

Life after death

Christian Beliefs about Life After Death

- **All Christians believe that:**
- The resurrection of Jesus proves that there is life after death. The Soul is **immortal**
- That physical death is the beginning of **new life**
- At the end of time God will raise everyone and **judge** them. Christians whose sins are forgiven will go to Heaven
- Those who sin and do not **repent** will go to Hell

Hindu reincarnation

The Law Of Samsara - Reincarnation

KARMA

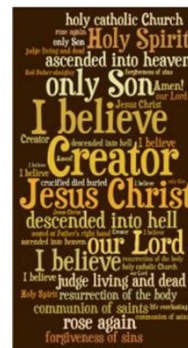
The amount of good works/ actions, following your DHARMA (duty) that you perform. The more good Karma you build up in your ATMAN (Soul) during your life, the better your rebirth.



A continual cycle of birth-death-rebirth

If your atman has better Karma than the previous life then you will be reborn into a higher life form. **EVENTUALLY** your Atman will not be reborn into another body. You will achieve **MOKSHA** – release from Samsara and be at one with Brahman.

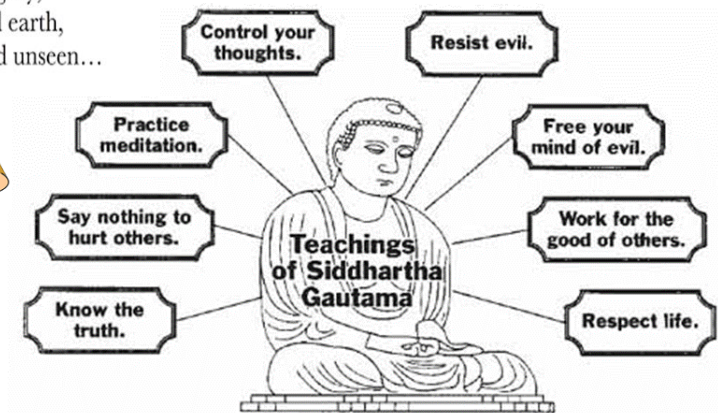
Christian beliefs



We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen...



Buddhist beliefs



The Eightfold Path

God

Christians refer to God as one person. However they believe God is in 3 people, the Trinity. These are the Son (Jesus), the Father, and the Holy Spirit. Muslims believe in only one God, Allah. In the Qur'an, Allah has 99 names.



Experiencing God

- Religious believers may experience God through:
- Worship – Communication to God
 - Prayer – Talking or listening to God
 - Inner Feelings – The feeling of knowing God is there
 - Holy texts – Feeling as if God is directly speaking to you through the text



Looking for Meaning

Response to God



People may choose to respond to God by prayer, worship or vocation. This is choosing to dedicate your life to God through the career that you choose (e.g. a nun). They may also respond through acts of kindness or lifestyle changes.

Christian Beliefs About Life After Death

Christians believe that when we die has been decided by God. They believe that we only go to heaven if we have led a good life and believe in Jesus and his teachings. In heaven, the redeemed can live without pain or sorrow. Christians allow cremations as they believe that it is your soul that lives on and not your body.



Islamic Beliefs About Life After Death

Muslims believe that your birth and death is decided before you are born. They believe that when you are dying you should face Makkah and should recite the Adhan (a prayer) before they die. Only men are usually allowed at the funeral. The body is not cremated as they believe that the body waits until judgement day. If you have lived a good life, you will go to paradise. If you have led a bad life, you will go to hell.

Key words

Atonement	The belief that Jesus died for our sins.
Immortal	Having eternal life
Soul	The part of a person which is separate from the body.
Crucifixion	When Jesus died on the cross.
Heaven	Where Christians hope to go when they die.
Hell	Where sinners go when they die.
Creed	A set of beliefs
Judgement Day	When the world ends and God judges the living and the dead.
Purgatory	Some Christians believe that after death many souls go to purgatory to wait until they are pure enough to go to heaven.
Sin	An action against religious teaching e.g. lying.
Resurrection	The body will come back to life again.
Saviour	Someone who rescues someone else.
N.D.E.	Near death experience -floating above your body and being drawn towards a light.
Moksha	Hindu goal - to be one with God and to escape from the cycle of rebirth.
Karma	Hindu name for the soul
Re-incarnation	To be born again. A Hindu belief that your soul will be born again after death.
Nirvana	Buddhist belief a bit like heaven – where you go once you die if you are enlightened.

Sikhism and life after death

Many Sikhs believe that Waheguru (God) lives inside everyone like a reflection in a mirror or fragrance within a flower. Through a long series of reincarnations, possibly through up to 8,400,000 forms of life, they will be purified and be able to return to Waheguru.

Each reincarnation as human or animal is temporary. Only humans can decide between right and wrong. For this reason, many Sikhs see their human life as the only time when the cycle of death and rebirth can be broken. The escape from the cycle of death and rebirth is known as mukti.

Sikhs believe in karma. Through good action and by living a good life and keeping God in their minds, Sikhs hope to achieve good merit, and hope to avoid punishment.

They also want to achieve a good rebirth to improve their chances of re-uniting with God. Most Sikhs believe God unites with those he is pleased with. When they have been united with Waheguru, the cycle of birth and death ends, suffering ends and the whole cycle is broken.

Why some non-religious people do not believe in life after death?

- If death is the end, then how can there be more? If there is more, then it is not the end and therefore not death
- There is no evidence for an afterlife
- Religion offers no good reasons to believe in an afterlife
- Religious ideas may be harmful
- Ideas about heaven and hell might be made up
- Mediums and other people who attempt to prove there is an afterlife by tricking people
- In an age where science explain the world, we should not believe in things that are unscientific.
- When a person dies their body decays so how can they live again?
- Life after death is simply impossible – we are either alive or dead

Judaism and life after death

When the early Jewish scriptures were written, many Jews believed that on death, all people would descend to a dark place called Sheol. As Jews came into contact with other influences, further teachings developed. These included teachings on Gan Eden (Heaven) and Gehenna (Hell). Sheol then became a place of purification, or waiting, before the individual was sent on to either Gan Eden or destroyed completely.

Later teachings about life after death included the idea that judgement would happen after the coming of the Messiah. At this point some taught that the soul and body would be reunited, sometimes called resurrection of the body, while others believed that it would be the soul that would be eternal, a belief known as immortality of the soul. There would then be punishment or reward for the way they had lived, but there was no clear teaching on the exact nature of Heaven or Hell.