**Islam, Christianity, Judaism Comparison Lecture Notes**

**Directions:** While Ms. Babbitt is giving the lecture, you should be following along, making QUALITY annotations, including underlining AND marginal notes!

Slide 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* I’ll begin by looking at similarities and differences between the beliefs of the three religions. Beliefs meaning the religious doctrine and truths they each hold.

Slide 3 and 4: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* **All 3 religions share a foundation in Zoroastrianism**, which was considered the first monotheistic religion.
* In Jewish monotheism, Yahweh is seen as the sole creator.
* In Christian monotheism, the Holy Trinity exists – three “persons” in one god (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit).
* In Muslim monotheism, God is seen a single being with no equals. Muslim monotheism is much more strict than Judaism or Christianity.

Slide 5: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* **All three of these religions believe that God created \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.
* As such, **each of the creation stories in each of their holy texts (the Torah, the Bible, and the Quran) are incredibly similar, including the story of Adam**.

Slide 6: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* All **three of these religions also believe that God will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the dead at the end of time, after a period of violence and “tribulation**.”
* Jewish people believe that Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel reveal that God will create a new heaven and earth and all will return to the garden of Eden. **Jesus has no role because Jews do not believe in Jesus as the Messiah.**
* **Christians believe that Jesus affirms that God will judge the living and the dead, and create a new heaven and earth.**
* Remember: Jesus was born into the Roman Empire with court systems and structured government– thus leading to a sense of judgment and justice in the Christian end.
* **Muslims believe that all humanity will die, and the dead will be resurrected and judged as a fire consumes the earth.**
* **Muslims also believe Jesus will return, but not to judge the living and dead but rather to fight against evil.** After an epic battle against evil, all souls will be judged and a fire will consume the Earth leaving nothing but Allah.
* **The violent imagery stems from Islam’s roots in Bedouin communities fought with tribal warfare in Arabia**.

Slide 7: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* **Abraham (Ibrahim in Arabic) is revered as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in all 3 religions. He is renowned for being obedient to God, building the Ka’ba (the holiest temple, lies in the middle of the mosque in Mecca), and as the patriarch of the Jewish and Arab people**.
* His son Ishmael was the patriarch of the Arab tribes, and Isaac the patriarch of the Israelites, including Jesus.
* **All three religions see their families descending from the same tribe. Again, we see the influence of geography**.

Slide 8: Importance of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* **Jerusalem was an important \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ center during the height of all three religions, and therefore we see it play a central role in all 3 religions**.
* For Jews, the temple of Jerusalem was built by King Solomon and held the Ten Commandments (Ark of the Covenant). It was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE, then rebuilt under Cyrus (Persia) in 538 BCE, and destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE during a Jewish revolt. Only the Western Wall remains.
* For Christians, Jerusalem is the place where Jesus was tried, executed, buried, and ascended to heaven.
* For Muslims, Jerusalem holds a shrine called The Dome of the Rock. This shrine covers the foundation stone, from which Muhammad ascended into heaven. Muslims also believe that this is where an angel will sound the trumpet of Resurrection Day.

Slide 9: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* J**ews believe that Jesus was a false prophet and the Messiah is still yet to come**.
* Christians believe Jesus was born to Mary, a virgin. He performed miracles through the power of God and was the Messiah**. Jesus was the son of God, and as such another form of God. He was crucified and resurrected.**
* Muslims **agree with Christians in that Jesus was a prophet speaking the word of God. But Muslims do not believe that Jesus was the last prophet nor the Messiah**, and to worship Jesus is considered blasphemy. Muhammad was the last and final prophet.

Slide 11: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Now that we’ve looked at each religion’s beliefs, let’s look at their religious practices, or the actions they take to show their faith.

Slide 12:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* The Jewish faith forbids eating shellfish, pork, or dead animals. Animals must be slaughtered by cutting the neck and draining the blood.
* The Muslim faith believes in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ food restrictions as Judaism, but also forbids alcohol or “intoxicants”
* **The restrictions on eating pork is a religious response to a biological problem**. In the Middle East, pigs in warm areas are subject to parasites and many would become sickened by eating pork. Moreover, **Judaism and Islam are much more law-based faiths about the rules God has set forth for his faithful**.
* In the Christian faith**, there are few restrictions on food. As Christianity spread beyond the Middle East to Europe and Asia, these issues didn’t matter as much**. Christianity also marked a shift away from God’s law and emphasized God’s emotion and love.

Slide 13: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* The Jewish faith **calls for a total fast on Yom Kippur**, a day of atonement and reflection.
* **In the Classical Period, Christians fasted on Wednesdays/Fridays**, and went without meat during Lent. **This view has changed over time.**
* The **Muslim faith calls for a daily fast during Ramadan. Fasting is seen as the great equalizer; Islam strived for a classless society and a unified community.**

Slide 14: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Jews, Christians, and Muslims are all are encouraged to help \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **All 3 religions started with a following in the lower classes- this was a way to appeal to them. They also expected religion to be a social phenomenon to better a community, not just a personal affair.**
* Jews believe they have an obligation to help those in need.
* Christians believe they should follow Jesus’ example of charity and kindness.
* Muslims are required to give a minimum of 2.5% of their income to help the poor.

Slide 15: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* In Judaism, Polygamy was practiced early, but was extremely rare. A man can initiate divorce with a written document, while a woman could sue in rabbinical court for a divorce. Again**, we see Judaism’s roots in God’s law; marriage is seen as a legal contract.**
* In Christianity, polygamy was almost never practiced. Divorce was forbidden by Jesus. For Christians, this stemmed from a belief in God’s love. Because Jesus gave his eternal love, **divorcing a person was reflective of divorcing God from his people.**
* In Islam, polygamy is allowed (up to 4 wives), but is not common in most Islamic nations. Both men and women can initiate divorce orally without restrictions. This stems from women’s more equal role in a nomadic society; **divorce is easier when women are a vital component of the economic structure of the tribe.**