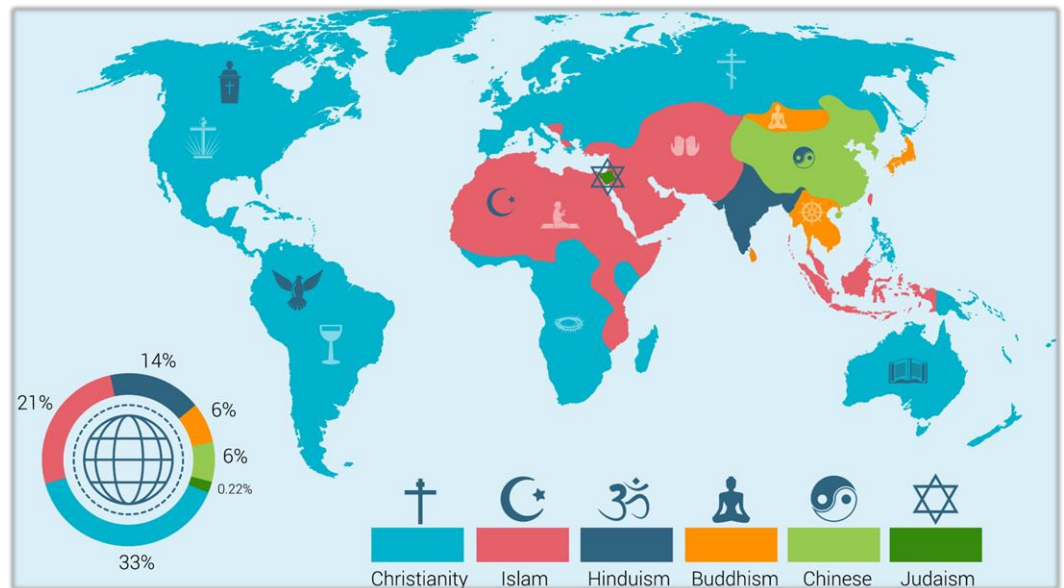


# Religion Around the World

## Christianity

During the middle ages of history, Christianity was the most popular form of religion around the world. The Roman Catholic Church was by far the most popular, acting as a stabilizing force in everyone's life. The church created the laws of the land and



the leaders of the church determined the punishment for breaking these laws. Other forms of Christianity were also becoming popular, like the Protestant Reform Church, however these were still Christian religion.

**Christianity** stemmed from the bible, which was written about the life of Jesus Christ, who was said to have been resurrected after being crucified. Many of Jesus's **disciples** (followers) believed he was the **messiah** or chosen one by God. Christianity took the place of **polytheism**, which was the belief in many gods, such as the God of Wind, God of Water, God of the Sun, etc.

## Islam Religion

Other religions were also being practiced around the world. **Islam** is a religion that Muslims practice in which there is just one God, Allah. During the Middle Ages, Islam became a powerful religion that spanned from Asia and India, across the Middle East, to Spain.

The Islam religion was also very closely tied to the government in these areas. When the rest of Europe became a Feudal society, religion became less connected to the government. In Islamic states, the religion stayed a focal point in the governing of the people. In 1095, the **Holy War** began as a battle between the Islamic religion and the Roman Catholic religion.

## Crusades

The Catholics were worried that the Islamic religion was becoming too popular in the Mediterranean. They started a series of **crusades** or wars against the Muslims. In the first crusade, the Pope asked the Roman military to go to Jerusalem to reclaim the "holy land" for Rome. They were successful in their goal and took back the land for the Catholic religion.

# Religion Around the World

## Making Connections

What did this reading remind you of?

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## Multiple Choice

Circle the correct answer

1. People who believe in Islam are	Catholics	Muslims
2. Crusades were another word for	Wars	Laws
3. Polytheism means people believe in how many gods	1	More than 1
4. The Holy War was between the Roman Catholics and	Islam	Christianity
5. The only god in the Islam religion is	Jesus	Allah

## Questions

Use information from the text to support your answer

1. What were the popular religions of the Middle Ages? What were some controversies between the religions? (Battles? Reformation?)

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2. Why do you think Rome wanted "the Holy Land" back?

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