

# RELIGIONS AND CULTS OF THE WORLD

## INTRODUCTION TO HINDUISM AND A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

- \_\_\_\_\_ is the world's third largest religious system after Christianity and Islam. Yet, it really is more of a philosophy, lifestyle and \_\_\_\_\_.
- There are over \_\_\_\_\_ billion adherents.
- Nearly 94% of the world's Hindu population resides in \_\_\_\_\_.

## BACKGROUND AND ORIGINS

Sindu – Sanskrit **Hindus** – Persian Indus - Latin



## TIMELINE

- c. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - Indus River Valley Civilization (Indo-Aryan Migration)
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ - Vedic Period (Vedas)
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ - Events of Mahabharata & Ramayana (Upanishads)
- c. 300 BC - Maurya \_\_\_\_\_ (Religions Collide)

## MONOTHEISTIC, POLYTHEISTIC & PANTHEISTIC ELEMENTS

What Do Hindus Believe?

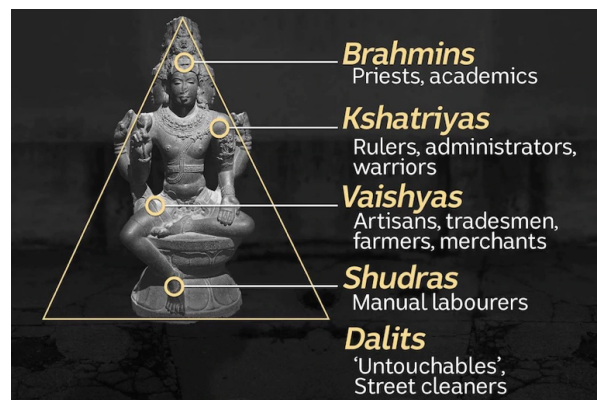
- Gods, gods, and more \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ of gods and goddesses.

## DOCTRINES

What Are the Main Rituals and Practices?

- Four legs of \_\_\_\_\_ or “duty” = truthfulness, compassion, austerity, and cleanliness
- \_\_\_\_\_ = Cycle of Rebirth
- \_\_\_\_\_ = The Law of Cause and Effect
- \_\_\_\_\_ = Merge with the Brahman
- \_\_\_\_\_ = Freedom from Cycle of Life/Death

The Caste System: One of the hereditary social classes in Hinduism that restrict the occupation of their members and their association with the members of other castes.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Meriam-Webster Dictionary

Doctrine	Hindus	Evangelical Christianity
God/Supreme Being	Brahman & Three main gods	One eternal God in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit  (Ex 20:3-6, 1 Cor 8:4-6)
Creation	The gods made the earth from Purusha's legs and sky from his head. Man was made from Purusha's mouth, arms, knees, and feet.	God created the heavens and the earth...and the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.  (Gen 1:1, 2:7)
The Person of Jesus Christ	A great teacher, avatar or divine figure through incarnation	Jesus is fully God and came to earth as fully man to die on the cross for mankind
Resurrection	No universal view of Jesus Rejected	On the third day after His crucifixion, Christ rose from the dead  (Matt 28:5-6)
Sacred Text	Vedas, Upanishads, Brahma Sutra, Bhagavad Gita, epics, etc.	The Bible
Source of Authority	All sacred "scriptures"	God alone as given through the revelation of His Word the Bible
Caste System	Four Levels	<i>Imago Dei,</i> One in Christ Jesus (Gen 1:27, Gal 3:26-29)
Life after Death	Cycle of Life Reincarnation	Resurrection to eternal life or eternal death  "Once to die" (Heb 9:27)

Sin	Karma The belief that the things you do in life will eventually return to you, either in this life or the next.	“The wages of sin is death.” (Rom 6:23)
Salvation	Moksha	Salvation by grace alone
Baptism	While water is used in Hindu rituals for cleansing, it is not seen as a means of spiritual rebirth.	A sign and declaration of our salvation

## PENETRATING THE KARMIC MINDS OF HINDUS

### A Christian Response

- \_\_\_\_\_
  1. The government may handle wisely the results of casteism.
  2. The Christian response may be both biblical and Christ-like.
  3. That sound churches will multiply.
  4. Christians may so demonstrate true spirituality and Christ-likeness that many will find their desires met in Him.
  5. The ongoing persecution of Christians in the land.
- \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord to continue to move mightily.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Broggi, Carl. A Biblical Evaluation of Hinduism, August 16, 2017. [searchthescriptures.org](http://searchthescriptures.org)

Martin, Walter. The Kingdom of the Cults, *The Definitive Work on the Subject*. [waltermartin.com](http://waltermartin.com)

The Table Podcast, Respectfully Engaging Hinduism, July 3, 2018. <https://youtu.be/C6VjtNheCbU>

## SCRIPTURES

- You shall have no other gods before Me.  
Exodus 20:3
- Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. Romans 16:17
- ...but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, but with gentleness and respect.  
1 Peter 3:15
- For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' Therefore, what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.  
Acts 17:23
- And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms on account of My name, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life.  
Matthew 19:29
- For you are all sons *and daughters* of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.  
Galatians 3:26-29
- Therefore, concerning the eating of food sacrificed to idols, we know that an idol is nothing at all in the world, and that there is no God but one. For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, yet for us there is *only* one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we *exist* for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we *exist* through Him. <sup>2</sup>  
1 Corinthians 8:4-6

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<sup>2</sup> New American Standard Bible (La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 2020).