

# WORLDVIEW COMPARISON CHART

Based on data from:  
<http://www.marketfaith.org/resources/WorldviewComparisonChart.pdf>  
 Direct quotes from that web document are indicated by the Calibri font.  
 Also based on data from:  
<http://www.teachingaboutreligion.org/WorldviewDiversity/compare.htm>  
*Cells in italics are based on that website.*

Also based on data from:  
<http://mrdspage.com/worldview.aspx>  
 which is indicated by using the Arial font.

|   |   |  |  |  | THEISM  | THEISM   | THEISM  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| QUESTION  | NATURALISM/<br>RATIONALISM                    | POST-<br>MODERNISM<br>(deconstruc-<br>tionism) | ANIMISM/<br>SHAMANISM  | FAR EASTERN<br>THOUGHT<br>(Hinduism,<br>Buddhism,<br>Taoism, etc.)               | JUDAISM   | ISLAM  | CHRISTIANITY  | DEISM                                      |
| What is the nature of ultimate reality? ( <b>Ultimate Reality</b> ) | The only thing that exists is material matter | The only thing that exists is material matter  | The universe contains both material and immaterial parts. Spirits exist in a separate place from physical beings, but they interact with each other in a symbiotic relationship. | Impersonal, Pantheistic, Monistic (The universe is the same as God or the gods). | There is one personal, infinite, transcendent God who is Creator and Sustainer. | There is one infinite and transcendent God who is Creator and Sustainer. | There is one personal, infinite, transcendent God who is Creator and Sustainer. | There is one infinite God who was Creator. |

THEISM

THEISM

THEISM

| QUESTION | NATURALISM/<br>RATIONALISM   | POST-<br>MODERNISM<br>(deconstruc-<br>tionism) | ANIMISM/<br>SHAMANISM | FAR EASTERN<br>THOUGHT<br>(Hinduism,<br>Buddhism,<br>Taoism, etc.)  | JUDAISM                             | ISLAM                               | CHRISTIANITY  | DEISM   |
|----------|--|--|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| ORIGIN   | Accidental. Life occurred as a random event. The force driving the differential forms of life is nature (the environment). | Accidental.                                    |                       | No beginning point; life has always existed. The physical world is an illusion, obscuring the "spiritual force" that is in every physically existing thing. That universal force is responsible for all life, which is constantly being recycled. | Basically the same as Christianity. | Basically the same as Christianity. | Both the physical and spiritual worlds exist as the creation of an Intelligent Designer [design demands a Designer]. Humans and all life forms were uniquely and individually formed with the capacity of each species to reproduce itself "after its kind" only. | God created the universe and natural physical laws, but has not done anything since then. |

THEISM THEISM THEISM

| QUESTION   | NATURALISM/<br>RATIONALISM  | POST-<br>MODERNISM<br>(deconstruc-<br>tionism) | ANIMISM/<br>SHAMANISM  | FAR EASTERN<br>THOUGHT<br>(Hinduism,<br>Buddhism,<br>Taoism, etc.)         | JUDAISM  | ISLAM  | CHRISTIANITY   | DEISM  |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| What is the nature of material reality?<br><b>(Material Reality)</b> | Matter is eternal and what exists is the result of the eternal operation of natural laws. | Reality is what you believe.                   | Matter is permeated by spirits   | Im-<br>personal,<br>illusory,<br>Seeking<br>oneness.                       | The material world was created intentionally by God.     | The material world was created intentionally by God.   | The material world was created intentionally by God.   | The material world was created intentionally by God. |
| What is a human being?<br><b>(Humanity)</b>                          | Complex biological machines.  | Complex biological machines.                   | Material creatures who inhabit the physical world [who] have a spiritual core. | Personality and individuality are illusions. A life force seeking oneness. | A special creation of God—souls who are body and spirit. | A special creation of God whose essence is Spirit. People are weak, but not inherently sinful. | A special creation of God created in God's image to have fellowship with God, but fallen into ruinous sin. | A special creation of God whose essence is Spirit.   |

THEISM

THEISM

THEISM

| QUESTION  | NATURALISM/<br>RATIONALISM  | POST-<br>MODERNISM<br>(deconstruc-<br>tionism)                                  | ANIMISM/<br>SHAMANISM  | FAR EASTERN<br>THOUGHT<br>(Hinduism,<br>Buddhism,<br>Taoism, etc.)   | JUDAISM  | ISLAM   | CHRISTIANITY   | DEISM                                      |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| IDENTITY  | <p>Evolved animal. Humanity represents the most advanced and specialized animal that has developed in the evolutionary process. Abstract reasoning skills have poised humans to be the animal most likely to survive because of developed high adaptability skills.</p> | <p>Humanity is an animal species, no more important than any other species.</p> |  | <p>Life is god. All living things are part of that universal force and, thus, part of the force known to some as god or the One.</p> |  |   | <p><i>Imago Dei</i> ("in God's image") Human beings alone were created after the likeness of the Creator, superior [sic] to all other living things, having eternal existence, and placed in "dominion" over all creation. Humans alone are allowed to enter into a relationship with the Creator.</p> |  |
| <p>What happens to a person at death?<br/>(Death)</p> | <p>The individual life form ceases to exist.</p>  | <p>The individual life form ceases to exist.</p>                                | <p>The individual's spirit enters the spiritual dimension.</p> | <p>The life force recycles (reincarnates) into another form.</p>   | <p>The grave is the end of life. OR:<br/>The transferring of life to heaven or hell.</p> | <p>The transferring of life to Paradise or to Hell.</p> | <p>The transferring of life to Heaven or to Hell.</p>  | <p>The transferring of life to Heaven.</p> |

THEISM

THEISM

THEISM

| QUESTION   | NATURALISM/<br>RATIONALISM   | POST-<br>MODERNISM<br>(deconstruc-<br>tionism)                | ANIMISM/<br>SHAMANISM                      | FAR EASTERN<br>THOUGHT<br>(Hinduism,<br>Buddhism,<br>Taoism, etc.)  | JUDAISM  | ISLAM  | CHRISTIANITY   | DEISM  |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| DESTINY  | Annihilation. When death occurs, the essential elements that came to be combined in the individual, are reduced to their most basic form and recycled by nature into other (living or non-living) forms. | Annihilation.   | Various views                              | Reincarnation. The life force of all things is recycled. Through multiple attempts or trials, all life is ultimately progressing toward perfect harmony with the universal force. Attempts or cycles are unlimited (reincarnation) until that unity is reached. | Various views  | Final judgment   | Eternity. Being made in the <i>imago dei</i> also implies eternal existence. Humans only are eternal in nature which supercedes the physical body. The Creator has determined and established eternal reward for those who obey Him and eternal punishment for those who do not. | Various views                                |
| Why is it possible to know anything at all?<br>(Knowledge) | A chance happening because of a high level of evolution.   | It isn't possible to really know anything. There is no truth. | Assumed to exist and known by observation. | Knowledge is an illusion. Nothing exists as it appears.   | God created humans with the ability to know. Truth is revealed in the Tanakh and Creation. | God created humans with the ability to know. Truth is revealed in the Quran. | God created humans with the ability to know. Truth is revealed in the Bible and in Creation.   | God created humans with the ability to know. |

THEISM

THEISM

THEISM

| QUESTION  | NATURALISM/<br>RATIONALISM               | POST-<br>MODERNISM<br>(deconstruc-<br>tionism)               | ANIMISM/<br>SHAMANISM         | FAR EASTERN<br>THOUGHT<br>(Hinduism,<br>Buddhism,<br>Taoism, etc.)  | JUDAISM                                     | ISLAM  | CHRISTIANITY   | DEISM   |
|---|--|--|-------------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|
| How do we know what is right and wrong? <b>(Morality)</b> | Decided by individuals or social groups. | There is no morality. Just don't hurt anyone else.           | Based on experience.          | The cosmos is perfect at every moment. Good and evil are an illusion. Search your heart for what's right. | God revealed right and wrong in the Tanakh. | God revealed right and wrong in the Quran and the Hadith. Society must follow Shari'a. | God revealed right and wrong in the Bible and in the person of Christ.             | Look wherever you want to.                                      |
| What is wrong with the human race? <b>(Sin)</b>           | We haven't evolved enough.               | We are isolated from each other in our own little realities. | We are beset by evil spirits. | We are trapped in a cycle of reincarnation.   | We don't obey the Law of Moses.             | People are weak and need an Islamic government to force them to behave.                | We have a natural inclination to sin (wanting to please ourselves instead of God). | The evils of society need to be overcome through social change. |

THEISM

THEISM

THEISM

| QUESTION        | NATURALISM/<br>RATIONALISM   | POST-<br>MODERNISM<br>(deconstruc-<br>tionism)                    | ANIMISM/<br>SHAMANISM | FAR EASTERN<br>THOUGHT<br>(Hinduism,<br>Buddhism,<br>Taoism, etc.)  | JUDAISM  | ISLAM                                  | CHRISTIANITY   | DEISM  |
|-----------------|--|---|-----------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| <b>MORALITY</b> | Survival of the fittest or most capable. Morality is utilitarian with no set standards except those imposed by nature. Behaviors and thinking are primarily centered upon what will assist the individual in enjoyment of life, avoidance of pain or displeasure, and survivability. | Imposed on people by their cultures; no objective truths to them. | Various views         | Seek unity with all life (force). The individual seeks to come into harmony with the force and to throw off the limitations and illusions of physical existence - and, in the process, to gain enlightenment. | Found in the Torah and it is applied by in the Talmud. | Found in the Quran and in Shari'a Law. | The Creator establishes the rules. The Creator determined the standards for "right and wrong," "moral and immoral." Standards for behavior and life are external in origin and are discovered as one comes into relationship with the Creator. | Generally accepts the morals inherited from Christianity |

THEISM

THEISM

THEISM

| QUESTION   | NATURALISM/<br>RATIONALISM                              | POST-<br>MODERNISM<br>(deconstruc-<br>tionism)                  | ANIMISM/<br>SHAMANISM                                   | FAR EASTERN<br>THOUGHT<br>(Hinduism,<br>Buddhism,<br>Taoism, etc.) | JUDAISM  | ISLAM  | CHRISTIANITY   | DEISM   |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| What is the meaning of human history<br><b>(History)</b> | A linear progression of events without special meaning. | There is no meaning to history; it's a series of random events. | A linear progression of events without special meaning. | Time is an illusion.<br>Time moves in cycles.                      | A linear succession of events that began with God's creation and is moving toward fulfilling his purposes. | A linear succession of events that began with God's creation and is moving toward fulfilling his purposes. | A linear succession of events that began with God's creation and is moving toward fulfilling his purposes through the death, resurrection, and return of Christ. | A linear succession of events that began with God's creation. |

THEISM

THEISM

THEISM

| QUESTION                         | NATURALISM/<br>RATIONALISM                         | POST-<br>MODERNISM<br>(deconstruc-<br>tionism) | ANIMISM/<br>SHAMANISM                                    | FAR EASTERN<br>THOUGHT<br>(Hinduism,<br>Buddhism,<br>Taoism, etc.) | JUDAISM   | ISLAM   | CHRISTIANITY  | DEISM  |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| How are we saved?<br>(Salvation) | Through education, science, and further evolution. | There is no salvation or hope.                 | By appeasing the spirits through rituals and sacrifices. | By becoming one with the universe.                                 | By obeying the Law of Moses and affiliating with God's covenant people, Israel. | On Judgment Day, one's good deeds will be weighed against one's evil deeds. 5 required deeds: confessing Allah and Mohammed; prayer; fasting; pilgrimage; and alms. | By grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. True Christians obey Christ out of love, not as a means to salvation. | Everyone will be saved because they are basically good. Except maybe people like Hitler. |

THEISM

THEISM

THEISM

| QUESTION                          | NATURALISM/<br>RATIONALISM                                | POST-<br>MODERNISM<br>(deconstructionism) | ANIMISM/<br>SHAMANISM              | FAR EASTERN<br>THOUGHT<br>(Hinduism,<br>Buddhism,<br>Taoism, etc.)   | JUDAISM   | ISLAM   | CHRISTIANITY   | DEISM  |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|
| <i>What is the nature of God?</i> | God is the imagination of ignorant, superstitious people. | You are the god of your own reality.      | There are many spirits and ghosts. | <i>Buddhists believe in many gods, but not in a Creator. Hindus believe in one Divine Power, manifested through different avatars. Taoists believe in the yin and yang forces of nature.</i> | <i>There is one God, whose name יהוה must not be pronounced, who is the Creator and Lawgiver and made a special covenant with Israel.</i> | <i>There is one God, Allah, who has no partners. He spoke through the prophets, the last of whom is Mohammed.</i> | <i>There is one God, who eternally consists of three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who intervenes in human history.</i> | <i>God created the universe and then left us on our own.</i> |

THEISM

THEISM

THEISM

| QUESTION | NATURALISM/<br>RATIONALISM  | POST-<br>MODERNISM<br>(deconstructionism) | ANIMISM/<br>SHAMANISM | FAR EASTERN<br>THOUGHT<br>(Hinduism,<br>Buddhism,<br>Taoism, etc.)  | JUDAISM | ISLAM | CHRISTIANITY   | DEISM |
|----------|---|---|-----------------------|---|---------|-------|--|-------|
| MEANING  | To survive and thrive. Enjoyment of life is the goal with the individual deciding what gives meaning to life as an individual experience. | There is no meaning to life.              |                       | Seek unity with all life (force). The individual seeks to come into harmony with the force and to throw off the limitations and illusions of the physical existence - and, in the process, to gain enlightenment. |         |       | Relationship with the Creator. The meaning of life is to seek relationship with the Creator according to the plan He has established, as a part of what, and the reason for why, He created. |       |

THEISM

THEISM

THEISM

| QUESTION                      | NATURALISM/<br>RATIONALISM | POST-<br>MODERNISM<br>(deconstruc-<br>tionism) | ANIMISM/<br>SHAMANISM | FAR EASTERN<br>THOUGHT<br>(Hinduism,<br>Buddhism,<br>Taoism, etc.) | JUDAISM | ISLAM | CHRISTIANITY  | DEISM  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|---------|-------|---|--|
| What is the chief end of man? |                            |  |                       |  |         |       | <p>See<br/>The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.</p> <p><a href="http://www.creeds.net/reformed/Westminster/shorter_catechism.html">http://www.creeds.net/reformed/Westminster/shorter_catechism.html</a></p> | <p>A catechism is a list of questions and answers used to teach a church's children or new members what the church believes.</p> |