



Chapter 2 History and Development of Religion



<https://inclusivechurch.net>

History and Development of Religion

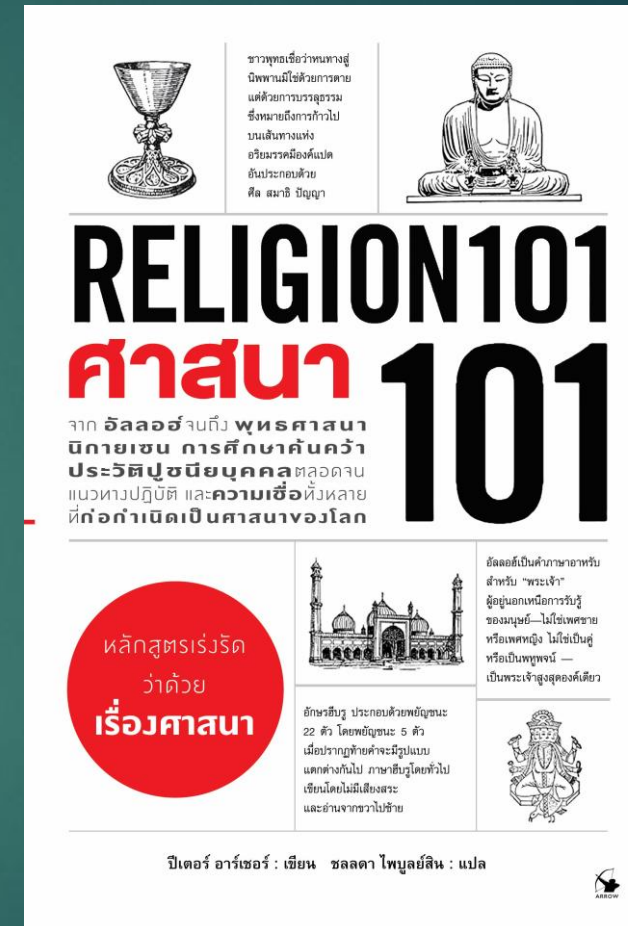
- ▶ "Religion is the oldest intellectual heritage of humanity."
- ▶ Welcome the audience. Introduce the idea that religion emerged alongside humanity and has influenced society throughout history.



<https://www.facebook.com/p/>

2.1 Definition of Religion (Etymology)

- ▶ Eastern Roots: Derived from Sanskrit (Sāsana) / Pali (Sāsanaṃ), meaning "Teaching," "Instruction," or "Governance."
- ▶ Instruction: Prohibitions/Discipline (To avoid evil).
- ▶ Teaching: Guidance/Dhamma (To do good).
- ▶ Western Roots: Religion comes from the Latin Religare, meaning "To bind fast" or a strong bond between humans and God/the Creator.
- ▶ Summary: Religion is a set of teachings focused on avoiding evil and performing good deeds to achieve happiness.



<http://www.arrowmultimedia.co.th/product/352/religion--101>

Comparison: West (Religion) vs. East (Sasana)



Aspect	Western (Religion)	Eastern (Sasana - Buddhism)
The Creator	God created the world	Karma (Action) creates/distinguishes beings
Source of Teaching	Divine Revelation from God	Human Enlightenment/Self-discovery
Criteria for Belief	Faith/Inexplicable (Acintaya)	Verifiable by oneself (Sanditthiko)
Refuge	Devotion to God	Self-reliance (Atta hi attano natho)

2.2 Origins of Religion (Part 1)



- ▶ Ignorance (Avidya): Lack of understanding of natural phenomena (lightning, thunder). Myths and sacred powers were created to explain them.
- ▶ Fear: Ignorance leads to fear of natural disasters. Rituals, sacrifices, and offerings were made to appease these powers.
- ▶ Devotion: A deep faith that sacred entities can provide benefits or protection (Common in Theistic religions).



https://exclusive.postjung.com/1420653#google_vignette

2.2 Origins of Religion (Part 2)



- ▶ **The Quest for Truth:** Using wisdom and contemplation to find the ultimate truth of life (e.g., Buddhism).
- ▶ **Social Peace:** Using moral teachings as a tool to cultivate the mind, supplementing laws to instill a sense of moral shame.
- ▶ **Academic View:** Religion often starts with a single individual who finds inner peace, and followers later adopt their path (Sages, Prophets).



<https://f6754.wordpress.comE0%B8%B2/>

2.3 Evolution of Religion

- ▶ The evolution is categorized into 4 stages:
- ▶ Animism: Belief in mysterious spirits (Mana) in objects like stones or trees, with Shamans as mediators.
- ▶ Natural Theism: Deifying nature (Sun God, Goddess of Water).
- ▶ Theism: Developing a hierarchy of gods (Polytheism) leading to a Supreme Being (Monotheism).
- ▶ Atheism: Belief that things arise from causes and conditions; humans determine their own lives through "Karma."



2.4 - 2.5 Characteristics and Components of Religion

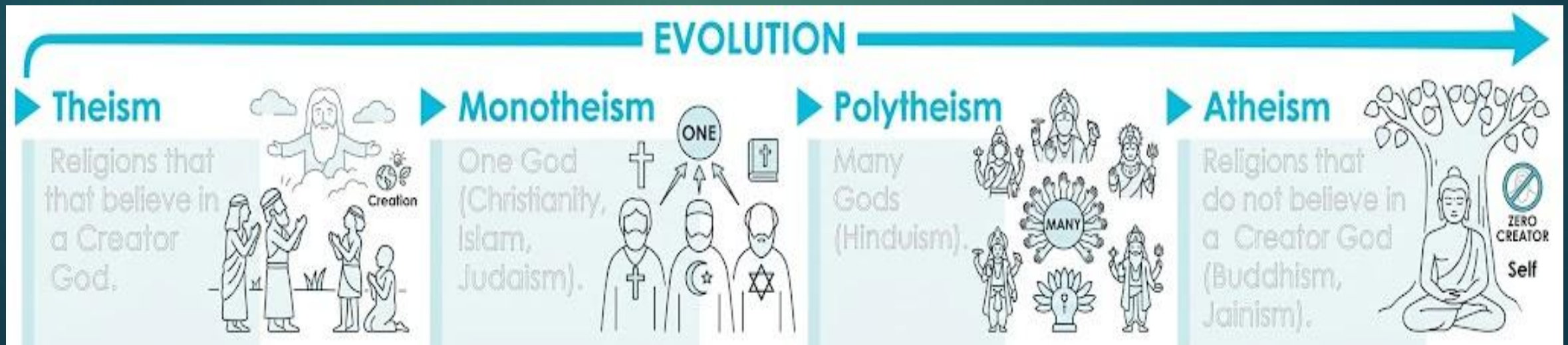
- ▶ Key Characteristics: A spiritual anchor, teaching good vs. evil, and having rituals/symbols. The 5 Essential Components:
- ▶ Founder: The originator (Avatar, Prophet, or Enlightened One).
- ▶ Scriptures: Written teachings (Tripitaka, Bible, Quran).
- ▶ Religious Personnel: Successors (Monks, Priests, Clergy).
- ▶ Rituals: Religious activities (Ordination, Baptism, Prayer).
- ▶ Place of Worship: Locations for rituals (Temple, Church, Mosque).



<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=977497464396088&set=a.446170184195488&id=100064075298075>

2.6 Types of Religion (Based on Belief in God)

- ▶ Theism: Religions that believe in a Creator God.
- ▶ Monotheism: One God (Christianity, Islam, Judaism).
- ▶ Polytheism: Many Gods (Hinduism).
- ▶ Atheism: Religions that do not believe in a Creator God (Buddhism, Jainism).



2.6 Types of Religion (Based on Current Status)



- ▶ Dead Religions: Religions with followers in the past but none today (e.g., Ancient Egyptian, Ancient Greek).
- ▶ Living Religions: 12 major religions active today, categorized by region:
- ▶ East Asia: Taoism, Confucianism, Shinto.
- ▶ South Asia: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism.
- ▶ West Asia: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Zoroastrianism, Baha'i.

ประเภทของศาสนา (ตามสถานการณ์ปัจจุบัน)

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The Evolution and Classification of Religion



▶ 1. Natural Religion:

▶ The earliest stage: Humans perceived spirits residing in nature (rivers, mountains, forests).

▶ Expression: Worship through offerings and sacrifices to appease the sacred powers controlling nature.

▶ 2. Organized Religion:

▶ Possesses clear structures, systems, and institutional forms.

▶ Also known as Associative Religion, it evolves to meet the social needs of specific eras.

▶ Examples: Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hleA_TT0I2Y

Classification by Type of Followers



- ▶ 1. Tribal Religion: Beliefs restricted to a specific tribe or ethnic group (e.g., Shinto in Japan, Judaism for the Jewish people).
- ▶ 2. World Religion: Universal religions with followers spread across the globe, not limited to one race or location (e.g., Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam).
- ▶ 3. Segmental Religion: Groups that split from major religions to address social pressures (e.g., Black Muslims in America, Hindus in South Africa).



<https://edu.chiangmaipao.go.th/>

Primitive Religion (Traditional Beliefs)



- ▶ Definition: An awareness of supernatural powers beyond direct human understanding (spirits, ghosts, deities).
- ▶ Key Characteristics:
- ▶ Embedded Power: Spirits in trees, mountains, or animals.
- ▶ Ancestral Worship: Respect for ancestral spirits (Ghost of parents/grandparents).
- ▶ Magic & Occultism: Use of amulets (Takrut, Palad Khik) to achieve goals.
- ▶ Speaker Notes: "Even today, primitive beliefs remain hidden within Thai rituals, such as spirit houses (San Phra Phum) or the Rocket Festival (Bun Bang Fai)."



<https://pantip.com/topic/41501046>

The Importance of Religion



- ▶ For the Individual:
- ▶ Serves as a moral compass for correct behavior.
- ▶ Acts as a spiritual refuge to alleviate suffering and promote mental well-being.
- ▶ For Society:
- ▶ The foundation of morality, customs, and cultural identity.
- ▶ Promotes social harmony and narrows gaps between people.
- ▶ Produces "quality human resources" for the community.



<https://www.lemon8-app.com/@feiiism/7464164465169433089?region=th>

Conclusion

- ▶ Religion has evolved alongside humanity throughout history.
- ▶ It transitioned from the fear of nature to stable social institutions
- ▶ The Core Truth: Regardless of how the world changes, humans still require religion as a spiritual anchor and a foundation for peace.



