

Christianity, Cults & Religion

Buddhism

**Jehovah's
Witnesses**

Mormonism

Islam

Judaism

Scientology

New Age

Taoism

Hinduism

**Christian
Science**

Christianity

Wicca



Christianity, Cults & Religion

Purpose –

- To strengthen our foundation as Christians
 - Know what others believe
 - Know what their beliefs are founded on
 - Compare those beliefs and foundations with Christianity

Overview

Week 1

Religions by Size

Religions by Location

Hinduism

Briefly: Hare Krishna

Transcendental Meditation

Religion Adherents

Christianity: 2.1 billion

Islam: 1.5 billion

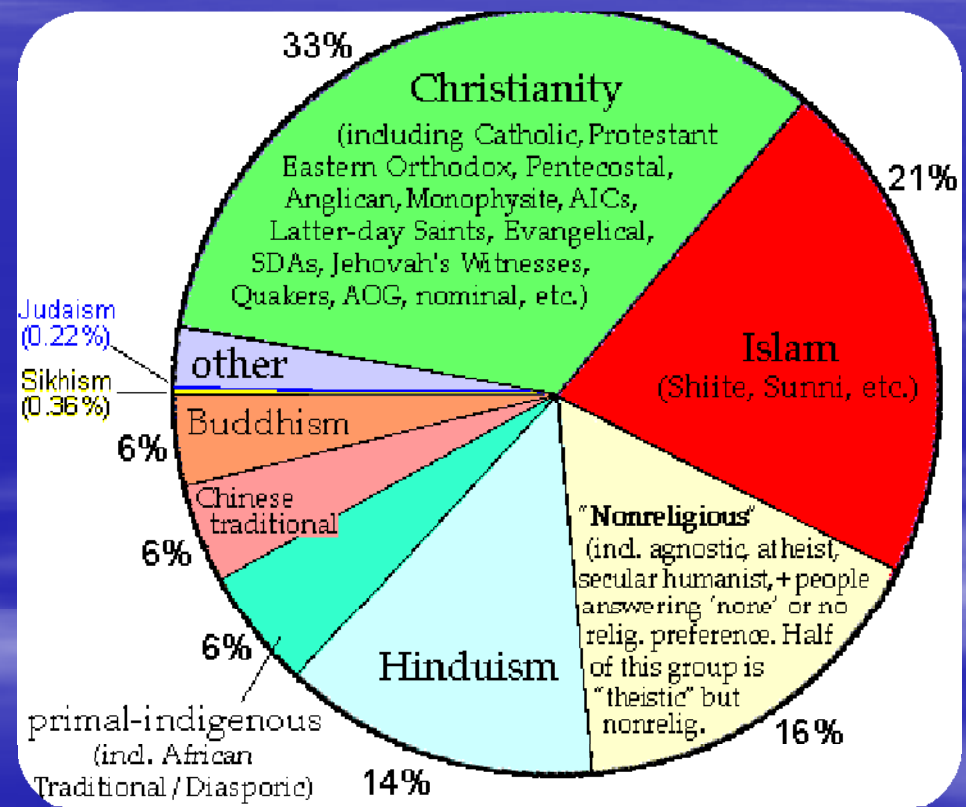
Hinduism: 900 million

Buddhism: 376 million

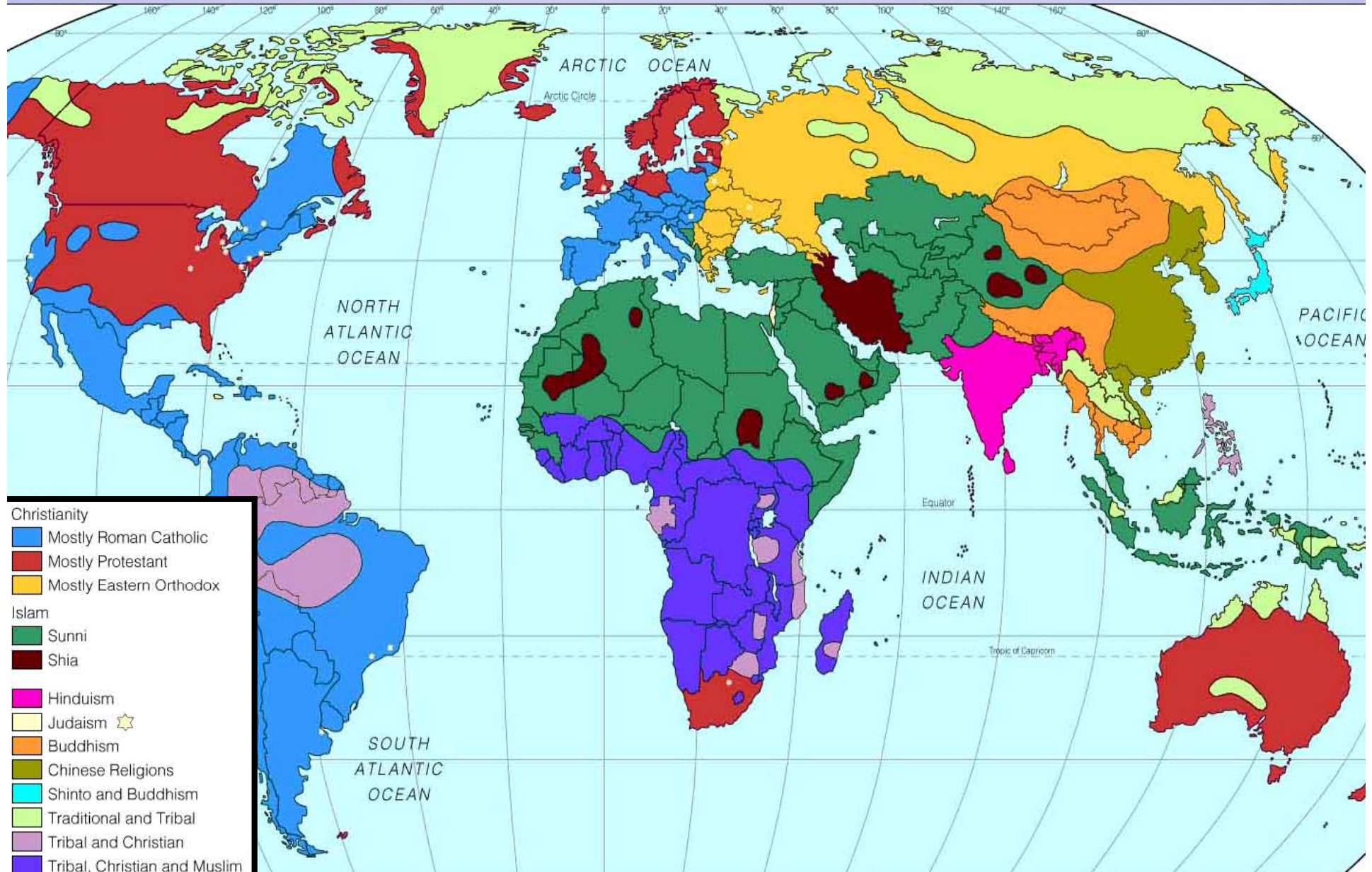
Judaism: 14 million

Nonreligious: 1.1 billion

www.adherents.com



Distribution of World Religions



HINDUISM

FOUNDER

- No one founder

DATE

- 1800-1000 BC

LOCATION

- Indus River Valley
India



HINDUISM



Beliefs and Practices

Yoga

Meditation

Reincarnation

All paths lead to God

Man is basically good and full of unlimited potential

Contradicting truth claims can all be true

Being one with God

HINDUISM

Spread and Influence

Introduced to the U.S. & England in the 1960's by...



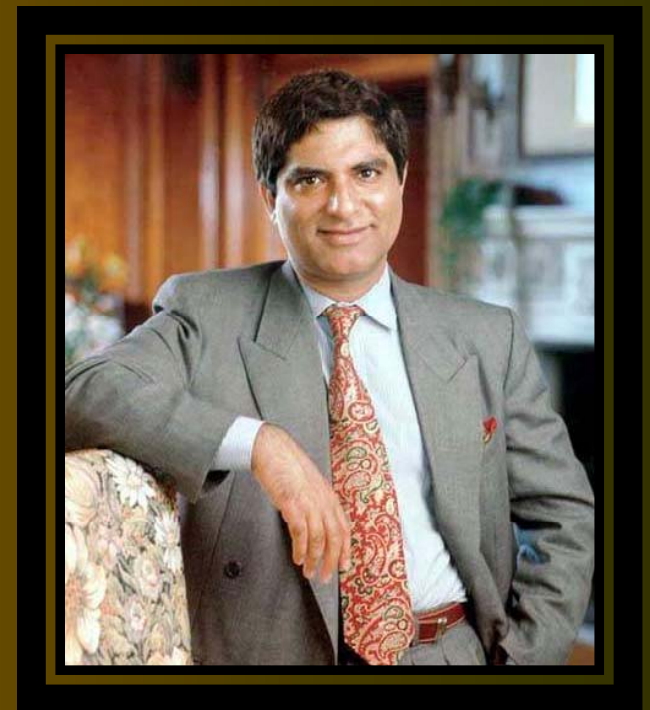
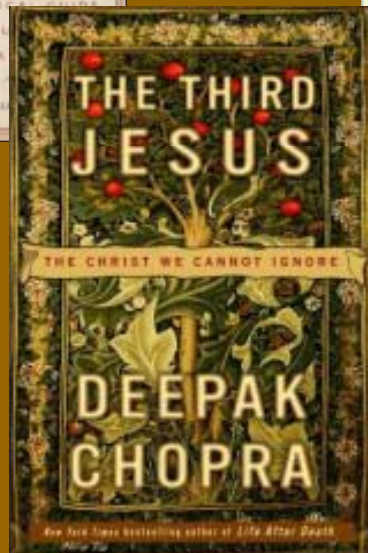
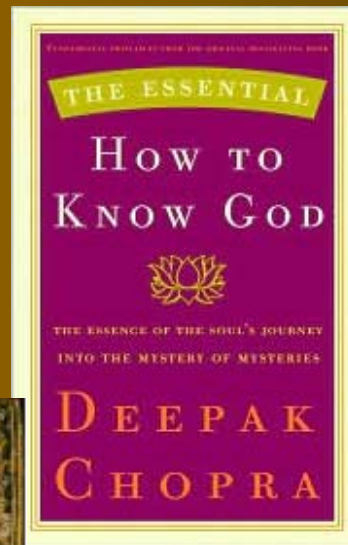
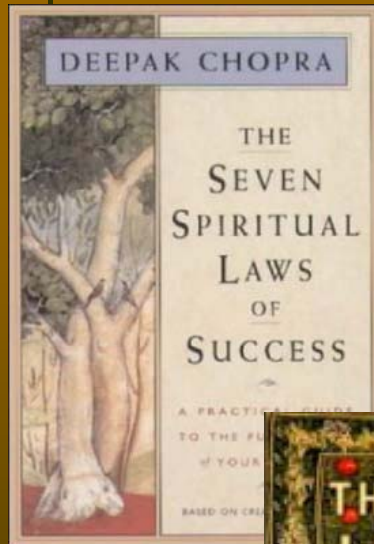
Hindu spiritual
guru by the
name of
Maharishi
Mahesh Yogi
(1918 – 2008)



The Beatles

HINDUISM

Spread and Influence



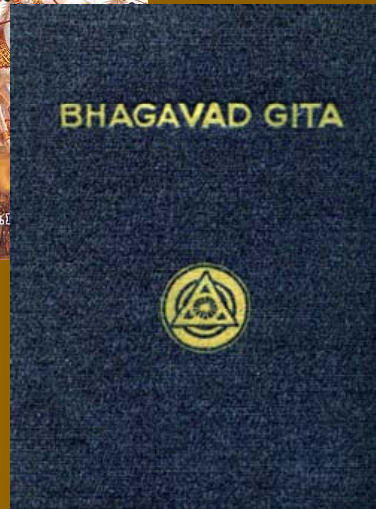
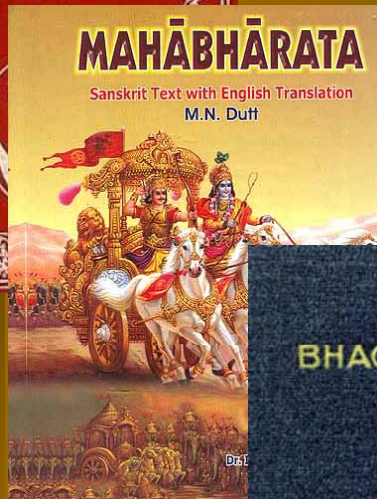
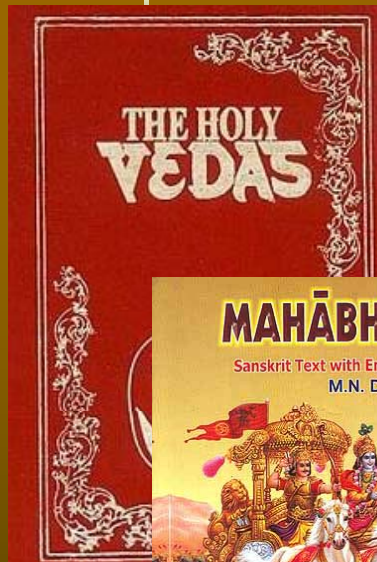
Deepak Chopra

HINDUISM



KEY WRITINGS

- **The Vedas**
(the oldest dating from about 1000 BC)
- **The Mahabharata**
(400 BC – 400 AD)
- **The *Bhagavad-Gita***
(Added to Mahabharata 1st Century AD)



HINDUISM

Beliefs

1) Belief in Brahman

Supreme Deity



HINDUISM

Beliefs



1) Monotheism = One God

Judaism, Christianity, Islam

2) Polytheism = Many Gods

Greeks, Mormons, Tribal Religions

3) Pantheism = All is God / God is All

Hinduism

New Age

Christian Science

Scientology

Wicca

HINDUISM

Beliefs



1) Belief in Brahman

Supreme Deity

Impersonal, Indefinable

330 Million Avatars

(Manifestations of Brahman)

HINDUISM

What the Bible Says

God is Personal

John 14:23

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."



HINDUISM

What the Bible Says

God is Knowable

Jeremiah 9:24

"But let him who glories glory in this,
That he understands and knows Me, That
I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness,
judgment, and righteousness in the earth.
For in these I delight," says the Lord.



HINDUISM

What the Bible Says

God is the Creator

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.



HINDUISM

Beliefs

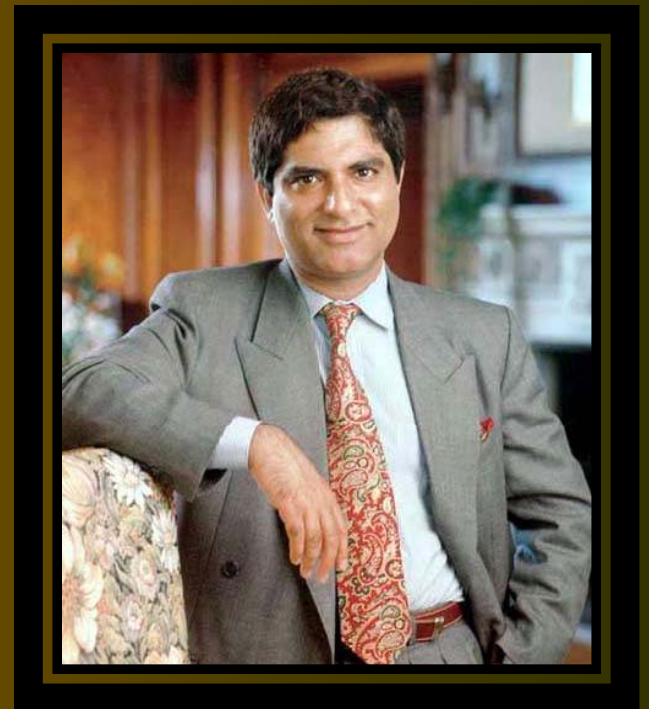
2) Man is One with God

Man is an extension of Brahman

Man is God

"...we remain unfulfilled unless we nurture the seeds of divinity inside us. In reality we *are* divinity in disguise, and the gods and goddesses in embryo that are contained within us seek to be fully materialized"

The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success...pg 3



HINDUISM

Beliefs

2) Man is One with God

Man is an extension of Brahman

Man is God



HINDUISM

What the Bible Says

Man is Created

Psalm 100:3

Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.



HINDUISM

Beliefs



3) Humanity's Problem Is Ignorance

Hinduism teaches that humanity's main problem is the mistaken belief that we are individuals and not one with the ultimate divine reality, Brahman.

HINDUISM

What the Bible Says

Man's Problem is Sin

Isaiah 59:2

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.



HINDUISM

What the Bible Says

Man's Problem is Sin

Genesis 3:4-5

Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."



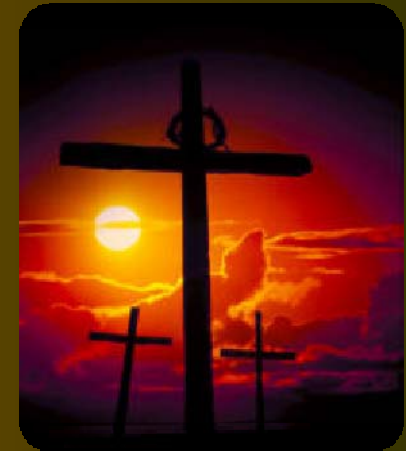
HINDUISM

What the Bible Says

God's Solution

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death,
but the gift of God is eternal life
in Christ Jesus our Lord.



HINDUISM

Beliefs

- 1) Belief in Brahman
- 2) Man is One with God
- 3) Humanity's Problem Is Ignorance



HINDUISM

Beliefs

4) Samsara

Reincarnation

The cycle of life, death and rebirth.

Karma = Action

For the Hindu, a person's actions in this life, sins or even acts of ignorance, determine the kind of body into which he or she will be reincarnated in the next lifetime.



HINDUISM

What the Bible Says

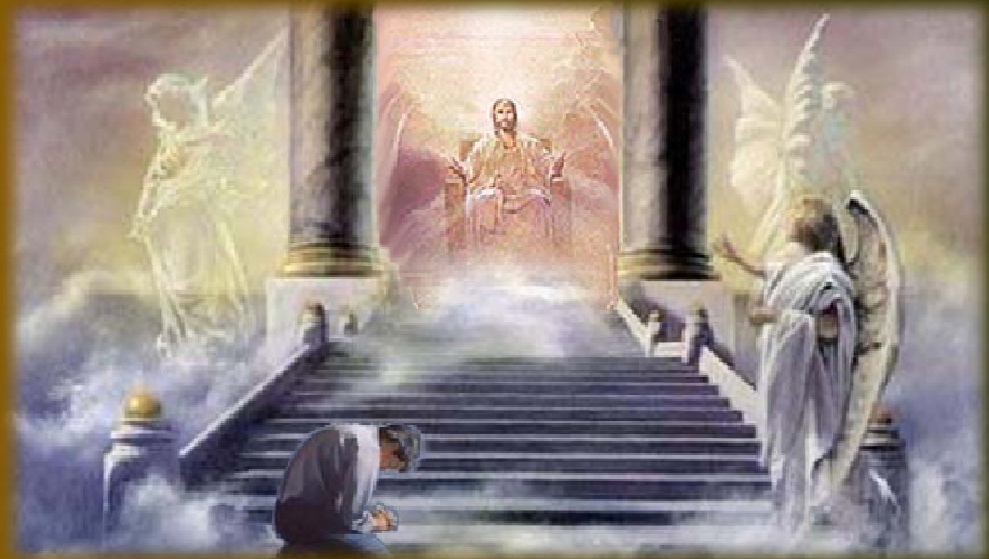


Hebrews 9:27

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

2 Corinthians 5:8

We are confident,
yes, well pleased
rather to be absent
from the body
and to be present
with the Lord.



HINDUISM

Beliefs

- 1) Belief in Brahman
- 2) Man is One with God
- 3) Humanity's Problem Is Ignorance
- 4) Samsara



HINDUISM

Beliefs



5) Moksha

Liberation

To achieve moksha is to experience liberation from the karma that has kept one in the cycle of samsara.

The Hindu achieves Moksha through...

- 1) The Way of Works
- 2) The Way of Devotion
- 3) The Way of Knowledge

HINDUISM

What the Bible Says

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.



HINDUISM

What the Bible Says

Titus 3:4-5

But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,



HINDUISM

What the Bible Says

Galatians 2:16

knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.



HINDUISM

Beliefs

- 1) Belief in Brahman
- 2) Man is One with God
- 3) Humanity's Problem Is Ignorance
- 4) Samsara
- 5) Moksha



HINDUISM



WHO IS GOD?

- According to Hinduism, God is “The Absolute,” a universal spirit.
- Everyone is part of God (“Brahman”), like drops in the sea, but most people are not aware of it.
- People worship manifestations of Brahman (gods and goddesses).

HINDUISM



WHO IS JESUS?

- According to Hinduism, Jesus is a teacher, a guru, or an “avatar” (to some, an incarnation of the god Vishnu).
- He is a son of God, as are others.
- His death does not atone for sins.
- He did not rise from the dead.

HINDUISM



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?



- The Holy Spirit is not part of this belief.

HINDUISM

HOW TO BE SAVED



- Hindus generally regard salvation as release from the cycles of reincarnation.
- Salvation may be attained through yoga and meditation.
- Salvation can take many lifetimes to achieve.
- Final salvation is absorption or union with Brahman.

HINDUISM

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH



- If one has been bad, one can be reborn and pay for past sins (bad karma) by suffering.
- Reincarnation into a better status (good karma) if person has behaved well.

HINDUISM

OTHER BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

- Some disciples wear orange robes and have shaved heads.
- Many Hindus worship stone and wooden idols in temples.
- Some gurus demand complete obedience.



HINDUISM

OTHER BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

- Disciples meditate on a word, phrase, or picture.
- Yoga involves meditation, chanting, postures, breathing exercises.
- Foundation of New Age and Transcendental Meditation.



*The Sanskrit word
“Om” is a sound
used in meditation*

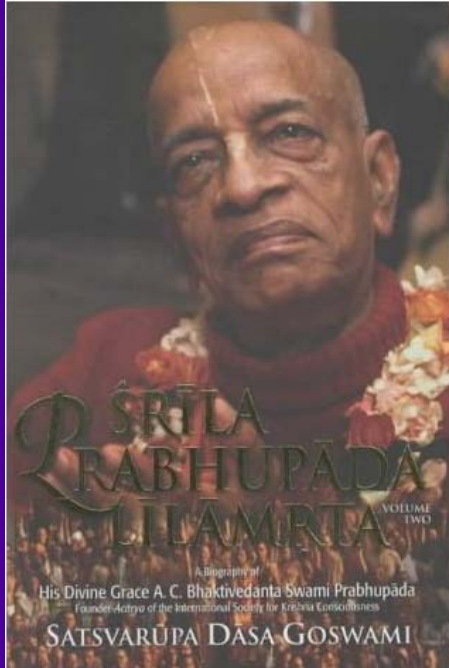
HARE KRISHNA

International Society for Krishna Consciousness



FOUNDER

- **A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada (1896-1977)**



DATE

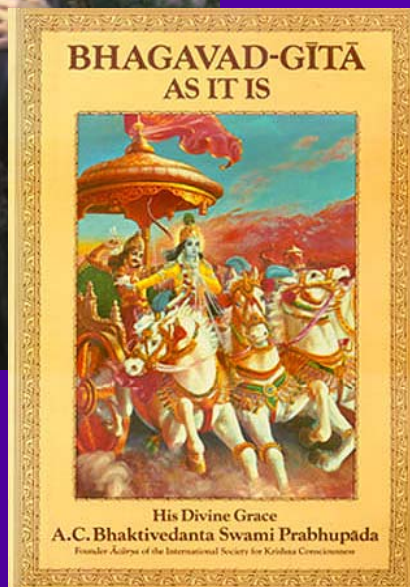
- **Founded in the U.S. in 1965. Based on Hindu teachings from the 16th century AD.**

LOCATION

- **New York**

HARE KRISHNA

International Society for Krishna Consciousness



KEY WRITINGS

- *Back to Godhead* magazine
- Prabhupada's translations of and commentaries on Hindu scriptures, especially *Bhagavad-Gita as It Is*.

HARE KRISHNA

International Society for Krishna Consciousness



WHO IS GOD?

- According to ISKCON, God is Lord Krishna (Krsna).
- Krishna is a personal creator.
- The souls of all living things are part of him.
- ISKCON teaches that what Krishna does freely for his own pleasure (such as intoxication, sex outside of marriage) is prohibited to his devotees.

HARE KRISHNA

International Society for Krishna Consciousness



WHO IS JESUS?

- Jesus is not important in this group.
- He is usually thought of as an enlightened vegetarian teacher who taught meditation.
- He is not an incarnation of God.
- Some Krishna devotees consider Jesus to be Krishna. Others say he is a great avatar (teacher).

HARE KRISHNA

International Society for Krishna Consciousness



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- The Holy Spirit is not part of this belief.

HARE KRISHNA

International Society for Krishna Consciousness



HOW TO BE SAVED

In order to be released from bad karma, followers:

- Devote themselves to Krishna
- Chant Krishna's name constantly
- Worship images
- Commit to obey the rules of ISKCON throughout many reincarnated lives.



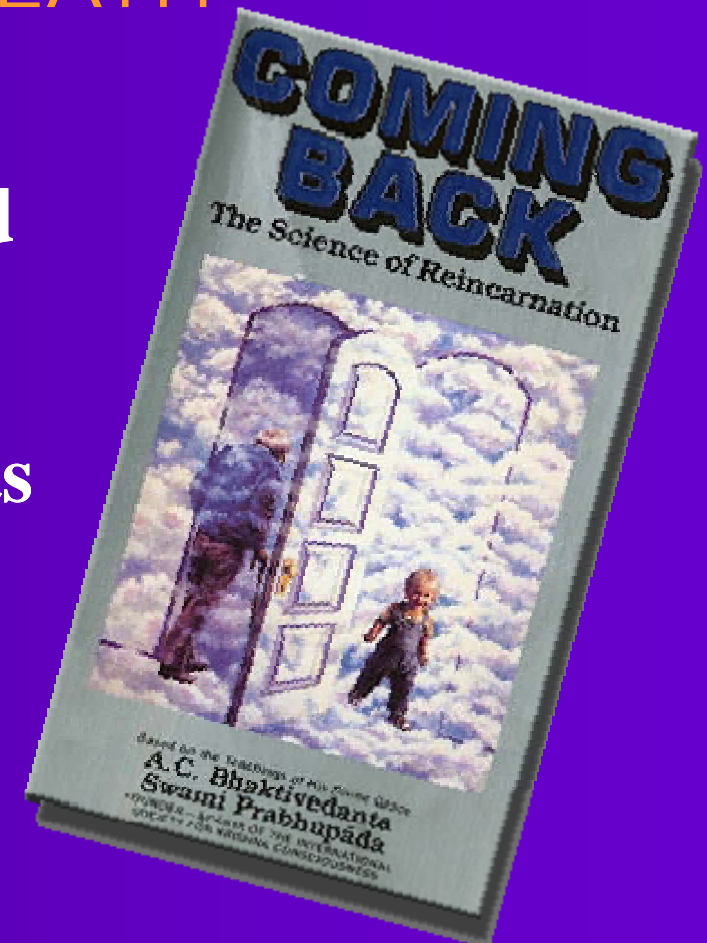
HARE KRISHNA

International Society for Krishna Consciousness



WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH

- Those who are unenlightened continue in endless reincarnation (rebirth on earth) based on the sinful acts of a person's previous life.



HARE KRISHNA

International Society for Krishna Consciousness



OTHER BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

- Public chanting of Hare Krishna mantra
- Yoga
- Food offerings
- Soliciting donations
- Vegetarian diet
- No intoxicants
- No gambling
- Sex for procreation only



HARE KRISHNA

International Society for Krishna Consciousness

OTHER BELIEFS AND PRACTICES



- Followers are given new names and often cut family ties.
- ISKCON attracts new members through feasts and Indian cultural programs.

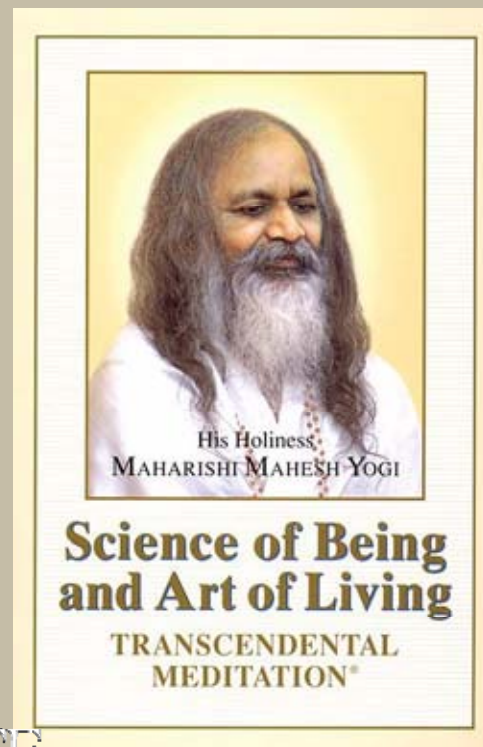
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FOUNDER

- Maharishi Mahesh Yogi (1918 - 2008).



DATE

- Founded 1955-1958 in India, based on Hinduism and karma yoga.

LOCATION

- Headquarters in the Netherlands.

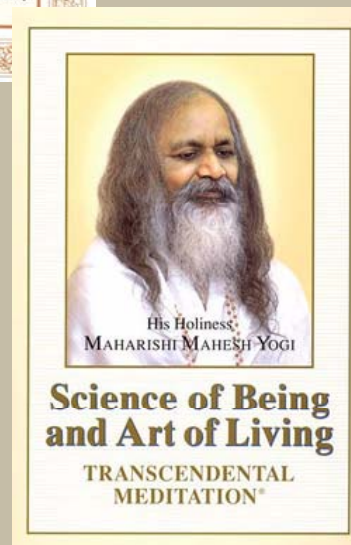
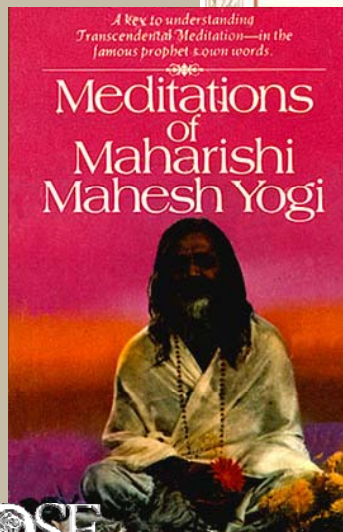
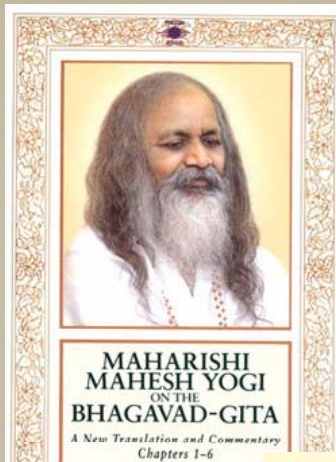
TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION

World Plan Executive Council



KEY WRITINGS

- Hindu scriptures, including the *Bhagavad-Gita*
- *Meditations of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi*
- *Science of Being and Art of Living*
- ... and other writings by the founder



TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION

World Plan Executive Council



WHO IS GOD?

- Each part of creation makes up “God” (Brahman).
- The Supreme Being is not personal.
- All creation is divine, and “all is one.”

TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION

World Plan Executive Council



WHO IS JESUS?

- According to the Maharishi, Jesus is not uniquely God.
 - Like all persons, Jesus had a divine essence.
 - Unlike most, he discovered it.
- He didn't suffer and couldn't suffer for people's sins.

TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION

World Plan Executive Council



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- **The Holy Spirit is not part of this belief.**

TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION

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HOW TO BE SAVED

- **Humans have forgotten their inner divinity.**
- **Salvation consists of doing good in excess of evil in order to evolve to the highest state (final union of the self with Brahman) through reincarnation.**

TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION

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WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH

- **Reincarnation based on karma (reaping the consequences of one's actions) until loss of self into union with Brahman.**
- **No heaven or hell.**

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OTHER BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

- **Followers mentally recite a mantra (word associated with a Hindu god).**
- **Followers meditate twice a day to relax and achieve union with Brahman.**

TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION

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OTHER BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

- Maharishi University of Management in Iowa offers advanced T.M. programs in “levitation” and “invisibility.”



ROSE
PUBLISHING



TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION

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OTHER BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

Practices include:

- **Yoga**
- **Hindu astrology**
- **use of crystals**
- **idol worship**
 - **offerings of flowers, fruit,
and cloth for Maharishi's
dead teacher (Guru Dev)**

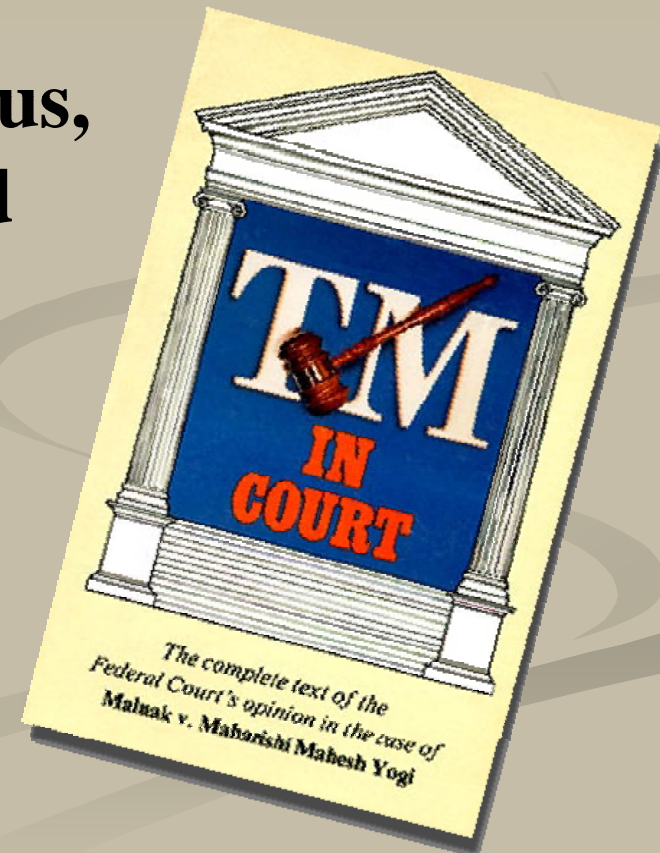
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OTHER BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

- TM claims not to be religious, but courts have determined that it is.



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