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SECTION I

WORLD RELIGIONS

TRIBAL RELIGIONS

(c. 120 million adherents)

FOUNDER: No particular one individual, though individuals from various nationalities have given their particular tribal religion its uniqueness and direction. These may have included priests, shamans, witch doctors or philosophers.

GOD(S): Usually various gods or deities of tribe, village, nature or ancestors. But, the followers often look beyond to a single Creator God who is above all gods. The spirits or deities receive their strength from the Supreme God.

SCRIPTURES: Various traditions and tribal legends and rituals which were handed down mainly by word of mouth. Some regulations may be altered as generations change and practices become obsolete.

HISTORY: There is no single history which covers the various tribal religions. Many seem to have developed according to happenings in nature and fear of certain events (lightning, thunders, earthquakes for example) which were not understood. Normal happenings in life--birth, adulthood, marriage, death--gave reason for rejoicing or sorrowing. This caused the followers to look to a higher power. These tribal religions are usually found in the more underdeveloped areas of the world.

BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:

* Some Common Features:

1. Animism: Nature and the world around is alive with spirits and mystical forces (personal or impersonal), thus things are worshipped and venerated.
2. Magic: Attempting to force nature to one's will. Sympathetic Magic attempts to coerce nature to behave in a certain manner by performing that act oneself on a smaller scale (example: voodoo dolls) Fetish--an object that controls nature in a magical fashion (example: lucky rabbits' feet)
3. Divination: Seeing into the future, usually through the use of a Shaman.
4. Taboo: Certain actions and objects must be avoided so as not to anger the spirit world.

5. Totems: Some primitive religions express the kinship they feel with nature, for example, identifying themselves with a particular animal.
 6. Sacrifice: One of the most common practices of all religions. It is variously considered in terms of feeding the spirits, giving a gift to the spirits, or establishing a bond between men and the spirits.
 7. Rites of Passage: Certain rituals are carried out at key points in the life of a person.
 8. Worship of Ancestors: Believing that the soul lives on after the death of the body, led to efforts to avert the evil the dead might do. Ancestors are worshipped to also please the dead so they will benefit the living.
- * Evil is caused by human mistakes, chance and malicious sorcery.
 - * Goal is to fulfill one's particular destiny now (a tribal position, attaining old age, dying of natural causes, bearing children). Salvation or the future are not considered much.
 - * For spiritual help tribal members go to the diviners or seek help from ancestor spirits.
 - * Belief that man and God became estranged when a greedy man tried to take too much food. Also, a belief that man was cursed by a lizard-like creature.
 - * Worship consists of family rites, personal prayers, use of religious objects, and offerings made to a deity.
 - * Circumcision is practiced in some tribes of New Guinea.
 - * Shamans or holy men help reveal the will of God to the laity.
 - * With some tribes, possession by a spirit of the deity is desirable.

MAN:

Belief in the immortal soul concept. Some believe a person has two souls. One goes off to where the dead go (there is no heaven - hell concept) after hovering around the cemetery. The other stays around the family shrine in the home. When a "special" child is born with unique features, it is thought that the ancestor has been reincarnated. Most of man's purpose is concerned with the present life with little thought of the afterlife. When dead, it is believed that the spirit or soul which lives on is more powerful than when the person was alive.

LOCATION:

The underdeveloped areas of Africa, the Americas, Australia, Asia and the isles of the Pacific.

HINDUISM

(c. 660 million adherents)

FOUNDER: No precise founding, but grew up largely between 1500 B.C. and 400 B.C.

GOD(S): Brahman: "World Soul" is a three-in-one god or Trimurti.

1. Brahma: Creator who is largely ignored in worship.
2. Vishnu: Preserver who is actively worshipped particularly as Krishna.
3. Shiva: Destroyer who is both worshipped and feared.

Millions or lesser gods or spirits are also revered.

SCRIPTURES: THE VEDAS--Hymns and rituals of priests which are the fundamental scriptures. The RIG VEDA is the oldest and most important of the Vedas.

The UPANISHADS are commentaries on the Vedas.

The BHAGAVAD GITA is an epic poem which is the most influential document in the religious history of India. It means "the Lord's Song."

HISTORY: Aryans (meaning "Noble Ones") led by rajahs or chieftains were nomads who invaded India from Persia between 1700-1500 B.C. They were Indo-European and brought the worship of multiple gods with them. Their beliefs became mixed with the native Indian traditions to form what we now know as Hinduism. The Hindu faith endured many difficult and trying periods. From 500 B.C. to 500 A.D. internal difficulties both politically and economically caused the religion to fit more the character of the Indian people.

Then, the Hindus had to endure 750 years of subjection to the Muslims (999-1757 A.D.). Christianity tried to leave its mark on India, but did not succeed when the Europeans (mainly the British) dominated India from 1757-1947.

One of the most famous modern Hindus was Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) who through his pacifism and fasting led the Indians to independence. Hinduism remains the dominant religion of India.

BELIEFS AND
CHARACTERISTICS:

- * Karma--the force that binds the soul to an endless cycle of death and rebirth unless it is broken--good from good, evil from evil, law of cause and effect.
- * Moksha--release, to become at one with the universal spirit.
- * No Founder and No Fixed Creed.
- * Hindu Religious Practice--is very personal.
- * Two Common Beliefs of All Hindus:
 1. Validity of the Vedas--as the inspired Word
 2. Caste system--all people are born into one of four levels or castes.
- * Caste System:
 1. Brahmin--holy men
 2. Kshatriya--rulers and warriors
 3. Vaishyas--merchants and craftsmen
 4. Sudras--commoners

Each caste has its own specialized duties (Dharma).
- * Transmigration of Souls--you move from caste to caste in various lives. The ultimate goal is to learn to deny the world and thus achieve release or moksha.
- * Vishnu--had many avatars or appearances as a fish, tortoise, dwarf, Rama, Krishna, Buddha. The last one is yet to come. Kalkin--a warrior, will appear on a white steed with flaming sword, will judge the evil ones, reward the righteous and set up an ideal world.
- * Personal Salvation--can be obtained through a number of ways:
 1. Jnana--knowledge (asceticism, meditation)
 2. Karma--deeds (obedience to caste rules)
 3. Bhakti--devotion (worship of the gods)
- * Four Goals:
 1. Dharma (specified duties of one's caste)
 2. Artha (worldly concern--how to get along with the world legitimately)

3. Kama (pursuit of love and pleasure)
 4. Moksha (release)
- * Ideal life cycle of man in Hinduism (from the Code of Manu) as a man grows older:
 1. Student
 2. Householder
 3. Hermit
 4. Wandering beggar
 - * The Cow is sacred because it exemplifies non-aggression and non-materialism.

MAN:

Has an immortal soul, separated from the soul of the universe, doomed to endless reincarnation unless the cycle is broken.

- * There is seemingly no purpose to this life except man seeks to be released from the endless cycle of death and rebirth and to be united with the spirit of the universe through works.
- * Salvation from the cycle of death and rebirth is through works. Works can be rituals, good deeds, meditation, or devotion to God.
- * Mankind are souls destined to inhabit the bodies of men and beasts until finally released.

LOCATION:

India, Indonesia, Indian communities throughout the world.

SAYINGS OF HINDUISM

"In this world a two-fold basis (of religion)
Has been declared by Me of old, blameless one:
By the discipline of knowledge of the followers of reason-method,
And by the discipline of action of the followers of discipline-method"

"For desired enjoyments to you the gods
Will give, prospered by worship;
Without giving to them, their gifts
Whoso enjoys, is nothing but a thief."

"Good men who eat the remnants of (food offered in) worship
Are freed from all sins;
But those wicked men eat evil
Who cook for their own selfish sakes."

"All actions of the senses
And actions of breath, others
In the fire of the discipline of control of self
Offer up, when it has been kindled by knowledge."

"Learn to know this by obeisance (to those who can teach it),
By questioning (them), by serving (them);
They will teach thee knowledge,
Those who have knowledge, who see the truth."

"The man of faith gets knowledge,
Intent solely upon it, restraining his senses.
Having got knowledge, to supreme peace
In no long time he goes."

"Fearlessness, purification of essence,
Steadfastness in the discipline of knowledge,
Generosity, control, and religious worship,
Study of the Holy Word, austerities, uprightness,
Harmlessness, truth, no anger,
Abandonment, serenity, no backbiting,
Compassion towards creatures, no greedy desire,
Gentleness, modesty, no fickleness,"

"There are two creations of beings in this world,
The divine and the demoniac."

"Without truth, without religious basis, they
Say is the world, without a God,
Not originating in regular mutual causation;
In short, motivated by desire alone."

"Egotism, force, pride,
Desire, and wrath they have taken to,
Me in their own and others' bodies
Hating, these envious men.
These cruel and hateful
Base men, in the ceaseless round of existences,
These wicked ones, I constantly hurl
Into demoniac wombs alone."

"Men of goodness worship the gods,
Men of passion sprites and ogres,
To ghosts and the hordes of goblins others,
The folk of darkness, pay worship."

"Actions of worship, gift, and austerity
Must not be abandoned, but rather performed;
Worship, gift, and austerity
Are purifiers of the wise."

(The quotations above were taken from BHAGAVAD GITA.)

"Find the reward of doing right, in right."

"That man alone is wise who remains master of himself."

"Do your allotted task! Work excels idleness."

"To die performing duty is no ill."

"Knowing truth, your heart will ache no more with error."

"Whoever offers Me in faith and love a leaf, a flower, a fruit, or water poured forth, that offering made lovingly, with pious will, I accept."

"Those who worship me with love, I love; they are in me, and I in them."

"The fruit of lust is pain and toil."

"The fruit of ignorance is deeper darkness."

"Religion shown in act of proud display is rash and vain."

(The quotations above were taken from WHAT THE GREAT RELIGIONS BELIEVE by Joseph Gaer.)

JAINISM

(c. 2 million adherents)

FOUNDER: Nataputta Vardhamana, known as Mahavira ("Great Hero"). Lived from 599 to 467 B.C.

GOD(S): The 24 Tirthankaras ("Crossing Builders")--Ideal men who linked this life with Nirvana.

SCRIPTURES: AGAMAS ("precepts") or SIDDHANTAS ("treatises"). The various Jain sects differ as to which are the authoritative sermons of Mahavira.

HISTORY: 23 figures preceded Mahavira in the founding of Jainism, according to legend, building a bridge between this life and Nirvana.

Mahavira was born into the Kshatriya Caste in Northern India--the second son of a minor ruler. A wealthy young man, he married and had a daughter, but was unhappy and sought a religious answer through extreme asceticism and "Ahimsa" (non-injury to any living thing). He became known as a "Jain" (conqueror) because he achieved release from endless cycle of birth and death after 12 years of asceticism. Living another 30 years he died at age 72.

By 80 A.D. Jainism was divided into two sects--the liberal Svetambara ("White Clad") whose monks wear clothes, and the orthodox Digambara ("Sky Clad") whose monks wander around nearly nude, and who believe women cannot obtain salvation. In 1473, the Sthanakavasi sect arose in opposition to all idols and temples.

Because of Ahimsa and their honesty the Jains tend to do well in business. There are fewer than 2 million "pure" Jains, mainly concentrated in the Bombay region.

BELIEFS AND

CHARACTERISTICS:

- * The soul is trapped in matter and can be released through severe asceticism.
- * Salvation must be worked out by the individual--thus the gods are unimportant.
- * Vows: All Jains try to keep the first three vows; monks try to keep all five.
 1. Non-injury of life (Ahimsa). They eat vegetables (preferably left over from someone else's meal), strain water lest they

drink any creatures in the water, sweep the ground before them lest they step on and crush any bugs, and have been known to found hospitals for sick rats.

2. Always speak the truth (which they consider to be relative).
3. Don't take anything not given to them.
4. Renounce sexual pleasures.
5. Renounce all attachments.

MAN:

A soul trapped in a body or even in the stones, air, dust, etc., which can be released through asceticism.

Since Jains work out their own salvation through ascetic practices, the 24 Tirthankaras though venerated are of little importance in their spiritual development.

LOCATION:

India, particularly around Bombay.

SAYINGS OF JAINISM

"All things are eternal by their very nature."

"The world is boundless and eternal; it exists for eternity and shall not perish."

"Men suffer individually for the deeds they themselves have done."

"Knowing the truth, one should live up to it."

"They who spend much time with women cease to practice meditation."

"Reckless men who cut down sprouts out of regard for their own pleasure, destroy many living creatures."

"A wise man should abstain from: fame, glory, and renown; honors, respectful treatment, and all pleasures of this world."

"He who is carried away by passion will not get very far."

"He who knows the truth is kind to his fellow creatures."

"He who recognizes that he sins and does not cease from sinning is called a foolish man."

(The quotations above were taken from WHAT THE GREAT RELIGIONS BELIEVE by Joseph Gaer.)

"By one's actions one becomes a Brahmana, or a Kshatriya, or a Vaishya, or a Sudra."

"Right belief is conviction in one's own self."

"Charity without faith can never be the means of salvation."

"Difficult to conquer is oneself. But when that is conquered everything is conquered."

"A man should wonder about treating all creatures as he himself would be treated."

"Man! Thou art thine own friend. Why wishest thou for a friend beyond thyself."

"That which is given once is received back a thousand times."

"One must worship God, serve the Guru, study the scriptures, control the senses, perform austerities, and give alms."

"Harmlessness is the only religion."

"Do not kill living beings in any of three ways, by mind, word or deed."

"The wise should know the law."

"Love conquers all."

"All men in due time must suffer the fruit of their works."

(The quotations above were taken from THE ELEVEN RELIGIONS AND THEIR PROVERBIAL LORE by Selwyn G. Champion.)

SIKHISM

(c. 8 million adherents)

FOUNDER: Nanak (1469-1538)

GOD(S): "The True Name"--Creator of the Universe

SCRIPTURES: THE GRANTH--a collection of hymns, many of which were apparently written by Nanak himself.

HISTORY: A man from the border region of hostile Hindu and Muslim communities, Nanak was influenced by both Hindu and Muslim teachings. He left his wife and moved to Sultanpur, where at age 30 he received a vision from god. His message was to be, "There is no Muslim and there is no Hindu." Nanak and his companion Mardana traveled over India preaching the unity of Islam and Hinduism wearing mixed clothing of both Hindus and Muslims. His followers were called Sikhs ("disciple").

There were ten gurus who led the Sikhs until 1708. The fifth Guru began compiling the official scriptures around 1600 A.D. Sikhism was perceived as a threat by the Muslims about this time, and when the fifth Guru was tortured to death for not expunging from the GRANTH teachings contrary to the QUR'AN, the sixth Guru surrounded himself with bodyguards. Thus the military tradition of the Sikhs was begun.

The last Guru, Gobind Singh, organized the Sikhs for war. He introduced the worship of Durga, the dreadful Hindu goddess of death, established the GRANTH as the final word for Sikhs (hence no more gurus), and developed the warrior class of the Singhs.

BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:

* Three Sects:

1. Udasis--Ascetic holymen
2. Sahajdharis--reject the militant trapping of main-Sikhism
3. Singhs--no stimulants, open to all castes, incredible warriors

* One God--"The True Name"

* No idols

* Reincarnation

- * No caste system
- * Meats are included in their diet.
- * Originally pacifists, now very warlike
- * Baptism is sprinkling a person with sweetened water when one reaches maturity.
- * Daily rituals include morning bath, hymns, and prayers.
- * Congregational worship:
 - Visiting the temple (Gurdwaras)
 - Prayer to the GRANTH
 - Hymns
 - Sermons
 - Communal meal
 - There is no priesthood
 - Men and women of all castes worship together

MAN: God's supreme creation and thus free to kill and eat animals. Man's spirit is reincarnated in men until "The True Name" frees them from this cycle.

LOCATION: India and Indian communities around the world, but mainly in the Punjab region of northwest India.

SAYINGS OF SIKHISM

"By hearing the Name a blind man findeth his way. By hearing the Name the unfathomable becometh fathomable."

"Courtesy pointeth out the way that leadeth to God. The discourteous are beyond God's kindness."

"I have no anxiety regarding death, and I have no desire for life."

"God will not ask man of what race he is. He will ask what he has done."

"No one can erase what is written on the forehead."

"Great is the greatness of him who gives without being asked."

"He who knows himself will comprehend God."

"Many millions search for God and find him in their hearts."

"It is God who arrangeth marriages--those whom he hath once joined he joineth forever."

"I am not good, nor do I find anyone bad."

"Deem the body in which there is not love a place of cremation."

"The Name is a medicine for all diseases."

"By hearing the Name sorrow and sin are no more."

"Treat others as you would be treated yourself."

"The way of Sikhism is narrow: it is sharper than the edge of a sword and finer than a hair."

"The world is all made out of one clay, but the potter fashioned it into vessels of many sorts."

(The quotations above were taken from THE ELEVEN RELIGIONS AND THEIR PROVERBIAL LORE by Selwyn G. Champion.)

BUDDHISM

(c. 312 million adherents)

- FOUNDER: Siddhartha Gautama (The Buddha or "Enlightened One")
(563-483 B.C.)
- GOD(S):
- * In Theravada Buddhism gods are of little importance, the Buddha himself is revered in the temples.
 - * In Mahayana Buddhism it is believed that the Buddha was a compassionate divine being. Thus Mahayana Buddhism absorbs other gods by saying they are incarnations of the Buddha.
- SCRIPTURES:
- * In Theravada Buddhism: TRIPITAKA is used, a collection of legends and stories about the Buddha and his teachings.
 - * In Mahayana Buddhism: LOTUS SUTRA, a handbook is used.
- HISTORY:
- Siddhartha Guatama lived in the sixth century B.C. As a son of a Rajah, he was brought up as a prince. Siddhartha learned the five arts: riding, fencing, painting, composing love lyrics and dancing. In his royal upbringing, Siddhartha was shielded from the world and human misery. He learned the religion of his country--Hinduism.
- One day on a trip outside his sheltered surroundings, he saw four sights which made a deep impression upon him. He saw an old-aged man, a diseased man, a dead person, and a monk. He was greatly distressed. He began to wonder about life and its meaning. These feelings burned so deeply, he decided to leave his home and family around the age of 30 and wandered for six years searching for meaning and purpose.
- First Siddhartha tried learning more from the gurus or teachers. Then he turned to asceticism in an effort to understand life. He lived for days at a time with only one bean for his daily meal. He became so slight that he said that when he tried to touch his stomach, he actually felt his spine! He almost died of malnutrition when some of his friends revived him with food and water. He then decided that life should not be lived to extremes. He meditated under a fig tree (or bo tree) to receive enlightenment as to the meaning of life. At the conclusion of his meditation, he felt he had "seen the light." He became the Buddha ("The Enlightened One").
- He travelled to Benares and gave his first sermon at Deer Park in the city. He was now about 36 years of age. Because of his preaching of a "Middle Way" of life, the Four Noble Truths, and his

denial of the strict caste system, he had wide appeal and gathered followers. His disciples exported their faith to Eastern Asia where Buddhism flourishes more than in the Buddha's native India. The Buddha never intended to set himself up as an object of worship, but said a person honors him by practicing his teachings in the best manner. Buddha died by eating poison mushrooms served accidentally by a friend.

There are many statues of the Buddha in various poses--most showing meditation. The image varies according to the sect and country in which it is located.

BELIEFS AND
CHARACTERISTICS:

* Four Noble Truths:

1. Suffering comes through bodily senses
2. Suffering comes from desire
3. Desire can end
4. Release is accomplished by the "eight-fold path"
(the "middle way" of avoiding extremes)

* Three Jewels:

1. Buddha
2. Dharma--teaching Four Noble Truths
3. Sangha--order of the monks

* Eight-Fold Path:

1. Right Beliefs--clear understanding
2. Right Resolve--pure-minded, free of desire
3. Right Speech--not loud or selfish
4. Right Action--observing the basic five precepts (See Layman's Five Moral Precepts)
5. Right Vocation
6. Right Effort--cultivating good deeds and good words
7. Right Contemplation--state of awareness in body
8. Right Meditation or Concentration

- * Goal is Nirvana--a "blowing-out" (extinguishing of self and desire); supreme bliss.
- * Anyone can find salvation, regardless of caste.
- * The soul does not exist--personality doesn't exist forever--no transmigration of souls in same sense as Hinduism.
- * Layman's Five Moral Precepts:
 1. Don't kill
 2. Don't Steal--fair play
 3. Purity and self-control
 4. Don't lie--keep your word
 5. Don't imbibe of intoxicating drinks or drugs
- * Monks Also Practice:
 1. No solid food after noon
 2. Avoid worldly entertainment
 3. Renounce ornaments and elaborate clothes
 4. Refuse gifts of money
 5. Don't sleep on raised bed

They practice 227 rules in all.
- * Zen--the belief that enlightenment can be attained through meditation rather than teachings.
- * Karma--the law of cause and effect.
- * Two Branches of Buddhism:
 1. Theravada--"Tradition of the elders" in Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia
 2. Mahayana--"The greater vehicle" in Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, Tibet, China, Mongolia, Vietnam, Korea, Japan

Comparisons of the Two Major Types:

1. Beliefs of Theravada or Hinayana Buddhism:

- "The tradition of the elders"--smaller than Mahayana Buddhism.
- People must work out their own salvation without reliance on anything other than themselves.
- The gods are largely ignored.
- Monastic life is for everyone.
- Conservative

2. Beliefs of Mahayana Buddhism:

- More adherents than Theravada.
- Worship many divine beings.
- Believe they have the secret truths, have expanded the Buddha's teachings.
- Salvation can be expedited by obtaining the help of Bodhisatvas ("enlightened beings")--who, like saints in Catholic church theology, were men who made it to heaven with so much merit that they could share it with human kind.
- Involvement in spiritism
- All men may become Buddhas or god-like beings
- Liberal

MAN:

The body is like a cloak wrapped around a "soul" which has always existed. The "soul" is like a flow of consciousness which never ceases to exist. This "soul" continues to be purified or defiled depending upon the deeds (Karma) of the person. As one person dies, the state of the soul with its deeds comes alive in a new being until desire has been finally conquered through right thoughts and right action. Buddhists maintain that this is not the same as transmigration of souls. What is passed to another is a person's Karma or deeds.

LOCATION:

India, China, Taiwan, Siberia, Japan, Tibet, Korea, Thailand, Burma, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore

SAYINGS OF BUDDHISM

"All that we are is the result of what we have thought: it is founded on our thoughts and is made up of our thoughts."

"As rain breaks through an ill-thatched roof, so lust breaks through an ill-trained mind."

"Thoughtfulness is the road to immortality (Nirvana); thoughtlessness, the road to death."

"The thoughtful do not die; the thoughtless are as if dead already."

"Fools follow vanity; but the wise man prizes his thoughtfulness as a treasure."

"If a man's faith is unstable and his peace of mind troubled, his knowledge will not be perfect."

"An evil deed, like freshly drawn milk, does not turn sour at once."

"Though a man go out to battle a thousand times against a thousand men, if he conquers himself he is the greater conqueror."

"One's own self is the most difficult to subdue."

"The pure and impure stand and fall by their own deeds; no one can purify another."

"Victory breeds hatred. He who has given up both victory and defeat, he is contented and happy."

"He who has tasted the sweetness of solitude and tranquillity becomes free from fear and free from sin."

(The quotations above were taken from WHAT THE GREAT RELIGIONS BELIEVE by Joseph Gaer.)

TAOISM
(Pronounced Dow-ism)
(c. 30 million adherents)

FOUNDER: Li Poh Yang, known as Lao Tzu ("Old Master"), 604-517 B.C.

GOD(S): Originally the impersonal "Way" or "Tao," it developed into a religion with many gods.

All gods evolved from the flow of the Tao. The Tao is not thought of as a force that one can pray or sacrifice to. All one can do is live and flow with the Tao.

SCRIPTURES: THE TAO TE CHING ("The Classic of the Way and Its Power.") The basic theme is that all achievements of people are folly, particularly elaborate government. Legend says Lao Tzu wrote it as he waited to be allowed to leave China. Scholars believe it developed over the centuries and reached its present form in the fourth century B.C.

HISTORY: Lao Tzu, keeper of the royal archives in the court of the Chou dynasty retired from his post and headed west to escape the complex life of the court. Having a reputation for being wise and scholarly, the philosopher was stopped by a border guard and not permitted to leave China until he had set his wisdom down in writing. Lao Tzu wrote the TAO TE CHING, was allowed to leave, and disappeared into the west. It is unknown if this story is true.

Early Taoists, such as Chuang Tzu, the fourth century B.C. disciple of Lao Tzu, were philosophers and intellectuals. They concerned themselves with living this life in a serene manner rather than with gods, religion, or life after death. It appealed to a small group of people who were discontented with the complexities of society.

Later Taoism developed a second branch--one of scholars and magicians. In seeking for endless extension of this present life by being properly attuned to the Tao and alchemy, they began to worship gods. Mahayana Buddhism and Taoism struggled with each other in China during the first millennium, but eventually coalesced into close association.

BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS: A. PHILOSOPHICAL TAOISM

* The basic unifying force behind the universe is the mysterious Tao.

- * Life is the greatest of all possessions.
- * Live life simply--despise pomp and glory.
- * Religion of "trying to do nothing without being degenerate."
- * Yin Yang: All things in nature and society are composed of Yin and Yang in different combinations.

Yin--dark, passive, female, negative, earth, moon

Yang--bright, active, positive, masculine, heaven, sun

In Taoism, the Yin is emphasized.

- * Unconcerned with strict morals: act according to circumstances.
- * Wu Wei: let it happen, flow with the Tao--like breathing softly and having a blank mind.
- * Doing what comes naturally.
- * Admiration for ravines and valleys (not mountains), water and an uncarved block of wood. Water seems to illustrate seeking the lowest level as it flows around, over, under or through objects in its path.
- * If the Tao is strong in one's life--no need for rules and regulations.
- * The Tao--possible definitions:
 1. Ultimate reality.
 2. The way of the universe.
 3. The way man can order his life.
 4. Cannot be defined.
- * To achieve the Tao--one must cleanse himself of impure thoughts and selfishness.

B. POPULAR TAOISM

- * Concerned with magic and alchemy (miracles).
- * Worship the dead.
- * Many gods.

- * Taoist pope (in Taiwan now).
- * Seek to extend this life through magic.
- * Religion of the masses.
- * Heavens and hells.
- * Monks and nuns.

MAN: This present life is to be endlessly extended by being properly attuned to the Tao.

LOCATION: China and Chinese communities throughout the world.

SAYINGS OF TAOISM

"The way that can be spoken of is not the constant way;
The name that can be named is not the constant name."

"Thus Something and Nothing produce each other;
The difficult and the easy complement each other;
The long and the short off-set each other;
The high and the low incline towards each other;
Note and sound harmonize with each other;
Before and after follow each other."

"Therefore the sage keeps to the deed that consists in taking no action and practices the teaching that uses no words."

"Do that which consists in taking no action, and order will prevail."

"Much speech leads inevitably to silence. Better to hold fast to the void."

"The spirit of the valley never dies. This is called the mysterious female."

"Highest good is like water. Because water excels in benefiting the myriad creatures without contending with them and settles where none would like to be, it comes close to the way."

"To be overbearing when one has wealth and position is to bring calamity upon oneself. To retire when the task is accomplished is the way of heaven."

"And the people must have something to which they can attach themselves:
Exhibit the unadorned and embrace the uncarved block, have little thought
of self and as few desires as possible."

"Between yea and nay how much difference is there?
Between good and evil how great is the distance?"

"As a thing the way is shadowy, indistinct.
Indistinct and shadowy, yet within it is an image;
Shadowy and indistinct, yet within it is a substance.
Dim and dark, yet within it is an essence."

"The way never acts yet nothing is left undone."

"There is no crime greater than having too many desires;
There is no disaster greater than not being content;
There is no misfortune greater than being covetous."

"Governing a large state is like boiling a small fish."

"Beautiful words when offered will win high rank in return;
Beautiful deeds can raise a man above others."

"The way of heaven excels in overcoming though it does not contend, in
responding though it does not speak, in attracting though it does not
summon, in laying plans though it appears slack."

(The quotations above were taken from TAO TE CHING by Lao Tzu.)

CONFUCIANISM

(c. 257 million adherents)

FOUNDER: Ch'iu K'ung or Kung Fu-tse ("Kung the Master," commonly Confucius) who lived from 551 B.C. to 479 B.C.

GOD(S): Traditional Chinese gods and ancestors are respected; there is even a cult around Confucius himself.

Ideally one should respect the spirits but keep them at a distance (Analects 6:20). Gods are not considered important and thus are not mentioned.

SCRIPTURES: THE ANALECTS--collection of Confucius' writings

HISTORY: The feudal states of China were in decline by the sixth century B.C., leading up to the century of the warring states. The problem of social cohesion was on people's minds. Into this world Ch'iu K'ung was born. He was the youngest child of a poor family. He excelled in his schooling. He mastered the "six arts" of the ceremonial, music, archery, history, numerics and charioteering. Confucius--which is an anglicized version of K'ung Fu Tse means Master K'ung. He was indeed a master recognized in his late teens as a storehouse of knowledge and wisdom. Students came from all over to learn at his feet. Master K'ung was virtually a one-man university. He required diligence of all as he taught. He once said that "Rotten wood cannot be carved" in reference to a lazy student. Confucius loved tradition and the ancients. He taught his disciples a love for poetry and tradition, devotion and courage, honor and justice. Later he became a minister of justice in the government of the Duke of Lu. Confucius believed that man was basically good and that proper education would solve his ills. He experimented with the criminals in prison by doing a study of them and their educational levels. Then he began a program of teaching them correct principles of life. He also denounced the unjust judges and their corrupt practices of perverting judgment by showing favoritism to the rich and condemning the poor. After a few years, the prisons were empty. However, Confucius had made political enemies by his bold programs and denunciations. He was soon deposed and wandered about until given a position as the adviser of the Duke of Ai, which he held until his death.

Confucius' teachings were perpetuated by a small group of disciples until the fourth century B.C. Meng K'o (Mencius) lived from 372-289 B.C. and greatly reinforced Confucius' teachings. Hsun Tzu, 298-238 B.C., was a more unorthodox interpreter of Confucian philosophy.

Shortly after Hsun Tzu, the Han dynasty arose and made a strong, well-governed China. Confucianists were placed in charge of the education of Chinese youth. Thus, from 136 B.C. until 1905 A.D. Chinese education included the study of the teachings of Confucianism.

Most recently, the Chinese government publicly celebrated the 2,535 anniversary of Confucius' birth after several years of silence concerning him. He bequeathed to the Chinese peoples a quest for knowledge, a love for family, and a respect for the elderly and tradition.

BELIEFS AND
CHARACTERISTICS:

- * Living the best life now through a system of ethics.
- * Goal--to become a "superior man," "man for all seasons."
 1. Li--courtesy (actions)
 2. Hsaio--filial piety (honor parents)
 3. Jen--human heartedness (responses)
 4. Shu--the silver rule
 5. Yi--duty
 6. Chih--knowledge
 7. Cheng Ming--sincerity
 8. Chun-Tzu--the superior man
- * "Silver Rule"--Don't do to others what you wouldn't want them to do to you.
- * Confucius and Mencius believed in the basic goodness of man--if the environment is proper, people will naturally be virtuous.
- * Hsun Tzu believed that a man is evil, but goodness can come through training, laws, and restraints.
- * Confucius had a sense of mission, although he considered the gods as being rather impersonal.
- * The best life found by man in human tradition and society--not beyond man.

MAN: Basically good, if he does not act good it is because of the environment.

LOCATION: China and Chinese communities around the world.

SAYINGS OF CONFUCIANISM

"The superior man seeks what is right, the inferior one what is profitable."

"Better than the one who knows what is right, is he who loves what is right."

"If a man can subdue his selfishness for one full day, everyone will call him good."

"When you leave your house, go out as if to meet an important guest."

"The superior man will be agreeable even when he disagrees; the inferior man will be disagreeable even when he agrees."

"The Master said, I do not see what use a man can be put to, whose word cannot be trusted. How can a wagon be made to go if it has no yoke-bar or a carriage, if it has no collar-bar?"

"The Master said, Just as to sacrifice to ancestors other than one's own is presumption, so to see what is right and not do it is cowardice."

"The Master said, High office filled by men of narrow views, ritual performed without reverence, the forms of mourning observed without grief--these are things I cannot bear to see!"

"The Master said, Without Goodness a man cannot for long endure adversity, cannot for long enjoy prosperity."

"Of the adage 'Only a Good Man knows how to like people, knows how to dislike them,' the Master said, He whose heart is in the smallest degree set upon Goodness will dislike no one."

"The Master said, He (the gentleman) does not mind not being in office; all he minds about is whether he has qualities that entitle him to office. He does not mind failing to get recognition; he is too busy doing the things that entitle him to recognition."

"The Master said, In the presence of a good man think all the time how you may learn to equal him. In the presence of a bad man, turn your gaze within!"

"The Master said, In serving his father and mother a man may gently remonstrate with them. But if he sees that he has failed to change their opinion, he should resume an attitude of deference and not thwart them; may feel discouraged, but not resentful."

"The Master said, A gentleman covets the reputation of being slow in word but prompt in deed."

"When in the Master's presence anyone sang a song that he liked, he did not join in at once, but asked for it to be repeated and then joined in."

"The Master's manner was affable yet firm, commanding but not harsh, polite but easy."

"The Master said, Only when men of the right sort have instructed a people for seven years ought there to be any talk of engaging them in warfare. The Master said, To lead into battle a people that has not first been instructed is to betray them."

(The quotations above were taken from the ANALECTS OF CONFUCIUS by Arthur Waley and from WHAT THE GREAT RELIGIONS BELIEVE by Joseph Gaer.)

SHINTOISM

(c. 63 million adherents)

FOUNDER: None

GOD(S): Many gods (called "Kami") are worshipped. (1550 names are listed in a book of SHINTO SACRED SCRIPTURES.)

The emperors of Japan are considered descendants of Amateratsu, the sun goddess.

SCRIPTURES: KOJIKI ("chronicle of ancient events"); NIHONSHOKI

HISTORY: Prior to the coming of Buddhism to Japan in the sixth century A.D., Japanese religion was a varied collection of practices. As Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism began to influence the Japanese, the KOJIKI was written to preserve Shinto. The distinctions between Shinto and Japanese Mahayana Buddhism have largely faded. Concerns of day-to-day life are Shinto; concerns for the afterlife are Buddhist.

During the Tokugawa period (1600-1867 A.D.) Shinto was encouraged by the military rulers and other religions were stopped.

After the opening of Japan by Commodore Perry in 1854, the Japanese government supported Shinto. After the Second World War, the occupation forces ended emperor worship and the political side of Shinto.

Today, the religious side of Shinto is represented by sects worshipping mountains, Tenri-Kyo (Shamanistic faith healing, "the Christian Science of Japan"), and pure Shinto (which emphasizes the purification of the body).

BELIEFS AND

CHARACTERISTICS:

- * They believe the first emperor of Japan, Jimmu Tenno, was descended from Amateratsu, the sun goddess and chief Kami.
- * Izanagi and his wife, Izanami, are the creators of the Japanese Islands and are the parents of all the Kami.
- * Happy, joyful, bright, beautiful are areas with which Shinto concerns itself.
- * A deep love of nature. Sunrise is a favorite theme in their poetry.
- * Nationalistic.

- * Personal, private worship--many Japanese homes have a Kami-Dana (god shelf) in them where any objects they consider sacred are kept. Simple daily offerings and prayers are made here. In addition to their Kami-Dana, many homes also have a Butsu-Dan, a Buddhist household altar, in case another form of religious occasion is needed.
- * Temples have no idols or images; are for prayer and offerings.
- * Shinto is a Chinese word which means "way of the gods." The name in Japanese is Kami-No-Michi.
- * Life is good.
- * Good deeds are more important than mere words.
- * All natural desires are good unless taken to excess.
- * The Samurai Code of Behavior:
 1. Courage--blind loyalty.
 2. Cowardice--unforgivable sin; they prefer death to dishonor.
 3. Loyalty--to emperor, family, community, and future generations.
 4. Cleanliness--bathing, purification.

MAN:

A nature-culture religion in which man tries to fit in as best he can through rituals and actions. Primary concern is living life now. Not much thought about afterlife. There was a belief in their writings that Japanese are a special people as they came from the gods--particularly Amaterasu, the sun goddess.

LOCATION:

Japan

SAYINGS OF SHINTOISM

"Both heaven and hell come from one's own heart."

"All men are brothers; all receive the blessings of the same heaven."

"With God there is neither day nor night, neither far nor near."

"Do not profess love with your lips while you harbor hatred in your heart."

"One should not be mindful of suffering in his own life and unmindful of suffering in the lives of others."

"In all the world there is no such thing as a stranger."

(The quotations above were taken from WHAT THE GREAT RELIGIONS BELIEVE by Joseph Gaer.)

ZOROASTRIANISM

(c. 254,000 adherents)

- FOUNDER: Zarathustra (Zoroaster) Spitama (c. 660-583 B.C.)
- GOD(S): Ahura Mazda, the distant high god worshipped by the Aryans for centuries, was declared to be the only god by Zoroaster. However, Zoroastrianism is often referred to as dualistic with Ahura Mazda as the good god in controversy with Angra Mainyu as the evil god.
- SCRIPTURES: ZEND-AVESTA (especially the GATHAS--Hymns of early Zoroastrianism, looked upon as being Zoroaster's very words)
- HISTORY: Zoroaster, considered the last and greatest of the sashyants (prophets or reformers) of Persia, was born into a wealthy family. It is said he had 3 wives and 6 children. At age 30, he was pondering disturbing theological questions when an angel from Ahura Mazda appeared to him and commissioned him to be his prophet. Over the next ten years he had other visions, but was unable to convert anyone. Finally his cousin was converted. Soon thereafter, he went to the court of a Bactrian king named Vishtaspa, stayed in his court for several years and eventually converted Vishtaspa and his courtiers (apparently they were overjoyed when the king's favorite horse was healed by Zoroaster.)
- Zoroastrianism spread rapidly after this occasion. Zoroaster was killed at age 77 by an enemy soldier.
- Perhaps the Persian king Cyrus was a Zoroastrian; Darius certainly worshipped Ahura Mazda. But, it was not until the period of the Sassanid Rulers (226-642 A.D.) that Zoroastrianism became the only official religion of Persia. After that, the Muslim invasions virtually stamped Zoroastrianism out by the ninth century. Zoroastrianism is today almost extinct.
- BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS: * After death the soul goes to heaven or hell (depending on the balance of good or bad deeds). They are there to be rewarded or punished until the end of the world. Then, all will be resurrected and purified and live together in righteousness. Angra Mainyu and his demons will be destroyed and a new world will be created.

* Sacred Elements:

Earth
Fire
Water
Air

* Ethics:

Good thought, good word, good deed. Zoroastrians are still known for their purity, honesty, and concern for their children.

* Worship:

Prayers
Offer sandalwood to sacred flames
Rites of passage
Death--body is placed in a "Tower of Silence" so that the elements will not be defiled.

MAN:

Man has free will and can choose to cast his lot in this life with the force of evil or of good. Individuals are considered totally free to make their own choices for which they will be held accountable. If people live ethically, it is felt the ultimate destiny of the world will be better.

"Evil to evil, good to good"--law of retribution of cause and effect is taught. This is carried to such extreme that there is no means of atonement for evil deeds.

LOCATION:

Approximately 11,000 "Gabars" (infidels) continue to live in Iran. Another 100,000 live in India (mostly in Bombay) and the rest are scattered in small communities around the world.

SAYINGS OF ZOROASTRIANISM

"We worship Ahura Mazda who made the kine and the righteousness. . . and the waters, and the wholesome plants, the stars, and the earth, and all existing objects that are good."

"Let no thought of Angra Mainyu (the devil) ever infect thee, so that thou should indulge in evil lusts, make derision and idolatry, and shut (to the poor) the door of thy house."

"Of two bed-fellows who hear the cock crowing, the one who gets up first will first enter paradise."

"The dead shall rise up, life shall come back to the bodies and they shall keep the breath."

"He is evil who is best to the evil, and he is holy to whom the holy is a friend."

"To live in fear and falsehood is worse than death."

"The first perfection is good thoughts, the second good words, and the third good deeds."

"That nature only is good when it shall not do unto another whatever is not good for its own self."

"Do not unto others all that which is not well for oneself."

"Poverty which is through honesty is better than opulence which is from the treasure of others."

"One truthful man is better than the whole world speaking falsehood."

(The quotations above were taken from THE ELEVEN RELIGIONS AND THEIR PROVERBIAL LORE by Selwyn G. Champion.)

JUDAISM

(c. 18 million adherents)

FOUNDER: No single founder, although Moses is usually credited.

GOD(S): YHVH

SCRIPTURES: "The Old Testament"--HOLY SCRIPTURES
TALMUD--Commentary on oral law completed about 500 A.D.
Includes:
MISHNAH--a commentary on the pentateuch
GEMARA--a commentary about the MISHNAH
The Babylonian edition is considered the more authoritative.

HISTORY: According to the HOLY SCRIPTURES, God made Adam and Eve in the beginning as the first human beings. To them and their family He gave His law and instructions. When they sinned, God closed up the Tree of Life and cast them out of the Garden of Eden. Future generations became corrupt so God had to destroy mankind at the Flood. He saved only Noah and his family. This side of the flood saw some few righteous people such as Abraham and Sarai and their children. It wasn't until Jacob (whose name was changed to Israel) had a son named Judah that a "Jew" came into the world.

All Israelites (including Jews) were called out of Egypt from slavery by God. They were to be a model people to the whole of mankind. They promised to obey God and be the example. They did not succeed. First they split into two kingdoms after Solomon. Israel (Ten Tribes) to the north established other holidays and departed from God's way. Judah observed God's laws including His Sabbath and retained her identity. But she also displeased her God through sinning. Both went into captivity. Israel first in 721 B.C. and Judah in 587 B.C.

After the return from captivity, the Jews began to interpret the laws of Moses according to what seemed right to them. These interpretations were set down in the TALMUD.

Jews were persecuted and scattered from the fall of Jerusalem to the Roman armies, until the establishment of the Jewish state of Israel in 1948.

BELIEFS AND

CHARACTERISTICS:

- * First religion to teach one God.
- * Deep reverence for the Law (TORAH).

* A Jew is a person from ethnic background of Judah (Benjamin and Levi at times are considered Jews.)

Also with the Jewish faith.

Born of a Jewish mother.

* Two Basic Cultural Groups of Judaism today:

1. Ashkenazic--Jews whose ancestors lived in northern and eastern Europe

2. Sephardic--Jews whose ancestors lived in Spain, Portugal, and the Middle East.

* A convert--is not just to the religion but must accept the community of Israel.

* Land of Israel is important to the Jews for its historic and future value. Many references to the land and Jerusalem in the Scriptures. Many customs and ceremonies are attached to the geographical area.

* Two key practices--Sabbath and circumcision.

* Their mission--is as a chosen people who will eventually be vindicated (Ezekiel 37).

* Justice and truth are important virtues.

* More individual worship than group worship.

* Bar Mizvah--ceremony at which a boy becomes a man or "Son of the Covenant" at age 13.

* Jewish Parties in Christ's Time

1. Sadducees: Wealthy, aristocratic, were concerned with politics. Believed in the written word only. Were compromising and would culturally accept the views of the times.

2. Pharisees: Puritan types. Non-compromising. Scribes, rabbis and lower orders of priests from their party believed in the resurrection and the future Messiah.

3. Herodians: Supported the house of Herod. Wanted home rule at any cost.

4. Zealots: Rebels against Rome's domination. Believed submission to Rome was against God's will. Thought fighting would be pleasing to God--perhaps induce coming of the Messiah.

5. Essenes: A communal group who withdrew from society. Shared meals and goods. Observed Sabbath strictly. Their view was to be non-violent and "wait for God."

* Basic Groups Today:

1. Reform Judaism: Rejected revelation. Look upon the TORAH as a source of ethics. Liberal movement.
2. Conservative Judaism: Take the law seriously--as a guide to life. Can alter some teachings of law and tradition to suit modern times.
3. Orthodox: The TORAH is literal and divine as revelation and cannot be changed.
4. Ultra-Orthodox: "Hasidim" are more fanatical in practicing their religion.

* Thirteen Articles of Faith:

1. God is the Creator
2. There is only one God--monotheism
3. God is incorporeal--doesn't have a body
4. God is Eternal
5. God alone must be worshipped
6. The inspiration of the prophets (only the Orthodox believe this today)
7. Moses was the greatest of the prophets
8. The entire law was divinely given to Moses (only the Orthodox believe this today)
9. The law is immutable and permanent
10. God is omniscient
11. There are rewards and punishments--a divine plan being worked out
12. The coming of the Messiah (only the Orthodox await Him--others reinterpret this belief)
13. Resurrection (now combined with immortal soul concept and not emphasized)

(From: GUIDE TO THE PERPLEXED by Moses Maimonides)

MAN:

Responsible to live the way of the TORAH. Made in the image of God, man has a spirit in him (a Yetzer) which is inclined to evil and must be mastered. It can be mastered through his own efforts in prayer, study, good deeds and habitually doing right. There is a belief in an immortal soul. At death it goes to the Maker if good and to hell if evil, to be cleansed. Ultimately to go to the Maker.

Most Jews concentrate on living in the present with little vision of afterlife.

LOCATION:

The world's largest national Jewish communities:

United States	.....	5.8 million
Israel	.....	3.1 million
USSR	.....	2.6 million
France	.....	650,000
United Kingdom	.....	410,000
Canada	.....	305,000
Argentina	.....	300,000
World Total:	.....	15 million (approx.)

SAYINGS OF JUDAISM

"He who performs a single good action gains for himself an advocate; he who commits a single sin, procures for himself an accuser."

"Man must bless God in his affliction as well as in his joy."

"Loans are preferable to alms giving."

"When the wise is angry he is wise no longer."

"We generally reproach others with blemishes similar to our own."

"He who gives charity in secret is greater than Moses himself."

"The chastisements of God are afflictions of love."

"Cleanliness is next to godliness."

"One loose cord loosens many."

"No man is impatient with his creditors."

"Custom is law."

"The end does not justify the means."

"Make a fence to thy words."

"He who is loved by man is loved by God."

"Before God, a good intention is as the deed."

"Everything lies in the hand of God save the fear of God."

"The heart that loves is always young."

"Who practices hospitality entertains God himself."

"All Israelites have a portion in the world to come."

"Love the poor that thy children may not come to poverty."

"Prayer is worship in the heart."

"Truth is heavy, therefore few care to carry it."

"Ten measures of speech descended to the world; women took nine and men one."

"Work honours the workman."

"Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one." (Known as the Shemah in Deuteronomy 6:4)

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy god with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be upon thy heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for sign upon thy hand, and they shall be for frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the doorposts of thy house, and upon thy gates." (Deuteronomy 6:5-9)

"Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto Myself. Now therefore, if ye will hearken unto My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then ye shall be Mine own treasure from among all peoples; for all the earth is Mine; and ye shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel!" (Exodus 19:4-6)

"And God spoke all these words, saying:

"I am the Lord thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

"Thou shalt have no other gods before Me. Thou shalt not make unto thee a graven image, nor any manner of likeness, of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down unto them, nor serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me; and showing mercy unto the thousandth generation of them that love Me and keep My commandments.

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.

"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is a sabbath unto the Lord thy God, in it thou shalt not do any manner of work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested on the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

"Honour thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

"Thou shalt not murder.

"Thou shalt not commit adultery.

"Thou shalt not steal.

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house; thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's." (Exodus 20:1-17)

"And it shall come to pass in the end of days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many peoples shall go and say: 'come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." (Isaiah 2:2-4)

"Thus saith the Lord of hosts: I am jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I am jealous for her with great fury. Thus saith the Lord: I return unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; and Jerusalem shall be called the city of truth; and the mountain of the Lord of hosts the holy mountain." (Zechariah 8:2-3)

(The quotations above were taken from THE ELEVEN RELIGIONS AND THEIR PROVERBIAL LORE by Selwyn G. Champion and from THE HOLY SCRIPTURES by the Jewish Publication Society of America.)

CHRISTIANITY

(See Section II for Various Christian Denominations)

(c. 1.6 billion adherents)

- FOUNDER: Jesus Christ (4 B.C.-31 A.D.)
- GOD(S): Usually a belief in one God of three persons--the Trinity. However, some feel the Holy Spirit is not a Person of the Trinity but the Power and Essence of God.
- SCRIPTURES: The HOLY BIBLE is usually taken as the Word of God.
- HISTORY: Jesus Christ, a Jew by nationality, brought a new way of life into the world. As the Son of God, He brought the spirit intent of the law and also became the ultimate sacrifice to provide grace and forgiveness. He set the supreme example of Christianity by His life and taught His disciples the truth. He said He would build His Church! He sent forth His disciples after His death to proclaim His gospel message to the world. He commissioned His followers to feed His Sheep (His Church). One of His final recorded prayers (John 17) was that His Church remain ONE.
- After several years of preaching in Jerusalem, the disciples suffered persecution at the hands of the Jews. Christianity at first looked like a Jewish sect. Soon, it became apparent that it was not. Saul of Tarsus was a chief persecutor of the infant church of God until he was converted by Christ.
- Paul, as his name was changed, became the apostle of the Gentiles and took the gospel to Europe. The original disciples did their utmost to reach the inhabited world with God's message. Numerical and spiritual growth took place. Deceivers began to enter and divide from the teachings. Usually they took the name of Christ but perverted His teaching.
- Jude and John both urged in their epistles to struggle to keep the faith of Christ. As the first century came to a close, the original Church seemed to undergo considerable change. Followers continued to grope for the truth, but persecution and the influence of the pagan society wore them down. Many practices were adopted in an effort to "Christianize" the world. In 1054 a split took place between the West and the East with Catholicism becoming a separate Church in the West and Eastern Orthodox in the East.
- The rift was widened and sealed by the sacking of Constantinople in 1204 A.D. by the Crusaders from the West.

After the Black Death Plague of 1347-1351, many began to question their religion. Just over one hundred years later Martin Luther (1483-1546), a Catholic Priest and Professor challenged the Catholic church on its teaching regarding selling indulgences and also the authority of the Pope. Thus, in the years following his posting of the 95 Thesis in 1517, began the Protestant Reformation. Soon England revolted and John Calvin, a Frenchman, built Geneva into a Protestant stronghold. Knox, Wesley, Zwingli and others solidified the revolt of the Protestants. Today, in the 1980's there are well over 500 different denominations, sects and cults of professing Christianity.

BELIEFS AND
CHARACTERISTICS:

- * There is a wide variety of beliefs in Christianity. Specific denominational beliefs are covered later in this book. The following are some general ones.
- * Jesus Christ is the Son of God and Savior of the world. He was God and man.
- * God is a trinity (usually believed by most).
- * Baptism and Lord's Supper (Communion or Eucharist) are essential to most faiths. (Catholics and Orthodox have Seven Sacraments including these two.)
- * Confirmation by laying on of hands.
- * The HOLY BIBLE is the Word of God.
- * Salvation is the gift of God.
- * A Christian is under grace.
- * The Ten Commandments--with denominational interpretations.
- * Usually observe Sunday as the day of worship.
- * Many believe in the resurrection of the body at the judgment.
- * The return of Christ.
- * The need to spread the teachings of Christ.
- * Love your God and love your neighbor sums up the law of God.
- * Original sin.
- * Religious freedom.
- * Most emphasize faith and not works.

- * Prayer and study are important for spiritual growth.
- * Nicene and Apostles' Creeds.
- * Devotion to Mary in some denominations.
- * Most denounce "worldliness," but interpretations of its meaning vary.
- * Heaven for the saved and hell for the condemned.

MAN:

Made in the image of God, man is composed of a body and soul. At death the soul will be rewarded or punished. To be saved, the man must accept Jesus Christ as His Savior, repent and be baptized and remain under grace to the end of his life. At death, the soul goes to its designated destiny (heaven or hell). At the final judgment the body will be resurrected to join the soul in happiness or punishment. For most, heaven is being in the presence of God for all eternity with good companions amidst happiness. Hell means punishment forever with sense of loss felt from being deprived of God's presence. The company of demons and sinners adds to the grief.

LOCATIONS:

Christianity has worldwide influence--particularly in Europe and the Americas where it is strongest.

SAYINGS OF CHRISTIANITY

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God . . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:1-2,14)

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 7:12)

"Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:37-39)

"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:15-16)

"My little children, these things I write to you, that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the whole world." (I John 2:1-2)

"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. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:8-10)

"And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matthew 5:1-12)

"Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness." (I John 3:4)

"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome." (I John 5:3)

"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption." (I Corinthians 15:50-52)

"In this manner, therefore, pray:
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen." (Matthew 6:9-13)

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23)

"And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.'" (Mark 16:15)

"Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" (Acts 2:38)

"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world." (James 1:27)

"But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?" (James 2:20)

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

(The quotations above were taken from the HOLY BIBLE, the New King James Version, by Thomas Nelson Publishers.)

ISLAM

(c. 850 million adherents)

FOUNDER: Muhammad (c. 570-632 A.D.)

GOD(S): Allah

Creator, omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient, sovereign over all the universe.

SCRIPTURES: The QUR'AN (KORAN)--means the "Reading." It is four-fifths the size of the New Testament and contains 114 Suras or divisions. Each Sura begins with "In the Name of Allah" The QUR'AN is written in classical Arabic and contains the speeches and sermons of Muhammad. Each word is believed to be the word of God.

The QUR'AN emphasizes the Oneness of God though it tends to picture God as being on the harsh side. Submission to Allah (the Arabic word for God) and avoidance of "Shirk" or idolatry are emphasized. Human relationships are also expounded.

The QUR'AN became a unifying force in the Muslim world as so many different nationalities follow Islam.

HISTORY: Muhammad was raised by his uncle Abu-Talib, chief of the Quraysh tribe. He was illiterate and his occupation was a camel driver. As such, he traveled throughout the Middle East and was exposed to Judaism, Christianity, and Zoroastrianism. At 25, he married the 40-year-old owner of the caravan, Khadija, whose wealth gave him time to think out the theological questions he had. He experienced a series of visions and felt it was Allah talking to him.

He began to preach to the people of Mecca as Allah's prophet, speaking out against their multitudinous gods and idols. Needless to say, he was not well liked and eventually (622 A.D.) had to flee to the town of Yathrib (later renamed Medina). This flight was called the Hijrah (Hegira).

The Muslims in Medina warred against the Arabs in Mecca and the Jewish tribes of the desert, eventually overcoming them in 630. Muhammad died in 632. Islam expanded explosively, until 732 when their conquests in the west were halted by Charles Martel at the Battle of Tours, and in the east in the fourteenth century when they were unable to make further penetration. In the twentieth century Muslim missionary activity has been rekindled, and today approximately one-third of Africa is Muslim.

BELIEFS AND
CHARACTERISTICS:

- * The QUR'AN is the absolute word of God--eternal, absolute and irrevocable.
- * There is only one God--Allah. Militant monotheism.
- * Fatalism--Allah only allows people to make choices in areas they'll be judged, the rest is predetermined.
- * Jesus, Moses, Abraham, etc., were prophets--but Muhammad was the final prophet.
- * The Five Pillars:
 1. "No other god but Allah, and his prophet is Muhammad."
 2. Prayer five times a day towards Mecca.
 3. Fast during Ramadan.
 4. Alms giving (2-3%).
 5. Pilgrimage to Mecca (Hajj)--to see the cube of the Kaaba and its black meteorite stone.
- * Seven Ruinous Sins:
 1. Associating anything with God.
 2. Using or dealing with Magic.
 3. Killing people without reason.
 4. Earning interest on money.
 5. Deserting the army when Jihad (holy war) is declared.
 6. Appropriating an orphan's property.
 7. Accusing a woman of adultery (when she is innocent).
- * A very inaccurate lunar calendar (100 solar years = 103 Muslim years).
- * Do not eat pork or pork products.
- * Allah will judge all men at the end of time.
- * Paradise is envisioned as a location with luxuries and abundance of food and wine. Beautiful virgins are around the righteous. The most precious gift will be seeing the Face of God.

* Sunni's (85% of all Muslims) are the conservative branch. Shiites (14%) believe in a coming Mahdi (Messiah), look for hidden meanings in the QUR'AN, and believe that Allah's revelation didn't end with Muhammad but continues through "Imams" (Holy men).

MAN:

In this life: "I created . . . humankind only that they might worship me"--(QUR'AN). No distinction made between worship and life itself. One's life is already pre-determined by Allah.

In the afterlife: When a man dies, his body goes back to the earth, but his soul sleeps until the resurrection. The angel of Allah will sound a trumpet, the earth will split and the resurrection will occur. Bodies and souls will be rejoined. All will then be judged by Allah (QUR'AN).

LOCATION:

Sunni: Northern Africa, Arabia, Turkey, Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Indonesia, Bangladesh

Shiite: Iran, Lebanon

SAYINGS OF ISLAM

"To Allah belongs the East and the West he guideth whom he willeth to a straight path."

"Ye cannot attain to righteousness until ye expend in alms of what ye love."

". . . Our God and your God is one, and to Him are we selfsurrendered (Muslims)."

"But he who is blind in this life will be blind in the hereafter and far astray from the way."

"This is guidance; and those who disbelieve in the signs of their Lord, there awaits them a painful chastisement of wrath." (QUR. 45:10)

"Whoso does righteousness, it is to his own gain, and whoso does evil, it is to his own loss; then to your Lord you shall be returned." (QUR. 45:14)

"Those only are believers, who believe in God and His messenger . . ."
(QUR. 24:61)

"And who so slays a believer wilfully, his recompense is Gehenna . . ." (QUR. 4:95)

"Whatever good visits thee, it is of God; whatever evil visits thee is of thyself." (QUR. 4:80)

". . . God is All-forgiving, All-compassionate . . . All-knowing, All-wise." (QUR. 4:10)

"Whatever good you do, God knows it." (QUR. 2:194)

"And fight in the way of God with those who fight you, but aggress not. God loves not the aggressors." (QUR. 2:187)

(The quotations above were taken from THE ELEVEN RELIGIONS AND THEIR PROVERBIAL LORE by Selwyn G. Champion and THE KORAN INTERPRETED by A. J. Arberry.)

BAHA'I

(c. 2 million adherents)

FOUNDER: Mirza Husain Ali--called "Baha'u'llah" which means "Glory of God."
Was a follower of the Bab. (1817-1892 A.D.)

GOD(S): God is unknowable but has manifested Himself in several prophets through the years including Adam, Jesus, Muhammad and finally Baha'u'llah.

SCRIPTURES: KITAB AL-AGDAS -- Baha'u'llah's most important work. Also contains the words of their later leaders as they believe in progressive revelation. Also accept the writings of other religions including the BHAGAVAD GITA, KORAN, and the HOLY BIBLE.

HISTORY: Mirza Ali Mohammed (1820-1850) was an Islamic Heretic who became known as the Bab or "Gateway." He announced to the Sunni Sect of Islam that a great world teacher was soon to appear and call the world to peace. Shortly after his movement was begun in Persia, he was martyred. Thirteen years later in 1863, a former disciple of the Bab, Mirza Husain Ali proclaimed he was the manifestation of God taking the name Baha'u'llah. A following was soon gathered and thus began the Baha'i Faith.

BELIEFS AND

CHARACTERISTICS:

- * A divine plan for the world to be at peace. Achieved through a two-pronged approach. First, world federation with unified government, universal language, common currency. Second, religious unity. To be brought about by the inner man being changed. Mankind will gradually have to be spiritually prepared to accept this new attitude.
- * Although a mixture of Christian, Islamic, and Hindu elements, it is a religion of its own.
- * They are officially non-proselytizing, but spread their faith through free literature and other media.
- * Their religion is more a practical one rather than ethereal ideas.
- * They believe there will be a progressive evolution of the religions of the world to the superior state--namely the Baha'i Faith.
- * Baha'u'llah claimed to be the manifestation of God sent to bring about the redemption of this world and to bring God's will for the new world.

- * Pray daily
- * Abstain from drugs and alcohol
- * Fast 19 times a year (sunrise to sunset)
- * Use a 19 month calendar (each month has 19 days)
- * No polygamy

MAN:

Man viewed as generally good. All he needs is laws, teachings, and a teacher. Man is looked upon as a servant of God rather than a child of God. Ultimate hope is somewhat confusing whether personal salvation or a mere assimilation into infinity. Although terms like "paradise" and "kingdom" are found in the writings, the religion tends to focus on the present rather than the future. Man's history runs in cycles. The latest cycle began with Adam roughly 6,000 years ago. There is equality of the sexes. Each person must search out the truth for him or herself. Mankind is viewed as a family in which all racial, social, and religious prejudices must be eradicated.

LOCATION:

Mostly Southwest Asia and the United States. Administrative Headquarters in Haifa, Israel. 70,000 Centers in about 250 countries.

SECTION II

CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS

ROMAN CATHOLICISM

(c. 800 million adherents)

FOUNDER: Christ--although Peter is highly honored as well as his successors, the Popes (who are considered the Vicars of Christ). Founded in 33 A.D.

GOD(S): A trinity. Three persons in One; Father, Son and Holy Spirit are co-equal and co-eternal. This doctrine was officially formed in 325 A.D. at Council of Nicaea, and codified at Council of Chalcedon in 451 A.D.

SCRIPTURES: The HOLY BIBLE and Tradition. The Catholic Bible contains seven extra books and additions to other books of the Protestant Bible. Important English Catholic Bibles are: 1) Douay-Rheims version, 2) Confraternity version, 3) Knox Translation, 4) New American Bible, 5) Jerusalem Bible, 6) Revised Standard version/Catholic edition.

HISTORY: The Roman and the Greek Orthodox churches were one until a rift developed over a clause in the creed. The question was regarding the procession of the Holy Spirit. The Roman Church said it proceeds from the Father and the Son. The Orthodox said only the Father gives it. The primacy of the Pope (Bishop of Rome) was also a source of division. The split was made in 1054 A.D. when the Bishop of Rome and the Bishop of Constantinople excommunicated each other. It was reinforced in 1204 A.D. when Western (Roman) Christians sacked Constantinople.

Since the sixteenth century, the name "Roman Catholic" was applied to the body of individuals which acknowledges the Pope and looks to the leadership at Rome. Catholic means universal.

CHURCH ORGANIZATION:

Hierarchal in form with Pope being infallible when he rules on matters of doctrine and faith. He must state that he is speaking officially on these matters for infallibility to be in effect.

They believe they are the One True Church because of the following:

- * One--unity of faith
- * Holy--God is in it
- * Apostolic--ordinations of bishops in succession from original apostles
- * Catholic--they are worldwide in scope and largest of all.

CREED:

Apostles' Creed (see APPENDIX II, page 163)

BELIEFS AND
CHARACTERISTICS:

- * **The Church:** The Church is three-faceted. The Church Triumphant--souls in heaven; the Church Expectant--souls in purgatory; the Church militant--people on earth. The Catholic Church exists: 1) to fulfill God's mission--to preach the gospel to the world, 2) to convert the world, and 3) to provide a place for worship and administer the sacraments.

- * **Mass:** Is the most important service to Catholics. It is a service of adoration and gratitude toward God in which Christ offers Himself through the ministry of the priest in a bloodless manner. Eucharist--Lord's Supper--is a part of the Mass.

- * **Seven Sacraments:** (Sacrament literally means sacred act.) Sacraments bring graces to the individual.

Two Categories--

Sacraments of the dead (means of restoration) (1-2).

Sacraments of the living (bring graces) (3-7).

1. **Baptism:** Removes original sin and actual sins. Immersion, sprinkling or by pouring water on the head. The skin must be touched by the water. Makes an indelible mark on the soul.
2. **Penance:** For forgiveness of sins after baptism. Involving confession to the priest after examination of conscience. Priest absolves person of his sin. Prescribes an act or actions of penance.
3. **Confirmation:** The Holy Spirit coming to the baptized in a special way. Usually done after the baptized person has matured in age to be able to understand the doctrines of the Church. This sacrament makes an indelible mark on the soul.
4. **Eucharist:** This is the part of the mass in which Christ is offered. Holy Communion is the person partaking of the sacrifice. As Christ is believed wholly present in either the unleavened bread or the wine, the communicant need only take one (usually the bread). It is believed that the bread and wine literally become the body and blood of Christ. Under special circumstances, the layman may partake of both kinds.
5. **Anointing of the Sick:** Performed when in danger of death. Not only for healing but to restore a person to proper

relationship with God. Anointed on eyelids, ears, nose, feet and forehead.

6. Holy Orders: Ordination to various ranks--Deacon, Priest, Bishop. Person receives power and grace. An indelible mark is made on the soul.
7. Marriage: Only for some (not priests, monks or nuns). A baptized man and woman are bound for life and given grace or strength to live up to marriage standards.

* Seven Basic Precepts for Catholics:

1. To Attend Mass on specified days, all Sundays and special holidays.
2. Fasting: Those between ages 21 and 60 are bound as Catholics to follow Fast Days--Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting involves eating one full meal and two lighter ones with no in-between snacking, although liquids are allowed.

Abstinence means going without meat and soup or sauces made from meat.

Catholics aged 14-20 should abstain on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Friday abstinence for all is an obligation only during lent; however, Catholics are encouraged to make all Fridays special observances in honor of the Crucifixion.

3. Confession or Penance: To examine self, repent to God and confess to the Priest is expected at least once a year, usually before Easter.
4. Easter Communion: To partake of Sacrament of Eucharist during Easter time. Eucharist is to be kept at least once per year.
5. Support of the Church: To financially support the Parish with its school, rectory, convent and church. Two general collections for the worldwide work are collected for Papal charities and for missionary work.
6. Observe Laws of Marriage: Church law requires two Catholics to be married before a priest and two witnesses. It is sacramental if they are baptized Christians (non-Catholics) also. If non-Christians, it is still a valid marriage (provided no other impediments) but not sacramental.

7. To Help Spread Message: Responsibility of the lay members to spread Catholicism by example and evangelizing.

* **Salvation:** Heaven is for the saints. Purgatory is for those with stain of sin still upon them. Hell is for those who die with mortal sin. The hope of a Catholic is to experience the Beatific Vision. They will have fellowship with fellow saints in heaven. At death the soul goes to its assigned location (Particular Judgment). At the general resurrection, the body is united with the soul to enjoy the fullness of bliss with additional senses.

Purgatory is a place of purifying of the soul which will ultimately go to heaven. (Prayers, good works of loved ones on earth for the soul in purgatory will help shorten time spent there.)

Hell is for the wicked who die with unrepented mortal sins. It is a place of torment and everlasting punishment in a fiery, bottomless pit.

SPECIAL BELIEFS:

- * Transubstantiation--the belief that the bread and wine literally become the body and blood of Christ during the Eucharist
- * Prayer to saints in heaven and purgatory
- * Purgatory
- * Limbus Infantium (a place of "natural happiness" where unbaptized babies go after death)
- * Pope is the visible Head of the Church
- * Veneration of relics
- * Use of statues in worship
- * Only true church
- * Celibacy of Priests
- * Extreme devotion to the Virgin Mary
- * The church is the Kingdom of God on earth
- * Apostolic succession

PROMINENT
LOCATIONS:

Europe, Latin and South America, North America.
World Headquarters is the Vatican City, Italy.

EASTERN ORTHODOX

(c. 150 million adherents)

FOUNDER: Christ in 33 A.D. Officially separated from Rome in 1054 A.D. over the procession of the Holy Spirit and the primacy of the Pope (Bishop of Rome).

GOD(S): Belief in the Trinity; God is three individuals of one essence, spirit-- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit who are Co-eternal. They maintain that God is a mystery Whom man cannot comprehend.

SCRIPTURES: Two sources of truth: The HOLY BIBLE and Tradition. They do not accept the extra Apocryphal books of the Catholics.

HISTORY: When Christianity began, it was mainly located in the eastern part of the Roman Empire. It was in 313 A.D. that Constantine gave Christianity full equality with other religions in the Roman Empire.

During the reign of Theodosius I (370-395 A.D.), Christianity became the official religion of the Empire.

There were five main centers of Christianity. They were: Jerusalem, Ephesus, Alexandria, Constantinople, and Rome. Only Rome was in the west. As a result, Rome often mediated in discussions and disagreements among the other four. Gradually Rome became dominant over Constantinople. Rome took the liberty of adding the "filioque clause" to the Nicene Creed. This addition added the words "and the Son" to the Holy Spirit proceeding from the Father. This greatly disturbed the Eastern churches particularly the one at Constantinople. Over this issue and the primacy of the Bishop of Rome, the two groups split officially in 1054 A.D. excommunicating each other. One became Roman Catholic (Catholic means Universal), and the other became Eastern Orthodox (Orthodox means Right Belief). They have remained separate ever since, although in 1964 the Patriarch of Constantinople and the Pope of Rome met and a year later cancelled the excommunications of each other.

Although there is still much separating them, both churches would like reconciliation under the proper conditions. The Eastern Orthodox church remained imbedded in Eastern Europe, Russia and the Middle East while Rome expanded its influence throughout the world.

CHURCH ORGANIZATION:

The Orthodox are organized into ethnic groupings; for example: Greek Orthodox, Serbian Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, etc. They all look to the Patriarch of Constantinople as first among equals. Hierarchical form of government. They are not as strict as the Catholics in the governing of the churches.

CREED:

The official Creed is the Nicene Creed dating from 325 A.D. at the Council of Nicaea.

BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:

* **Liturgy:** The prayers and ceremonies of their regular service. The priest performs the ceremony in which Christ is sacrificed. Concerning the bread and the wine (transubstantiation), their belief is similar to the Catholic's.

* **Sacraments:** are similar to the Catholic's with slightly different nomenclature.

1. **Baptism:** Should be done as soon after birth as possible. Triple immersion is practiced.
2. **Chrismation:** Is similar to Confirmation, but is done immediately after baptism. The baptized person is anointed with oil symbolizing the Holy Spirit.
3. **Eucharist:** Partaking of the Bread and Wine. The leavened bread is placed in the wine and spoon-fed to the communicant. Both priest and laity partake of both symbols.
4. **Penance:** Sins are confessed and forgiven. The priest acts more like a counsellor than a judge.
5. **Ordination:** For a man becoming a Deacon, Priest, or Bishop. Priests may be married if married before ordination. Bishops may only be selected from those who are celibate.
6. **Marriage:** The priest officiates in joining the couple in matrimony. The grace of God is expected to be bestowed upon the couple to help them fulfill this great commitment.
7. **Holy Unction:** Anointing the sick. Usually for serious ailments, but not confined to life-threatening situations. The hope is for physical healing as well as comfort for the person--body and soul.

- * Commandments: One should keep the Ten Commandments. (Historically, they especially stressed the commandment against making graven images in order to confound the Roman Catholics, but see below.)
- * The Church: The church as a building is laid out in the shape of a cross and is decorated so as to give one the feeling of "heaven on earth." The church, as the body of believers, consists of those on earth, those in heaven (paradise), those in hell, and those recently deceased. They believe the church is One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic.
- * Salvation: At death the soul goes to an intermediate state for a foretaste of what it will receive at the resurrection and judgment, either the joys of Paradise or the misery of Hell.

Christ will return at the end of time and judge the resurrected dead. The bodies will be reunited with the souls and be assigned to Paradise or Hell.

In Paradise will be peace, joy, fellowship with saints and angels, and the beatific vision of God.

Hell will bring association with demons, sorrow, and separation from God.

SPECIAL BELIEFS:

- * Triple Immersion at Baptism.
- * One true church. (Catholics separated from them.)
- * Use of Icons--pictures, not three-dimensional statues. (Orthodox condemn statue idols.)
- * Have different dates for Christmas and Easter as they use the Julian Calendar.
- * Extreme devotion to the Holy Spirit.
- * Devotion to Mary, but not so much as the Catholics.
- * The Church is the Kingdom of Christ on earth.
- * Belief in Apostolic Succession.

PROMINENT LOCATIONS:

Europe, Africa, North America. Large numbers live in Iron Curtain countries.

EPISCOPALIANS

(c. 65 million adherents)

FOUNDER:

Henry VIII is sometimes given credit as being the founder, he was excommunicated from the Roman church in 1536, established the Church of England. Queen Elizabeth I (1559-1602), daughter of Henry VIII and Ann Boleyn, gave focus to the church. Episcopalians are the American version of the Church of England (Anglicans). They changed the name officially in 1784 after independence from Britain.

GOD(S):

Belief in the Trinity. God sharing Himself with mankind: the Father as Creator, the Son as Redeemer and the Holy Spirit as Sanctifier.

SCRIPTURES:

The HOLY BIBLE, Tradition, and Reason are the three basic sources of their beliefs. They use the BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER for help and guidance in their worship.

HISTORY:

In the sixth century, Augustine and several monks went to England and Catholicism was planted in the British Isles. Nearly 1,000 years later Henry VIII was excommunicated after taking matters into his own hands regarding the dissolution of his first marriage to marry Ann Boleyn, hoping for a male heir to his throne. He decided to assume the role as head of the Church in England, and named his own archbishop maintaining that any bishop had as much authority as the Bishop of Rome (Pope Paul III). Henry VIII received his annulment from the Church of England. He then suppressed monasteries and put many Catholics to death. All the while Catholic doctrines were maintained.

Edward VI moved to Protestantism during his reign of six years (1547-1553). The first edition of BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER was produced during this time.

Queen Mary I (1553-1558) tried to reverse the move toward Protestantism by reconciling with Rome. The effort was short-lived as Queen Elizabeth I re-established Anglicanism as the National Religion. It was she who brought about the stability necessary to put the British solidly in the Protestant camp. Reforms were made in doctrine and belief.

In 1784 William White led the way for the reorganization of the Church of England in America. As it was represented in all of the thirteen colonies, the change of name to Episcopalian was made soon after the American Revolution.

CHURCH ORGANIZATION:

The Archbishop of Canterbury is given top honor throughout Anglican-related bodies. However, each church is self-governing with a democratic-type government prevailing in the United States. Different countries generally have a governmental structure similar to the country in which it functions. A bishop presides over a diocese assisted by committees of laymen and priests.

Several parishes make up a diocese. There are annual Diocesan and National Conventions with laymen and priests elected to attend for guidelines on their beliefs and various church programs. The Chief Bishop of the Episcopal Church presides at the national level. There are three orders of the ministry: Bishops, Priests, and Deacons. Women may be ordained. Ministers may be married.

CREED:

Two are primarily used: The Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed.

BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:

- * They are said to be Catholic in worship but Protestant in belief.
- * They believe in two sacraments and five lesser ones or rites.
- * The two main sacraments are: Baptism and Holy Eucharist. Usually infant baptism and by pouring water on the head (infusion) or immersion. The Eucharist (or Lord's Supper) is kept in memorial of the sacrifice of Christ, Christ is believed present in it though not literally in flesh and blood. The Eucharist is the chief part of the Worship of the Church.
- * The five lesser ones are: Penance, Confirmation, Ordination, Matrimony, and Ministry of Healing.
- * The Evolutionary Theory is held as the account of man's origin.
- * Heaven and Hell are not believed to be literal physical locations but states of being.
- * Church: There are two basic types of churches within Episcopalian circles: the "high" church, which has a rather elaborate service emphasizing the Catholic tradition. The "low" church service is much simpler with more of an emphasis on personal worship and the preaching of the gospel.

Either church may be described as "broad" if it is liberal in its approach and is active in social programs.

The church does not believe it is the only true church. All baptized Christians are considered members of Christ's body, although Episcopalians as well as Catholics and Orthodox believe they are "One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic" churches.

- * Salvation: Through Christ's sacrifice, they believe salvation means a new life lived according to God's Will. The final state of the dead will be decided at the judgment when God returns. Heaven for the saint and Hell for the sinner. In some of their literature they have a paradise as a place for preparing the saint's soul for its final destiny.

Teaching regarding the Kingdom is fourfold:

- * Kingdom which is--The Church on earth.
- * Kingdom which is to come--The Church of the future.
- * Kingdom which was and is--The Church in heaven.
- * Kingdom which is within--Jesus in one's heart.

SPECIAL BELIEFS:

- * A strong emphasis on the sacraments.
- * Confession of sins before priest brings absolution.
- * There are service orders such as monks and nuns.
- * Belief in several creeds.
- * Unbaptized infants won't go to hell when they die.
- * They have no official stand on homosexuality.
- * Nothing may be taught as necessary for salvation except it be proved by Scripture.
- * Only bishops ordain.

PROMINENT LOCATIONS:

England, Canada, United States. Nearly half of the members live in the British Isles.

LUTHERANS

(c. 70-75 million adherents)

FOUNDER: Martin Luther (1483-1546) founded the Lutheran Church when he split with the Roman Catholic Church in 1517.

GOD(S): Believe in the Trinity--Father, Son and Holy Spirit. One God in three persons.

SCRIPTURES: The HOLY BIBLE is their sole norm of belief.

HISTORY: The son of a miner, Martin Luther had a rather strict upbringing. Though there were hard times, his family managed to send him to school. He decided to study law in the University of Erfurt. A near-death situation and a devout interest in religion led him to turn from law and enter a monastery. He was intelligent and vigorous in his religious studies. After two years, he was ordained a priest. In 1512, five years later, he received his doctorate. He began teaching at the University of Wittenberg.

Luther was bothered with thoughts of his sins and whether they were forgiven or not. He wondered whether the works attached to penance were essential for forgiveness. Nevertheless, he remained a professor-priest for five years. On a visit to Rome, he was unfavorably impressed with the pomp and riches of the priests there. He was particularly disturbed with the adoration accorded the Pope. Upon his return to Germany, he tried to sort out his feelings. Then, he happened upon the words of Paul in Romans 1:17, "The just shall live by faith." These words deeply affected him.

As Luther was establishing his new line of thought (faith not works for forgiveness), a papal agent named Tetzl arrived in a nearby village to sell indulgences using such slogans as "with each coin that into my coffer rings/another soul from purgatory springs." An indulgence is the remission of the temporal punishment due to sins already forgiven which is granted by the Church. Luther spoke out against this practice of selling indulgences when members from his congregation in Wittenberg began subscribing to the practice.

On October 31, 1517, Luther posted 95 Theses on the church door at Wittenberg. This was the usual procedure for inviting discussion on a topic for debate. (See Appendix II, page 181, for some of Luther's Theses.)

After nine months, the Pope demanded Luther to appear at Rome. The meeting was changed to be at Augsburg at Luther's request. The meeting proved relatively fruitless for reconciliation. Luther continued to attack the actions of the Papacy until he was excommunicated in January 1521. He was to be treated as an outlaw by both the Church and State. Northern Germany swung behind Luther as he had favor with North German royalty.

Thus began the Protestant Reformation. Soon others followed the lead and became bold in their stance against Catholicism.

Luther married and fathered six children. Among his accomplishments were catechisms, hymns and his translation of the entire HOLY BIBLE in German.

Luther was known as strong and clear in his manner, but he has been criticized for being anti-semitic and authoritarian in political beliefs.

Luther died in 1546 after spending the last 16 years with chronic health problems.

His writings, catechisms and teachings still have quite an influence over the Lutheran Church. Lutherans are the largest worldwide body of Protestants.

CHURCH ORGANIZATION:

Early government of the Church placed it under the various princes. Later, a system similar to Episcopalians was followed. American Lutherans are largely congregational.

Three Main U.S. Church Groupings:

1. ELCA--Evangelical Lutheran Church of America now includes the Lutheran Church of America and the American Lutheran Church. These were the former liberal and moderate elements of Lutheranism.
2. Lutheran Church Missouri Synod--conservative
3. Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod--very strict

CREED:

The Augsburg Confession (1530)

BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:

- * Justification by Faith and the Grace of God
- * Priesthood of Believers (all believers have direct access to God)

- * Two Sacraments--Baptism and Lord's Supper
- * The HOLY BIBLE is the sole norm of Faith
- * Gospel about Christ and His Work of forgiveness
- * Sin is disobedience to God
- * Obey God's will out of a grateful response to a loving Father
- * Salvation: Is the gift of God--not of works. To live with Christ eternally. Baptism is required generally. Should partake of Lord's Supper.

SPECIAL BELIEFS:

- * Christ is present at celebration of Lord's Supper (Consubstantiation).
- * Emphasis on faith--not works.
- * Age 14 is the time for confirmation of youths.
- * Five lesser sacraments are considered rites--confirmation, penance, anointing the sick, holy orders, and marriage.
- * They believe they are the true religion. There are Christians in almost all other churches as well.
- * Ministers may marry. Women may be ordained.
- * A saint is a Christian.

PROMINENT LOCATIONS:

Northern Germany, the Scandinavian countries. Virtually the national religion in these countries. Eight million in the United States.

PRESBYTERIANS

(c. 20 million adherents)
(c. 55 million including The Reformed Churches)

- FOUNDER: John Calvin (1509-1564)
- GOD(S): One true God in three persons. The Father, of whom is the Son (eternally begotten), and the Holy Ghost (Spirit) which proceeds eternally from both the Father and the Son.
- SCRIPTURES: The supreme source is the HOLY BIBLE. Calvin rejected all practices not found in the HOLY BIBLE.
- HISTORY: John Calvin was a distinguished student in his early formal education. He studied law and theology at the university level. He gained much training in Greek and Hebrew. After finding that one is saved entirely by grace, Calvin underwent a sudden conversion in his early 20's. He became quite austere in his religious beliefs. As a young reformer he was forced to flee his native France. He made Geneva, Switzerland his base. Calvin wrote and published his new understanding of religious beliefs. One famous work was INSTITUTES OF CHRISTIAN RELIGION. He soon became one of the leading religious leaders of his time (he was 26 years younger than Luther).
- He agreed with the major reformation concepts such as: Priesthood of believers; Justification by faith alone, only two sacraments, and the HOLY BIBLE as the only norm of faith.
- After a few political/church skirmishes in Geneva, he became the most powerful person in the city in 1541. From Geneva, Calvin's version of Protestantism spread as disciples came from Holland, Scotland, England, and Germany.
- John Knox established this faith in Scotland. With the Puritans from England, Holland and Scotland, this faith was carried across the ocean to American soil. Frances Makemie became the key figure in establishing the first church in 1705, although Congregationalists had been among the founding fathers of the New World in the early seventeenth century. Believing in the need for a trained ministry led to slow growth in comparison with the Methodists and Baptists.

Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Dutch and German Reformed Churches came from the Calvinistic brand of Protestantism.

The United Church of Canada is a mixture of Methodists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists. Many of the founding fathers of United States were Calvinist. Twelve of the fifty-five signatures of the Declaration of Independence belonged to Calvinist churches.

CHURCH ORGANIZATION:

Organized with elders in governing positions. Ordained ministers and elected laymen form the ruling group known as a "session." The session has supreme authority in spiritual matters of local churches. Presbyteries have rule over a certain area of congregations. Representatives of Presbyteries are organized into Synods.

The General Assembly is the highest court of appeals for Presbyterians.

The democratic process is used in electing governing officials. Laymen may hold the highest office of each court (Moderator).

Women as well as men may be ordained to the ministry.

CREED:

Westminster Confession of Faith. Also accepted are the Nicene and Apostles' Creed.

BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:

- * Originally very strict in practice of beliefs.
- * Depravity of man and the greatness of God are emphasized.
- * Priesthood of all believers.
- * Two Sacraments (Baptism and Lord's Supper).
- * Justified by faith alone.
- * The HOLY BIBLE is the only infallible rule of faith and practice.
- * Predestination--some men are chosen for heaven, others are not. Originally, double predestination was taught--some men are chosen for heaven and some are chosen for hell.
- * Salvation is a gift of God. Good works are fruits of salvation. Heaven and hell are not only places, but also states of mind.

Signs of the visible church:

1. Preach the pure gospel.
2. Observe the two sacraments.
3. Discipline sinners.

SPECIAL BELIEFS:

- * Christ is spiritually received and nourishes partakers of the Lord's Supper. Grape juice and consecrated bread are received.
- * At Confirmation, a person acknowledges what was done at his baptism. Laying on of hands is optional in some congregations.
- * Even though there is a belief in the need for baptism, it is not essential to salvation. Faith is.
- * May alter their confession of faith if necessary.

PROMINENT
LOCATIONS:

Holland, Switzerland, Germany, Scotland, South Africa and North America.

METHODISTS

(c. 54 million adherents)

- FOUNDER: John Wesley (1703-1791)
- GOD(S): Belief in a Trinity. God, the Creator Father; God, the Redeemer Son; God, the abiding Spirit.
- SCRIPTURES: The HOLY BIBLE is their only authority. BOOK OF DISCIPLINE is used for articles of faith.
- HISTORY: John Wesley was one of the surviving few of nineteen children born to Anglican Priest, Samuel Wesley, and his wife, Susanna. Susanna seemed to be more of the force in the family and was a strong influence in John's early life. At age 25, after his degree at Oxford and subsequent schooling, he was ordained a priest. John and his younger brother, Charles, founded a group bent on increasing its spirituality. They took communion weekly and studied in a disciplined manner. Because of their structured life, they acquired the name "Methodist." Their zeal for Bible study also earned them names such as "Bible Moths," "Holy Club" and "the Enthusiasts." Their original intent was not to start their own church. Their actions, however, set them apart sufficiently to make it essential that a new church be established. First, as societies then as churches, Methodism entered the Protestant world. John Wesley took his methodical and strict manner to the American Colonies around 1735, but his strictness of approach was not accepted. He met Moravians on the ship to America and felt this led to a changed life and deeper conversion when he returned to Britain in 1737. Coming to the belief that he could ordain as well as Bishops, he took final steps in the 1780's to make separation from the Church of England complete.
- Thomas Coke was appointed superintendent of the Methodist Churches in America later in the 1780's. (Missionaries had been sent in 1769.) Methodists in America were zealous to spread their faith to all. Circuit riders, such as Peter Cartwright, rode thousands of miles to reach new converts in far-flung locations to make Methodism the largest Protestant Church in America until 1920. Splits occurred over the slavery issue, but its broad appeal to all races now makes it number two among U.S. Protestants.

CHURCH ORGANIZATION:

The General Conference is the highest legislature body in the Methodist Church. It meets every four years. There are also executive and judicial branches. The executive branch is staffed by a council of Bishops elected by the ministry and laity. While democratic in model, parish ministers are appointed by the Bishop. There are numerous committees in the Church organization with laymen as well as ministers having prominent roles.

CREED:

Apostles' Creed--recited every Sunday.

BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:

- * Traditional Protestant Theology with slight variations; similar to Anglican Theology.
- * Baptism: For this "spiritual experience," sprinkling is the method commonly used. Babies may partake of it. It is called a ceremony for induction into the Kingdom.
- * Lord's Supper: Observed as a memorial with bread and grape juice used as symbols of Christ's body and blood.
- * Final Perfection: It is possible one may become perfect in this life. This teaching is one which originated with Methodists.
- * Church and State: They believe in separation of Church and State.
- * Liquor: Opposition to liquor has been a hallmark of Methodists. Fiery prohibitionist, Ms. Carry Nation and the WCTU were of Methodist origin. The Prohibition Amendment was largely due to strong Methodist pressure.
- * Social Activities: They are active in community social programs and strong in the ecumenical movement. There is a wide latitude of beliefs from congregation to congregation.
- * Salvation: Is by grace and involves life now lived according to the gospel. Heaven and hell concepts vary. Some believe they are literal while others believe they are merely states of mind or being.
- * As a religion, they have lost members rather than gained overall.
- * Sanctification--The Holy Spirit may produce a final perfection in us. They teach that God expects holiness in his servants.
- * In recent years, more liberalism has been accepted by Methodists.

- * More American Indians follow this faith than any other church.
- * One out of two Japanese American Christians belong to the Methodist faith.

PROMINENT
LOCATIONS:

Mainly in United States and Canada.

BAPTISTS

(c. 27.5 million adherents)

FOUNDER: John Smyth (1570-1611) is usually credited as founder. Some say they go back to the days of John the Baptist.

GOD(S): They believe in the Trinity--God manifested in Three Persons.

SCRIPTURES: Baptists believe in the inspiration of the HOLY BIBLE. Progressive and liberal Baptists do not consider some sections relevant for this time. Fundamentalist Baptists believe in its literal inspiration. There is no official teaching on how it may be interpreted though the scriptures are believed to be the final word on all doctrines.

HISTORY: There are two lines of thought in this regard. One is called the successionist view. That is the teaching of successive stages since the days of Christ. Tracing of their Baptist faith is linked to groups like the Waldensians, Bogomils, Anabaptists who had ideas similar to the Baptist's.

The second line of thought on their history stems from English Protestantism. John Smyth broke with the Anglican faith feeling they needed more purification. He fled to Holland with his followers in 1608. While there, he became acquainted with the Mennonites and Anabaptists (meaning re-baptizers). With their influence, he established the first Baptist Church in 1609. After John Smyth's death in 1611, Thomas Helwys became the leading English Baptist and returned to England to organize the first Baptist Church on British soil. They preached the need for immersion baptism. Not finding freedom of religion too well accepted, many Baptists fled to the United States.

Roger Williams is credited with starting the first Baptist Church in Providence, Rhode Island in 1639.

The Baptists spread their teaching rapidly. They became the first "convert" church in America believing it was everyone's mission to spread the gospel. They were the first to forge west of the Mississippi with their preachers. Baptists became the largest religious group in the United States in the early 1800's. They were overtaken by the Methodists in the 1820's, but over the years Baptists have grown to surpass the Methodists (since 1920) and are the largest Protestant denomination in America.

CHURCH
ORGANIZATION:

There are several large Conventions of Baptists. Southern Baptists are the largest group comprising some forty percent of all Baptists. They are conservative in thought and practice.

The National Baptist Convention and the National Baptist Convention of America (Negro groups) are the second and third largest, with nearly nine million combined. (In fact, nearly forty percent of all Christian Negroes in the United States are Baptists.) The American Baptist Convention has approximately 1.5 million members and tends to be more liberal. There are numerous other smaller groupings in the Baptist tradition.

Each local church is autonomous and a law to itself. They operate on democratic principles where geographically possible. Any conventions merely give recommendations and help to promote missionary activity.

CREED:

No certain fixed creed to which all adhere.

BELIEFS AND
CHARACTERISTICS:

- * There is a wide diversity of beliefs owing to so much freedom of government for each local church. Yet, among the larger Protestant groups, Baptists would be the most conservative body.
- * No sacraments--Lord's Supper and adult baptism by immersion are important ordinances. The Lord's Supper for believers only--generally once per month.
- * Separation of Church and State.
- * They look forward to the return of Christ to the earth.
- * Hell is a reality--everlasting punishment of incorrigibles.
- * Tend to be against all forms of worldliness--drinking, card playing, dancing, etc.
- * Aside from the Seventh-Day Baptists, they keep a Sunday Sabbath.
- * All are to be involved in spreading the gospel. (Some have testimonies and experiences printed on leaflets and pass them out.)
- * Women have been ordained as ministers.
- * "Once saved, always saved" view.
- * Bodily resurrection.

* Salvation involves:

1. New Birth--Person becomes a new creature in Christ as a result of repentance, faith and baptism.
2. Sanctification--Being set apart by God's Spirit.
3. Glorification--The final happy state of the redeemed individual.

PROMINENT
LOCATIONS:

United States, Europe, Asia, Africa and also nearly one-half million in USSR.

MENNONITES, AMISH AND THE BRETHREN

(c. 580,000 Mennonites; c. 75,000 Amish; and c. 243,000 Brethren)

- FOUNDERS: Menno Simons (Mennonites--1494-1561)
Jakob Amman (Amish--1644-1725)
- GOD(S): Traditional belief in the Trinity.
- SCRIPTURES: Belief in the HOLY BIBLE, but follow the New Testament instructions strictly.
- HISTORY: The Anabaptist movement sprang from the Reformation. Part of this movement in Switzerland later came to be called the Mennonites. Menno Simons, a former Catholic priest, joined the group in 1536 and from him the group took its name. In 1693 Jakob Amman broke with the Mennonites because they did not strictly enforce the rules of "shunning" (see below) and founded his own church. The Mennonites and Amish were persecuted in Europe and began to migrate to the American colonies from Germany and Switzerland in the late seventeenth century. Left alone in the new world they have flourished. There are many splits and divisions within the Mennonite and Amish groups.
- CHURCH ORGANIZATION: Local congregations are autonomous. The ministry is made up of deacons, ministers and bishops. For the Amish, many congregations are self-supporting. There are district and state conferences with elected delegates. General Assembly meetings are held every two years.
- BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:
- * Salvation is through repentance, conversion and baptism.
 - * There is a belief in future rewards and punishments.
 - * The Lord's Supper is celebrated twice each year with foot washing accompanying it.
 - * No oaths.
- SPECIAL BELIEFS:
- * To outsiders the primary distinguishing characteristic of the Mennonites is their rejection of the "world." They are against "worldliness." Depending on the group to which one belongs,

varying amounts of modern dress, ways or technology are permitted. Thus, the old Amish use only horse and buggy for transportation and live on farms, while some Mennonites will only drive cars if the bumpers and all chrome parts are painted black so as not to be "prideful."

- * A German dialect is commonly spoken in the home and community of the Amish and many Mennonites. Their way of life is that of rural Germans as well.
- * The practice of "shunning" or "meidung" is still practiced by the Amish. Menno Simons taught that if a member had sinned or broke rules of the church, he would be expelled or excommunicated. From then on none of the others should have anything to do with him. If it were a husband, his wife would not be allowed to sleep in the same bed or eat at the same table.
- * Success for the Mennonite is for children to join the church, carry on the farm, and raise up the next generation.
- * As all Anabaptists ("re-baptizers"), they believe a person must be old enough to understand to be baptized.
- * The Brethren, commonly known as "Dunkers" or "Dunkards," believe in baptism by immersion.
- * None of the groups believe in bearing arms. Some are conscientious objectors, others serve in noncombatant roles in the military service.
- * In some groups, the men grow beards after marriage. However, moustaches and buttons on clothing are considered military and are not worn.
- * The plain people (those who dress in traditional black garb) dress as they do in imitation of Catholic clergymen. This is a carry-over from Europe at the time of the Reformation.
- * Amish church services are conducted in private homes by leaders who serve for life for no compensation.
- * Barn-raising is the most famous expression of community support. When a new barn needs to be constructed, all the members of the local community get together and build a new one in a flurry of activity. Within a day or two the new barn is completed.

PROMINENT
LOCATIONS:

In the United States--Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana. Ontario and Manitoba in Canada. Belize and Paraguay.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
(QUAKERS)

(c. 200,000 adherents)

- FOUNDER:** George Fox (1624-1691)
- GOD(S):** God is what one experiences and follows. No Trinity is mentioned. Jesus' teachings are valid, but there is no decisive teaching on His being God.
- SCRIPTURES:** The truth comes from the HOLY BIBLE and one's own Inner Light.
- HISTORY:** As a young man, George Fox became dissatisfied with the Church of England. He left home and became a "Seeker" wandering about England looking for religious enlightenment. He desired direct access to God and believed he had found it when he heard a voice. He travelled the world preaching his particular beliefs. He and his followers were persecuted because of their pacifistic and unorthodox religious beliefs. They call themselves "Friends" but are called "Quakers" by others because at one time they were said to have "quaked at" or had a fear of God's Word.
- In 1671, Fox visited the American colonies. Ten years later William Penn, a Quaker, founded Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which soon became the leading city of the colonies. Quakers have always been very influential in America in spite of their small numbers.
- Some famous Quakers: Susan B. Anthony, Paul Douglass, Herbert Hoover, Richard M. Nixon.
- CHURCH ORGANIZATION:** They have monthly, quarterly and yearly meetings to discuss business matters. Consensus of opinion and democratic procedures are used.
- There are two types of services:
1. Unprogrammed
Where Friends sit silently and wait to be moved to stand and speak.
 2. Programmed
Which involves preaching and music. This would be used in the more liberal groups.

BELIEFS AND
CHARACTERISTICS:

- * No formal creed.
- * "That of God" is in every human being.
- * Inner Light--Man has light in himself; God can inspire man by activating that light. The Divine Light of Christ is in every human.
- * Man is basically good.
- * No salaried clergy.
- * Not Protestant or Catholic, but another way of life.
- * No predestination.
- * Heaven and hell are matters for private interpretation and beliefs.

SPECIAL BELIEFS:

- * Denial of the Trinity.
- * No Communion.
- * No water baptism. It is a spiritual experience only.
- * Plain folk image. They wear plain clothes and talk plain language such as "thee" and "thou." This characteristic is more prevalent in Conservatives.
- * Pacifists--do not serve in the military.

PROMINENT
LOCATIONS:

The United States has over sixty percent of the total membership.

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS

(c. 4.5 million adherents)

FOUNDERS:

1. William Miller (1782-1849)
2. Joseph Bates (1792-1872)
3. Hiram Edson (1806-1882)
4. Ellen G. White (1827-1915)

GOD(S):

Composed of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit--the Trinity.

SCRIPTURES:

The HOLY BIBLE as interpreted by the writings of Ellen G. White. (The official Adventist teaching is that Mrs. White's writings are not scripture, but that Mrs. White had the gift of prophecy to interpret the HOLY BIBLE.)

HISTORY:

Around 1824, William Miller, a Deist, through personal study of Daniel 8:14 became convinced that Christ would be returning 2300 years after 457 B.C. (the date he believed Ezra led the return of the Jews to Israel). He believed Christ would return between March 21, 1843 and March 21, 1844. In 1833, Miller felt compelled to begin preaching about the imminent return of Christ or the Advent. At first his followers remained in their separate churches, but they soon began to form their own religious societies. This was the beginning of the Adventist Movement. Among those hoping for the imminent advent of Christ were some Sabbatarians, although they were a small minority. When nothing happened after March 21, 1844, William Miller and his followers sought to find the reason why. They interpreted Habakkuk 2:3 to mean that the advent would be in October. So, on October 9, 1844, William Miller proclaimed that Christ would return on the 22nd of October. Thousands prepared for the expected event. Some sold all they had. On October 22, 1844, thousands waited and watched for the return of Christ. Nothing happened. This day became known as "The Great Disappointment." The Millerites disbanded. William Miller admitted his mistake and had no further theories regarding the fulfillment of his prophecy of 1844. He died in obscurity in 1849.

One of the followers of Miller, Hiram Edson, could not believe they were in error and developed the doctrine of Investigative Judgment.

Another former Millerite, Joseph Bates, emerged as a leader in the Adventist Movement. He was a naval captain who believed in the

Biblical dietary laws of clean and unclean meats, in abstinence, in vegetarianism, and in the seventh-day Sabbath. In 1846 (the year after the Seventh Day Adventist Movement was formed), he published a booklet on the Sabbath.

Ellen G. Harmon (White) was a young woman at the time of the "Great Disappointment." As a young girl, she had her nose severely broken and suffered from poor health all her life. She was raised in the Methodist Church but had joined the Adventists. She experienced her first vision at the age of 17. From that point on she was said to have been instructed by heavenly messengers from God. She was a prolific writer with over 50 books and 4,500 articles to her credit. She is respected by Seventh Day Adventists as possessing the gift of prophecy and of being able to clarify God's revelation to man. She married James White, an Adventist preacher, in 1846.

In 1846, Edson, Bates and White with their followers formed the Seventh Day Adventist Church (officially incorporated in 1860). It is the largest group of the Adventist Churches. Ellen G. White came to be the most prominent figure in the Church and led it until her death in 1915. The Church has continued to grow since her death. It has been claimed that the Church gains three members for each one it loses. Members are actively involved in the Church to the extent that nearly one out of nineteen members is employed in some capacity by the Church. So they are actively involved in the Church.

CHURCH ORGANIZATION:

Representative form of government. Lay members and ministers serve as elected officers. Ministers are usually graduates of Seventh Day Adventist colleges and have two or more years field experience. They have the third largest parochial school system in the United States.

BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:

- * Only true Church belief, but all people who love Christ will have some type of a chance.
- * Original sin at fall of Adam.
- * Trinity.
- * Believers are baptized by immersion.
- * Lord's Supper is kept four times per year with bread and grape juice.
- * Belief in Creation not Evolution.
- * Tithing system to support the Church.

- * Very active in reaching out and helping others.
Support schools and hospitals throughout the world.
- * Use pictures of Christ.
- * Unofficial women pastors.

SPECIAL BELIEFS:

- * Soon coming return of Christ (the Advent). Christ is to take His people to heaven for a thousand years while the earth lies desolate and empty (they quote Isaiah 24:1, 3, 5-6). During the millennium, the earth will be the habitation of Satan alone. The saints will be in heaven judging the deeds of the wicked. All of the wicked will be destroyed by Christ at His coming and will await the second resurrection to receive their judgement.
- * Investigative Judgement--
On October 22, 1844, Christ went into the Holy of Holies in the heavenly temple to go over the books and determine who was righteous.
- * Seventh Day Sabbath is kept from Friday sunset until Saturday sunset. Exceptions are made for helping others in hospitals and like circumstances.
- * Observance of the clean and unclean meat laws although many avoid meat altogether and opt for vegetarianism.
- * The soul sleeps at death until resurrection.
- * Use Ellen G. White's interpretations of the HOLY BIBLE to guide their understanding as she is believed to have had the "spirit of prophecy."
- * Some recent claims have been made regarding possible plagiarism by Mrs. White. The official Church stand is that a prophet's (or prophetess') thoughts can be inspired of God even if they are not original.
- * No alcohol, coffee or tea.
- * No smoking.
- * Will serve in the military but only in noncombatant capacity.

PROMINENT LOCATIONS:

They have missionaries established in nearly all countries of the world. Over twenty-five percent live in the United States.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF THE LATTER DAY SAINTS
(MORMONS)

(c. 6 million adherents)

- FOUNDER:** Joseph Smith (1805-1844)
- GOD(S):** God the Father, Christ (:made of flesh and bone), and the Holy Spirit (made of spirit). Man is to become God.
- SCRIPTURES:** The HOLY BIBLE, THE BOOK OF MORMON, THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE and DOCTRINES AND COVENANTS (which is still being added to as new revelations are received).
- HISTORY:** In 1820, near Palmyra, New York, 14 year old Joseph Smith, an unschooled member of a transient family, claimed to have witnessed the manifestation of the Father and Son in the woods near his home after praying for wisdom. Mormons believe Jesus Christ declared to him the need to restore the Christian Church as it had once been. Later, Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery, a believer friend, claimed they were ordained by Peter, James and John the Baptist. Smith was directed to find a set of gold plates inscribed with THE BOOK OF MORMON in "Reformed Egyptian" and a set of crystal stone ("Urim and Thummin") with which to translate the plates. Although the plates were never seen by anyone else with anything other than "the eye of faith," eleven men swore to their existence. Before the plates and stones were taken back to heaven, Smith dictated THE BOOK OF MORMON to others to record. By June 1829, the book was finished and was soon thereafter published. On April 6, 1830 the "restored church" was organized in Fayette, New York. Both membership and hostility to the new church grew rapidly. The church was driven to Ohio, then Missouri, and then Illinois. There on the banks of the Mississippi they built the city of Nauvoo. In 1844, Joseph Smith was killed by a mob. Soon thereafter Brigham Young, abandoning Nauvoo, led the church to the Great Salt Lake Valley (1847). Because of their belief in polygamy, the U.S. Government refused to recognize Utah as a state until the practice was stopped. In 1890, polygamy was proscribed by the church president.
- The schismatic Reorganized Church of the Latter Day Saints broke off from the main body of Mormons, in 1844, believing that Joseph Smith's descendants and not Brigham Young should lead the church.

CHURCH ORGANIZATION:

They believe they have the same organization as the early Christian Church. Over one half of each local group (called a "Ward") hold active positions in the Church. They include two priesthoods--Aaronic: with offices such as deacon, teacher, and priest; and the Melchizedek: with offices such as elder, the seventy, high priests, patriarchs, and apostles.

There are three layers of organization.

- * The Ward--the local organization of churches.
- * The Regional (stake)--composed of several Wards.
- * The General--for the overall affairs of the entire Church.

Most in the organization are not salaried by the Church.

BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:

- * Only true church
- * Punished for your own sins not Adam's
- * Conversion, repentance, faith, baptism
- * Trinity is not a three-in-one God, but three separate personages
- * Three-fold mission of the Church:
 1. To perfect the saints
 2. To preach the message of the restored gospel to the world
 3. To redeem the kindred dead
- * The missionary work is carried out by all. Especially young men 19 and older are expected to serve two years at their own expense. Young women over 21 may serve for 18 months and older married couples serve for 6 - 18 months.
- * Pictures of Christ
- * Universal salvation
- * Tithing

SPECIAL BELIEFS:

- * At the time of Zedekiah, a group of Jews left Jerusalem and sailed to the new world. Here they separated into two groups: the fair skinned Nephites (who were righteous) and the dark skinned Lamanites (who were evil and whose descendants are the American Indians). In 33 A.D., the resurrected Christ appeared to these peoples in the Americas, and they became Christians.

However, after a few decades the struggles began again, and by 384 A.D., the Lamanites annihilated the Nephites. Mormon, the Nephites' last general, gave the gold plates to his son Moroni who hid them. In 1829 Moroni, now an angel, showed Joseph Smith the plates.

- * "What God once was, man is; and, what God is, man will be."
- * All people are spirits that have come to earth to live as mortals without memory of former existence--before going back to heaven as God's spirit children again.
- * There will be a resurrection of the body to join the spirit which makes a "soul."
- * Temples--"Not secret but sacred"; only Mormons in good standing may enter.
 - Uses: 1. Proxy Baptism--Baptism for the dead
(see next page)
 - 2. Marriage for Time and Eternity
(see next page)
 - 3. Endowment--Rituals enacting "God's Plan of Salvation"
- * Baptism for the Dead--
To enter into glory all spirits must receive baptism, either while on earth or by another person on earth being baptized on their behalf.
- * Marriage for Time and Eternity--
In which it is believed the wife and children will be forever under their human husband and father in the life to come.
- * Millennium is to be spent with Christ on earth. Christ will return to Independence, Missouri.
- * Israel will be regathered in the Millennium.
- * Lord's Supper is every Sunday with bread and water.
- * Oaths are used in their temple service.
- * Mary is God the Father's wife in heaven.
- * Some Mormon sects still practice polygamy, however, the church officially teaches its members monogamy.

REORGANIZED CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF THE LATTER DAY SAINTS differs in the following areas:

- * They reject polygamy.
- * Different view about celestial marriage.
- * Dissimilar regarding baptism for the dead.
- * Have no temples or secret services.
- * Believe God was always God.
- * Christ was conceived by the Father as the Only begotten of Him.

REORGANIZED CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF THE LATTER DAY SAINTS is similar in the following areas:

- * BOOK OF MORMON
- * Restored Church belief
- * Requirements are the same
- * Both believe that Independence, Missouri, will be the Zion and is the site of the garden of Eden.

PROMINENT
LOCATIONS:

The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints has Salt Lake City and the state of Utah as its area of greatest density. Over half of all Mormons live outside of the United States, though. The Reorganized Church is centered around Independence, Missouri.

CHURCH OF CHRIST SCIENTIST
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

(c. 300,000 adherents)

An estimate as membership statistics are prohibited.

FOUNDER: Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910)

GOD(S): Variously referred to as great mind, father-mother God, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, Love, a Trinity, Three offices of one divine principle.

SCRIPTURES: The HOLY BIBLE and SCIENCE AND HEALTH WITH KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES by Mary Baker Eddy.

HISTORY: Mary Baker Eddy is the only woman in history to have solely founded a religion. Raised in New England, her childhood was marred by continual illnesses. Well-educated and emotionally sensitive, she believed she heard the voice of God at age 8. She was interested in Philosophy, logic and moral science, and her religious beliefs reflect this. She was first married at age 22, but her husband died the next year. This was a traumatic event in her life. She later married a dentist, but this marriage ended in divorce in 1873. She married Asa G. Eddy in 1877 who died five years later. Seeking relief from her physical problems, she sought the help of a faith healer named Phineas P. Quimby whose ideas of "animal magnetism" and "metaphysical healing" appeared later as part of her religious beliefs.

In February of 1866, she slipped on ice in Lynn, Massachusetts. While recovering she read Matthew 9:2-8 and from this point the "truth of healing" was understood by her and she was "in better health." Teaching that all disease was mental, she went on in 1876 to found the Christian Science Association. In 1879, the Mother Church at Boston was founded and Christian Science as we know it officially began. THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, which began in 1908, continues to be a very reputable newspaper.

CHURCH ORGANIZATION:

Practitioners, approved by the Mother Church, pray for the sick who ask for prayers on their behalf. Two readers elected every three years by the local members to read from the HOLY BIBLE and SCIENCE AND HEALTH at church services.

They have only one church, the Mother Church, in Boston, Massachusetts; and all other 3,200 chapters are branches of the Mother Church.

BELIEFS AND
CHARACTERISTICS:

- * Only the spiritual is real, the physical is unreal. God is Spirit and everything real is a reflection of Him. God is "all-in-all." Nothing possesses reality or existence except as divine mind or ideas.
- * Baptism is "a continual happening."
- * Communion--Sit quietly at church twice yearly.
- * All causation is mind, all effect is physical.
- * Women as well as men practitioners.
- * Salvation is to be saved from your illusions.
- * Sin is belief in life apart from God.
- * Heaven and hell are present states of thought.
- * In reality you have good health--you just don't have your mind on God.
- * Jesus was a human being; Christ was the divine idea.
- * Evil doesn't exist because God is God and He is all; therefore, evil is another illusion.
- * Illness is an illusion to be dispelled by God. Healing is emphasized because it is believed to be the primary indication that man must go back to God.
- * Reject medical treatment, as illness is an illusion--but will go to doctors to set bones and deliver babies.

PROMINENT
LOCATIONS:

Mainly in the United States--but has influence worldwide.

SALVATION ARMY

(c. 2 million adherents)

FOUNDER: William Booth (1829-1912)

GOD(S): The Trinity

SCRIPTURES: Believe in the inspiration and authority of the HOLY BIBLE

HISTORY: William Booth was a Methodist minister in London who concentrated his efforts to reaching out to the underprivileged. Because of differences in emphasis, Booth felt obliged to break away and form his own group, which was called the East London Christian Mission or the Hallelujah Army. In 1878, it became known by its present name, Salvation Army. The Salvation Army set up congregations in the United States by 1880 and in Canada by 1882. Their enthusiasm and zeal to serve others, both physically and spiritually, has contributed to their growth of two million members, some 25,000 officers; 21,000 band members; 15,000 evangelical centers and 3,000 hospitals and social centers. Because of their outstanding involvement with the underprivileged and needy, they have the best record for finding missing persons even surpassing law enforcement agencies.

CHURCH
ORGANIZATION:

Booth modelled the organization after the British Army. The ministry is referred to as officers; their churches are called citadels; and their missions are referred to as corps. Ranks of the officers are similar to those of the British Army. An officer must wear his uniform at all times and may only marry another officer.

BELIEFS AND
CHARACTERISTICS:

- * Man, through repentance, faith and "regeneration" can be saved. But, he can fall away if he neglects proper holy living.
- * Fall of man
- * Immortal Soul
- * Heaven and Hell
- * Resurrection of the body

- * Beliefs similar to Methodism
- * No Predestination
- * No tobacco, gambling, or liquor
- * Music plays an important role in their services
- * General judgment at the end
- * Equal rights for women
- * Use of military-sounding terminology
(For example: "Knee drills" is used for prayers.)

SPECIAL BELIEFS:

- * Mission of the Church is the spiritual regeneration of mankind. Physical works are done to help reach people spiritually.
- * No nominal members are allowed. Must become a "soldier" if belong to the Church.
- * No Baptism
- * No Communion

PROMINENT LOCATIONS:

Are in over 80 countries worldwide with International Headquarters in London, England. A large contingent and work is conducted in the United States.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

(c. 2.3 million adherents)

FOUNDER: Charles Taze Russell was the original founder (1852-1916). Upon his death in 1916, "Judge" Joseph Rutherford became the Church's leader and greatly altered the Church's teachings.

GOD(S): Jehovah God. The Holy Spirit is not a person but an active force. Jesus Christ is the Archangel Michael and is not God, but is referred to in their NEW WORLD TRANSLATION of the HOLY BIBLE as "a god" (Hebrews 1:8 and John 1:1).

SCRIPTURES: The HOLY BIBLE. Their own translation, THE NEW WORLD TRANSLATION, is widely used.

HISTORY: Charles Taze Russell, a Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, businessman, was disturbed by the doctrine of hell. He developed an interest in biblical chronology and predicted Christ would return in 1874 to the earth and that in 1914 Armageddon would begin. In 1879, Russell began to publish the magazine ZION'S WATCHTOWER (now known as THE WATCHTOWER, with over two million copies sold in 200 countries). In 1884, he legally incorporated the "Zion's Watchtower Bible and Tract Society." Later, he came to believe that 1914 was the year that the Messianic Kingdom was established in heaven and that Christ had returned secretly. His wife divorced him after this, and he was accused of selling a fake cancer cure, "millennial beans" and "miracle wheat." Russell was zealous for his beliefs--preaching some 30,000 sermons and writing some 50,000 pages of material.

After Russell's death in 1916, Judge Joseph Rutherford (1869-1942), Russell's attorney, took the leadership of the Church until his death. While Russell lived, Rutherford spoke highly of him, but soon after his death, the "Judge" began to remove many of Russell's original teachings (such as: "The Great Pyramid" and some prophetic pronouncements). He also sought to destroy the personality cult which had been established around Russell. Rutherford introduced the concept of "Jehovah" and of "God's Sovereignty." The United States government accused the Witnesses of being German agents and imprisoned the Church leaders. Rutherford stressed pacifism, witness work, and not saluting the flag or voting. Church membership shrunk because of persecution.

In 1942, Nathan Knorr became the new leader serving in that capacity until his death in 1979. Under his leadership, the more extreme aspects of the Jehovah's Witnesses' beliefs and behaviors were toned down.

Persecution died down and once again the Church experienced tremendous growth. Though many converts are added yearly, many leave the Witnesses because of their inability to be "ministers" spreading the Word. The Church's current leader is Fredrick Franz.

CHURCH ORGANIZATION:

A non-incorporated body, the Jehovah's Witnesses (name adopted in 1931) use the nonprofit Watchtower Bible and Tract Society to do their witnessing. All members are considered ministers. No man is appointed as head of the congregation. A body of ten ministers oversees the preaching and teaching activities. All the workers in the field and at the Brooklyn, New York Headquarters are volunteers. Workers and officers in Brooklyn receive room and board plus a small financial compensation. Women may not preside over a congregation of men and teach them, although they are ministers also.

BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:

- * Belief that they are the one true faith.
- * Go to church on Sunday even though they believe every day is the Sabbath.
- * No observance of Christmas, Easter or other holidays of this world.
- * The soul sleeps at death, awaiting the resurrection.
- * No voting
- * No tobacco
- * No titles for the ministry
- * No gambling
- * Drunkenness is condemned
- * No flag-saluting
- * Baptism is by complete immersion as a sign of submission to Jehovah and this makes a person a minister.

SPECIAL BELIEFS:

- * The millennium will be on the earth. This will be a time of the vindication of Jehovah's name and of a thousand-year reign by Christ.
- * Christ has been invisibly present since 1914 on the earth.

- * Passover is kept yearly on the 14th of Nisan. However, the symbols of bread and wine may only be taken by those few of the 144,000 who are still alive.
- * Only the first 144,000 Jehovah's Witnesses go to heaven as spirits at the end, all others will live forever on the earth as resurrected flesh and blood human beings.
- * No blood transfusions as they consider this to be a violation of the scripture against eating blood.
- * Hell is the grave.
- * They are conscientious objectors.
- * Jesus Christ was the first created being.
- * Witnesses believe all members should be actively spreading the Word. They draw up plans to canvas every inhabited area in the countries they have reached. The average Witness averages some 11 hours per month of missionary work in his area.
- * Times of the Gentiles are 607 B.C. to 1914 A.D.

PROMINENT
LOCATIONS:

Worldwide influence with a heavy concentration in the United States.

PENTECOSTALS

(c. 100 million adherents of Pentecostal type churches)

FOUNDER: Charles Parham (1873-1929)

GOD(S): Trinity

SCRIPTURES: Primarily the New Testament

HISTORY: Charles Parham, a Methodist minister in the holiness tradition, asked his Topeka, Kansas, Bible class to search the HOLY BIBLE for any evidence of the baptism of the spirit. They came to believe that Glossolalia, speaking in tongues, was the only evidence of a "second baptism" after justification and sanctification. During a revival meeting on January 1, 1901, Agnes Ozman, one of his pupils, became the first person to "speak in tongues." Thus the Pentecostal movement began. In 1906, the Negro ghetto of Los Angeles, California, became the center of the movement with the establishment of the Azusa Mission. Today, there are about 30 million Pentecostals/Charismatics in the United States, mostly belonging to the major denominations. The Assemblies of God, the fastest growing American denomination in the 70's, numbers 2.1 million members. The largest purely Pentecostal church is the Church of God in Christ with 3.7 million members.

CHURCH ORGANIZATION: Glossolalia is a movement within various churches and not a single church.

BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:

- * Every Christian can expect a "second baptism." This conversion is proved by speaking in tongues, and members must give evidence of this sanctification. This is considered a modern day revival of the primitive church.
- * Interpreters in services to "translate" the "tongues" into the vernacular.
- * The "tongues" spoken usually have no similarity to any known language. No correlation between the "tongue" and the subsequent "interpretation" has been found in studies by linguists.
- * Lively, loud, spontaneous, disorganized church services with some going beyond the power of their own human speech. Trance-like states of disassociation are created.

Strict Fundamentalist Protestant beliefs frequently held in common:

- * Only believers are baptized (by immersion)
- * No makeup
- * HOLY BIBLE is inspired Word of God
- * No tobacco
- * Sunday--their day of worship
- * Heaven and hell
- * Immortal soul

PROMINENT
LOCATIONS:

C. 30 million Americans of various faiths consider themselves charismatic. Brazil boasts 9 million members, the largest number of the members reported of the 120 other countries in which Pentecostals are located.

SECTION III

MODERN RELIGIONS

BLACK MUSLIMS

(c. 100,000-750,000 adherents)

"The Lost Found Nation of Islam in the Wilderness of North America"

FOUNDER: W. D. Fard (1877-1934)
Disappeared mysteriously in 1934.

GOD(S): Allah

SCRIPTURES: THE KORAN

HISTORY: Founded in 1930 by W. D. Fard, a fair-skinned Arabic descendant, who was considered as Allah himself in human form by Orthodox Black Muslims. After Fard's disappearance, Elijah Muhammad (Elijah Poole) became the leader of the Black Muslims. But it was through the writings and speeches of Malcolm X (Malcolm Little) that the Black Muslims rose to national attention.

In 1964 Malcolm X made a pilgrimage to Mecca, discovered that there were millions of white Muslims (Elijah Muhammad taught all whites are devils and should be hated) and converted to the Sunni branch of Islam. In 1965 he was shot, probably because of his break with Elijah Muhammad. Wallace D. Muhammad, son of Elijah Muhammad, leader since 1975, has had a moderating effect on Black Muslim beliefs. In 1976 two factions formed, the larger, 100,000 American Muslim mission under Wallace Muhammad, follows more closely the orthodox Islamic teachings. The Nation of Islam name is retained by the smaller faction of 10,000. Louis Farrakhan, its leader, follows the more radical teachings of Elijah Muhammad.

BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:

- * It used to be that only black people were members. Currently, whites are allowed membership. All black people are born Muslim whether they know it or not.
- * Black man was the first man created.
- * Pray five times per day. Wash thoroughly before prayer.
- * Attend two temple meetings per week.
- * Extremely fervent.
- * High moral standards except when dealing with the white race.

- * Fruit of Islam (FOI)--A group for developing male members. Use military terms, serve as protectors of Islam (guards, ushers).
- * A woman's group teaches female Muslims domestic skills.
- * Women are expected to dress and act modestly.
- * Male members are expected to recruit new members.
- * Orthodox believers eat no pork, abstain from tobacco and liquor.
- * Strictly regimented lives--Islam is a way of life not a creed or just a faith.
- * Ascetic--the devout eat only one meal daily, in the evening after a hard day's work.
- * Emphasize white hypocrisy, injustice and brutality.
- * Strong anti-white feelings, all whites are devils.
- * Whites are blamed for black man's problems.
- * To "accept his own" a black man must submit to Allah, follow Elijah Muhammad's teachings.
- * Take an "original (Arabic) name" and cease to use their "slave name" (legal or present name).
- * Refuse to use the term "Negro" and traditional southern foods which are taken as remnants of the slave condition.
- * One offshoot, the Hanati sect, criticizes the other Black Muslim groups for totally excluding whites from conversion or membership and for following the "false doctrines" of Elijah Muhammad.
- * Allah has come in the person of W. D. Fard, but will come again in the end time and restore the earth to the faithful (the black race).

LOCATION:

The larger urban centers in the United States.

CHILDREN OF GOD

(c. 1,000 adherents)

- FOUNDER: David Berg, who now refers to himself as Moses David.
(1919-Present)
- GOD(S): Trinity
- SCRIPTURES: The HOLY BIBLE, Berg's directives
- HISTORY: David Berg, son of travelling evangelists, was an undistinguished fundamentalist pastor until 1967 or 1968 when he was made a director of a Christian coffee house in Huntington Beach, California. The hippies, drug-users, and other young people distant from proper society began to follow Berg "one hundred percent," finding security and purpose under his autocratic rule. In 1968, fearing California would soon sink into the sea, he led his followers out to wander in converted school buses around the southwest. In early 1970 they settled in Texas on the land of the traditional evangelist Fred Jordan, but they soon parted company. The Children of God scattered into shifting colonies all over North America, "witnessing" to people on the streets. Convinced that America is soon to be destroyed, Berg himself left in late 1970 or early 1971. He now lives in seclusion, perhaps in England. His disciples have established colonies in Europe and Mexico. By 1972, there were approximately 3,000 members in the United States, the number is declining as they are being led out of America. In 1973, Berg hailed Muammar El-Qaddafi, Libya's dictator, as God's prophet; as well as warning that the comet Kohoutec would cause the end of the world.
- ORGANIZATION: David Berg exercises control of the group using his wife, children, their families, and trusted associates from his early days. His directives and ideas are dispensed through an endless series of public and private pamphlets and letters. Elders lead the scattered colonies.
- BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:
- * The world is about to come crashing to an end (1993?), and the Children of God will go to any length to tell you this.
 - * Protestant-type Fundamentalism
 - * Excuse lying and obtaining of money under false pretenses by the "grace of God" which allows them to cheat this evil world without cheating in God's eyes.

- * Children of God are the 144,000.
- * Believe they are the basis of a nation to be specially protected by God in the coming of Armageddon and to found the millennial world.
- * Marriage relationships are made by having sexual relations with a partner.
- * Arranged marriages
- * Apparently polygamy is permitted among the upperlevel leaders.
- * Sexual freedom.
- * Occasionally stage media attracting protests with robes and signs.
- * Members tended to be from the bottom of society before they joined, ex-hippies and prostitutes; or from Fundamentalist churches that they did not feel were rigid enough.
- * Most are young people.
- * Do not live permanently in any area--"gospel gypsies"--for this world is not their home.
- * Angry at other religions.
- * Opposed by an organization of parents, Parents Committee of Free our Children from the Children of God (FREECOG).
- * Take everything a new disciple has as the primary source of the church's income (therefore they must continue to grow in numbers to keep financially solvent). Parents are also pressured to contribute.
- * Have been accused of apparently "brainwashing" new converts using group pressure, fatigue and mild intimidation.
- * Fewer women than men in the Children of God.
- * Women hold inferior roles, and have lots of kids.
- * Music, singing and dancing are prominent pastimes.
- * Strong sense of community deeps these former "down and out" types together--like a family, despised but better than the evil world.

LOCATION:

World publishing headquarters is in Zurich, Switzerland.
Groups in various United States and European cities.

CHRISTADELPHIANS

(c. 16,000 adherents)

- FOUNDER: John Thomas (1805-1871)
- GOD(S): The Father (alone)--one person in Godhead. Christ was a very special man. The Holy Spirit is God's power.
- SCRIPTURES: The HOLY BIBLE. While not looked upon as scripture, Thomas' book ELIPIS ISRAEL is an important source.
- HISTORY: John Thomas, an English medical doctor migrated to the United States in 1844. He joined the Disciples of Christ, but became disenchanted with their teachings. He left that group and started his own societies with the aim of recapturing the teachings of primitive Christianity. Their resistance to military conscription during Civil War times, brought about their name--"Brethren of Christ."
- BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:
- * Churches are known as "ecclesias."
 - * Congregational organization.
 - * Membership by immersion.
 - * No paid ministry.
 - * Strong belief in pre-millennialism.
 - * Resurrected saints will rule with Christ on earth.
 - * Do not believe in a literal devil.
 - * Publish literature and advertisements under various titles-- "Berean Bible Students," "Enlightening Truths," etc.
 - * Conscientious Objectors.
 - * Communion: According to Christadelphians, the memorial of the Lord's death was held by early disciples on the first day of the week.
 - * Baptism: Results in--
 - 1) Relief and forgiveness of sins.
 - 2) Promise of growth.

- * Repentance means to accept responsibility for past wrongs and determine to do better in the future.
- * Faith and Works: Praying, reading the HOLY BIBLE, giving, helping and being upright and honest in all dealings.
- * Soul: Person himself, sleeps at death.
- * The Judgement: Real friends of Jesus will be resurrected to immortality on earth. False friends of Jesus and enemies will be destroyed.
- * The order in the millennial kingdom:
 1. Jesus Christ, the Immortal King.
 2. His immortal helpers--"Ruling Class" in the Kingdom (this is the Christian hope).
 3. Multitudes of ordinary flesh and blood, mortal men and women. The citizens of the Kingdom.
- * Only those who survive the Tribulation will be given the chance to live in God's Millennial Kingdom and eventually be given immortality if they are worthy.
- * Jesus Christ's birth to the Virgin Mary was not an incarnation. He had what one might call a heavenly origin (even though, in a literal sense, he did not personally descend from heaven as an angel would have to do).
- * Christ had to die:
 1. To finish the battle against human weakness.
 2. To show us how terrible sin is.
 3. To be resurrected.
- * No belief in Christ's atonement for sins.
- * Very much Bible centered.
- * Strive for a deeper understanding of the HOLY BIBLE.
- * Christadelphians don't claim a monopoly of religious wisdom.
- * No Christadelphian teacher has ever claimed to be inspired more than others. Priesthood of all believers concept.
- * No salaried clergy.
- * Each Christadelphian meeting is self-governing.

LOCATION:

In nearly every state of the United States with large numbers of followers in Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Germany.

DIVINE LIGHT MISSION

(c. 1 million adherents)

FOUNDER: Shri Hans Ji (? -1966), followed by his youngest son Maharaj Ji (1958-Present).

GOD(S): Maharaj Ji--He is supposedly the embodiment of God.

SCRIPTURES: All sacred books (HOLY BIBLE, KORAN, etc.), but the BHAGAVAD GITA is mentioned most frequently.

HISTORY: Shri Hans Ji, a guru from a wealthy Indian family, preached to the poor people of India, collecting a large following. He was considered to have been the Living Perfect Master, as Christ and Buddha were and as Maharaj Ji is now. Upon Shri Hans Ji's death in 1966, leadership of the movement was bestowed upon his youngest son, Maharaj Ji, considered the new incarnation of the Perfect Master. In 1971 Maharaj Ji made his first appearance in the United States, in 1972 thousands held a festival in Denver, Colorado, with him, and in August 1973, he was hit in the face with a pie. The journalist who did this had his skull shattered a week later by the high ranking devotees of Maharaj Ji. Nonetheless, in November "Millennium '73" was held at the Houston Astrodome according to schedule. Since that time the movement has waned, Maharaj Ji has broken with the "Holy Family" (his mother and brothers) assuming a more complete control of the movement.

BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:

- * Organization: Maharaj Ji stands at the apex of the movement. Beneath him are handpicked Mahatmas (perhaps 2,000 worldwide) who travel giving knowledge (see below) wherever they go. Below are the disciples, the "premies."
- * Knowledge is the basis of their practice. It is a series of four meditational techniques given to initiates. It can only be given by a Mahatma and is composed of Divine Light (caused by the Mahatma pressing his knuckles against the initiates eyes), Divine Harmony (caused by the Mahatma plugging the initiates ears with his fingers), Nectar (caused by the Mahatma tilting the initiates head back, causing mucus to drain from the sinuses), and Word (a breathy sound). This knowledge must be nurtured by daily meditation, recommended to be at least two hours daily. This experience is proof of God and opens the universe for the premies. It is a very emotional experience.

* Five Basic Principles of Life:

1. Be doers
2. Meditate constantly
3. Do not doubt
4. Attend Maharaj Ji's meetings
5. Faith in Maharaj Ji

- * Rational thought (the mind) is an enemy which must be banished by experiencing knowledge.
- * Satsang occurs when followers get together and talk about knowledge, etc.
- * Grace is "the blessings of the perfect master." You must have grace to have knowledge.
- * The world is about to end, not by violent apocalypse, but by millennial peace brought by Maharaj Ji.
- * Shri Hans Ji's emphasis on the poor as the chosen people of God is no longer stressed, particularly in North America, since Maharaj Ji became the leader.
- * Many premies move into ashrams where they nurture knowledge. Life here is communal and celibate. No meat is eaten and they serve the DLM in any way required.

LOCATION:

Headquartered in Denver, Colorado, with followers scattered throughout the world.

ECKANKAR

(c. 50,000 adherents)

(3,000,000 claimed worldwide)

FOUNDER: Paul Twitchell (1922-1971)
An ECK Master--Manifestation of God--above the law.

GOD(S): Known as "Sugmad."

SCRIPTURES: SHARIYAT-KI-SUGMAD--supposedly from a monastery in Tibet.

HISTORY: In 1965, Paul Twitchell, a former member of the Church of Scientology, founded his first public group called ECKANKAR. Supposedly coming from the Tibetan language, ECKANKAR means "co-worker with God." Twitchell had a known interest in the occult and various mystical practices. He is supposed to have been the 971st ECK Master. He, as a manifestation of God, was commissioned to lead men to God (Sugmad as he is known in ECKANKAR). The ECK Master has the key to heaven for those who will follow him. Twitchell died in September 1971. He has been succeeded by ECK Master number 972 who is Sri Darwin Gross. Gross has received Twitchell's rod of power and is known as the "divine one." This Hinduistic type modern religion continues to attract those looking for some new experience in the religious world.

BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:

- * ECK is cosmic sound current flowing from God.
- * ECKANKAR means co-worker with God.
- * Much of terminology is in AMDO dialect of the Tibet language.
- * Soul travel (astral projection) is the aim of ECKANKAR by which to lead men to the Kingdom of heaven (anami lok) the abode of sugmad (god).
- * Cosmic exercises to tune into the ECK.
- * ECKANKAR claims to hold the key to entering heaven.
- * Kal--the ECK word for the devil--is made out to be the author of Christianity. Christ is supposedly his son.
- * ECKANKAR is supposed to be the true source of all religions.

- * The ECK is called "The Way" in their literature.
- * One's own morals established by one's own authority.
- * Love--but with detached restraint.
- * Astral projections help one avoid endless reincarnation by rising through eleven astral planes. To accomplish this feat one needs the living ECK Master and his assistants.
- * Animals have a soul and a heaven of their own.
- * Has occult tendencies.

LOCATION:

United States--Headquarters in California.

EST

(c. 600,000 trainees)

FOUNDER: Jack Rosenberg (1935-Present).
(Later changed his name to a German name--Werner Erhard, because of his fascination with German philosopher Nietzsche.)

GOD(S): No gods to worship; each person is to become god.

SCRIPTURE: WHAT IS, IS, by Erhard.

HISTORY: EST began in 1971. Erhard got "it" while driving in a car one day. Being instead of doing is the philosophy. Bringing others to this state is his goal. Using much from Eastern philosophy, Erhard's seminars take interested parties into "group therapies" by "helping" them realize they are part of this world and the world a part of theirs. This is done by fear and intimidation techniques. Reportedly, the trainees go through verbal abuse and various degrading tactics for three days to grade down their defenses, so they can find "it."

If all could come to find "it," Erhard could remake the world. At \$250.00 for the 60-hour, two-weekend sessions, the group isn't that large yet. John Denver is an advocate of EST.

BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:

- * EST originally meant "Electronic Social Transformation." Erhard used the letters to mean "Erhard Seminars Training."
- * Jesus Christ is (was) a guru and receives no special recognition above other gurus.
- * Man is his own god.
- * Man decides what's right or wrong for himself. No such thing as sin.
- * Yoga, Mind Dyanetics, Zen Buddhism are behind this religious philosophy.
- * To perfect gods, follow Erhard's seminar training--EST. Clear up one's "hang-ups" in life.
- * "Being" rather than "doing."

- * Emotionally distraught initiates could be susceptible to spirit forces.
- * Reality is not objective, but one's own perception.

LOCATION:

United States primarily.

HARE KRISHNA

The International Society for
Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)

(c. 10,000 devotees)
(c. 6 million adherents)

- FOUNDER: A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada (1896-1977).
- GOD(S): Krishna
- SCRIPTURES: The VEDAS, BHAGAVAD GITA
- HISTORY: Prabhupada arrived in the United States in 1965 at age 70, fresh from India with seven dollars to his name. He went to New York City and soon collected a group of disciples. The movement has grown, and now has branches worldwide, including temples and ashrams in most of the larger United States cities.
- BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:
- * Universal Krishna consciousness is sought, "pure, external bliss, free from anxiety."
 - * Vegetarianism.
 - * No alcohol, drugs, tea or coffee.
 - * Chanting their Mantra publically, "Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna, Krishna, Hare, Hare, Hare Rama, Rama, Rama, Hare, Hare." Joining in the chanting is the best way to find Krishna consciousness.
 - * Indian dress must be adopted by devotees.
 - * Not a religion, but a cultural movement, a way of life. Krishna consciousness lies within all men, so "no conversion needs to take place."
 - * The shaven heads of the men show "detachment from material pleasure and a desire for spiritual development"; their topknots are apparently for "Lord Krishna to pull one to greater consciousness." White clay on the foreheads shows "that the body is a temple of God and must be used constantly in his service."
 - * No gambling.

- * Rigorous, regimental life in the ashrams. A day typically beginning at 3:30 a.m. and ending at 10:00 p.m.
- * Sex is only permitted in marriage. All sexual contact (including kissing) between married couples is permitted only once a month at the time of the woman's highest fertility. Even then, partners must spend several hours chanting beforehand to purify themselves. Marriages are arranged by the leadership.
- * Reject the material world.
- * Young people must reconcile with their parents upon joining the movement.
- * Thinking is discouraged as "mental speculation" and may lead to opinions different from the church teachings. They are quite hostile to rational thought and attempt to control the minds of the devotees to free them from worry so they may achieve greater consciousness.

UNIQUE FEATURES:

- * Solicit in public places for donations.
- * Own and run the Spiritual Sky Scented Products Company, one of the most successful incense companies in the United States.
- * Few members, but have high visibility.
- * Women hold an inferior position being considered important primarily for the sake of children.
- * BACK TO GODHEAD magazine produced by the movement.
- * Dancing and chanting are used to banish troubling ideas.

LOCATION:

Worldwide influence--50 temples in North America; 200 worldwide.

RAJNEESHISM

(c. 500,000 adherents)

FOUNDER: Bhagwan Rajneesh--1981 (United States), born Rajneeshi Chandia Mohan (1931-Present).

GOD(S): Doesn't believe in God--he is the way to God.
God is silence, consciousness.

SCRIPTURES: Hindu texts and his own writings.

HISTORY: A philosopher and historian, Rajneesh, formerly a Jain, began expounding his philosophy on meditation in 1964 while a professor in India. He gained a small following in Bombay after quitting his teaching post in 1966. He was a magnetic speaker and attracted a small following which moved to establish an ashram in Poona, India. The "ashram" (settlement) grew to between 5,000 and 7,000. The following learned new freedoms (particularly sexual) along with their meditation. When Indian tax officers began to close in on him, Bhagwan packed up and left for the United States (with a \$2 million debt unpaid). His followers were left behind in an impoverished state. In the United States his speaking skills once again attracted many to his philosophy. A major ashram was established on a 64,000 acre ranch near Antelope, Oregon, which was later taken over and renamed "Rajneeshpuram." Most recently the United States federal officials moved in to stop his fleeing the country with his wealth and ordered him out because of visa violations. Many of his followers dismantled their "ashram" and moved away. Some still remain. The Bhagwan left his 93 Rolls Royces and is seeking to establish another settlement in the Himalayan Mountains. The Bhagwan has been refused entrance to several countries.

BELIEFS AND

CHARACTERISTICS:

- * Establishment of religious retreats (ashram).
- * Trying to create a "new man."
- * Eastern philosophy with an "anything goes" attitude towards life.
- * Definitely not ascetic in teaching.
- * Cleanliness stressed.
- * A state of bliss is obtainable without much effort.
- * Meditation through five stages.

- * "Rebirthing"--in thought and feeling returning to one's mother's womb.
- * Followers are called sunnyasins.
- * Heavy emphasis on free sex without guilt.
- * Traditional marriage and family values are repudiated.
- * Illumination comes by the Bhagwan using his thumb to put pressure on the follower's forehead.
- * Followers must abandon former gods.
- * Become passive and meditative, but happy.

LOCATION:

500 centers in various locations in the world--100 of which are in the United States.

ROSICRUCIANS

(c. 100,000 adherents)

FOUNDER: Some say--Johann Andrea (1586-1654), as he wrote about a possibly fictitious man named Christian Rosenkreuz. The paper was called FAMA FRATERNITATIS meaning "the account of the brotherhood," and published in Germany in 1614. AMORC--a more modern thrust of the Rosicrucians claims to be based on ancient mystery schools and "resurrected" by Dr. H. Spencer Lewis in 1915. Max Heindel (1907) established a branch of Rosicrucians. In 1908 the first center opened.

GOD(S): Amen-Ra is the principle god, though up to 42 others are mentioned.

SCRIPTURES: THE SECRET DOCTRINES OF JESUS, BOOK OF JASHER and other literature from ancient mystery schools.

HISTORY: From the writing of Johann Andrea--and from mystery schools of ancient lands (Egypt in particular), plus a dose of the occult and pseudo-science. Rosicrucianism (Rosicrucian = Rosy Cross) has a series of rituals and ceremonies designed to enlighten one in an understanding of cosmic laws and in mastering life. Self-advancement is the appeal to prospectives who go through secret ceremonies which sometimes includes spiritism. The Rosicrucian Order is said to have come to the United States in 1694. Such notables as Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin are supposed to have subscribed to the philosophy. Going "underground" for over 100 years, Dr. H. Spencer Lewis was said to have brought it to light once again. His son Ralph took over leadership of the AMORC (Ancient and Mystical Order of Rosae Cruces) upon H. Spencer Lewis' death in 1939. Other family members are being prepared to continue the leadership in the foreseeable future.

BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:

- * They do not claim to be a religion.
- * Similarities to other secret societies such as Free Masonry.
- * Learning to become harmonious with cosmic laws.
- * Learn secret wisdom.
- * Learn the truth about reincarnation.
- * Most of the followers receive their secret information through the mail.

- * There are Rosicrucian lodges (resembling Masonic lodges) sprinkled throughout the world.
- * Two special festive occasions observed: New Year Feast in March and Outdoor Fete in September.
- * Have their own marriage ceremony after a civil marriage.
- * A ceremony for infants under 1½ years similar to a christening.
- * Special burial rites are performed.
- * Symbol is a gold cross with a red rose in the center. There are some variations.
- * There are some variations in groups claiming the name Rosicrucian. Two such groups are: Rosicrucian Fellowship of Oceanside, California, and Rosicrucian Brotherhood of Quakertown, Pennsylvania.
- * Devotion to a universal soul, but many deities are worshipped.
- * To have an altar (telesterion) in one's home for worship.
- * Personality is supposed to continue after one's death. This is to continue in a new human body.
- * Jesus is believed to have been the first to have completed the "endless" cycle and now be at-one with God.
- * Cross (of Christ) has significance as a sign of life. It is thought by some that a rose will bloom on the cross in the future.
- * The rose is a symbol from alchemy.
- * Representations of fire are used in their architecture as fire holds special significance to Rosicrucians.
- * Astrology is a facet of their study.
- * Similar to Gnosticism of the past.

LOCATION:

Headquartered in San Jose, California. Also scattered in other parts of the world.

SCIENTOLOGY

(c. 6 million adherents)

FOUNDER: L. Ron Hubbard (1912-1986)

GOD(S): Thetans, within every man.

SCRIPTURES: None, Scientologists use writings of Hubbard.

HISTORY: According to Scientologists, L. Ron Hubbard was their spiritual leader and mentor. He was an adventurer, hero, nuclear physics expert and philosopher. His credentials have been questioned in a court of law.

Mr. Hubbard was also a science-fiction writer. His book on dianetics was first published in 1950 and purported to help free man from his various hang-ups. In 1954, Hubbard established the Church of Scientology. It seems as if his science fiction turned to reality in religion through his writings and lectures, the religion spread. Various organizations--religious, scientific and governmental--began to resist the movement and its unorthodox beliefs. Taking the offense (as Hubbard taught), the Scientologists attacked psychiatry, the C.I.A. (Central Intelligence Agency), the I.R.S. (Internal Revenue Service), and the F.B.I. (Federal Bureau of Investigation).

The Church of Scientology has been charged with burglary, espionage, blackmail, kidnapping, and obstruction of justice. Yet, the various writings of Scientology (primarily L. Ron Hubbard's) have sold over 23 million copies. People are still fascinated by the Scientology beliefs.

L. Ron Hubbard had not been seen publicly since 1980. He had been in seclusion for the purpose of writing, so say the Scientologists. Others felt he had been avoiding lawsuits and bad publicity. Much of his time had been spent aboard his yacht at sea. On January 27, 1986, L. Ron Hubbard died of a stroke at the age of 74. The six million members will have to carry on without their founder and leader. It remains to be seen what changes, if any, will be instituted by the new leadership.

BELIEFS AND
CHARACTERISTICS:

- * Scientology means "knowing how to know."
- * Three basic principles are:
 1. Wisdom is available to everyone.
 2. Wisdom must be used to be of value.
 3. Knowledge is valuable if it works.
- * Scientologists believe that in every person is a Thetan (a spirit or god) said to be "a hero of a long-lost intergalactic civilization slaughtered by evil forces on the planet Helatrobis some 40 trillion years ago." This Thetan is reincarnated and is caught in a web of injuries done to himself and others.
- * Hubbard exclaimed in 1980 that he was "as well as can be expected for anyone several trillion years old."
- * An E-METER, a crude electrogalvanometer, is used in counselling to determine painful memories. This process of AUDITING is said to cure the REACTIVE MIND (Confession to men).
- * Auditors receive up to \$175.00 per hour for helping to "cure" the believers.
- * Unwanted behaviors (ENGRAMS), once their cause is brought to light, are expelled. The believer is in the process of ascending to the level of an Operating Thetan--free from illness, and capable of soul-travel and control of the physical universe.
- * They do not receive tax-exempt status as a church.
- * Sunday church services.
- * Scientology ministers do marriages, funerals, and other services for members.
- * Good family life.
- * Being in good health.
- * Honesty and integrity are high on the list of ideals.
- * One may be a Scientologist and retain membership in his own church.

LOCATION:

Mainly North America and Europe, but it is in 30 countries.

SUBUD

(c. 5,000 adherents)

FOUNDER: George Gurdjieff (1872-1949)--the initial ideas.
Muhammad Subuh, known as Bapak ("Elderly Gentleman") an Indonesian (1901-Present).

GOD(S): God or "higher energies."

SCRIPTURES: Books of George Gurdjieff and his follower Peter Ouspensky.

HISTORY: Bapak was born in Java of Moslem parents. Early in life he sought truth in and outside of the Islamic religion. He gave up the pursuit and became a minor governmental official. In 1925, he suddenly found himself in touch with "higher energies" and remained in this state of Latihan ("exercise" in Indonesian) for 1000 days. He was unable to avoid the occurrence at the time. Several years later he taught it was revealed to him that he had been chosen to transmit this contact to others. Subud has spread slowly, coming to Europe and North America only after 1957.

ORGANIZATION: No formal structure, the international groups are only loosely linked. Bapak's chosen "helpers" are in charge of the Subud groups in their areas.

BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:

- * Latihan is something like a charismatic revival meeting, with lots of yelling and jumping around. It is said to occur because God has entered the soul allowing it to shrug off the rational mind and the emotions. The soul can grow because of this and thus the person is better prepared for death. The meetings are so intense that they are held only 2 or 3 times a week for half an hour. The experience can be done alone, although it is preferable in a group setting.
- * Subud comes from three Sanskrit words: Susila (right living), Budhi (the divine force in every living creature), and Dharma (trust and submission to God).
- * Bapak is said to be continuously in Latihan.
- * Latihan is held with men and women segregated in different rooms.
- * Giving birth and menstruation are both considered Latihans.

- * People are advised to continue to lead an ordinary life after joining Subud.
- * Bapaks "helpers" are required to channel the "higher energies" into new initiates.

LOCATION:

Headquarters--New York City.

THEOSOPHY

(c. 25,000 adherents)

- FOUNDER: Madame Helena Petrovna Blavatsky (1831-1891).
A spiritualist medium. Theosophical Society founded in New York City, New York, in 1875. Also, Henry Olcott and William Q. Judge had a part in its founding.
- GOD(S): God is all and all is in God. Can't be known or be comprehended. Not the Christian God. Christ was merely one of several masters such as Buddha, Zoroaster, and Confucius.
- SCRIPTURES: The HOLY BIBLE is one of many revelations. Tendency is to use the Hindu scriptures as well as concepts from Persia, Egypt, Rome and Greece. ISIS UNVEILED and THE SECRET DOCTRINE are used as Theosophical writings.
- HISTORY: Madame Helena Blavatsky was born in Russia of German parentage. Her psychic abilities soon brought her special recognition in her social circles. Her low morals have been recognized by many historians. After two broken marriages, several lovers and drug addiction, she used her persuasive powers to launch a new movement in 1875 along with two of her interested students--Henry Olcott and William Judge. Her contact with spiritualists and Mahatmas (spiritual masters in Tibet) brought a mix of occultism and Hinduism into the new movement--called the Theosophical Society.
- In 1879, Adyar (near Madras), India was selected as the headquarters of the organization. When Blavatsky's supposed spiritualist messages were investigated, she was accused of being a magician and a fraud. This investigation nearly destroyed the Theosophical Society. Enter Annie Besant. As a radical activist in the society, Madame Besant used her communication skills to rekindle an interest in Theosophy. When Blavatsky died in 1891, she was obese, miserable, and deserted by the many of her followers. Annie Besant became the head. The movement eventually split into two groups. One, led by Olcott emphasized eastern occultism and functioned in Europe. William Judge based his faction in the United States and tried to merge occultism with western thought. There are still two factions at this time. The larger British-based group still holds to predominantly occult tendencies of Besant and Olcott. The smaller group is based in Altadena, California. Such well-known personalities as George Bernard Shaw, Thomas Edison and Jawahrlal Nehru were drawn to Theosophical beliefs.

BELIEFS AND
CHARACTERISTICS:

- * Theosophy--is from the Greek word "Theosophia" meaning "knowledge of God."
- * A religion, philosophy and a science--yet it claims to go beyond.
- * No atonement is available by any sacrifice of any god.
- * Having always existed, man is complex: has one spirit, three souls, a life principle and two bodies.
- * There are seven possible regions of the soul, three lower and three higher with one in between.
- * Deeds are right or wrong according to how each person reckons them. For instance, lying is wrong if you think it is. If you don't think it's wrong, it is all right.
- * Prayer is made to whomever one wishes--Christ, Ahura Mazda, Buddha, Vishnu, it doesn't really matter.
- * Reincarnation is the way man may finally become absorbed in the World Soul or Universal Being. The ultimate is like the Buddhist belief in Nirvana. According to Theosophy this process may take 800 reincarnations.
- * Three goals are sought:
 1. Universal brotherhood
 2. Discovering the unknown laws of nature and the powers of man.
 3. Comparing religion, science and philosophy.

LOCATIONS:

United States, Britain

TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION, (TM)

(c. 100,000 adherents)

- FOUNDER: Maharishi Mahesh Yogi (1911-Present)
- GOD(S): Brahman (an Absolute Being; man's inner self is part of Brahman)
- SCRIPTURES: None. Inspiration is probably drawn from the Vedas. For instruction in meditation, slick western-style classes are offered. Also the BHAGAVAD GITA is used.
- HISTORY: Born in India, the Maharishi graduated from the University of Allahabad with a Physics degree but soon dropped out of society to wander as a Yogi. In the mid-50's he became a missionary of the "spiritual regeneration" of mankind. Realizing that TM is an experience that cannot be explained in writing, the Maharishi streamlined the teaching of TM to be easily grasped in the modern world. In the late 60's the Beatles took an interest in TM (later describing it as "a bad trip"). In the early 70's TM was the subject of a great deal of scientific interest.
- ORGANIZATION: Corporate-style western arrangement, with the Maharishi in control.
- BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:
- * By properly practicing TM in two 20-minute periods every day, all mankind will achieve "absolute bliss consciousness."
 - * Total commitment to develop spiritually (in Ashranis) and to learn the Hindu metaphysics behind the Maharishi's ideas is not required.
 - * Sanskrit Mantras (usually the names of Hindu gods) are chanted to produce the relaxed state of TM.
 - * Less stress is placed on the Indian philosophy behind TM than on the findings of some psychologists and biologists who feel TM may be beneficial for people.
 - * Learning TM costs a one-time fee and consists of a short series of classes, some personal instruction, and the giving of a Mantra to chant.
 - * A wide variety of people practice TM because of its promises for happiness, its simplicity, and its large acceptance by western society.

LOCATION:

Headquartered in Switzerland and mainly concentrated in the United States.

UNIFICATION CHURCH

(c. 2 million adherents)

FOUNDER: Sun Myung Moon (1920-Present)

GOD(S): God

SCRIPTURES: The HOLY BIBLE, Moon's DIVINE PRINCIPLE and his revelations.

HISTORY: Moon was born in 1918 in Korea, raised a Presbyterian and studied electrical engineering in Japan. At the age of 17, he began receiving revelations which opened up God's "coded message" in the HOLY BIBLE, these he called the divine principles. Arrested by the Communists, he was freed by the United Nations troops and moved to South Korea. His movement then spread successfully to Japan and less successfully to America (starting in 1972). Deportation from the United States was recommended for falsifying his wife's credentials. He was indicted for tax evasion and served a prison term.

ORGANIZATION: According to his followers, Moon is apparently the twentieth century Messiah. Below him is a hierarchy of leaders superimposed on the body of lay followers/missionaries.

BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:

- * God originally planned for Adam and Eve to have sinless children; but Satan interfered, the couple bore children of Satan and hence the world today is Satan's world.
- * "Jesus did not come to die"--He was sent as the Messiah to sire perfect children. But, unrecognized, he was mistakenly slain.
- * The world is about to end, a third Messiah (Korean) is to reveal himself this century and become the father of a perfect family, redeem man, and inaugurate the millennium.
- * Events in the spirit world cause every event in this world.
- * Followers give all their wealth to the church, as well as either working full-time for the church, or turning over their future wages.
- * Only purpose for life now is spreading the truth so God's kingdom can be established.

UNIQUE FEATURES:

- * Mass marriages.
- * Moon has been married several times and has 7 children.
- * Young, white, middle-class are the most common type of U.S. convert.
- * Very wealthy organization--possibly because of South Korean government allowing them to get away with some unorthodox business practices.
- * Individualism is not tolerated, "I am your brain" Moon has declared to his followers.

LOCATION:

United States headquarters--Washington, D.C.
United States, Asia, worldwide audience.

UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

(c. 200,000 adherents)

FOUNDER: No definite founder, but Michael Servetus was the first notable to oppose trinity doctrine in 1500's.

GOD(S): Believe in God--as one personage. No Trinity! Jesus is looked on as a great religious teacher, but not God. Holy Spirit--viewed as an influence from God.

SCRIPTURES: For the most part the HOLY BIBLE is not viewed as any more important than Buddhist or Islamic texts. Individuals are free to form their own beliefs--and are encouraged to do so.

HISTORY: Since the trinity doctrine was established in 325 A.D. and finalized 451 A.D., there have been opponents. It was not until Michael Servetus, a Spanish theologian, came along that a major challenge was presented. He was outlawed and finally burned at the stake for his opposition in 1553. The anti-trinitarian movement continued though persecuted. The two Socinus brothers led the movement in Poland before the Jesuits eliminated it. Transylvania became the main center for many years with a King (John Sigismund) believing the doctrine. Francis David was the leader in Transylvania (now part of Romania). Succeeding rulers did not take so kindly to the Unitarian belief and persecuted the believers. Britain saw the first service in 1774 and the Puritans brought the belief to the United States in 1780's. The first Unitarian congregation formed as a schism from Congregationalism under James Freeman. Joseph Priestly founded a different branch of the Unitarian church in Northumberland, Pennsylvania. William E. Channing carried the baton for Unitarians in earlier days and is looked upon as the father of Unitarianism in the United States. Unitarian beliefs offered a church to those who didn't hold to many orthodox Christian beliefs. There is quite an impressive list of early patriots who were Unitarians including presidents--John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Millard Filmore and William Taft. Many patriots such as Daniel Webster, Florence Nightingale and Susan B. Anthony were Unitarians. Several famous authors also gave their support to the movement such as Charles Dickens, Walt Whitman, Charles Darwin, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Mark Twain and Louise May Alcott. In 1961, the Unitarians merged with the Universalists to form the present organization.

BELIEFS AND
CHARACTERISTICS:

- * Promotion of harmony among mankind is a major goal.
- * God is so good, He wouldn't condemn any to hell. All will be reconciled to God.
- * Humanist in their approach.
- * No official creeds.
- * Acceptance of all individuals of good will.
- * Most don't pray to a personal God.
- * Services are conducted more like discussion groups than formal services.
- * Dedication service instead of baptism (by sprinkling sometimes).
- * God's name is left out of their wedding, funeral and dedication services.
- * Some observe communion service, but the service is not considered sacramental.
- * Do not view the concept of authority positively.
- * Human nature is basically good.
- * Tends to attract intellectuals and philosopher types.
- * Do not believe in predestination.
- * Evolution accounts for man's existence.
- * Members are usually active in community affairs.
- * Congregational organization.
- * Beliefs are viewed as stages of growth, hence may change as time passes.
- * Concerned with peace and freedom in this present life.

LOCATION:

British Commonwealth, United States

UNITY SCHOOL OF CHRISTIANITY

(c. 1.2 million adherents)

FOUNDER: Charles and Myrtle Fillmore of Kansas City, Missouri. Myrtle Fillmore died in 1931; Charles Fillmore died in 1948. Lowell Fillmore is current leader (son).

GOD(S): God is a principle. Christ was the example of how we may be joined to God in mind. He is not our Redeemer.

SCRIPTURES: HOLY BIBLE is used with spiritualizing of it to fit their teachings. There are other means of revelation such as one's relationship to God.

HISTORY: An outgrowth of the Phineas Quimby approach to healing through Mind Science. Charles and Myrtle Fillmore were infirmed and in need of healing. They claim healing came to them when they accepted being children of God. They later broke with Christian Science to launch their own brand of Mind Science called the Unity School of Christianity in Kansas City in 1889. They do not claim to be a separate religion, but say all religion is good. They only aid one in his needs. However, they have ministers, churches and conduct baptisms, weddings, and funerals. They also have worship services.

BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:

- * There is good in all religions.
- * No sin or evil exists.
- * Reconciliation is to bring our consciousness to God's level.
- * Reincarnation to other human bodies.
- * "Mind Science" type of approach to healing.
- * Matter is real.
- * Major literature campaign--published in many languages.
- * DAILY WORD is the best known of six magazines.
- * Emphasis on health and happiness.
- * Thinking of good health produces healthy organisms in one's system. Thinking of disease produces disorder and sickness in one's life.

- * The human body may be refined by the avoidance of: tobacco, liquor, dancing, meat, sex (unless for procreation) and negative thinking.
- * Explain the link between man and God.
- * Women may be ordained.
- * Silent Unity--does the service of counselling, answering letters, phone calls of needy individuals.
- * Symbol is a globe with wings.

LOCATION:

Largely in the United States but have adherents in many nations as well.

SECTION IV

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I --

WORLD
RELIGIONS

SIMILARITIES AMONG THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS

1. Belief in a Supreme Being:

Buddhism--Founder

Judaism--Monotheistic

Confucianism--"Supreme Ruler" or "Heaven" (Not actively worshipped.)

Zoroastrianism--Ahura Mazda (However, the evil Angra Mainyu is also extremely powerful.)

Hinduism--Brahma }
Taoism--Tao } Worship many
 } deities popularly.

Islam--Allah

Christianity--God

2. Claim of Divine Incarnation:

Hinduism--Brahma, Krishna, Rama, Vishnu, all incarnated in men and animals

Buddhism--Buddha

Islam--Shiite Iman's are incarnations of the prophet.

Christianity--Christ

3. Claim of a Supernatural Origin of the Founders:

Buddha--Pre-existent heavenly being

Taoism--Lao Tzu born old

Zoroaster--Born of a virgin

Christ--Born of a virgin

4. Claim of Divine Revelation:

All claim to possess divinely saving truth, not merely man-made, nor even man-discovered.

5. Claim of Inspired Scripture:

All possess definite sets of documents which are regarded as conveying unique Divine truths which need to be known or salvation.

The KORAN of the Muslims and the RIG VEDA of the Hindus are claimed by their people to be verbally inspired and literally infallible.

6. Report of Miracles Performed:

Usually miracles are related in connection with the religion's founder.

7. Principle of the "Golden Rule":

Hinduism:

"Do naught to others which, if done to thee, would cause thee pain: this is the sum of duty. (Mahabharata, 5 : 1517; as translated in Monier-Williams, Indian Wisdom, 446.)"

Buddhism:

"In five ways should a clansman minister to his friends and familiars, . . . by treating them as he treats himself. (Sigalovada Sutta, 31; Sacred Books of the Buddhists 4 : 183.)

Is there a deed, Rahula, thou dost wish to do? Then bethink thee thus: 'Is this deed conducive to my own harm, or to others' harm or to that of both?' Then is this a bad deed, entailing suffering. Such a deed must thou surely not do. (Majjhima Nikaya, 1 : 415; as translated in Mrs. Rhys Davids, Buddhism, 125.)"

Confucianism:

"The 'Silver Rule' of Confucius is to be found in six different places among the sacred scriptures of this religion, but uniformly in the negative form: The Master replied '. . . What you do not want done to yourself, do not do unto others. (Analects, 15 : 23, also 5 : 11; 12 : 2; Great Learning, 10 : 2; Doctrine of the Mean, 13 : 3; Li Ki, 28 : 1. 32; in SBE, 28 : 305.)"

Taoism:

"Recompense injury with kindness. (SBE, 39 : 106.)

To those who are good to me, I am good; and to those who are not good to me, I am also good. And thus all get to be good. To those who are sincere with me, I am sincere; and to those who are not sincere with me, I am also sincere. And thus all get to be sincere. (SBE, 39 : 91.)"

Zoroastrianism:

"Whatever thou dost not approve for thyself, do not approve for any one else. When thou hast acted in this manner, thou art righteous. (SBE, 24 : 330.)

That nature only is good when it shall not do unto another whatever is not good for its own self. (SBE, 18 : 271.)

When a good man is beaten through malice, the effort of every one . . . should continue just as though it happened to himself. (SBE, 37 : 51.)"

Judaism:

"Take heed to thyself, my child, in all thy works; and be discreet in all thy behavior. And what thou thyself hatest, do to no man. (Tobit, 4 : 14-15.)

Whatsoever thou wouldest that men should not do unto thee, do not do that to them. (Babylonian Sabbath, 31a.)"

Greek Philosophy:

"Do not do to others what you would not wish to suffer yourself. (Isocrates, Nicocles, or the Cyprians, 61; E. S. Forster, Isocrates Cyprian Orations, 149.)

Treat your friends as you would want them to treat you. (Aristotle, as reported in Diogenes Laertius, Lives and Opinions of Eminent Philosopher, 5 : 21; Bohn Library translation, 188.)

Do not do what any one is vexed to suffer. (Philo's dictum as reported in Eusebius, Praeparatio Evangelica, 8. 7. 6.)"

Christianity:

"All things therefore whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, even so do ye also unto them. (Matthew 7 : 12.)

As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. (Luke 6 : 31.)

Also, only in Christianity is this universal rule of right conduct based upon the character and behavior of God himself:

I say unto you: 'Love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you, that ye may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust.' (Matthew 5 : 44-45.)"

8. Recognition of a Sacred Community:

Buddhism--Monks

Hinduism--Caste System

Islam--Muslims above infidels

9. Hope of Universal Religion:

Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, Islam and Christianity all express their desire of becoming the world's only religion.

10. Future Life:

Hinduism and Buddhism--Hope for Nirvana.

Confucianism--Ghostly future existence.

Zoroastrianism and Islam--Heaven and Hell

Taoism--Heavens and Hells

Shintoism--Believe in a continuing life after this, but don't actually concern themselves with it.

Taken from: THE WORLD'S LIVING RELIGIONS
by Dr. Robert E. Hume pp. 270-282

WORLD RELIGION INFORMATION AT A GLANCE

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE BIRTH OF FOUNDER</u>	<u>FOUNDER</u>	<u>DEITY</u>	<u>PRESENT LOCATION</u>	<u>SCRIPTURES</u>	<u>NUMBER IN MILLIONS OF ADHERENTS*</u>
HINDUISM	1500 B.C.	None	Brahman	India	VEDAS	580
JUDAISM	1500 B.C.	Moses	YHVH	U.S., Israel	"Old Testament" HOLY SCRIPTURES	15
SHINTOISM	660 B.C.	None	Nature-Gods, Kami	Japan	KO-JI-KI & NIHON-SHOKI	63
ZOROASTRIANISM	660 B.C.	Zoroaster	Ahura Mazda	Iran & India	AVESTA	0.18
TAOISM	600 B.C.	Lao Tzu	The Tao	China	TAO TE CHING	30
BUDDHISM	560 B.C.	Gautama, the Buddha	Originally None, Now Founder	East Asia	TRIPITAKA LOTUS SUTRA	300
CONFUCIANISM	551 B.C.	Confucius	Heaven or Founder	China	ANALECTS	257
CHRISTIANITY	4 B.C.	Jesus Christ	God	Worldwide	THE HOLY BIBLE	1,000
ISLAM	570 A.D.	Muhammad	Allah	Near East, North Africa, Indonesia, Central Asia	KORAN (QUR'AN)	1,000

*From: READER'S DIGEST ALMANAC AND YEARBOOK, 1982.

POINT OF ORIGIN AND PHILOSOPHY OF WORLD RELIGIONS

"THREE GROUPS OF THREE"

1. Religions that originated in India:

Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism

* "Philosophical, introspective, exploring the nature of ultimate reality, pessimistic"

2. Religions that originated in the Near East:

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

* "Moralistic, self-assertive, intimate God-man relationship, end-of-the-world belief, man is being saved, optimistic"

3. Religions that originated in the Orient:

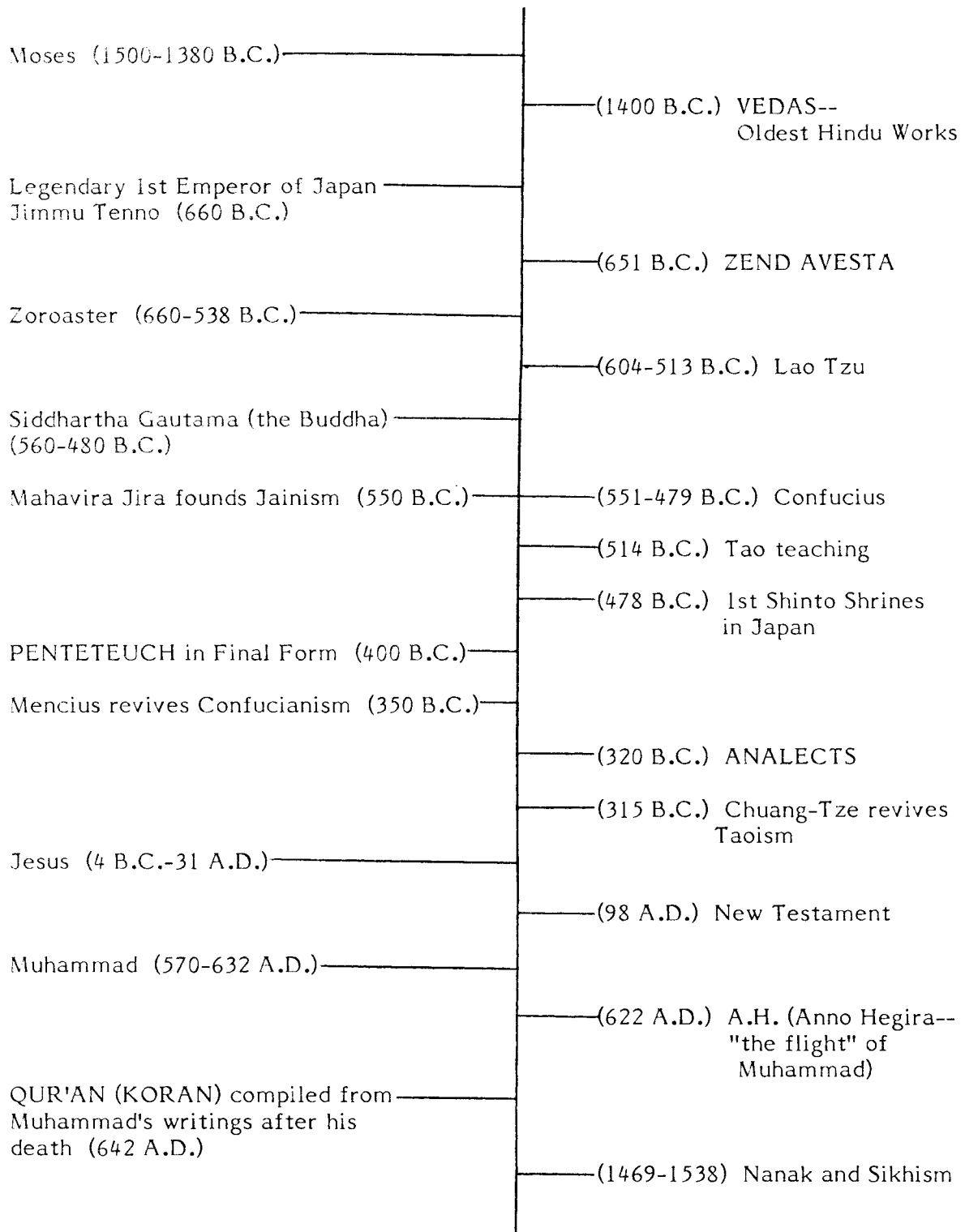
Taoism, Confucianism, and Shintoism

* "Traditional, ancestor-worship, the record of the past is a guide for the present, propriety and courage are their ideals. Different from Western concept of worship, no search for ultimate purpose or individual salvation linked to a Divine Being."

(From WHAT THE GREAT RELIGIONS BELIEVE by Joseph Gaer, p. 62.)

WORLD RELIGIONS TIMELINE

GREAT MEN AND THEIR WORK



WORLD RELIGIONS GLOSSARY

AHIMSA:	To Jains non-violence; do not injure any living thing.
AHURA MAZDA:	Supreme Deity of the Zoroastrians; means the Lord of Light or Wise Lord.
ALLAH:	One true God of the Muslims.
ALCHEMY:	Miraculous changes from one form to another.
AMATERASU:	Shinto sun goddess; chief among god and goddesses.
AMITABHA:	One of the Buddhas particularly honored among the Oriental Buddhists.
ANGRA MAINYU:	Also known to Zoroastrians as Ahriman. The spirit of evil in opposition to Ahura Mazda.
ANIMISM:	The belief that everything in nature has a spirit or soul.
ANTHROPOMORPHISM:	Attributing human characteristics to God or gods.
ATHEISM:	Denial of any supernatural power or deity.
ATMAN:	In Hinduism it represents the Universal Self.
AVESTA:	Sacred Scriptures of Zoroastrians.
BAR MIZVAH:	In Judaism at thirteen, it is a ceremony marking his entrance to manhood.
BHAGAVAD GITA:	Most loved religious writing of Hinduism. An epic poem.
BHAKTI:	Religious devotion in the Hindu faith.
BODHISATTVA:	A Buddha to be or a candidate for becoming a Buddha.
BRAHMA:	Hindu creator god; a member of the three-in-one Trimurti.
BRAHMIN:	Top caste of Hinduism--are priests and holy men.
BUDDHA:	The "Awakened" or "Enlightened" One. Siddhartha Gautama. Also, can mean what others may become.
CALIPH:	A political, religious leader and successor of Muhammad.
CHUN-TZU:	The ideal man to the Confucianists.
DHARMA:	The law of the universe. In Buddhism, it is Buddha's doctrine.

GURU:	A Hindu spiritual teacher.
HAJJ:	Arabic word for the pilgrimage to be made to Mecca by Muslims.
HINAYANA:	Means the "lessor vehicle." The same as Theravada Buddhism.
HSIAO:	In Confucianism, it means filial piety.
I CHING:	Classic Handbook of divination of the Confucianists.
IMAM:	Divinely appointed successor of the Shiites to Muhammad. Similar to a Caliph of the Sunni branch.
JEN:	Concern for humanity; a quality for Confucianists to seek.
JIHAD:	Muslim holy war.
KA'BA:	Cube-shaped shrine in Mecca. A sacred symbol of Islam.
KAMI:	Word for Shinto gods.
KARMA:	Law of cause and effect.
KOJIKI:	Shinto sacred writings.
KRISHNA:	An Avatar of Vishnu. Well-loved hero in Hinduism.
KSHATRIYA:	Second rank of Hindu caste.
LI:	Propriety: good form. Major quality of Confucius.
MAHAYANA:	"Great Raft" larger, more liberal form of Buddhism.
MANTRA:	Sacred word or saying usually used in meditation.
MESSIAH:	In Judaism, the Anointed One who is to come to set up the Kingdom of God. The Greek word is "Christ."
MOKSHA:	Means emancipation to Hindus and Buddhists. Salvation from physical life. Ultimate goal of man.
MYTH:	The sacred writings of a religion which give direction and meaning to life.
NIRVANA:	Cessation of craving or desire. Release--the ultimate goal of Buddhists.
QUR'AN:	(KORAN); Divine revelation of Allah to Muhammad--written in Arabic. Holy book of Muslims.

SHAMAN:	Holy man who is sometimes prone to use magic.
SHI'A:	A Muslim party which follows the first caliph after Muhammad whose name was Ali.
SHIVA:	The Destroyer and one of the Trimurti of Hinduism.
SIKH:	A disciple of Nanak--follower of Sikhism.
SUDRAS:	Lowest caste of Hinduism--commoners.
SUNNI:	The major Muslim branch which follows the orthodox beliefs.
SUTRA:	Written teachings of Buddha or a saint; looked upon as sacred writing.
TABOO:	Prohibition of the use of sacred objects.
TALMUD:	Jewish commentary on the TORAH.
TANTRISM:	Religious movement which delves into mysticism and magic.
TAO:	To Confucianists and Taoists it means the cosmic way. It is more revered by the Taoists.
TAO TE CHING:	Lao Tzu's writing which is used for Taoist scripture.
THERAVADA:	Means "Way of the Elders." The more conservative branch of Buddhism. Synonymous with Hinayana.
TORAH:	The Law; Most specifically the first five books of the HOLY SCRIPTURES of Judaism.
VAISHYA:	Third in rank of the Hindu caste system.
VEDA:	Means "knowledge." The oldest Hindu writings.
VISHNU:	The Preserver and one of the three deities of the Trimurti of the Hindus.
WU WEI:	The heart and core of Taoist philosophy. Means non-action.
YANG:	One of the two energy forces--the masculine, bright, positive side in Taoism and Confucianism.
YIN:	The second of the energy forces--the feminine, dark, and negative side in Taoism and Confucianism.
YOGA:	Inner discipline leading to the way of salvation.
ZEN:	The belief that enlightenment can be attained through meditation rather than teachings. A form of Buddhism.

APPENDIX II --

CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS

A. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ON CHRISTIANITY

IN GENERAL

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES

- FOUNDER: Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:18) 31 A.D.
- GOD(S): One God--two personages--Father and Son (John 1:1; 10:30)
Holy Spirit--power, might, essence of God (II Timothy 1:7; Luke 24:49).
- SCRIPTURES: The HOLY BIBLE--all of it is profitable for instruction and correction (II Timothy 3:16). Preserved by Jews and Greeks (Romans 3:1-2; 1:16).
- HISTORY: Jesus Christ trained His disciples and founded His Church which began officially with the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost 31 A.D. Christ gave His Body, the Church, a commission to preach His gospel to the world and baptize those who respond to His call. (Matthew 24:14; 28:18-20; John 6:44)
- The Church began with great growth (Acts 2:41, 47), but was soon suffering persecution by the Jews and later the Gentiles. Christ called the Church "little flock" (Luke 12:32) and prophesied they would be persecuted as He was (John 16:33). Small remnants remained faithful though persecuted through the centuries and never died out (Matthew 16:18). Because of their strong belief in the resurrection and God's Kingdom, Christians endured all types of persecution (Hebrews 11:35-40).
- The Church Christ established would preach the gospel at the time of the end (Matthew 24:14, Mark 13:10) and publish it freely (Matthew 10:8). The Church will finally rule with Christ to bring peace on earth for all (Revelation 20:4; Daniel 7:18, 27).
- BELIEFS AND CHARACTERISTICS:
- * Has the name "Church of God" (John 17:11; I Corinthians 1:2; 10:32; 11:22).
 - * Christ is the head (Colossians 1:18).
 - * Church government is from the top down (Ephesians 4:11-12; I Corinthians 12:28).
 - * Faith, repentance, and baptism are essential to receive God's forgiveness and grace (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38-39).
 - * Have the Holy Spirit which makes a person a Christian (Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:12).
 - * The Church is not a building, but the members (I Corinthians 16:19).

- * Prior to Christ's return would not be a large congregation (Matthew 7:13-14).
- * Prayer and Bible study are essential to being strong as Christians (Matthew 6:5-9; II Timothy 2:15).
- * Keep God's commandments (I John 2:3-6; Revelation 14:12).
- * Keep seventh-day sabbath and annual sabbaths (Hebrews 4:9; Mark 2:28-29; Leviticus 23).
- * Sin is breaking God's law (I John 3:4).
- * Anointing of the sick (James 5:14).
- * Are overcomers (Revelation 2:26; 3:21).
- * Are known by their love of each other and fellow man (John 13:34-35; Galatians 6:10).
- * Are giving and service-oriented (Acts 20:35; James 1:26-27).
- * Unity (Ephesians 4:3-6; I Corinthians 1:10; Philippians 2:2).
- * Believe in showing their faith by their works (James 2:20, 26), yet know salvation is a gift of God through faith in God's grace (Ephesians 2:8-10).
- * The hope of all Christians is the resurrection from the dead (I Corinthians 15; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Philippians 3:10-11).
- * To ultimately become like Christ as born again spirit beings (Philippians 3:21; I John 3:1-2; Romans 8:29, 1:4).
- * As spirit beings--children of God--they will rule with Christ on this earth (Revelation 5:10; Matthew 5:5).

LOCATION:

Though small would have worldwide influence (Matthew 28:19).

TIMELINE

The Christian Church

31 A.D.	Founding of The New Testament Church at Pentecost
64 A.D.	Nero persecutes Christians after the burning of Rome
70 A.D.	Fall of Jerusalem to Roman armies
90 A.D.	Domitian persecutes Christians
98-117 A.D.	Trajan tolerates Christianity
120 A.D.	Easter keeping and baptism by sprinkling first mentioned
161-180 A.D.	Marcus Aurelius persecutes Christians
250 A.D.	Systematic attempt to restore Roman gods is initiated.
284-305 A.D.	Diocletian persecutes Christians
300's A.D.	Many sought membership in the Christian church, nearly everyone was received. Services increased in splendor, decreased in spirituality.
313 A.D.	Constantine comes to power in the West. Edict of Milan--Christianity is tolerated.
321 A.D.	Constantine declares Sunday the day of rest
323 A.D.	Constantine becomes sole Emperor, Nicene Creed written
325 A.D.	Council of Nicea--the Trinity doctrine made official. Easter to be kept instead of Passover.
363 A.D.	Laodicea Council--declares a person anathema if he keeps seventh day Sabbath
379-395 A.D.	Theodosius I--Christianity becomes the official religion of the Empire.
451 A.D.	Council of Chalcedon--the Trinity doctrine codified
1054 A.D.	Split of Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches
1204 A.D.	Roman Catholic crusaders sack Greek Orthodox Constantinople, sealing the split between the two churches.
1517 A.D.	Protestant reformation begins with Martin Luther posting the 95 Theses in Wittenburg.

- 1484-1531 A.D. Ulrich Zwingli--Swiss Protestant reformer.
- 1509-1564 A.D. John Calvin--French reformer who led in the consolidation of the Reformation in Geneva.
- 1703-1791 A.D. John Wesley--Founder of Methodism

APOSTLES' CREED

(2nd Century A.D.)

- (1) I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth;
- (2) And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord;
- (3) Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary;
- (4) Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
- (5) He descended into hell; the third day He arose again from the dead;
- (6) He ascended into Heaven, sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;
- (7) From thence He shall come to judge the living dead.
- (8) I believe in the Holy Spirit;
- (9) The Holy Catholic Church; the communion of saints;
- (10) The forgiveness of sins;
- (11) The resurrection of the body;
- (12) And life everlasting. Amen.

THE NICENE CREED

(325 A.D.)

I. I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

II. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made.

III. Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from Heaven; and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

IV. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried.

V. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures.

VI. And ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.

VII. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

VIII. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets.

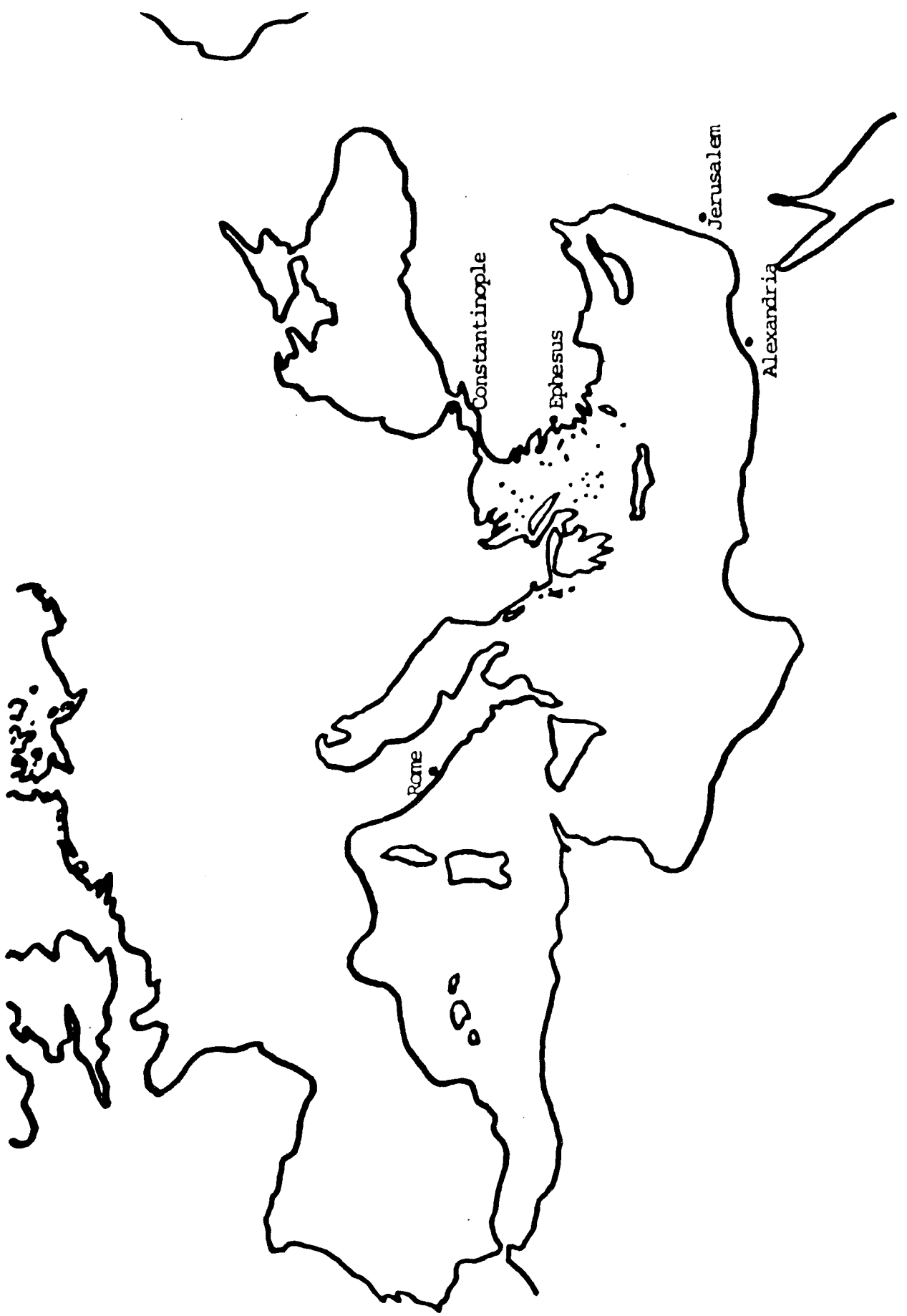
IX. I believe in one Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

X. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins.

XI. I look for the resurrection of the dead.

XII. And the life of the world to come. Amen.

5 CENTERS OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY



B. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ON

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY

Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, is highly revered in the Roman Catholic Church. She is held in high esteem by the Eastern Orthodox as well. Below are the special events and prayers in honor of the Virgin Mary established by decrees of the Roman Catholic Church.

Perpetual Virginity: (649 A.D.) Belief that Mary remained a virgin before, during and after the birth of Christ.

Immaculate Conception: (1854 A.D.) Mary was not born with original sin--no stain of sin at her birth since she was to bear the Christ child. Also, she was preserved from falling into sin. Mary's soul is called the most beautiful God ever created. (THE GLORIES OF MARY, page 20)

Mother of God: (431 A.D.) Since Mary carried Jesus in her womb and gave birth to Him, and since Jesus is the Son of God, she is the mother of God.

Second Eve: Mary is called the "second Eve" since she makes possible man's redemption by cooperating with Christ and God unlike Eve who cooperated in Adam's disobedience. "No one is saved, except through Mary." (THE GLORIES OF MARY, page 59)

Assumption of Mary: (1950) Mary was taken bodily into heaven soon after her death. Her body did not decompose!

Rosary: "A wreath of roses." A series of prayers in honor of the Virgin Mary. 150 "Hail Marys" and 15 "Our Fathers."

The Hail Mary: "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death, Amen."

Mary is referred to as: Mediatrix, Queen of Hell, Queen of Heaven, Gate of Heaven, Advocate, having all power, Peacemaker, Hope, Refuge, Help. (From THE GLORIES OF MARY)

Pray to Mary as she has more compassion than the Father and Christ. Her Son cannot refuse her requests.

Some claim Catholics worship Mary. Catholics explain there are three degrees of honor or worship.

1. Latria--Worship accorded to God alone.
2. Dulia--Honor given to the saints.
3. Hyperdulia--Veneration of Mary.

Adoration of Mary is not wrong, according to the Catholics as long as it does not become "Latria."

At least nine feasts have been dedicated to Mary by the Catholic Church.

VATICAN II

Vatican II was the twenty-first general council of the Roman Catholic Church. The council of 2,600 bishops from every major continent and culture was called by the late Pope John XXIII. The purposes were manifold and included modernization, involvement of the laity, ecumenism, as well as affirmation of traditional doctrinal positions. The Vatican II council has modified the Roman Catholic stand on many issues. We hope the list which follows will be helpful in summarizing some of its conclusions.

1. To move the church into the future in Christian unity.
2. Laity is to help directly in the church's mission.
3. The church is to reach out to the world--not merely exist along side of it.
4. Other Christian churches (Orthodox, Anglicans, Protestants) are part of the body of Christ.
5. To serve those in need not merely to preach the gospel.
6. There is room for growth in understanding of scripture, tradition and authoritative teachings of the church. Some traditional Catholic explanations have been modified to sound similar to Protestant doctrines.
7. No one should be coerced to join the Christian faith.
8. Catholics should reach out to other religions as God works through them, too.
9. A common edition of the HOLY BIBLE has been produced.
10. Joint meetings and prayer services with other denominations.
11. Mass is now conducted in the vernacular.

CATHOLIC CHURCH DATES

A.D.

- 300 Prayers for the dead
 - 300 Making the sign of the cross
 - 320 Wax candles
 - 375 Veneration of angels and dead saints, and use of images
 - 394 The Mass, as a daily celebration
 - 431 Beginning of the exaltation of Mary (the term "Mother of God" first applied to her by the Council of Ephesus)
 - 500 Priests began to dress differently from laymen
 - 526 Extreme Unction
 - 593 The doctrine of Purgatory, established by Gregory I
 - 600 Latin language, used in prayer and worship, imposed by Gregory I
 - 600 Prayers directed to Mary, dead saints and angels
 - 607 Title of Pope, or Universal Bishop, given to Boniface III by Emperor Phocas
 - 709 Kissing the Pope's foot, began with Pope Constantine
 - 750 Temporal power of the Popes, conferred by Pippin, King of the Franks
 - 786 Worship of the cross, images and relics was authorized
 - 850 Holy water, mixed with a pinch of salt and blessed by a priest
 - 890 Worship of St. Joseph
 - 927 College of Cardinals established
 - 965 Baptism of bells, instituted by Pope John XIII
 - 995 Canonization of dead saints, first by Pope John XV
 - 998 Fasting on Fridays and during Lent
- The Mass, developed gradually as a sacrifice, attendance made obligatory in the 11th century

A.D.

- 1079 Celibacy of the priesthood, decreed by Pope Gregory VII (Hildebrand)
- 1090 The Rosary, mechanical praying with beads, invented by Peter the Hermit
- 1184 The Inquisition, instituted by the Council of Verona
- 1190 Sale of Indulgences
- 1215 Transubstantiation, proclaimed by Pope Innocent III
- 1215 Auricular Confession of sins to a priest instead of to God instituted by Pope Innocent III, in Lateran Council
- 1220 Adoration of the wafer (Host), decreed by Pope Honrius III
- 1229 HOLY BIBLE forbidden to laymen, placed on the Index of Forbidden Books by the Council of Valencia
- 1251 The Scapular, invented by Simon Stock, an English monk
- 1414 Cup forbidden to the people at communion by Council of Constance
- 1439 Purgatory proclaimed as a dogma by the Council of Florence
- 1439 The doctrine of Seven Sacraments affirmed
- 1508 The Ave Maria (part of the latter half was completed 50 years later and approved by Pope Sixtus V towards the end of the 16th century)
- 1534 Jesuit order founded by Loyola
- 1545 Tradition declared of equal authority with the HOLY BIBLE by the Council of Trent
- 1545 Apocryphal books added to the HOLY BIBLE by the Council of Trent
- 1560 Creed of Pope Pius IV imposed as the official creed
- 1854 Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, proclaimed by Pope Pius IX
- 1864 Syllabus of Errors, proclaimed by Pope Pius IX, and ratified by the Vatican Council; condemned freedom of religion, conscience, speech, press, and scientific discoveries which are disapproved by the Roman Church; asserted the Pope's temporal authority over all civil rulers
- 1870 Infallibility of the Pope in matters of faith and morals, proclaimed by the Vatican council

A.D.

1930 Public Schools condemned by Pope Pius XI

1950 Assumption of the Virgin Mary (bodily ascension to heaven shortly after her death), proclaimed by Pope Pius XII

(From ROMAN CATHOLICISM by Loraine Boettner)

C. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ON

PROTESTANTISM

EXCERPTS OF MARTIN LUTHER'S FROM HIS NINETY-FIVE THESES

6. "The Pope cannot remit any guilt, except by declaring and showing that it has been remitted by God."
18. "It does not seem proved, either by reason of Scripture, that souls in purgatory are outside the state of merit, that is, unable to grow in love."
19. "Nor does it seem proved that souls in purgatory, at least not all of them, are certain and assured of their own salvation."
27. "They preach only human doctrines who say that as soon as the money clinks into the money chest, the soul flies out of purgatory."
32. "Those who believe that they can be certain of their salvation because they have indulgence letters will be eternally damned, together with their teachers."
45. "Christians are to be taught that he who sees a needy man and passes him by, yet gives his money for indulgences, does not buy papal indulgences but God's wrath."
54. "Injury is done the Word of God when, in the same sermon, an equal or larger amount of time is devoted to indulgences than to the Word."
79. "To say that the cross emblazoned with the papal coat of arms, and set up by the indulgence preachers, is equal in worth to the cross of Christ is blasphemy."
82. "Questions of the laity such as: 'Why does not the Pope empty purgatory for the sake of holy love and the dire need of the souls that are there if he redeems an infinite number of souls for the sake of miserable money with which to build a church? The former reason would be most just; the latter is most trivial.'"
94. "Christians should be exhorted to be diligent in following Christ, their Head, through penalties, death and hell."

(From LUTHERAN CYCLOPEDIA ed. by Erwin Leuker)

CLASSICAL PROTESTANT THEOLOGY

Classical Protestant theology as defined in the ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA, 1981 Edition, Volume 15, Article on "Protestantism" states:

"Common principles, ideas, and practices of the magisterial reformers and their successors."

In short, these are basic beliefs to which Protestants have subscribed.

1. Concern for justification
2. Influence of the writings of Paul
3. Man's freedom and the problem of good works
4. Man as simultaneously righteous and sinful
5. Predestination (single)
6. Priesthood of all believers
7. The visible and invisible church
8. The Word of God and the HOLY BIBLE
9. The Interpretation of the HOLY BIBLE
10. De-emphasis of institutional bases of authority
11. Concern for further reformation
12. The sacraments commanded by Christ (usually Baptism and Communion)
13. Protestant "confessions" or creeds
14. Liturgies and hymns
15. Emphasis on preaching
16. Systematic theologies and dogmatics

The ENCYCLOPEDIA AMERICANA, 1979 Edition, Volume 22, Article on "Protestantism" gives a shorter summary of the sixteen points above.

They are:

1. Justification by grace through faith
2. Faith and works
3. Predestination (God chooses who will or will not be brought to salvation.)
4. Prime authority of the HOLY BIBLE
5. Priesthood of all believers
6. Two sacraments (Baptism and Communion or Lord's Supper)

FUNDAMENTALISM

When one speaks of fundamentalism the feeling one gets is that of "getting back to the basics." Fundamentalism is sometimes a reaction to modernism and occasionally is anti-science and non-political especially being against radical political groups.

Some common doctrines of Fundamentalists:

1. Belief in the Inspiration of the (Old and New Testaments).
2. One God/Three Persons--Trinity
3. Jesus Christ was begotten--True God and True Man
4. Man was created in the image of God and is true man
5. Christ died for the sins of mankind
6. Christ's resurrection, ascension and present life
7. Personal, Imminent, Pre-millennial return of Christ
8. All who receive the faith of Christ are "born again." Since Christians are referred to as babes, begotten ones, soldiers, teachers, and as feeding on milk in the HOLY BIBLE, the phrase "born again" is generally not used to denote becoming a spirit being, but a new state of being. However, most feel once they are "born again" they have heaven secured.
9. Bodily resurrection of the just and unjust. Everlasting punishment for the lost and blissful rewards for the faithful.

MILLENNIALISM

Millennialism, Millenarianism and Chiliasm

Millennialism, Millenarianism and Chiliasm is the belief that Christ will return and rule on earth for 1000 years.

Amillennialist

The amillennialists do not believe in a millennium. Why? They say Christ did not preach a coming millennium to the twelve or to the people. When Christ told the disciples he would give them authority over the twelve tribes of Israel, the amillennialists believe he was referring to "the Kingdom appointed us which is not of this world." (I would suppose by this statement that they feel Jesus meant that the twelve would do this in heaven--what they are actually saying is doubtful and vague.)

The amillennialist feel that when Christ returns this will bring about the end of all earthly things, leaving no time for another 1000 years. Furthermore, the amillennialists believe that Paul (I Thess. 4:16-17) never mentioned a millennium, nor did the Old Testament mention it. (Revelation 20 is not to be taken literally--1000 years means forever.) They feel that the Utopian ideas of a millennium actually stem from ancient Jewish messianic hopes. Thus they see no biblical basis for a millennium! For Truth see Revelation 20, Revelation 11:14, Daniel 2:41, Zechariah 14, Isaiah 11.

This is the staunch amillennialist view by Lawrence Rowe Thomas, a highly acclaimed conservative Evangelical.

The Catholics have virtually the same amillennialist view but feel the Kingdom of God is the Church. The first resurrection is symbolic of spiritual rebirth in baptism, and 1000 expresses eternal life or perfection.

Pre-Millennialist

The belief that "the millennium is a period of worldwide righteousness, ushered in by the sudden, unannounced, visible advent of Jesus Christ." In other words, they believe that Christ will come first, then the millennium will follow. Satan is bound at this time, but after 1000 years he makes a last vain effort to regain lost foothold.

Post-Millennialist

The belief that the entire world will eventually be reached by the gospel, through today's Christian agencies. During this 1000 year period, the Jews will be converted. Following this will be a brief apostasy. Finally and simultaneously, there will occur Christ's second coming, general resurrection, judgment and the old world destroyed by fire. Then the new heavens and new earth will be revealed.

Seventh Day Adventist Millennialist

The SDA belief is very complex, but to summarize the Seventh Day Adventists "believe that the followers of Christ who are raised, or translated, at His second coming will live and reign with Christ 1000 years. They believe this will take place in heaven, and the earth will be desolate at this time.

After the millennium, the wicked will be resurrected, the righteous will return from heaven, New Jerusalem will be set up on earth, and final judgment will be executed on the unrepentant.

After that, the earth will be purified by fire and re-created into the eternal home for Christ's redeemed. All sorrows will be over and all of man's brightest hopes will be realized.

(From RELIGIONS IN AMERICA by Leo Rosten)

THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

This doctrine stems from I Peter 2:9 which states, "you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" According to Luther, Baptism was a form of ordination, and with the union of Jesus Christ (the High Priest), everyone becomes a priest.

Lutheranism still holds services with a minister preaching sermons and administering the sacraments, but the belief is that the lay members can and should read the HOLY BIBLE and can to a certain extent understand it, without the aid of a priest like the Catholic belief . . . , (because every member is in a way a priest).

This belief got its start in Luther's rebellion against Catholicism. Luther translated the HOLY BIBLE into the language of the people, believing that the Catholic priests were not the only ones given to understand the Word of God.

The major application of the idea of the "Priesthood of all Believers" came not from the well-known leaders of the reformation but those known as the radical reformers. The remnants of the radical reform movements today are found in the European free church family of churches which include the Quakers and their several branches (Friends United Meeting, Religious Society of Friends).

Most of these sects have no ministers as such, but the ministry is "carried on by all" in a typical church meeting. (Church services are referred to as "meetings.") Usually it is rare for any to speak, the "priesthood of all believers" sit in silence and wait "for the spirit."

Almost all branches of Protestantism still hold to a form of this doctrine in the sense that they hear sermons instead of ritualistic liturgies, and they generally have personal copies of the HOLY BIBLE, which if not read often, at least they are encouraged to. This is largely a result of the "Priesthood of all Believers" doctrine which initially broke from the medieval Catholic way of withholding the HOLY BIBLE from the common man.

TRENDS IN RELIGION

All information is taken from polls conducted in the United States in 1983, unless otherwise stated.

RELIGION IN GENERAL:

54% of American adults believe religion is increasing its influence on life in America. This is the highest figure since 1976.

56% of American adults say that religion is very important to their lives.

40% of American adults attend church weekly.

April draws more to services than any other month--nearly 50% attend weekly.

70% of American adults claimed they are members of a church or synagogue in 1983, while 90% stated a religious preference.

95% of the American population say they believe in God.

66% of Americans feel their chances of going to heaven are good to excellent.

Between 60 and 90% say they attend church because they were invited by a relative or a friend.

87% of teenagers say they pray. Girls are more likely to pray than boys and to do it more frequently.

50% of teens say they give thanks before meals.

THE HOLY BIBLE:

Only one in seven adults say they read the HOLY BIBLE daily.

One out of four adults say they never read the HOLY BIBLE.

In 1952, 80% of the population said they believed in the HOLY BIBLE as the Word of God. In 1978, 42% professed a belief in the HOLY BIBLE as the Word of God and the accuracy of the information in it.

While 80% professed a belief in the HOLY BIBLE in 1952, only 33% could name all four gospels.

In 1978, while over 80% believed in the Ten Commandments, only 40% could name five of them.

COMPARISONS IN RELIGIOUS BELIEVERS:

Religion is more important to women than men.

Religion is more important to blacks than whites.

It is more important to the less educated than to the more educated.

Religion is more important in the Midwest than in other parts of the country.

Religion is more important to those with a salary under \$15,000 than to those over that amount.

It is more important to a widowed person than to a single or married individual.

Religion is more important to Protestants than to Catholics.

It is more important to Southern Baptists than other Protestant groups.

Religion is more important to rural folk than those of urban areas.

So, putting all these facts together we might make a composite of the one to whom religion would be most important:

A widowed black lady with less than a high school education who earns under \$15,000 per year while living in the rural Midwest United States as a Protestant of the Southern Baptist persuasion.

(Sources for the information are: RELIGIONS IN AMERICA, The Gallup Report, Report No. 222, March 1984 and from EERDMAN'S HANDBOOK TO CHRISTIANITY IN AMERICA. William B. Eerdman's Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1983)

CHURCH ATTENDANCES

The following information is from WORLD CHRISTIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA:

Christianity Worldwide	--	1,640,000,000
Islam Worldwide	--	854,000,000
Hinduism Worldwide	--	658,000,000
Buddhism Worldwide	--	312,000,000
Atheists Worldwide	--	224,000,000

United States church attendances of the fourteen Christian denominations covered in Section II (WORLD RELIGIONS IN BRIEF) are:

Roman Catholicism	--	51,000,000
Baptists	--	26,500,000
Methodists	--	9,000,000
Lutherans	--	7,500,000
Pentecostals	--	6,000,000
Eastern Orthodox	--	5,000,000
Mormons	--	3,500,000
Presbyterians	--	3,500,000
Episcopalians	--	2,800,000
Seventh Day Adventists	--	1,000,000
Salvation Army	--	420,000
Mennonites, Amish	--	250,000
Society of Friends	--	125,000
Christian Science	--	Not Reported

D. CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS

GLOSSARY

CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS GLOSSARY

AGNOSTICISM:	The belief that the reality of God cannot be known. From the Greek, the literal meaning is "no-knowledge."
ANATHEMA:	A thing devoted to evil, or a curse.
ANTHROPOMORPHISM:	Ascribing to God human qualities, i.e., God is described as "walking in the garden in the cool of the day" (Gen. 3:8).
ARIANISM:	The belief that Jesus has not always existed (created by the Father) and that Jesus is a separate and distinct entity from the Father.
ATHEISM:	The denial of the existence of a personal, moral, supreme being.
CATECHISM:	A systematic study of religion usually in question and answer form.
CHARISMATIC:	Literally means, "possessing free gifts"--refers to the gifts of I Corinthians 12:8-10 (faith, healing miracles, prophecy, tongues--with emphasis on tongues-speaking).
CONSUBSTANTIATION:	The belief that the bread and wine do not actually become the body and blood of Christ, but Christ somehow lives in these elements during the communion service.
CONTRITION:	Sorrow for sins.
DOCETISM:	A term generally used for those who emphasize the Divinity of Christ over His humanity.
DOGMA:	Church teaching set forth beyond dispute.
ECUMENICAL:	Representing a wide body of churches.
EPIPHANY:	Literally the appearance of God. The Catholic feast celebrated January 6 celebrating the appearance of God in human form, Jesus.
ESCHATOLOGY:	Having to do with the end time; i.e., the study of Old Testament Eschatology is the study of Old Testament end time prophecy; the doctrine of last things, end of the age.
EUCCHARIST:	Literally "thanksgiving," from the Greek. Refers to communion service during mass, the partaking of bread wafers.

EVANGELICAL:	Refers to churches or organizations that emphasize preaching a message (from Greek, "evangelion"--"good tidings").
FUNDAMENTALISM:	The emphasis of the literal interpretation of the HOLY BIBLE and basic Protestant doctrine.
GNOSTICISM:	The belief that salvation is accomplished by deliverance of the spirit from its captivity in the world through secret knowledge.
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:	The idea that Mary was conceived without original sin.
INDULGENCE:	The remission granted by the church of the temporal punishment due to sins already forbidden.
LITANY:	The part of the liturgy in which the officiating clergyman reads a line and the congregation responds.
LITURGY:	Consists of the acts of worship or ceremony that occur in the church; is the name for the Eastern Orthodox Service.
PENANCE:	The sacrament by which sins committed after baptism are forgiven through the absolution of the Priest.
SYNCRETISM:	A word derived from the Greek "syncretizein"--"to hold together like Cretans"; it denotes any form of religion in which elements from more than one original religious tradition are combined.
TRANSUBSTANTIATION:	The belief that the bread and wine in the communion services actually become the body and blood of Christ.

APPENDIX III --

MODERN RELIGIONS

MODERN RELIGIONS' INFLUENCES

<u>MODERN RELIGION</u>	<u>INFLUENCE</u>
Black Muslims	Islam
Children of God	Founder's Philosophy of Christianity; Spiritism
Christadelphians	Christianity
Divine Light Mission	Hinduism
ECKANKAR	Hinduism
EST	Zen Buddhism
Hare Krishna	Hinduism
Rajneeshism	Hinduism
Rosicrucians	Egyptian Mysteries
Scientology	Fiction, Occult, Mind Science
Subud	Eastern Mysteries; Gnosticism
Theosophy	Hinduism
Transcendental Meditation	Hinduism
Unification Church	Founder's Philosophy of Christianity; Spiritism
Unitarian-Universalist Association	Christianity
Unity School of Christianity	Christianity; Mind Science

MODERN RELIGIONS GLOSSARY

AMORC:	The ancient mystical order Rosae Crucis; Rosicrucians.
ASHRAM:	A settlement or commune.
ASTRAL TRAVEL:	Projecting one's spirit out of the body.
AUDITING:	Practice of Scientologists--to help a person discuss and cure his "reactive mind."
DAILY WORD:	Magazine of Unity School of Christianity.
DIVINE PRINCIPLE:	Sun Myung Moon's book for the Unification Church.
ECK:	Is the cosmic pound current by which life flows from Sugmad (god of ECKANKAR). Also, an abbreviation for ECKANKAR.
E-METER:	A crude instrument used by Scientologists in counselling.
EST:	Represents Erhard Seminars Training.
FAMA FRATERNITATIS:	Anonymous writing of the Rosicrucians.
ISKCON:	International Society for Krishna Consciousness; Hare Krishna movement.
LATIHAN:	A charismatic meeting for adherents of Subud.
MANTRA:	A word or phrase used to chant or meditate upon.
MO LETTERS:	Written communications from Children of God founder Berg.
MOONIES:	Followers of Sun Myung Moon's group--Unification Church.
OCCULT:	Usually indicating the mysterious. Associated with witchcraft, magic, spiritism.
PREMIES:	Disciples of the Divine Light Mission.
REBIRTHING:	To followers of Rajneesh, returning to the womb in thought and feeling.
SATSANG:	Meetings with Maharaj Ji of the Divine Light Mission.
SUGMAD:	The god of the followers of ECKANKAR.

THEOSOPHY: Mixture of Hindu concepts with "Christian" views.
THETAN: That of god in every person.
TM: Transcendental Meditation.
UNITARIANISM: Belief that God is only one person.
YOGA: Exercise--usually with spiritual aims.
YOGI: A devotee or a teacher of yoga.
ZEN: A form of Buddhism emphasizing meditation.

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