BUDDHISM

Founder – Siddhartha Gautama,
Theme: suffering

Four Noble Truths
1. Life consists of suffering
2. The reason for suffering – 12 cause and effect
3. Eliminate suffering is to eliminate desire
4. Liberate from suffering – Eight-fold path

Eight-fold path
1. right understanding
2. right thought
3. right speech
4. right action
5. right livelihood
6. right effort
7. right awareness
8. right meditation

Moral teachings
Abstain from:
1. Killing (all life form, not just human)
2. stealing
3. immoral sexual behaviors (monk must be celibate)
4. lying
5. taking of intoxicants.

Zen Meditation
prevent thought from entering mind

Karma & Reincarnation

death

karma?

yes

no

rebirth

nirvana

leave rebirth cycle

(deva, human, animal, ghost etc)

Goals
Eliminate suffering
Escape cycles of Rebirth & karma
Enter Nirvana (a sphere of nothingness) or enter Pureland

Problems
Impossible goal
Escape from reality
Teachings contradictory
Truth from meditation? No proof.
ISLAM

Founder – Muhammad, visited by Angel Gabriel, given Quran

Six Articles
1. One God
2. The angels of God
3. The books of God, especially the Qur'an
4. The prophets of God, especially Muhammad
5. The Day of Judgment (or the afterlife)
6. The supremacy of God’s will (or predestination).

Five Pillars
1. Shahada – confess “There is no true God except Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.”
2. Prayer – 5 times a day
3. Fasting – Ramadan month
4. Alms-giving or charity
5. Pilgrimage – to Mecca

Theology
Only one God, Allah, not Triune
Jesus, a prophet, never died on the cross
Bible was God’s revelation, but corrupted by Christians, Quran is the final and pure revelation
Man – created by God, can be good and evil
Sin – Muslims believe in all basic moral values
Judgment after death
Heaven and hell

Problems
No evidence for:
1. Trustworthiness of Quran
2. Corruption of the Bible