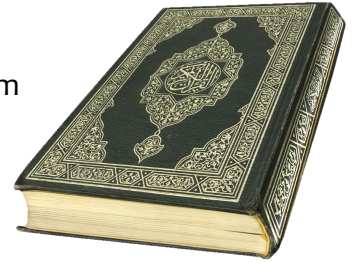


Sources of Islamic Tradition

Directions: Read and annotate the documents below, and answer the questions that follow.

The Quran

For Muslims, the most important source of information on the religion comes from the **Quran**. Muslim believe that the Quran was revealed by God to the Prophet Muhammad in pieces over the course of 23 years, and is therefore viewed not as the words of Muhammad, but as the literal word of God. While the Quran was written down during Muhammad’s life, the Arabic script was not fully developed, so its main form of preservation was through oral transmission and memorization.



1. How was the Quran mainly preserved?

“O People of the Book! Do not exaggerate in your religion, and do not say anything about God except the truth. The Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, is the Messenger of God, and His Word that He conveyed to Mary, and a Spirit from Him. So believe in God and His messengers, and do not say, “Three.” Stop—it is better for you. God is only one God. Glory be to Him, He is above having a son.” — Quran 4:171

2. Which beliefs about Jesus does Islam share with Christianity, and which do they not share?

“Those who believe, and those who are Jewish, and the Christians, and the Sabaeans—any who believe in God and the Last Day, and act righteously—will have their reward with their Lord (in heaven); they have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve (be sad).” —Quran 2:62

3. According to the quote, what does a person have to do to make it to heaven?

The Hadiths



Secondary to the Quran are the **Hadiths**, collected accounts of the words, actions, and qualities of Muhammad, as reported by those who knew him. It is from the Hadiths that Muslims learn, and attempt to follow, the **Sunnah**, or the example of the Prophet. While the Quran is believed to be unchangeable and perfect, Muslims consider the Hadiths, which were transmitted and recorded by people rather than God, to be subject to error. For this reason, Muslim scholars developed a tradition of rating Hadiths by level of trustworthiness based on the reliability of their sources. The best Hadiths were graded “authentic” or “good,” while others were labeled “weak” or “fabricated.”

4. Why are Hadiths considered secondary to the Quran?

“None of you truly believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself.”
“Whoever truly believes in God and the Last Day should do good to his neighbor.”

5. Do these two hadiths share any similarity to Jewish and/or Christian teachings? Explain.

Abrahamic Faith Comparison

Directions: Using all the information you have learned today, create a chart of the similarities and differences between Islam and the other two Abrahamic Faiths, Judaism and Christianity

Similarities	Differences