CREEKSIDE’S TEACHING NOTES for Sunday, April 13, 2014

The DIFFERENCE

JUDAISM 

 WHERE CHRISTIANITY AND JUDAISM DIFFER:

1. SCRIPTURES:

*Judaism* . . . The Tanakh (Old Testament only)

*Christianity* . . . Old Testament and New Testament

Why does Christianity add the New Testament to their Scriptures?

2. GOD:

Both are monotheistic but Christianity holds to a Trinitarian position. Why? There are hints at trinitarianism even in the Old Testament.

3. JESUS:

*Judaism:* Jesus was a false prophet

*Christianity:* Jesus is the Messiah who is prophesied in the Old Testament.

For unto us a child is born. Unto us a son is given. And the government shall be upon his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government there will be no end. Isaiah 9:6-7 (p. 638)

4. SALVATION:

*Judaism*: Belief in God and a life of good deeds may make you good enough

*Christianity*: Faith in Jesus as our sin forgiver and life leader.

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| HISTORY & STATS | CHRISTIANITY | JUDAISM |
| date founded  | c. 30 AD  | c. 2100 BC  |
| place founded  | Palestine | Palestine |
| founders & early leaders  | Jesus, Peter, Paul  | Abraham, Moses  |
| adherents worldwide today  | 2 billion  | 14 million  |
| adherents in Canada | 21 million  | 350,000 |
| current size rank | largest | 12th largest  |
| major branches | Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant  | Orthodox, Conservative, Reform |
| sacred text  | Bible = Old Testament (Jewish Bible) + New Testament | Tanakh (Jewish Bible)  |
| inspiration of sacred text  | Evangelical view: inspired Word of God  | views vary: inspired human accounts or of human origin only  |
| status of Jewish Apocrypha  | canonical (Catholic); useful but noncanonical (Protestant)  | noncanonical but useful |
| status of New Testament | canonical | noncanonical, not useful  |
| summaries of doctrine  | Apostle's Creed, Nicene Creed  | 13 Articles of Faith  |
| ultimate reality  | one God, Jehovah, the God of Abraham | one God, Jehovah, the God of Abraham  |
| nature of God  | Trinity - one substance, three persons  | unity - one substance, one person  |
| other spiritual beings  | angels and demons  | angels and demons  |
| identity of Jesus  | Son of God, God incarnate, savior of the world  | false prophet  |
| birth of Jesus  | virgin birth  | normal birth  |
| death of Jesus  | death by crucifixion | death by crucifixion  |
| resurrection of Jesus  | affirmed | denied |
| second coming of Jesus  | affirmed | denied |
| human nature  | "original sin" inherited from Adam - tendency towards evil  | two equal impulses, one good and one bad  |
| means of salvation  | Faith in Christ alone as the means of salvation; some more liberal “Christians” would emphasize good works  | belief in God, good deeds  |
| good afterlife  | eternal heaven | views vary: either heaven or no afterlife |
| bad afterlife  | eternal hell, temporary purgatory (Catholicism)  | views vary: either eternal Gehenna, reincarnation, or no afterlife  |
| view of the other religion  | Judaism is a true religion, but with incomplete revelation. | Christianity is a false interpretation of Judaism.  |
| house of worship  | church, chapel, cathedral, basilica, meeting hall | synagogue, temple, schul  |
| religious leaders  | priest, bishop, archbishop, patriarch, pope, pastor, minister, preacher, deacon | rabbi, rebbe |
| major sacred rituals  | baptism, communion | observing Sabbath, wearing tallit and tefilin, prayer services  |
| head covered during prayer?  | generally no  | generally yes (especially men)  |
| central religious holy days  | Lent, Holy Week, Easter | Yom Kippur, Days of Awe, Passover  |
| other holidays  | Christmas, saints days  | Chanukah, Purim  |
| major symbols  | cross, crucifix, dove, anchor, fish, alpha and omega, | Star of David, chai, hamsa, tree  |