

Similarities in the Basic Structures of the Abrahamic Religions

It seems to me that the three monotheistic religions have fundamentally the same conceptions of God and of humanity. (The doctrines of the Trinity and of Original Sin in Christianity I do not consider to make the Christian conceptions of God and of Humankind *fundamentally* different from those of Judaism and Islam.) Where the three religions differ is concerning the means that God has provided for humankind to be restored to relationship (reconciled) with God. Although the means of reconciliation differs from religion to religion, all three religions have come up with basically the same solution for “bridging” the infinite “gap” between Creator and Creature: in each case God has freely chosen to send Revelation in the form of the perfect “Word of God” (defined in the orthodox theology of Christianity and Islam as eternal and of God’s essence, while in Judaism as a created Word, created before the physical universe). It is also to be noted that while in Judaism and Islam the “Word of God” is a book, the saving revelation in Christianity is *not* the Bible but a person: Jesus.

	<i>Judaism</i>	<i>Christianity</i>	<i>Islam</i>
(The Creator; all-good & all-powerful; holy & merciful; has expectations for human behavior/gives commandments for people to keep)	God	God (Despite the doctrine of the Trinity)	God
(The perfect Word of God)	Torah (created before the physical universe, but not eternal)	Jesus (eternal, and of God’s essence [uncreated])	Qur’ān (eternal, and of God’s essence [uncreated])
(alienated/separated from God; sinners)	Humankind	Humankind (Despite the doctrine of Original Sin)	Humankind