

## Comparison of Judaism and Christianity: A Contemporary Reappraisal

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**Abstract:** *The creation of the universe still remains a mystery to many of us. Almost all mankind is obsessed with trying to discover how the creation of everything that exists came about. Some are convinced about the divine existence of God while others are atheist. The religious people are also faced with many differences and disagreement about the existence and the nature of the real God. The purpose of this paper is to compare and contrast two specific characteristics that are evident in Christianity and Judaism. To understand the differences in both religions, we need to understand the differences in notions of these religions. The notion of afterlife is common for both these religions. While Judaism believes in afterlife, Christianity explains this notion a little bit different. Christian people believe in resurrection. These understandings are similar, but not the same. Judaism afterlife is believed, but not explained. Jewish people do not try to explain what they cannot understand; they just believe in it. Christian religion believes in the day when resurrection comes and religious people will live forever in the Garden of Eden.*

**Keywords-** *Comparison, dualism, Christianity*

## **Introduction**

There are a lot of religions in modern world and a question which religion was the first, the primary remains the main in modern society. Every religion wants to gain the status of superiority. One of the longest and widest contest continues between Christianity and Judaism. Christian people are sure that Judaism finds its fulfillment in Christianity. Jews contradict this statement and want to prove their independent development. But there are still people who sure that Christianity brings some completeness to the Judaism. Christianity and Judaism are both monotheistic religions that share many similarities. Both religions were found in present day Israel and share a common writing. They shared the same Ten Commandments; Torah for the Jews and the Old Testaments for the Christians. Even though common in many different ways, they are also very different. Their marriage rites, rituals and the meaning of life are different.

Christianity is the world's largest religion with about 2 billion followers. Christianity was formed around 33 CE in present day Israel. It is based on the birth, death, resurrection and the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, also known as Jesus Christ. During that time period, Israelites suffered in slavery and sins under the rule of the Roman...*show more content...* They believed that there will be a messiah who will save them from

the suffering. They believed that Jesus was the messiah and the son of God. Jesus was a Jew who lived in a period of human suffering. He healed the sick and spread his teachings about God. Jesus believed that the cause of human suffering is due to one's sin, and people can earn salvation through faith in God. The first followers of Jesus were his twelve disciples.

Some scholars try to unite these two religions, Judaism and Christianity, by common history. Yes, the history may be common, but the essence of these religions is different. These religions have lots of similar issues, but they were formed separately, without coming out of one another. Judaism and Christianity have their own histories, and even if they were connected somewhere, this connection is not the base for this or that religion. Christianity and Judaism are two religions which walked parallel ways, they are like different coins, not the different sides of one and the same coin. These religions have a common basis, common ground, which makes them to seem similar.

To understand the differences in both religions, we need to understand the differences in notions of these religions. The notion of afterlife is common for both these religions. While Judaism believes in afterlife, Christianity explains this notion a little bit differently. Christian people believe in resurrection. These understandings are similar, but not the same. Judaism afterlife is believed, but not explained. Jewish people do not try to explain what they cannot

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### **Conclusion**

Christian sacred book, Bible, is the guide for all Christians. This book is a collection of rules and states of how people should behave in order to gain resurrection in future. Bible teaches Christian people what of life they should lead, to be able to possess the proud name of Christian. The word Bible is not commonly used in Judaism. Jews use the word holy writings. This book explains the aim of life for Jewish people. The holy writings present the scheme according to which Jews should follow. These books have common issues and themes, and it is not a surprise. These are sacred books which aim is to direct people for good, to teach people ethics and morality, and the ethical rules and moral issues for almost all nations is the same, so the Christianity and Judaism is not an exception. The named examples confirm the statement that Judaism and Christianity are different religions, which have one common basis. The notion of afterlife is common for both these

religions. While Judaism believes in afterlife, Christianity explains this notion a little bit different. Christian people believe in resurrection. These understandings are similar, but not the same. Judaism afterlife is believed, but not explained. Jewish people do not try to explain what they cannot understand; they just believe in it. Christian religion believes in the day when resurrection comes and religious people will live forever in the Garden of Eden. The sacred book also has common patterns, but still they are just common, not the same.

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