Religion in the Middle East

Definitions, Architecture and History

JUDAISM

Monotheistic Religion: God = Jahwe Capitals: Jerusalem

Scriptures: Tanakh (Hebrew Bible), Talmud (63 tracts),

Law: Torah (5 Books of Moses), 613 commandments, directed to very specific kinds of people, Talmud, 10 Commandments

13 principles of faith by Maimonides:

Existence of God; his Oneness; negation of physicalness of God; his eternity; ministry and doxology; prophecy;

Moshe's prophecy; the Torah; there will be no other Torah; God's awareness of the human deeds; God's reward and punishment; the coming of the Messiah; resurrection Main festivities: Yom Kippur (last of the 10 atonement days), Pessach (remembrance of the exodus from Egypt), Sukkot (remembrance of wandering in the wilderness), Chanukka (consecration of the temple)

Denominations: Ashkenazi Jews, Sephardi Jews

Synagogue: Like the Mosques, a Synagoge (= room for conventions) is not only a church. In former times it was a hall for the council and a courthouse with enclosed space for prayers. There is a prayer leader who is mostly a Rabbi or a Cantor. The scrolls of the Torah are kept at the eastern side of the Synagogue, but they are taken to the middle during the ceremony.

CHRISTIANITY

Monotheistic Religion: Trinity of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit

Capitals: Jerusalem, Rome (Catholics), Byzantium (Orthodox). Antioch and Bkerké (Maronite) Scriptures: Holy Bible (New Testament)

Law: Canonic right had a big influence in the christian countries, church and state are separate nowadays

7 Sacraments (Catholic Church and Orthodox Church): Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Confession, Ordination of Priests, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony

Protestants only believe in Baptism and Eucharist Main festivities: Christmas (Birth of Jesus Christ), Ash Wednesday (atonement). Faster (Death and resurrection of JC). Whitsun (reception of the Holy Spirit), Corpus Christi, All Saints' Day, All

Souls' Day Leaders: Pope (Catholic), Katholikos (Armenian Apostolic), Kosmopolit (Orthodox), Patriarch (Maronite)

Denominations: Catholic (Roman-/Christian-/Greek-), Protestant, Eastern (Orthodox, Apostolic), Maronite, Nontrinitarian

Christian Church: The church faces east towards Jerusalem (Catholic and Protestant) The priest stands at the altar in front of the faithful.

ISLAM

Monotheistic Religion: God = Allah, his messenger is Mohammed

Capital: Mecca, birth city of the Mohammed, Medina Scriptures: Qur'an, the literal word of god, revealed to Mohammed, written down by his companions

Law: Sharia (religious duties) and Figh (jurisprudence) -> often no distinction between church and state

- "5 Pillars of Islam", which every religious person has to practice:
- 1. Shahadah creed, must be repeated in prayer 2. Salah - ritual prayer, 5 times a day 3. Zakat - everyone
- who can afford it is supposed to give alms to the needy 4. Sawm - fasting during the month of Ramadan 5. Hajj - pilgrimage to the Kaaba in Mecca, has to be
- done once in a lifetime Denominations: Sunni, Shia (Ismailite, Imamite), Ala-

for washing before praying, and minarets to announce prayers

wite 7aidite Druze Mosque: Not only praying, offers scholastic education as well and serves for conventions of the faithful. Room for prayer with a Mihrab, an alcove that indicates the direction of Mecca. In some cases there is a Dikkah (pulpit) for the prayer leader. Fountains

Armenian Apostolic:

Founded by the apostles Bartholomew and Jude in the mid-first century, it is an own christian religion. Like the Catholics have a pope, the Armenian Apostolic are led by the

Maronite:

Mecca

Eastern Catholic religion, founded by St. Maron in the beginning of the 5th century. Most worshippers in Lebanon, a few in Syria

Islamic sect, founded by the Fatimid Caliph Al-Hakim Bi-Amr Allah († 1021) he is supposed to return sometime in the future

monotheistic Religion, kurdish-speaking, non-missionary (people are born Yezid), founded by Caliph Yazid I. (680/683)

no scriptures, the religion is manifested in songs and rituals,

religious symbol: peacock = Sheikh Adi's incarnatio

Different dogmatics in different countries

In the middle ages, Islam tried to eradicate the Yezids



JUDAISM

CHRISTIANITY



1300 BC: Exodus from Egypt



Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem 335 - 1009 (rebuilt)



Hagia Sophia (orthodox church now mosque), Istanbul 537



Jerusalem

Al-Nahawi Mosque Medina 622

- 400: Completion of the Yerushalmi Talmud



Al-Haram Mosque (Kaaba) Mecca 638



Dome of the Rock, Shrine, Jerusalem 691



Ramban Synagogue Jerusalem 1267



St. Peter's Basilica Rome 1626



St. Grigor Lusorovich Cathedra



Sunni: led by the Caliphs

Largest confession in Islam

Shia: led by the Imams

Belief in the successors of Moham

med, not necessarily family-related

Second largest confession in Islam

Belief in the 4th Caliph Ali Ibn Abi

Mohammed, and his descendants

Talib, Cousin and Son In' Law of

2000 BC: Birth of Abraham, Judaism in 70: Herod's Temple in Jerusalem destroyed

132-135: Jewish rebellion against Roman rule in Judaea Bar Kokhba against Tinnius Rufus and Hadrian, Julius Severus crushed the Rebellion, Jews were forbidden to enter Jerusalem

- 1000 BC: Beginning of the Israeli Kingdom

Jerusalem

926 BC: Separation Juda/Israel

586 BC: Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem destroyed

64 AD

~ 586 BC: Jewish Diaspora

Jew's expelled by Babylonians (Nebukadneżar) 32: Death of Jesus Christ



~ 400: St. Maron founds the Maronite Church



~ 500: Completion of the Bavli Talmud

More important than the Yerushalmi Talmud

200: Christianity in Persia

335: Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem

367: Completion of the New Testament

380: Christianity State Religion in Palestine



35-1204: Maimonides, Rabbi ation of the "13 principles of faith

oman Catholicism spreads until Jerusalem

1189-1191: Third Crusade

1202-1204: Fourth Crusade

Crusaders conquer Byzantium

1143: First translation of the Koran by Robert of

1187: Salah ad-Din reconquers Jerusalem

Frederio II. in 1229

Jew's and other refugees allowed in Jerusalem again

1244: Muslims reconquer Jerusalem after losing it to

1147-1149: Second Crusade

1009: Church of the Holly Sepulchre destroyed by

096-1099: First Crusade

Fatimid Calinh Al-Hakim Bi Amr-Allah

1517-1917: Turks reign over Palestine Jewish parishes grow, many Immigrants from Europe because of persecution

1543: Martin Luther

insults the Jewish asiliars

1979: Israel-Egypt peace treaty 1881/82: Pogromes in Russia

Jews emigrate to Palestine

1428: Pope forbids Italians to help. Jews emigrate Italian Jews flee to Palestine with turkish help

~ 1517: Beginning of the Protestant Reformation

1545: Council of Trent: Beginning of the Counter

1869-1870: I. Vaticanum

1962-1965: II. Vaticanum dialogue between Catholicism and Islam

1967: Six-Day-War

several conflicts

1917: Balfour-Declaration

Establishment of a new home

for Jewish people in Palestine

Israel vs. Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq

1948: Foundation of the State of Israel

Eviction of Palestinians & beginning of

Ongoing military attacks between Israel and Palestine 1973: Yom Kippur War

Syria and Egypt attack Israel 1924: End of the Caliphate

1839-1876: New reforms and interpretations of Islam New formation of army, administration, school and law



979: Islamic revolution in Iran placement of the Shah with tollah Khomein

1982: Lebanon War



I S'L A M



Sultanate









973-1071 Fatirhid dynasty in Egypt



Caliph Dynasties in the Middle East: Umayyad dynasty - Damascus, descending from Ali's Caliphate

Abassid dynasty - Baghdad, Cairo Fatimid dynasty - North Africa & Egypt (not accepted)

aul missonary in Arab countries, approx. 10-

Ottomans - assumed title after defeating Mamluk

622-632: Islamic Caliphate under Prophet Mohammed Beginning of the Islamic balendar 632-661: Patriarchial Galinhate 645: Byzantine - Muslim War Conquest of Egypt by the Muslim & establishment of the new capital Al-Fustat 661-750: Umayyiad Caliphate

Damascus Capital of Islam 680: Battle of Karbala Death of Husayn Ibn Ali, Mohammed's grandson 750-1258: Abbassid dynasty

762; Baghdad new Capital of Islam 570: Birth of Moham-'815-819: Shi'ite Rebellion' 657: Battle of Siffin 873: 12th Imam of the Shia disappears

Formation of Sunda / Shia

f religion and war, Routledge, New York/London 2004; Monika und Udo Tworuschka, Religionen der Welt, Grundlagen, Entwicklung und Bedeutung in der Gegenwart, Orbis Verlag, München 1996; Meyers Taschenlexikon www.en.wikipedia.org, 04-10-2009; Histor

