

Art/Symbols

Judaism



The six-pointed star, called a *Magen David* ("shield of David") is a relatively new symbol of Judaism, becoming popular only in the last 200 years. It is named after King David, whom legend tells us had a shield with this star on it. A Magen David appears on the flag of the State of Israel.



A Yarmelka is a small round cap worn on the head. The Kippah is worn by men and women, although in Orthodox synagogues it is only worn by men. Some Jews wear the yarmelka all day; some wear it only during prayer; and some do not wear one at all. It signifies that human beings are beneath, or dependent on, God

The light of a menorah symbolizes the strength of one's spirit. Jews do not accomplish their mission through violence, but by setting an example. This idea is highlighted in the vision of the Prophet Zechariah who sees a menorah, and G-d explains: "Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit." ([Zechariah 4:1-6](#))



Christianity



The most famous and arguably the most important symbol of Christianity is the cross. It represents the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ for the redemption of the world.

The New Testament records that Jesus Christ was killed by crucifixion, or by being nailed to a cross. It is seen as a symbol of suffering for this reason. However, it is also seen as a symbol of triumph, for it is then that Jesus triumphed over death.



I	Jesus
X	Christ
Θ	God
Υ	Son
Σ	Saviour

The meaning of the word and symbol is very clever. The word ichthys means *fish* in Greek, but the letters are also the initials of five Greek words that mean “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior” (Iesous Christos Theou Yios Soter).

During the early days of Christianity, Christians were often put to death for practicing their faith, so they worshiped in secret places. A fish painted on the outside door of a house let other Christians know that they would be safe and welcome inside.

Islam



The star and crescent is the best known symbol for Islam. Many historians point out that this symbol actually originated from the Ottoman Empire and is not of Islamic origins at all. As Islam spread to the Ottoman Turks who used this symbol on their flag, it also began to be associated with Islam. Today, it is on the top of many mosques, and is on the flags of many Islamic nations.



This is the word for God, written in Arabic calligraphy. Islam prohibits the use of images of God, because then people worship the image, rather than God Himself. Instead, Islamic art is filled with calligraphy like this.

Afterlife

The core of Christian belief about the afterlife is that conduct on earth will determine where in the afterlife you will eventually end up. That there is a hell for the wicked ones and there is heaven for those who behaved well. Also, the Catholic Church claims there is an afterlife state which is between heaven and hell the Catholic Church calls 'purgatory.' The theological teaching is that after a time of purgation, the spirit will eventually be progress and will go to heaven. There are other Christians, the Protestants, who do not accept purgatory.

Traditional Judaism firmly believes that death is not the end of human existence. However, because Judaism is primarily focused on life here and now rather than on the afterlife, Judaism does not talk much about the afterlife, and leaves a great deal of room for personal opinion. It is possible for one Jew to believe that the souls of the righteous dead go to a place similar to the Christian heaven, or that they are reincarnated through many lifetimes, or that they simply wait until the coming of the messiah, when they will be resurrected.

<http://www.jewfaq.org/olamhaba.htm>

According to Islam faith, death is the complete end of physical life and the beginning of a period of rest until the day of resurrection when Allah judges the living and the dead. Many Muslims believe that the righteous are able to see visions of God after death and that the wicked see visions of hell. Except for these possible visions of heaven or hell, Muslims believe the soul remains in a kind of "soul sleep" until Judgment Day. When the Day of Judgment arrives, everyone is judged according to their deeds in life. Many Muslims believe that non-Muslims can attain heaven only after a period of purification in the fires of purgatory.

Read more: Kevin Williams: <http://www.near-death.com/muslim.html>

The Bridge

Righteous people will fly over it.
Others will be cut by edges
as punishment for evil.
Some will be snagged
and will fall in Hell.



Judgment Day

World Ended. Dead raised.
Everyone will be sorted by
beliefs. Record is read.
Witnesses come. Recompense
is given. Deeds are weighed.
Mercy is bestowed. The final
verdict is given.

Diagram of Judgment Day

The Heights

For people who are too good to go
to Hell but not ready for entry to Heaven.
A fixed term must be served



Heaven

Enter the gates and
recite what you know
of your Prophet's
revelation. You will
move upward to one
of seven levels and
find your home there.
Rewards and
pleasure are yours
for eternity.



Hell-fire

Drop into the pit and land in
one of seven levels of punishment.
Although some may be released,
others will stay in the fire forever.

Jesus

Islam

“And about the Romans saying, ‘We killed the Messiah Jesus, Allah’s Messenger.’ They did not kill him or crucify him, but it appeared that way to them. Surely, they did not kill him. But Allah did take him up to be with Him. Allah is mighty and wise.”

Source: Qur’an An-Nisaa’: 157-158

Christianity

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with Jesus to be executed. It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon-- the sun stopped shining. Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I give my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last breath.”

Source: Holy Bible, Luke 23:32-46

Judaism

"On the eve of Passover Jesus the Nazarene was hanged and a herald went forth before him forty days heralding, 'Jesus the Nazarene is going forth to be stoned because he practiced sorcery and instigated and seduced Israel to idolatry. Whoever knows anything in defense may come and state it.' But since they did not find anything in his defense they hanged him on (Sabbath eve and) the eve of Passover.”

Source: Talmud, Babylonian [Sanhedrin 43a-b](#)

Guidelines for Living

Judaism & Christianity

In both religions, God spoke to a prophet named Moses, and gave him these Ten Commandments carved on two stone tablets. Today the Ten Commandments are a guideline for how to live your life. In Judaism, these are called the Ten Sayings, or Ten Agreements, and these are just ten of 613.

- 1) I am the Lord thy god
- 2) You shall have no other gods before Me.
- 3) You shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
- 4) Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.
- 5) Honor thy father and thy mother.
- 6) You shall not murder.
- 7) You shall not commit adultery. (cheat on your husband/wife)
- 8) You shall not steal.
- 9) You shall not bear false witness (lie) against your neighbor.
- 10) You shall not covet (want) anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Exodus 20:1–17



Moses delivering the Ten Commandments

Islam

In Islam, Moses is a respected prophet, and most of the Ten Commandments can be found in the Qu'ran (except for the fourth one). However, it is the Five Pillars that Muslims use as guidelines for their lives:

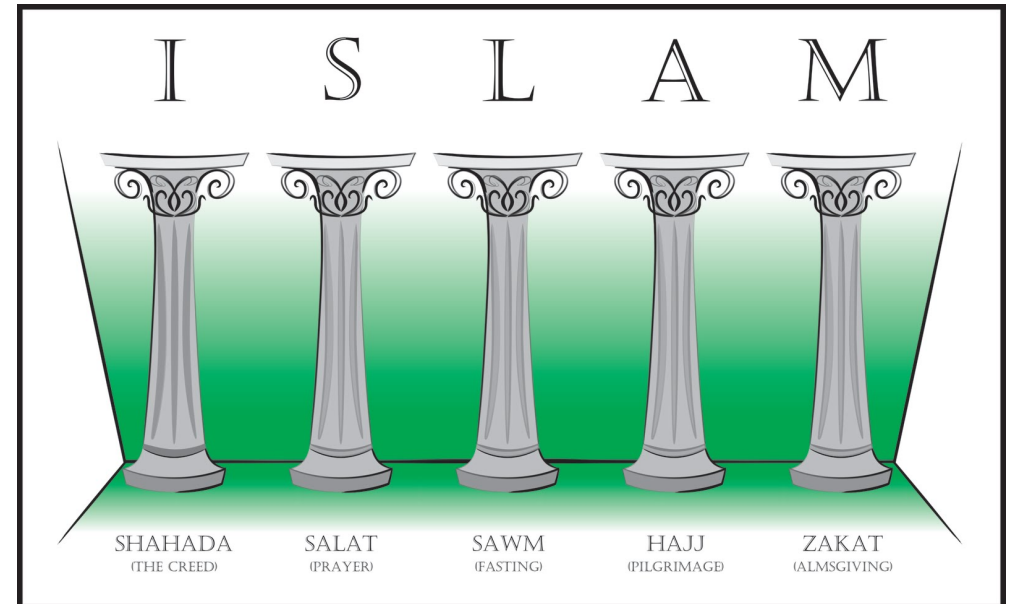
Shahada: Faith Muslims should declare their faith in God. "There is no god but God (and) Muhammad is the messenger of God." Shahada should happen several times a day.

Salat: Prayer Muslims should pray five times a day

Zakat: Almsgiving Muslims should give to those in need

Sawm: Fasting Muslims should fast three times a year. This allows them to grow closer to God and recognize their dependence on Him.

Hajj: Pilgrimage: Muslims should travel to Mecca, which is the holiest city in Islam, at least once in their lives.



Monotheism

Islam

“And your God is one God; there is no god but He Most Gracious, Most Merciful. Look! In the creation of the heavens and the earth; in the rain which God sends down from the skies, in the beasts of all kinds that He scatters through the earth; in the change of the winds; here indeed are signs for a people that are wise.”

Source Qur'an 2: 163-164

Christianity

“And Jesus answered him. The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord: And you shall love the Lord thy God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with mind, and with all your strength; this is the first commandment” . . . And the clerk said unto him, well, Master, you have said the truth: for there is ONE GOD and there is none other but He”.

Source King James Bible Mark;12: 29-32

Judaism

“You are my witnesses, said the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that you may know and believe me, and understand that I am he; before me, there was no God formed, and there won't be one after me”. I am the Lord; and beside me there is no Savior.”

Source: Old Testament, Isaiah;43:11