| Question | Judaism | Islam | Christianity | Hinduism | Buddhism | What I think… |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *How did the world begin?* | God created the universe. | Allah created the universe. | God created the universe. | Brahman is the eternal “flame” of the universe. He created the universe. | The universe has no beginning and no end. |  |
| *What is the point of life?* | To love and obey God. | To obey Allah and please him by following the Five Pillars of Islam. | To know, love and serve God; to love others; to share with God in caring for his world. | The human soul (atman) is a ‘little spark’ from Brahman. The goal is to escape life on earth and be reunited with Brahman. | To become enlightened and reach Nirvana. Nirvana is not a place but a state of ‘nothingness’. |  |
| *Is there a God? What is God like? How can we know if God cares for us?* | God is the powerful and loving creator. He shows his care by making a covenant with his people Israel, and by continuing to look after them.  | There is only one God-Allah, and Mohammed is his final prophet. We know Allah cares for us because he made the world and gives us life every day.  | God is the powerful and loving creator, the father of Jesus. We know he cares for us because he sent his Son Jesus to deal with the wrong in this world.  | Brahman is an impersonal force but exists in many forms of gods and goddesses. Hindus can choose which ones they will worship as their personal gods.  | There is no God. |  |
| *Why is there so much wrong in the world?* | Suffering is part of life and comes from God. God allows human beings the freedom to make choices. This makes it possible for people to reject him and choose evil.  | The evil and suffering in the world are the result of spiritual powers (demons) and human sin. | WE each follow the pattern of our ancestors in rejecting God. Instead of love, trust and justice, the world is consequently marked by corruption and inequality.  | Karma controls destiny. Suffering in this life is caused by the way in which previous lives.  | The Four Nobel Truths state that: 1. Suffering exists
2. Suffering arises from attachment to desires;
3. Suffering ceases when attachment to desires ceases
4. Freedom from suffering is possible by practicing the Nobel Eightfold Path. So the problem is not with the world but with our attachment to selfish desires.
 |  |
| *What are the most important rules to live by?* | Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. Express your love in practical obedience to God’s law. | The Five Pillars of Islam, the commandments of the Qur’an and Sharia Law. | 1. Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.
2. Love others as you love yourself.
 | To move towards moksha (a soul being reunited with Brahman):\*Dharma – follow the rules for living\*Karma -pure acts of devotion, offerings (puja) to your personal gods/goddesses\*Artha-pursuing material wealth through honest gain. | The Nobel Eightfold Path and the Five Precepts. |  |
| *What should you do if someone does something bad to you? Why?* | Jews believe in justice and mercy. | Forgive them because Allah is also forgiving. “Do you not wish that Allah should forgive you?” Al-Nur 24:22 | Forgive them don’t hold grudges because this is how God treats us. | Good acts give good Karma. A Hindu may seek to do good to others in order to receive good karma in the next life. (Karma is not received in this life). | Do not retaliate because Karma will ensure people get what they deserve in the next reincarnation.  |  |
| *What is a ‘good life’?* | A life that is obedient to God’s law. | A life of obedience to Allah.  | A life that is always learning to love God and others. | Devotion to your personal Gods and in knowledge of Brahman. A person is only ready to be reunited with Brahman when they reach the self-awareness that Brahman is the only reality.  | A life that leads to enlightenment, or at least a better reincarnation.  |  |
| *How do you decide if something is right or wrong?* | Study God’s Law in the Torah, and interpret it using the Talmud (legal writings by Rabbis about the Torah) | The Qur’an and other Muslim writings (especially the Sunna and Hadith) form the basis of Sharia Law, which provides moral guidance and rules for all aspects of life. | In the life and words of Jesus recorded in the Bible, God gives commands and/or principles to apply wisely to our lives.  | The Bhagavad-Gita and Upanishads are important writings and give guidance for daily living. | Think about the intentions and outcomes of the action. Good actions are rooted in giving, love and wisdom and lead to Nirvana. They must be done with good intentions and result in good outcomes for me and others. Evil actions rooted in greed hatred and delusion, do not result in good outcomes and do not lead to Nirvana.  |  |
| *What is the most important event ever?* | 1. The covenant promises God made to Abraham
2. The day the Messiah Son of David will come and bring in the Messianic era of peace.
 | The revelation of the Qur’an to Mohammed. | The life, death and resurrection of God’s son, Jesus. | The future hope of Moksha, and yearly events such as pilgrimages to the River Ganges for ceremonial washing. | The Enlightenment of Siddhartha Gautama under the Bodhi tree.  |  |
| *What happens after we die?* | Some Jewish people believe that one day the dead will be resurrected, and their souls will be reunited with their bodies. | Allah will judge all people according to how they have lived. There are no guarantees but the Qur’an states that Allah is merciful and just. Those who have submitted their lives to him can expect to enter Paradise. Those who have not will be condemned.  | Life with God or separation from him.  | Karma determines whether a person is rewarded by being reborn into a higher social level, or punished by being reborn as someone poorer, sicker or socially disadvantaged. Good Karma, over many cycles, can result in escaping from the cycle and ceasing to exist, being re-absorbed into Brahman. | Either we will be reborn in a better or worse situation depending on Karma, or be released from the cycle of birth and death and enter the state of perfect nothingness: Nirvana.  |  |