

Read the article and then complete the table below to summarise the various views of God presented

The Chicago Tribune

Three views of God

All three faiths develop their own unique interpretations of the mystery of God in their sacred scriptures, but these are interpretations of the same God. In the Hebrew Bible, the Christian Testament and the Koran, the belief in a single Creator God who loves us and commands us and saves us from sin is revealed with different aspects and different tones, but the underlying belief is the same.

We call Judaism, Christianity and Islam the Abrahamic faiths because all trace their origins to Abraham, the first man called to a specific covenant by God. This God created the Universe, gives all life its sanctity, saves us from the ensnarements of sin, and will one day send (or in the case of Christianity, send back) a savior to heal the wounds of the world.

There is some dispute among Jews and Muslims about what to make of the Christian doctrine of the Trinity. Those who do not understand it properly might falsely conclude that Christians worship three gods. The truth of this deeply mysterious and profound Christian belief is that the three names -- Father, Son and Holy Spirit (in the old days, called the Holy Ghost) -- describe three aspects of the same unitary God worshipped by all three faiths.

Muslims have 99 names for Allah, each expressing a different aspect of the infinite mystery that is God. In the Hebrew Bible, God is called by three main names: El Shaddai, Elohim and Adonai (literally YHWH but pronounced adonai).

These differences in the way the single Creator God is depicted are important -- but not so important as to lead to the conclusion that Christians, Jews and Muslims worship three separate gods; it is one God viewed from three mountaintops.

What we are commanded to do to worship this one God does differ dramatically from faith to faith. Indeed, it is the variation in the rituals of each faith that most accounts for their differences. The calendars of sacred time with their holidays are different. The way of sanctifying the passage of life differs from faith to faith.

While the rituals of the Abrahamic faiths are dramatically different, their ethical teachings are virtually identical. Goodness, compassion, charity and discipline of our passions are taught with love, power and consistency by all three faiths.

The differences in the three faiths have do with how God ought to be served, who God sent to earth to teach us how to live, and what ritual practices should be observed to celebrate the sacred moments and holidays of the religious life.

We have used many metaphors to explain why there are different names for the same God; it's like looking at the same diamond from different perspectives. Each view reveals a different sparkle of light and a slightly different shape.

By Rabbi Gelman and Monsignor Thomas Hartin http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2003-06-26/news/0306260340_1_three-faiths-abrahamic-creator-god

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RELIGIONS	Describe the God they believe in	Identify differences between each	Identify similarities between each	Reasons for these similarities\differences
JUDAISM				
ISLAM				
CHRISTIANITY				