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## PART I

# Judaism

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Judaism is a religion of symbolism, reverence, and deep meaning tied to the literature of its' history.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ According to Judaism the Torah is the law of God as revealed to Moses and recorded in the first five books of the Hebrew scriptures.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Passover is the major Jewish spring festival that commemorates the liberation (freeing) of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery, lasting seven or eight days from the 15th day of Nisan.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ B'nai mitzvah for boys, B'not Mitzvah for girls are Jewish coming of age rituals.

# Hinduism

5. \_\_\_\_\_ Theology is the study of the nature of God and religious belief.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Hinduism is a major religious and cultural tradition of South Asia, developed from Vedic (originating from India) religion.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ A millennium (plural millennia) is a period of time equal to 1000 years.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Hinduism began about 5,000 years ago (5 millennia).
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Hinduism means the religions of India; it is a variety of spiritual practices.

# Buddhism

10. \_\_\_\_ Gautama Buddha, also known as Siddhārtha Gautama.
11. \_\_\_\_ Buddhism began about 2,500 years ago in India.
12. \_\_\_\_ Queen Maya was Siddartha's mother; visited by a white elephant before the birth of Prince Siddartha (Buddha).
13. \_\_\_\_ Buddha investigated the causes of human suffering.
14. \_\_\_\_ Buddha initially thought that suffering had to do with having material things.
15. \_\_\_\_ Buddha determined midway between luxury and poverty is wisest.
16. \_\_\_\_ Buddha taught people how to be Enlightened.
17. \_\_\_\_ Buddhism grew out Hinduism.

# Christianity

18. \_\_\_\_ Christianity began approximately 2,000 years ago.
19. \_\_\_\_ Christians believe that Jesus is God in human form.
20. \_\_\_\_ Christianity grew out of the religion of Judaism.
21. \_\_\_\_ Gabriel is an angel in Jewish, Christian, and Muslim systems of belief.
22. \_\_\_\_ The Angel Gabriel is usually represented in the Bible as a messenger from God, bearing God's word to the Israelites and appearing to Mary, the mother of Jesus, at the Annunciation.

# Islam

23. \_\_\_\_ Islam is a monotheistic religious tradition that developed in the Middle East in the 7th century C.E. (common era).
24. \_\_\_\_ This date reflects Muhammad's migration from Mecca to Medina, considered the beginning of the Islamic) calendar.

25. \_\_\_\_ Islam, which literally means "surrender" or "submission," was founded on the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad as an expression of surrender to the will of Allah, the creator and sustainer of the world.
26. \_\_\_\_ The Quran, the sacred text of Islam, contains the teachings of the Prophet that were revealed to him from Allah.
27. \_\_\_\_ *Sacred Texts*: While the Quran alone is considered sacred scripture, the Sunna, in its written form *hadith*, is also part of the Islamic canon.
28. \_\_\_\_ One of the defining characteristics of Islam) is the primacy of sacred places including Mecca, Medina, and Jerusalem.
29. \_\_\_\_ Muslims gather at mosques to worship Allah, pray, and study scripture.
30. \_\_\_\_ There is not a sharp distinction between the religious and secular aspects of life in Islam; all aspects of a Muslim's life are to be oriented to serving Allah.
31. \_\_\_\_ Islam expanded almost immediately beyond its birthplace in the Arabian peninsula, and now has significant influence in Africa, throughout Asia, Europe, and the Americas.
32. \_\_\_\_ There are approximately 1.5 billion followers of Islam.

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## PART II

# Judaism

1. \_\_\_\_\_ According to the religion Judaism began when Abraham and Sarah left to Mesopotamia to migrate to the land of Canaan.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ The belief in one God (monotheism) was once a revolutionary concept in a polytheistic world.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The Israelites were enslaved in Egypt.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Israelites were freed with the help of the prophet Moses.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Moses received the Ten Commandments, and later hundreds more.

# Hinduism

6. \_\_\_\_\_ Hinduism dates back to Krishna who became known as an avatar (manifestation) of Vishnu; an incarnation of the god in human form.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Krishna is considered to be a warrior, hero, teacher and philosopher by Hindus.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Krishna taught that all life follows karma (law of cause and effect).
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Krishna taught that a person's job is to do their duty or dharma according to his/her place in society without worrying.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Rebirth in the next life according to Hinduism relies on what a person does in this one.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Samsara is the cycle of death and rebirth to which life in the material world is bound.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Moksha is the transcendent state "that, which goes beyond" attained as a result of being released from the cycle of rebirth.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Ganesha (Elephant Headed God); wise patron (providing support) of success.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Brahman is a member of the highest Hindu caste, that of the priesthood.

15. \_\_\_\_ Hinduism teaches that everything is one.
16. \_\_\_\_ Hinduism is the 3rd largest religion in the world; about 1 billion.
17. \_\_\_\_ Most Hindus live in India, but they can also be found on every continent.

## Buddhism

18. \_\_\_\_ Buddha mediated under a Bodhi Tree (a fig tree with heart shaped leaves).
19. \_\_\_\_ Buddha determined that suffering is caused by seeking selfish cravings at the expense of others.
20. \_\_\_\_ Buddha came up with an Eight Fold Path.
21. \_\_\_\_ According to Buddhism Buddha became the 1st Enlightened one, but not the only one.
22. \_\_\_\_ There's nearly a billion Buddhist today, mainly in East, Southeast and South Asia.
23. \_\_\_\_ Buddhism teaches that actions are more important than beliefs.

## Christianity

24. \_\_\_\_ Jesus was raised as a carpenter by Mary and her husband Joseph.
25. \_\_\_\_ Jesus invited outcasts, sinners and saints to all eat together.
26. \_\_\_\_ Jesus taught that his heavenly father is a forgiving God.
27. \_\_\_\_ At age 30 Jesus began his preaching the "living word of God."
28. \_\_\_\_ Jesus is said to of gathered large crowds in healing the sick .
29. \_\_\_\_ Jesus' actions got him in trouble and he was later executed by the Romans through crucifixion.
30. \_\_\_\_ Shortly after Jesus' burial his tomb was said to be found empty.
31. \_\_\_\_ Jesus' message was "Love One Another, As I Have Loved You"
32. \_\_\_\_ Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus in December during Christmas.
33. \_\_\_\_ Christians celebrate Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection (rising from the dead) during Holy Week in the Spring.

34. \_\_\_\_ The ceremony of baptism is the washing away of sin and welcoming in to the Christian community.
35. \_\_\_\_ In the rite of communion Christians eat the bread and drink the wine blessed as the body and blood of Jesus.
36. \_\_\_\_ There's approximately 2 billion Christians in the world.

## Islam

37. \_\_\_\_ The two divisions within the tradition are the Sunni and Shi'a, each of which claims different means of maintaining religious authority.
38. \_\_\_\_ One of the unifying characteristics of Islam is the Five Pillars, the fundamental practices of Islam.
39. \_\_\_\_ These five practices (Five Pillars) include a ritual profession of faith, ritual prayer, the zakat (charity), fasting, and the hajj (a pilgrimage to Mecca).
40. \_\_\_\_ Many Muslims are characterized by their commitment to praying to Allah five times a day.