

Chapter-17 : Religion Notes (Art and Culture Notes) (Short or Revision or CRUX Notes)

Religion



EFFORTS BY
Desire IAS

Zoroastrianism:

- Founder was Persian Prophet Zarathustra (6-7 C BC)
- This religion believes in the struggle between the God and Evil
- God is Ahuramazda and evil is Angra Mainyu
- Followers believe that God or good will ultimately triumph over evil.
- Fire plays a central part in this religion. It represents the realm of truth, righteousness and order. Even earth and air are regarded as sacred while the death is result of Evil.
- They believe that the dead matter polluted all that it touches and hence it is placed in the open to be eaten by vultures
- E.g.: Silence tower in Bombay
- However burial and cremation are also common now a days
- Sacred Book: Zend Avesta
- Zoroastrians came to India in 936 AD and are known by a more familiar name Parsis.
- In India there are 8 major fire temples or Alash Bahram
- E.g.: Udvada in Gujrat

Judaism:

- According to Historians, it is one of the oldest religions of the world. It taught belief in one GOD.
- It is followed by Jews
- Both Christianity and Islam derived from Judaism
- Sacred book (set of 5 books) – **Torah** – 1st 5 books of Hebrew Bible
- Jews believe God has promised to bless Abraham, and sister of Jewish people, and his descendants, if they worship and remain faithful to God. This government was renewed by God with Ibrahim son Isaac and Isaac's Jacob. (Jacob also called Israel) and hence all descendants of Jacob are called children of Israel. God gave ten commandments to Moses (saint) on Mt. Sinai with explain how the Israeli should live.

India has to Jewish communities

- 1 Malayalam speaking cochinis
- 2 Marathi speaking Bene Israel

Islam:

- The term Islam is of Arabic origin meaning 'Submission'
- The followers of Islam is called Muslims
- Founder: Prophet Muhammad

The basic tenets of Islam are:

- 1) Belief in one God i.e. Allah
- 2) Belief in Muhammad as the final Prophet and Messenger of God
- 3) The followers of Islam are bound by 5 duties

a. Tawhid – belief in Allag



- b. Namaaz – Ritual prayer 5 times a day
 - c. Roza – Dawn to Dusk fast in month of ramzaan
 - d. Haj – Pilgrimage to Mecca atleast once in a lifetime
 - e. Zakat – Charity for the poor and the needy
- Shia majority countries – Iran, Iraq, Bahrain, Azerbaijan
 - 85% of world's population are Sunnis
 - 74% Majority of the Indians are Sunnis
 - Difference between Shias and Sunnis is not spiritual but political one and its started after the death of Muhammad i.e. who will take the leadership.
 - Sunni Muslims agreed with position taken by many of the Prophet's companions that New Leader will be elected from those capable of Job and that is how Muhammad's close friend and advisor Abu Bakr was elected.
 - On the other hand Shias believed that leadership should stay within Prophet's own family, among those specifically appointed by him or amongs Imams appointed by God himself. Finally his son – in – law Ali Bin Abu Talib was appointed.

