

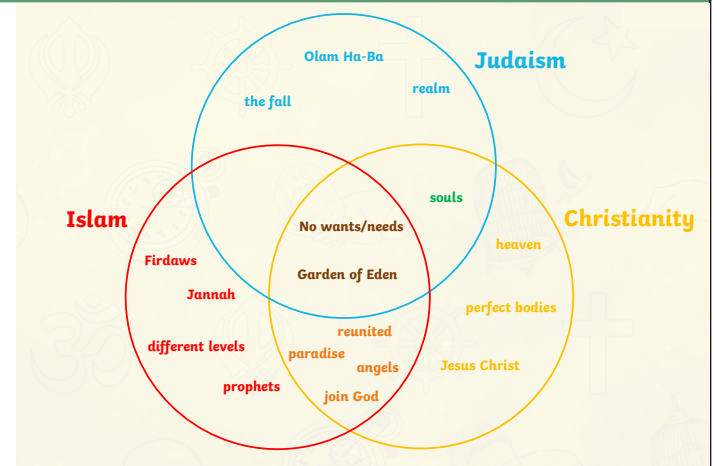
Eternity

Key Vocabulary

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| Eternity | Eternity means time that is infinite or does not end. |
| Abrahamic religions | The Abrahamic religions are: Christianity, Judaism and Islam. They all feature Abraham, an important person in the Bible, Tanakh and Qū'ran. |
| Soul | The spiritual part of a human. It is separate to their body. |

Abrahamic religions

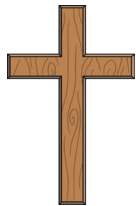
The **Abrahamic religions** believe that when a person dies, they will go to a special place. In Christianity, this is called heaven. In Judaism, it is known as Olam Ha-Ba (or Gan Eden) and in Islam, it is referred to as Jannah. There are lots of similarities in their beliefs with some key differences.



Abrahamic religions: Ideas on Eternity and Heaven

Some Christians believe that heaven is a physical place where they will go. Others believe that it is a state of being in the presence of God. The Bible tells us that heaven is where God lives with the angels and Jesus Christ.

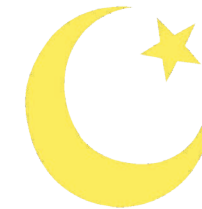
Most Christians believe that the **soul** lives on after death and that in heaven, bodies are perfect and **eternally** free from old age, disease and illness.



Olam Ha-Ba is an important Jewish idea that refers to a heavenly realm where **souls** live on after physical death. It is linked to the Garden of Eden and Jewish people believe that all humans will return to the blissful existence that Adam and Eve experienced there (before the 'fall').



Jannah is an eternal place for Muslims, which is based on the Islamic idea of paradise. There are different levels of paradise. The highest one is the fir daws where the prophets and most truthful people live. The Qū'ran says that these people will be greeted by angels and will join their loved ones who have already passed away (if they have also entered Jannah). Everyone will be the same age and will not want anything (including food, water and shelter).



| Key Vocabulary | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Dharmic religions | The Dharmic religions are Buddhism, Hinduism and Sikhism. |
| Reincarnation | Rebirth after death. |
| Emancipation | Freedom |
| Nirvana | This means to blow out or extinguish. It refers to freedom from the endless cycle of reincarnation and an end to pain and worry. |
| Humanists | Humanists do not believe in God but instead think that an understanding of the world can help people to make good decisions. They are different to Atheists, who also do not believe in God, but do not have a shared group of values or beliefs. |

Humanist Ideas about Eternity

Humanists do not believe that life is **eternal**. They think that everything comes to an end and that death is a natural part of life. They believe that we should come to terms with this so that meaning can be found in the life that people live. They believe that humans should make good choices without expecting rewards in another place.



Buddhists, Hindus and Sikhs (**Dharmic religions**) all believe in the idea of **reincarnation**. Their ultimate goal is **emancipation** from the cycle of birth, death and **reincarnation**. This is achieved through gaining good karma by meditating and doing good deeds.



Dharmic Religious Ideas on Eternity

Buddhists do not believe in a god; they believe that the ultimate goal is **nirvana**. It is not a place but is instead a state of non-existence. When someone reaches **nirvana**, their soul is in harmony with the universe and they would cease to exist.

After **emancipation** from **reincarnation**, Hindus believe that the atman (the **soul**) will become one with the god Brahma. This is called moksha.

In Sikhism, the word mukti involves becoming one with God. Sikhs believe that God does not have any particular form.

