

Religion	Creation Myth	What is and What Was	Other Central Tenets	Hardest Theological Challenges	Compatibility with Science	Geographic Origin
Christianity	God created the universe in 6 days	God/ heaven/ earth/ humanity	Trinity/ salvation/ resurrection	Problem of evil/ free will vs. determinism	Some Tensions	Middle East
Islam	Allah created the universe in 6 days	Allah/ heaven/ earth/ humanity	Five Pillars (faith/ prayer/ charity/ fasting/ pilgrimage)/ prophecy	Divine omnipotence vs. human free will	Some Tensions	Middle East
Judaism	God created the universe in 6 days	God/ heaven/ earth/ humanity	Covenant/ Torah/ prophecy	Divine omnipotence vs. human free will	Some Tensions	Middle East
Hinduism	Cyclical creation and destruction by Brahma/ Vishnu/ Shiva	Universe undergoes cycles of creation and destruction	Dharma/ karma/ reincarnation	Reconciling suffering with karma and reincarnation	Some Tensions	Indian subcontinent
Buddhism	No specific creation myth, focus on cyclical nature of existence	Samsara (rebirth)/ nirvana (liberation)	Four Noble Truths/ Eightfold Path	Reconciling anatta (no-self) with reincarnation	Mostly Compatible	Indian subcontinent
Sikhism	God created the universe	God is eternal/ creation is ongoing	Equality/ meditation/ honest living	Reconciling God's sovereignty with human agency	Largely Compatible	Indian subcontinent
Jainism	Universe is eternal; no creator god	Cycles of time/ karma	Non-violence/ truth/ renunciation/ non-attachment	Explaining origins without a creator	Largely Compatible	Indian subcontinent
Taoism	Universe emerged from the eternal Tao (the Way)	Harmony of opposites (yin-yang)/ natural order	Wu wei (effortless action)/ inner cultivation	Tao as an impersonal cosmic principle	Some Tensions	China
Confucianism	No specific creation account	Focus on social harmony and order	Filial piety/ humaneness/ propriety/ righteousness	Reconciling social order with individual autonomy	Mostly Compatible	China
Shinto	Izanagi and Izanami created the Japanese islands	Kami (spirits) inhabit all things	Ritual purity/ harmony with nature/ ancestor veneration	Kami as non-anthropomorphic sacred entities	Some Tensions	Japan
Zoroastrianism	Ahura Mazda created the universe	Dualistic struggle between good (Ahura Mazda) and evil (Angra Mainyu)	Truth/ righteousness/ good thoughts/words/deeds	Explaining evil's origin and purpose	Some Tensions	Persia (Iran)
Ancient Greek	Gaia (Earth) and Uranus (Sky) created the Titans	Pantheon of gods/ heroes/ underworld	Virtue/ moderation/ pursuit of excellence	Role of fate and prophecy	Largely Irreconcilable	Greece
Ancient Roman	Similar to Greek mythology	Pantheon of gods/ heroes/ underworld, state religion	Piety/ virtue/ discipline	Relationship between humans and the divine	Largely Irreconcilable	Rome (Italy)
Norse	Odin and his brothers created the world from Ymir's body	Pantheon of gods/ Yggdrasil (world tree)/ Nine Worlds	Courage/ honor/ destiny/ Ragnarök (end & renewal)	Role of fate vs. individual heroism	Largely Irreconcilable	Scandinavia
Ancient Egyptian	Atum created himself and the world from the primordial waters	Gods/ pharaohs/ the afterlife	Ma'at (cosmic order)/ divine kingship/ judgment after death	Divine influence in human affairs	Largely Irreconcilable	Egypt
Mesopotamian	Marduk created the world from the primordial sea goddess Tiamat	Gods/ kingship/ the underworld	Social order/ piety/ sacred kingship	The gods' relationship to human morality	Largely Irreconcilable	Mesopotamia (Iraq)
Maya	The Maize God's resurrection led to the world's creation	Pantheon of gods/ cyclical time/ sacred astronomy	Ritual bloodletting/ ancestor veneration/ afterlife	Fate/ divination/ and human agency	Largely Irreconcilable	Mesoamerica
Bahá'í	God created the universe	Oneness of God/ unity of all religions/ equality of all people	Progressive revelation/ world peace/ harmony of science & religion	Reconciling unity with religious diversity	Largely Compatible	Persia (Iran)
Rastafari	Jah (God) created the universe; Haile Selassie I venerated as divine	Babylon (corrupt world) vs. Zion (utopian Africa)	Afrocentricism/ repatriation to Africa/ natural living	Divinity of Haile Selassie I	Some Tensions	Jamaica
Wicca	The Goddess and God created the universe	Divine feminine & masculine/ cycles of nature	Magic/ rituals/ esbats & sabbats	Effectiveness of magic & rituals	Some Tensions	United Kingdom
Mormonism	God the Father created the universe; Jesus visited the Americas	Exaltation/ eternal families/ continuing revelation	Faith/ repentance/ baptism/ gift of the Holy Ghost/ enduring to the end	Historical authenticity of the Book of Mormon	Some Tensions	United States
Voodoo	Bondye created all things; Loa (spirits) interact with humans	Syncretism with Catholicism/ magic	Spirit possession/ offerings/ herbal healing	Coexistence of Loa & Catholic saints	Some Tensions	Haiti