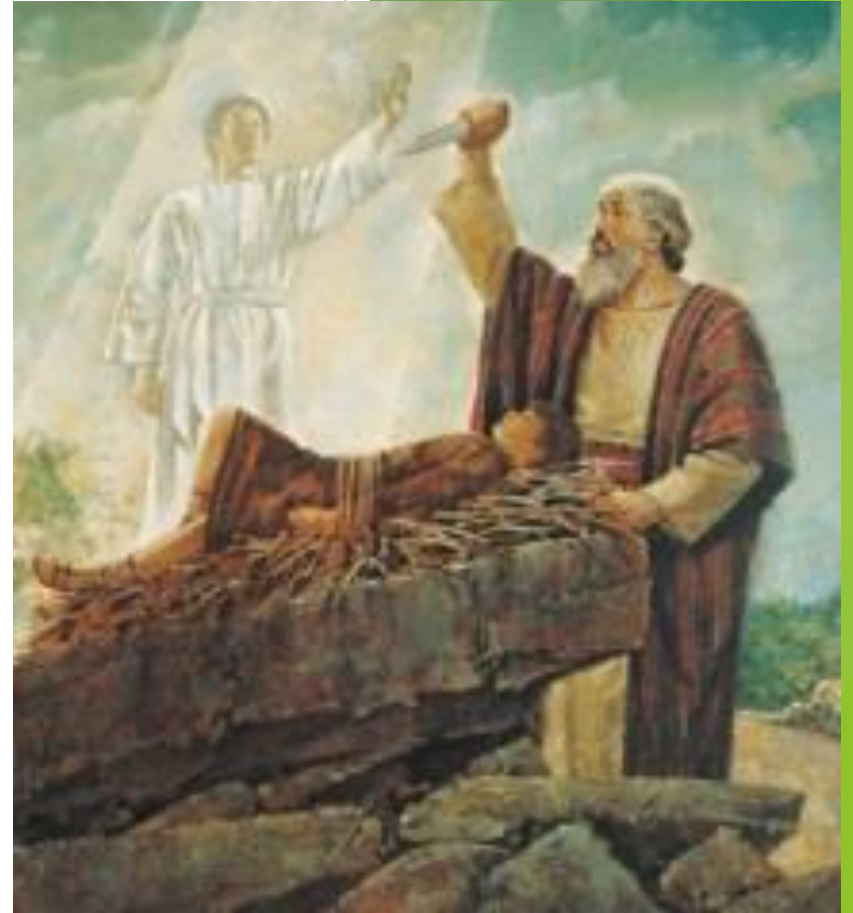


HGAP Unit 3 Religions

Judaism

- ▶ First developed monotheistic religion
 - ▶ Founded by Abraham around 1200 B.C.E.
 - ▶ Covenant with God
- ▶ What do they believe?
 - ▶ There is one God, usually called Yahweh or Adonai
 - ▶ Sacred text= the Torah (first 5 books of their bible) and the Hebrew Bible
 - ▶ Follow the Ten Commandments
 - ▶ Israel is holy land
 - ▶ Many “diasporas” through history
 - ▶ Believe in afterlife

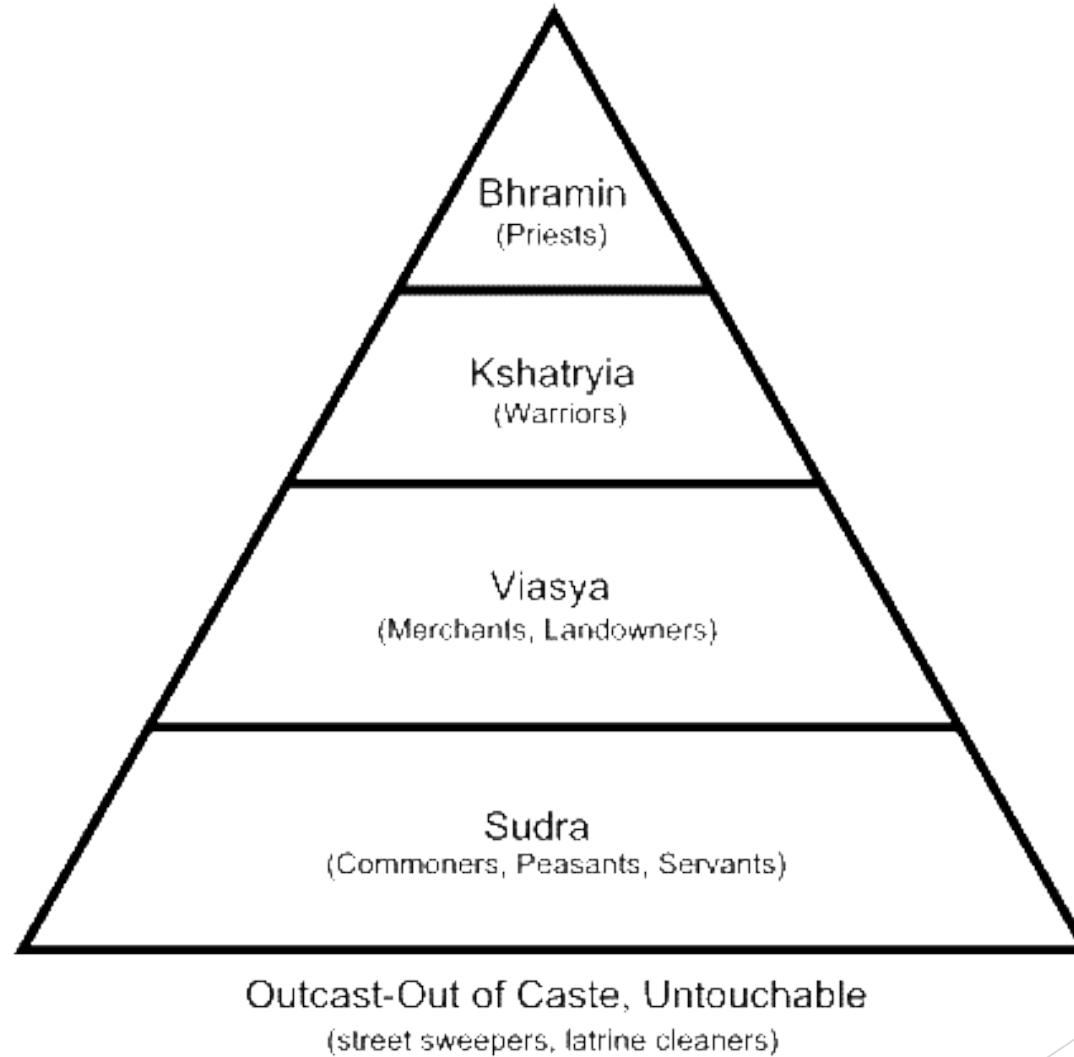


Hinduism

- ▶ Has no founder
- ▶ Sacred texts include Vedas and Upanishads
- ▶ Very diverse
 - ▶ Inclusive of all religions
- ▶ Polytheistic
 - ▶ Believe in one supreme god, as well as many gods and goddesses, which vary by region and practice.
- ▶ Major goal= Moksha
 - ▶ Becoming one with the supreme god, achieved through reincarnation (samsara) and fulfillment of Dharma (duty)
- ▶ No concept of afterlife, just being at peace with the supreme god.



Hindu Caste System



Buddhism



- ▶ Branched off of Hinduism
- ▶ Developed in India (Nepal) by the teachings of the first “Buddha,” Siddhartha Gautama.
- ▶ Beliefs are closely aligned with Hinduism, with more focus on oneself
 - ▶ No emphasis on gods
 - ▶ Rejects caste system
- ▶ Goal= Nirvana (very similar to Moksha)
 - ▶ Ultimate wisdom and being at one with the universe.
- ▶ Buddhism developed from a philosophy into a religion gradually as it spread to new regions- particularly China. (Mahayana)

Christianity



- ▶ Branched off of Judaism, so many similar beliefs
 - ▶ Monotheistic
 - ▶ Holy text- Bible (Old and New Testament)
- ▶ Largest religion in the world with many denominations
- ▶ Developed from the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth- spread by Paul of Tarsus
 - ▶ Believed to be the son of God- the Savior or Messiah
 - ▶ Tried and crucified by the Romans
 - ▶ Resurrected from the dead
 - ▶ Afterlife of either Heaven or Hell
 - ▶ Heaven is achieved through acceptance of Jesus as a savior, prayer, and various customs depending on practice.

Islam

- ▶ A new religion, Islam, developed in 610 C.E.
 - ▶ Founder/ Prophet - Muhammad
 - ▶ Arabian Peninsula- Mecca
 - ▶ Spread message of monotheism, offended his polytheistic tribe members
 - ▶ Left to Medina for safety but returned to Mecca later (inspired the Hajj)
 - ▶ Smashed the idols of the Kaaba, which is now a holy site
- ▶ At this point, Muhammad had thousands of followers and was experienced as a military and political leader
 - ▶ Islam was an “Empire of Faith,” meaning that religion and politics were closely aligned



Foundations of Islam

- ▶ Holy text- Quran
 - ▶ Secondary religious text is called the Hadiths
- ▶ Centered on very strict monotheism
 - ▶ Has many of the same foundational beliefs of Judaism and Christianity, since they are all Abrahamic faiths
- ▶ Emphasis on the “Five Pillars of Faith”
- ▶ Islam spread very quickly because of the appeal of
 - ▶ Equality (women, poor, orphans, etc.)
 - ▶ Political Unity
 - ▶ Moral Code

