

# Unit 4 SG 5 - Monotheistic Religions

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# I. Judaism

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- A. Distribution - Most of the world's 14 million Jews are in two places — two-fifths each in Israel and the United States.



- B. Origins & Holy Texts
  - 1. Bronze Age Canaanite religion which was polytheistic (Baal, Elyon, many many others)
    - a. Children of Canaan known as Elohim
  - 2. Babylonian religion, also polytheistic, but influenced ideas of divine law and covenants.
  - 3. Worship of Yahweh (can be traced back to Elyon or El of Canaan) and national god of the states of Israel & Judah. There was also a goddess, Asherah, from the Canaanite religion that was later banished from Judaism.



Hagar (servant)-----**Abraham**-----Sarah (wife)

↓  
Ishmael

↓  
**Isaac**-----Rebecca

↙  
Esau

↘  
**Jacob (=Israel)**

↓  
**12 sons**  
**(=12 tribes of Israel)**

- 4. Sacred Texts
  - a. The Torah - the first five books - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, & Deuteronomy
  - b. The Talmud - interpretation of the Torah & oral tradition in writing
  - c. The Nevi'im & Ketuvim - books of history, prophecy, poetry & other sacred writings AKA:
    - (1) The Nevi'im (Major Prophets) - Joshua, Judges, Samuel (I-III), Kings (I-II), Isaiah, & Jeremiah; (Minor Prophets) Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, & Malachi
    - (2) The Ketuvim - (Poetry) Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Solomon & Job; (Smaller Books) Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther; (Historical Texts) Daniel, Ezra/Nehemiah, Chronicles





- C. Diffusion - Judaism is an ethnic religion, therefore it did not diffuse to other regions.
  - 1. To be Jewish you must be born into it.





# Jewish Diaspora, A.D. 70–500

DIRECTIONS GEOQUIZ



- Major Jewish settlements, A.D. 500
- ← Jewish routes
- ★ Area of Jewish population, present-day

“Diaspora” is a Greek word that means “scattered.” The Jewish Diaspora refers to the movement of Jews out of their traditional lands to locations throughout the world.



- D. Calendar & Holy Days
- 1. Calendars in ethnic religions are typically based upon the changing of the seasons because of the necessities of agricultural cycles.
- 2. Judaism is classified as an ethnic religion in part because its major holidays are based on events in the agricultural calendar of the religion's homeland in present-day Israel.

- 3. Holy Days - The Jewish Calendar - goes back more than 5000 years.
  - a. The Sabbath (Shabbat) - 25 hrs beginning sundown on Friday and ending nightfall on Saturday
    - (1) lighting of candles and festive family meal
    - (2) day of rest; all labor is prohibited
  - b. Rosh Hashanah - Jewish New Year
  - c. Yom Kippur - Day of Atonement (fasting)
  - d. Hanukkah - 8 day winter solstice holiday that celebrates victory of Maccabees over Seleucid Greek rulers
  - e. Passover (Pesach) - 7 day spring festival commemorating the Exodus





- E. Cosmogony & Spirits - Cosmogony is a set of religious beliefs concerning the origin of the universe.
  - 1. In Judaism, God (Yahweh) created the universe.
  - 2. Angels - the divine messengers of God
  - 3. Patriarchs - Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob and the other 26 male ancestor figures from Adam to Abraham to whom God spoke directly.
  - 4. Prophets - human messengers of God, Moses, Joshua, etc...
  - 5. Demons - minions of Satan many of whom are based on old Canaanite and Babylonian gods and goddesses (Lilith, Beelzebub)
  - 6. Nephilim - children of angels and human women

Tetragrammaton of YHWH

𐤎 𐤏 𐤎 𐤌

Phoenician

𐤎 𐤏 𐤎 𐤌

Aramaic

יהוה

Hebrew

– YHWH, El (god), Elohim (god), El Shaddai (god almighty), Adonai (master), Elyon (highest), & Avinu (our father); also Jehovah or Yahweh (based on the 4 letters)



- F. Administration & Leaders
  - 1. Judaism has no centralized structure of religious control.
  - 2. The rabbi - spiritual leader, teacher, elder; heirs to the scribes of the 2nd temple (orthodox belief)

- G. Worship & Beliefs
- 1. Jews believe they are God's chosen people based on a covenant, God's promise to Abraham & descendants (symbolized by rite of circumcision).
- 2. Jewish writing are ambiguous about life after death.
  - a. World to Come concept
- 3. Messiah - a savior of the Jewish people descended from God through the line of David.



- 2. Worship - mandatory thrice day devotional services
  - a. Shacharit (morning); Mincha (afternoon); Maariv (evening)
- 3. Rituals
  - a. Circumcision (age of 8 days) - rite of entry into Jewish community; believe the soul of the uncircumcised will perish with the body
    - (1) God commanded Abraham to do this; part of divine covenant
  - b. Bar mitzvah/Bat mitzvah - coming of age
    - (1) “Bar” means “son” in Aramaic
    - (2) “Bat” means “daughter” in Aramaic



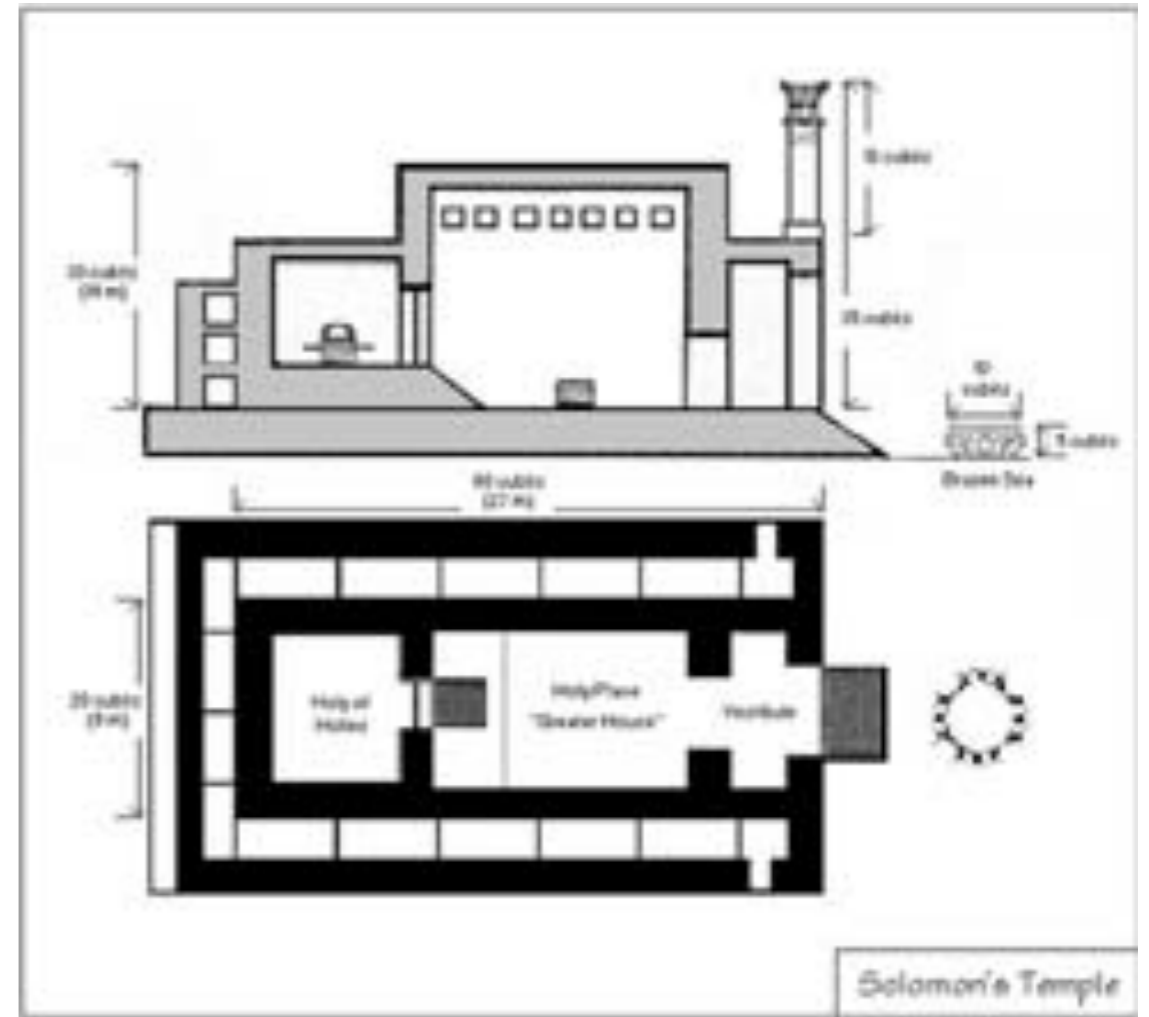


- H. Sacred Spaces
- 1. The Temple Mount is the holiest site in Judaism and is the place to which Jews turn during prayer. Due to its extreme sanctity, many Jews will not walk on the Mount itself, to avoid unintentionally entering the area where the Holy of Holies stood.
  - a. The Foundation Stone - According to the sages of the Talmud, it was from this rock that the world was created, itself being the first part of the Earth to come into existence.
    - (1) The rock where Adam, Cain & Abel, & Noah made sacrifices to God.
    - (2) The Binding of Isaac
    - (3) Where Abraham was to sacrifice his son Isaac.
    - (4) Jacob's Ladder



- b. The Temple - God instructed David to build a permanent temple over the location of the Foundation Stone. Due to his sins, his son Solomon completed the task in 950 B.C.E.
  - (1) When the temple was finished, the Ark of the Covenant was to be placed there, the Holy of Holies.
    - (a) The Holy of Holies refers to the inner sanctuary of the Tabernacle where God dwelt.
  - (2) Solomon's Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians. It was rebuilt and the 2nd Temple lasted until it was destroyed in 70 C.E.
- c. The Western Wall or Wailing Wall, a retaining wall of the Temple Mount and remnant of the Second Temple structure, is considered by some rabbinical authorities the holiest accessible site for Jews to pray.





The Ark of the Covenant

- 2. Synagogues are seen as temporary replacements for the Jewish Temple (destroyed by Romans)
  - a. Architectural Features - some have incorporated “church-like” features, some are gender integrated, some are not.









- J. Disputes & Controversies
  - 1. The Great Diaspora
  - 2. Medieval Anti-Semitism
    - a. denied guild memberships
    - b. prohibited from owning land
    - c. separated in cities (ghetto)
    - d. expulsion from Spain in 1492







- 3. The Holocaust - genocide of ~ 6,000,000 Jews during WWII by Nazi Germany
  - a. Zionism - movement to create Jewish homeland
  - b. Israel - Created in May 15, 1948 out of British Palestine through UN. Invaded next day by neighboring countries







(a)



(b)



(c)



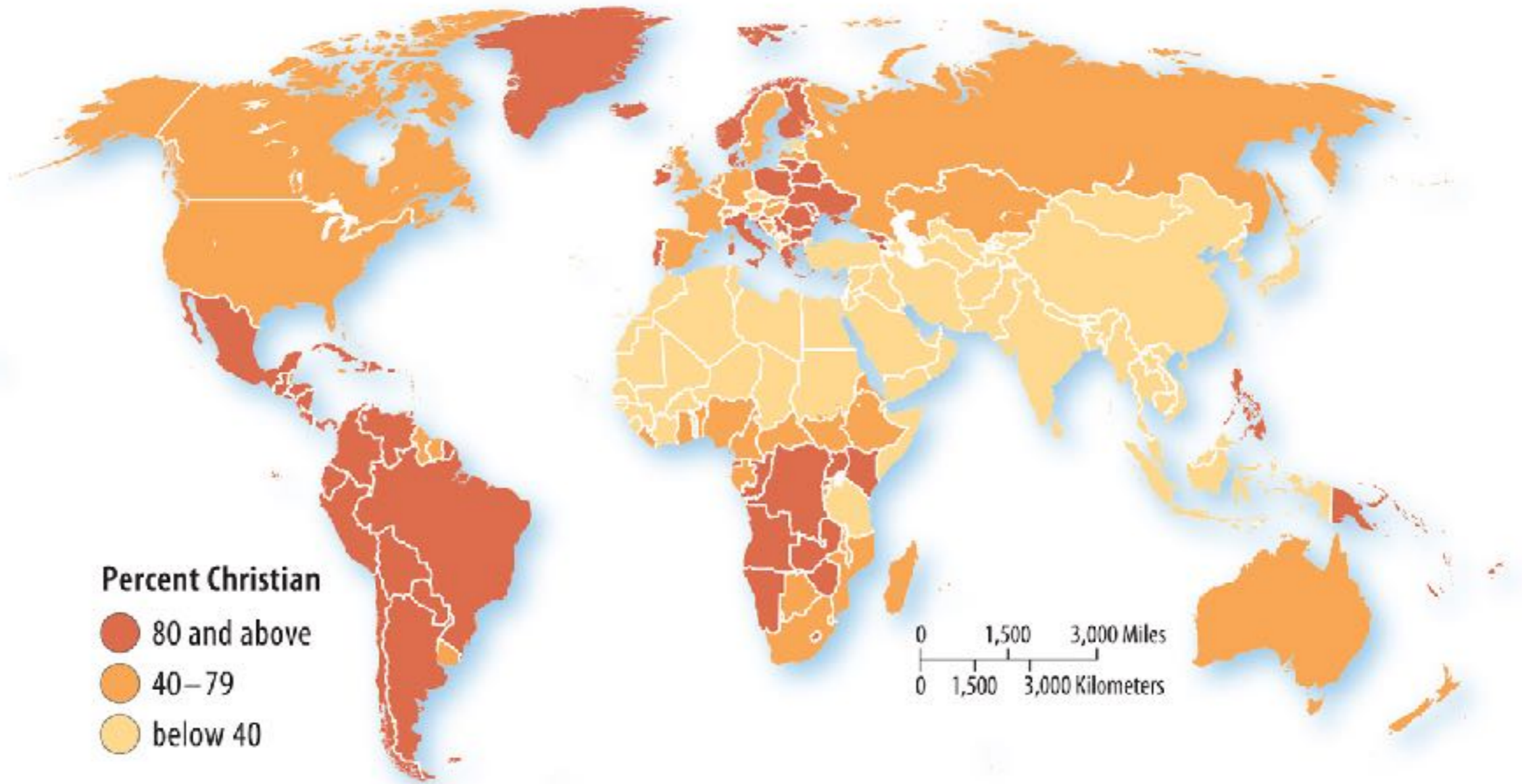
- 4. The Temple Mount
  - a. The most sacred space in Jerusalem for Muslims was literally built on top of the most sacred space for Jews.
  - b. With holy Muslim structures sitting literally on top of holy Jewish structures, the two cannot be logically divided by a line on a map.

## II. Christianity

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- A. Distribution - Christianity is the predominant religion in North and South America, Europe, and Australia, and countries with a Christian majority exist in Africa and Asia as well.

# Distribution of Christianity

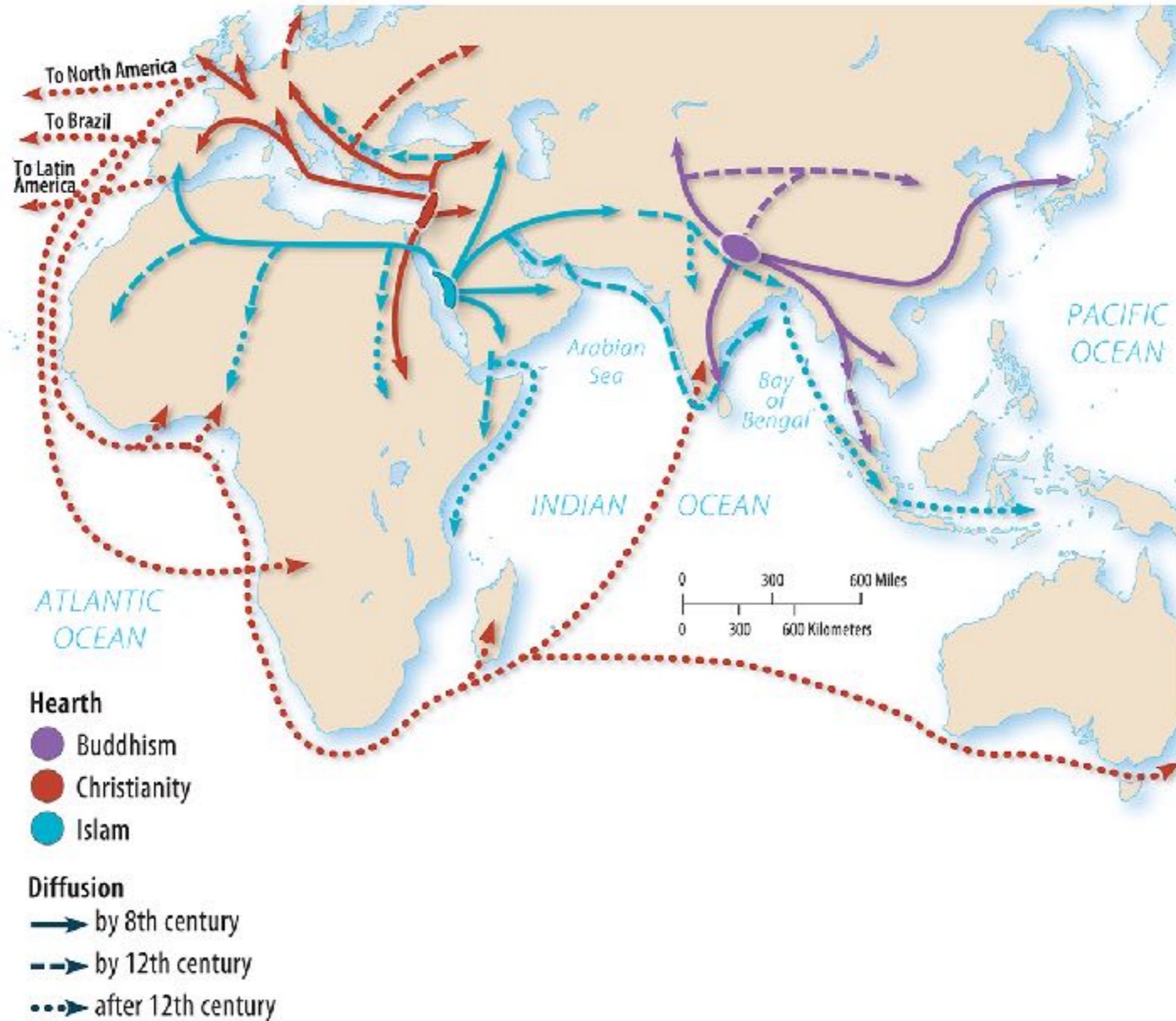




- B. Origins & Holy Texts
- 1. Christianity was founded upon the teachings of Jesus, who was born in Bethlehem between 8 and 4 B.C. and died on a cross in Jerusalem about A.D. 30.
- 2. Raised as a Jew, Jesus gathered a small band of disciples and preached the coming of the Kingdom of God.

- C. Diffusion - Christianity diffused from its hearth in Israel through migration.
- 1. Christianity spread widely within the Roman Empire through two forms of expansion diffusion:
  - a. Hierarchical diffusion—The emperor Constantine embraced Christianity in 313 A.D.
  - b. Contagious diffusion—This is the daily contact between believers and nonbelievers.

# Diffusion of Christianity





- D. Calendar & Holy Days

- E. Cosmogony & Spirits - Cosmogony is a set of religious beliefs concerning the origin of the universe.
  - 1. In Christianity, God created the universe.
  - 2.

- F. Administration - Christianity has many different ways in which it is administered and worshipped.
- 1. A hierarchical religion has a well-defined geographic structure and organizes territory into local administrative units (i.e. Roman Catholic Church; Mormon Church).
- 2. Locally Autonomous Religions: Some Protestant Denominations
- a. Protestant Christian denominations vary in geographic structure from extremely autonomous to somewhat hierarchical.



# Catholic Church

# LDS Church

*International Level*

Pope

Prophet and First Presidency

College of Bishops

College of Cardinals

Quorum of the 12 Apostles

General Auxiliaries

Quorums of the Seventy

*Area Level – Diocese or Stake*

Arch Bishop

Bishop

Stake President

Mission President

Stake Auxiliaries

High Council

Patriarch

*Local Level – Parish or Ward*

Priest/Pastor

Bishop

Deacon

Nuns and Brothers

Laity

High Priest Group

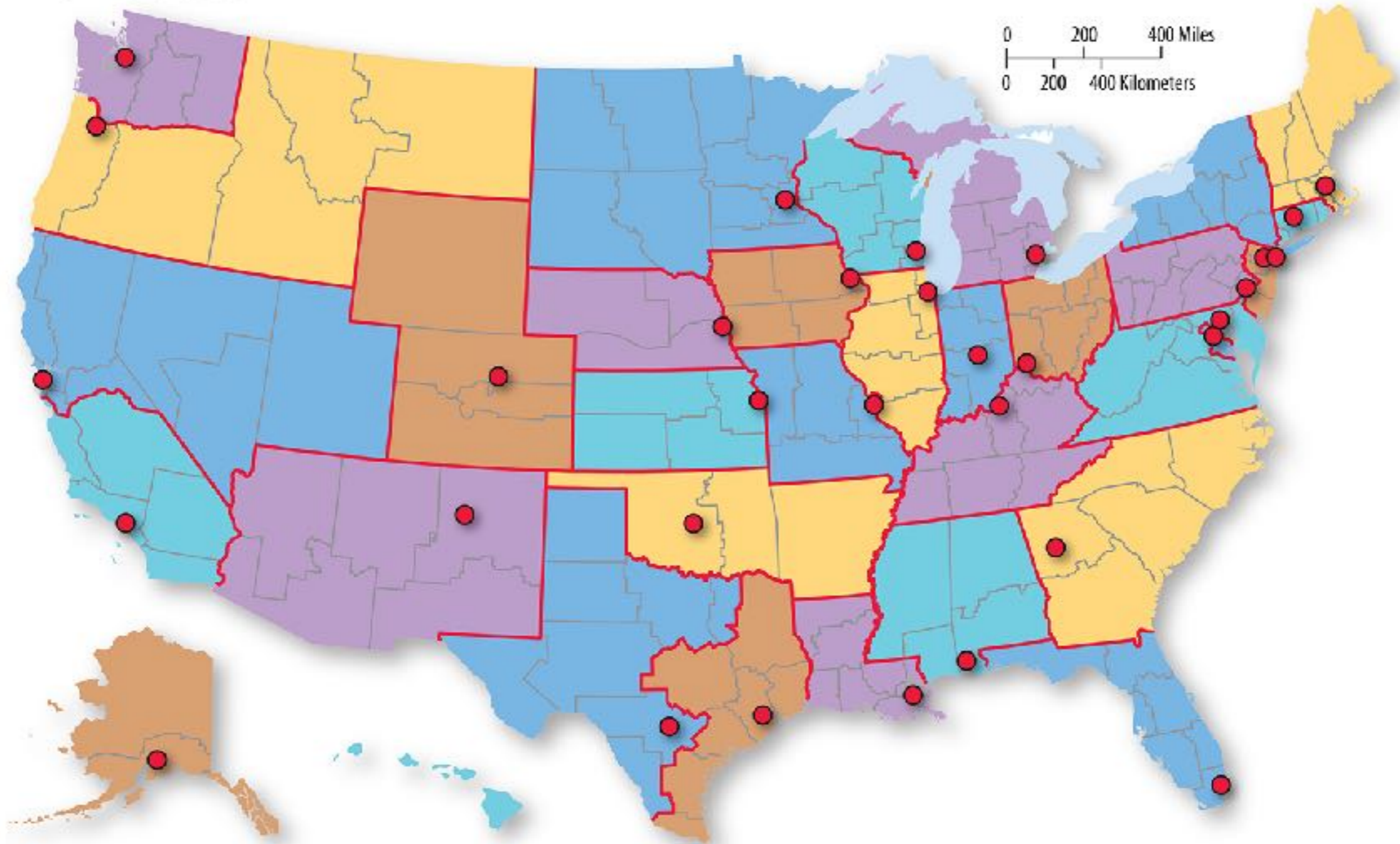
Elders Quorum

Ward Auxiliaries

Priesthood Committees

# Roman Catholicism

- Province (archbishop)
- Diocese (bishop)
- Archdiocese

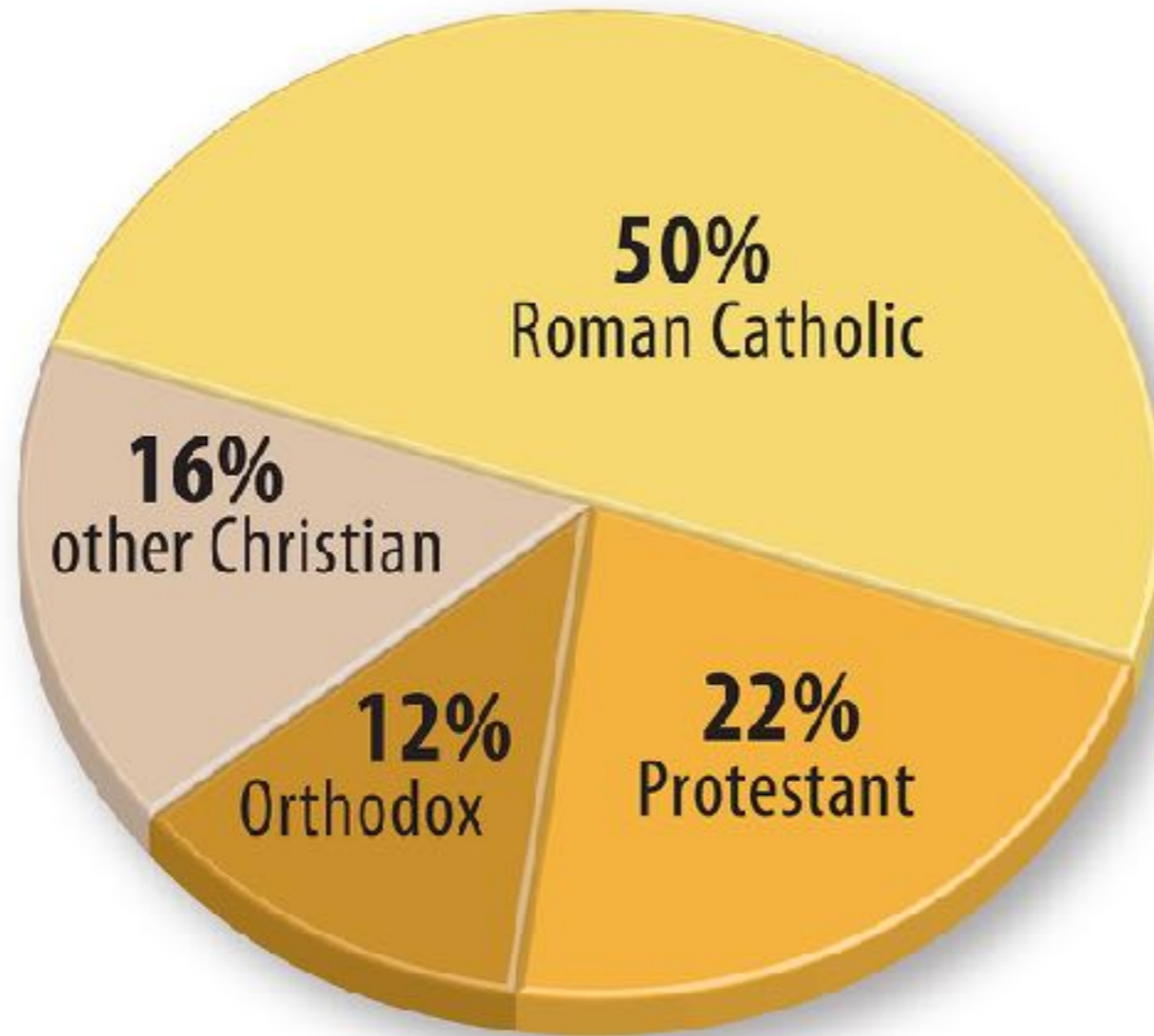


- 3. Branches - Christianity has three major branches
- a. Roman Catholic - Catholics believe that the Pope possesses a universal primacy or authority and that the Church is infallible in resolving theological disputes.
- b. Orthodox - (“right way or belief”) A collection of 14 self-governing churches derived from the faith and practices in the Eastern part of the Roman Empire.

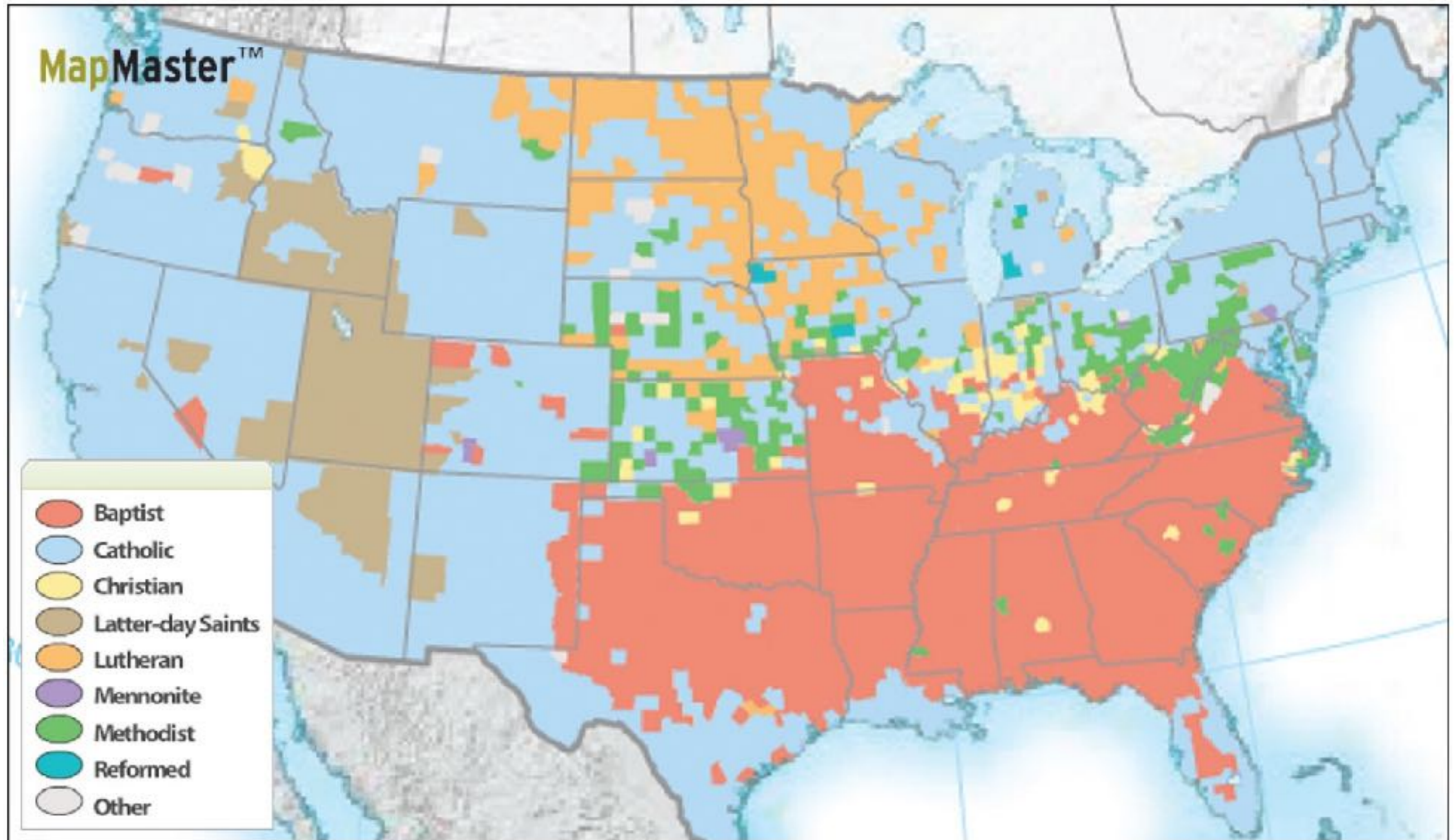
- c. Protestantism - According to Martin Luther, individuals have primary responsibility for achieving personal salvation through direct communication with God.
- (1) Grace is achieved through faith rather than through sacraments performed by the Church.
- d. Many Christians belong to churches that do not consider themselves to be within any of these three branches.
- (1)



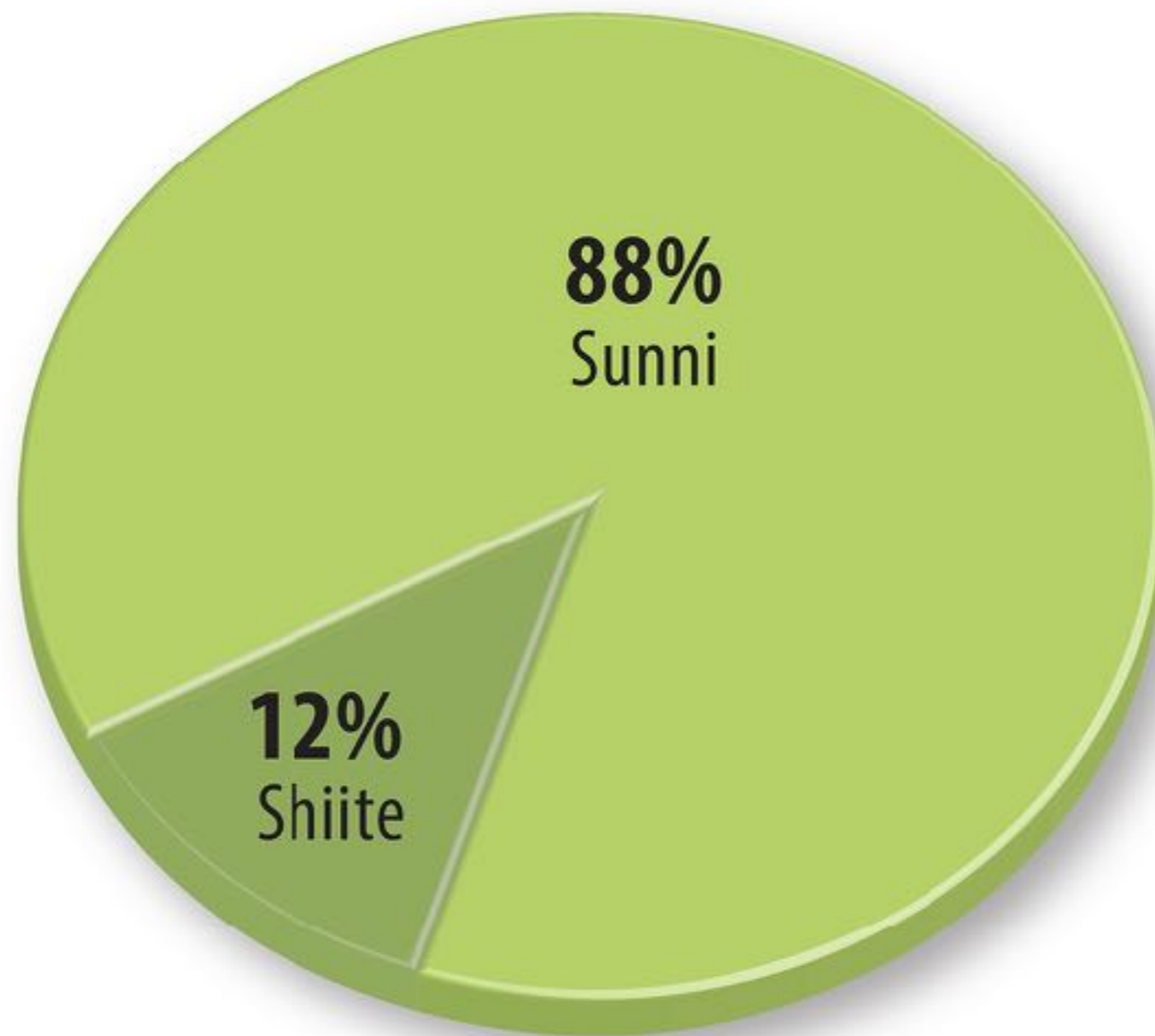
# Branches of Christianity



# Geographic Branches of Christianity in the U.S.



- 3. Branches - Islam has two main branches and the differences reflect disagreement over the line of succession in Islamic leadership after the Prophet Muhammad.
- Sunnis comprise two-thirds of Muslims and are the largest branch in most Muslim countries in the Middle East and Asia.
- Shiites comprise nearly 90 percent of the population in Iran and a substantial share in neighboring countries.



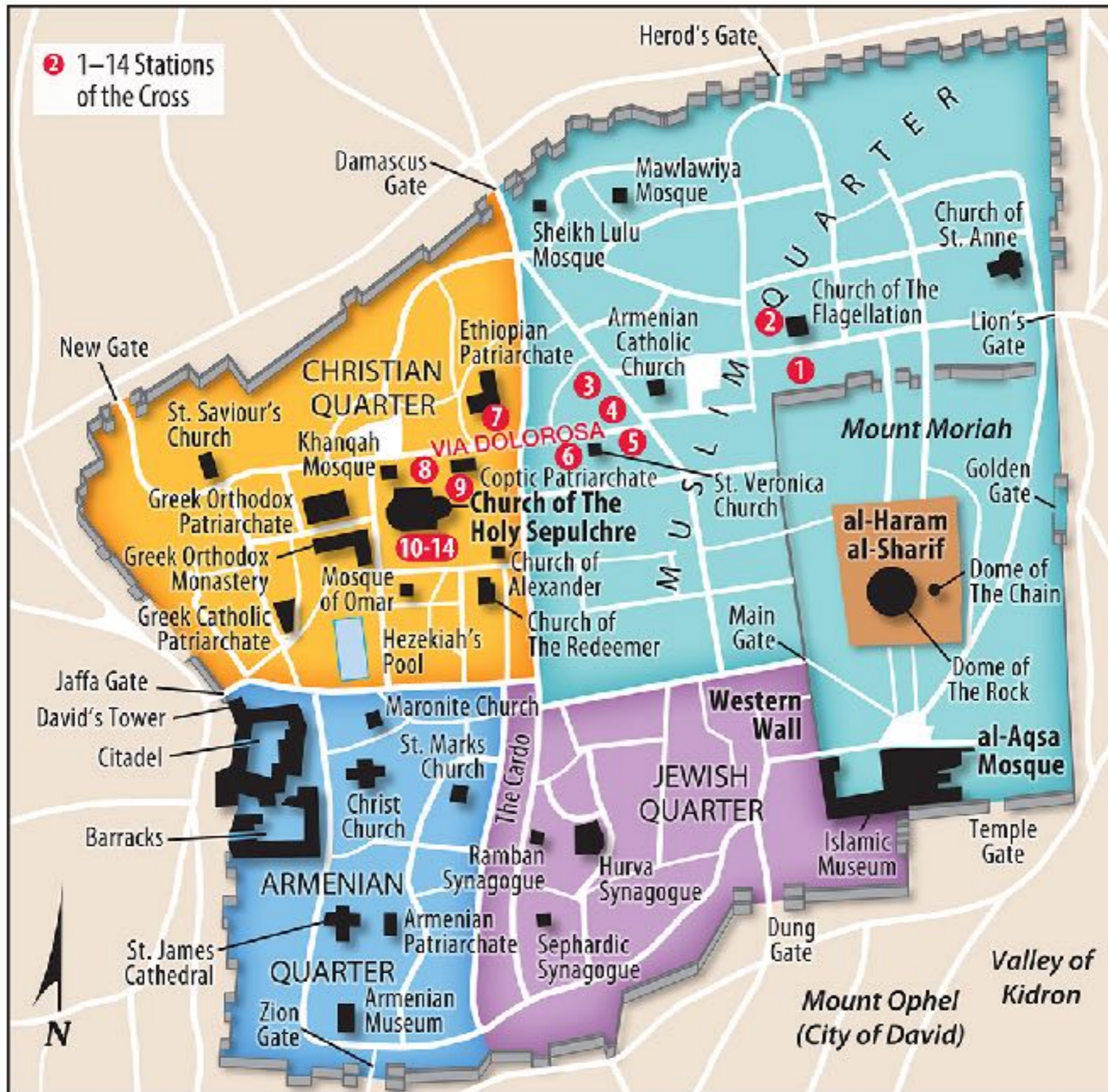


- G. Worship

- H. Sacred Spaces
  - 1. Churches, Cathedrals, etc...
  - a. Since Christianity split into many branches and denominations, no single style of church construction has dominated.
  - b. Orthodox churches follow an ornate architectural style developed by the Byzantine Empire.
  - c. Many Protestant churches in North America are austere, a reflection of the Protestant conception of a church as an assembly hall.

- 2. Holy Sites
- a. Christianity claims Palestine as the Holy Land and Jerusalem the Holy City, as events in Jesus's life, death, and resurrection were concentrated there.
- b. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre

# Jerusalem





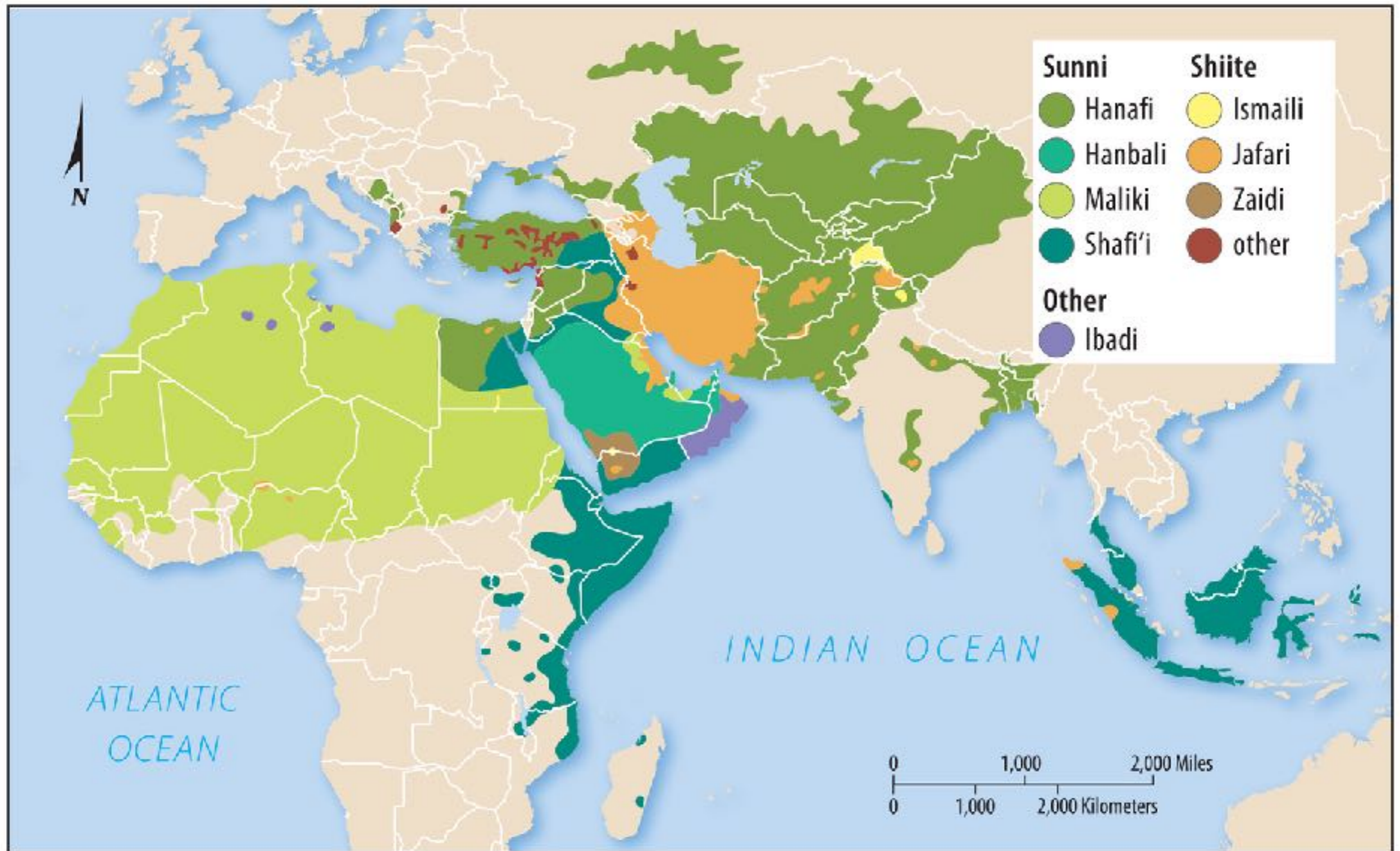
- J. Disputes & Controversies
- 1. Former Soviet Union
- a. After the Bolshevik revolution in 1917, the Soviet Union eliminated the official church–state connection with the Russian Orthodox church.
- b. The end of Communist rule in the late twentieth century brought a religious revival in Eastern Europe.

### III. Islam

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- A. Distribution - Islam is the predominant religion of western Asia and northern Africa.
- 1. Indonesia, in Southeast Asia, is the country with the largest number of Muslims.

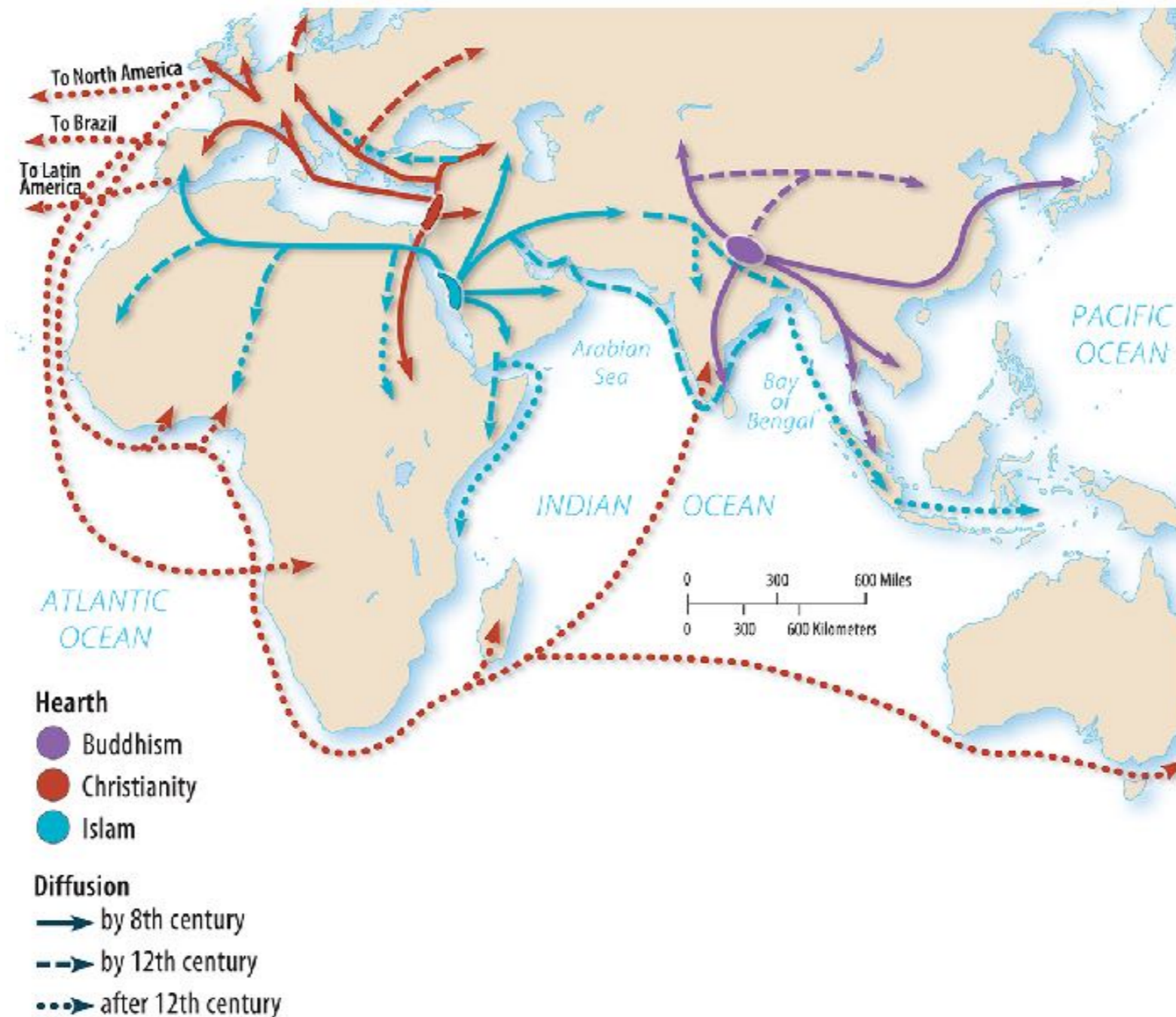
# Distribution of Islam



- B. Origins
- 1. The Prophet Muhammad, believed to be a descendant of Ishmael (son of Abraham and Hagar) was born in Makkah about A.D. 570.
- 2. Muslims believe that Muhammad received revelation from God through the Angel Gabriel.



- C. Diffusion - As was the case with Christianity, Islam diffused well beyond its hearth in Southwest Asia through relocation diffusion of missionaries to portions of sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia.



- D. Calendar & Holy Days
- The Quran, the holiest book in Islam, records the revelations given to Muhammad.

- E. Cosmogony & Spirits
- 1. Islam considers that God (Allah) created the universe.

- F. Administration
- 1. Autonomous religions are self-sufficient, and interaction among communities is little more than loose cooperation and shared ideas.
- a. Islam has neither a religious hierarchy nor a formal territorial organization.



- G. Worship

- H. Sacred Spaces
- A mosque is a place for public ceremony, and a leader known as a muezzin calls the faithful to prayer.
- The holiest places in Islam are in cities associated with the life of Muhammad. The holiest city is Makkah, the birthplace of Muhammad, and the second holiest is Madinah, where Muhammad is buried.
- Muslims are expected to undertake the Hajj, a pilgrimage to Makkah, where the Ka'aba stands, the holiest object in Islam.

- J. Disputes & Controversies
- 1. Taliban Versus Western Cultural Values
- The Taliban gained power in Afghanistan in 1996 and imposed very strict laws inspired by Islamic values as they interpreted them.
- Islamic scholars criticized the Taliban as poorly educated in Islamic law and history and for misreading the Quran.
- Overthrown by a U.S.-led coalition in 2001 the Taliban was able to regroup and resume its fight to regain control of Afghanistan.

- 2. Countries in Central Asia, where Islam is the predominant religion, are struggling to find a balance between secular laws and values of the former Soviet Union and Islamic traditions.
- 3. Islam claims Jerusalem as its third holy city, after Makkah and Madinah, because it is the place where Muhammad is believed to have ascended to heaven.
  - a. The most sacred space in Jerusalem for Muslims was literally built on top of the most sacred space for Jews.
  - b. With holy Muslim structures sitting literally on top of holy Jewish structures, the two cannot be logically divided by a line on a map.



