in the present.

The teaching of religious studies at all grade levels should emphasize the promotion of peace and religious tolerance.

- The Islamic faith is widely misunderstood and misrepresented. Judgment of Muslims must be made in accordance with Islamic agreements:
- There is a role for houses of worship and religious institutions to play in spreading the message of peace and tolerance to the people in their communities.
- There is a need for a full grasp of our religion and, as a result, we should model the peaceful behaviour of the prophets after whom we take our cues.

Leaders in government shouldn't use religious sentiment for electoral gain. Additionally, religious matters should remain non-partisan.

For any religious issue to be resolved, members of the various faiths involved need to be able to talk to one another and try to figure out what each other is going through.

A professor of ecumenical theology, Dr. Hans Kung, speaks for all those who seek peace when he states,



"There will be no peace among nations without peace among the religions, and there will be no peace among religions without dialogues among the religions."

At last, I leave you with these views;

In this section of the article, we examine the need for the reinforcement of selected international agreements and covenants. A people clearly in need of international agreements to eradicate weapons and the arms trade, citing Jesus' command to his disciples to lay down their swords as an example, is protected under human rights accords (Mathew 25:52) The Christian authors' call for international collaboration goes beyond the duty of governments to work together; they also urge non-governmental organizations and advocates for peace to broaden their cooperative strategic partnerships.

Conclusion

Regrettably, modern religious leaders have perverted religion and watered down the prophets' original messages for their own political and personal gain. After doing some research, we realized that the societal message given by these religions was remarkably similar. None of the prophets ever preached against humanity, and their primary goal was to keep the peace and brotherhood among humans. The holy texts of various faiths share a message of nonviolence and mutual respect. In addition, the Prophets have given us Instructions for a tranquil and contented existence. Among the virtues that these religions exhort their adherents to embrace is tolerance, as the research shows. Because elucidating and emphasizing the religion's basic ideas has led to misinterpretation and abuse, it has become clear that followers should return to the teachings of their prophets. It's not the religion

that's dividing the people, but the religion that's uniting them. Maintaining calm is a prerequisite for making any kind of headway in modern culture. The presence of peace, harmony, and tranquillity is essential to the development of every civilization. *"There is no way to peace, peace is the way"* (A.J. Muste)

And let there be peace everywhere and "let it begin with me".

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