

# Investigating Christianity 02: "Monotheism"

## Genesis 12

October 1, 2023

**Main idea:** There are three major mono-theistic religions in the world; it is important to examine the religious leaders of each as they define and interpret religious doctrine.

### Big Minds on God

You might be surprised to find out that many of the brightest scientific minds of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries agree: There is more evidence supporting the existence of God than against the existence of God.

- ❑ "I am a scientist and a believer, and I find no conflict between those world views...and neither apparently do the 40 percent of working scientists who claim to be believers [in a personal God]. - Francis Collins
- ❑ "In the last few years astronomy has come together so that we're now able to tell a coherent story [of how the universe began]...This story does not contradict God, but instead enlarges [the idea of] God." - Joel Primack
- ❑ "My religion consists of a humble admiration of the illimitable superior spirit who reveals himself in the slight details we are able to perceive with our frail and feeble minds." – Albert Einstein

### 1 Man – Abram

It all began with a man named "Abram" (God later changed his name to "Abraham" – Genesis 17:5). The three major monotheistic religions all started with one man – Abraham. Judaism and Islam both claim Abraham as their "founding father". Christianity, because it finds its roots in Judaism, looks to Abraham as well (Romans 4:1-5; 16-17).

- ❑ **This is BIG!** Abraham's Genesis 12 encounter with God produced the 3 major monotheistic religions – Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

### Definition: "Mono-theism" = One God

The word monotheism comes from the Greek "monos," which means "one", and "theos," which means "god". Thus, monotheism is a belief in the existence of a single god. Monotheism is usually contrasted with polytheism, which is the belief in many gods, and atheism, which is the absence of any belief in gods.

### Close

Consider your faith. If you have reasonable doubts about Christ and Christianity, do your homework. Or at least use a communication card so you and I can have a conversation. Above all, please don't continue to believe that all religions are the same and have been somehow, disproven by science. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

### Family Night Big idea – Read Genesis 12:1-8

Abraham is the father of Judaism and in a related way, Christianity. Make sure you children understand that Christianity grows out of Judaism. The two monotheistic faiths are closely related.

- **Elementary School** – Ask, "What did God promise to do for Abram? When God told Abram to go to a new land, what did Abram do? What did God promise to Abram's descendants?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "How are Christianity and Judaism closely related? Why do people sometimes say that all religions are the same? How would "all people on the earth" be blessed by Abraham?"

**Prayer** "Father, thank You for revealing Yourself to us through Your people and especially Jesus. Amen."

#### Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

**Velocity:** Meet at the Church this Wednesday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Gravity:** Meet today in the Community Room.

#### Today's Songs

*Running Home*.....Cochran and Co.

*This is My Song*.....North Point

*O Praise Him*.....Crowder

#### Bring Your Phone Sunday

On October 1<sup>st</sup> and again on October 8<sup>th</sup>, we are asking everyone to bring their phones into the service. We will take a few minutes to log in to your GCC account and update everyone's contact information.

#### Ladies Bible Study

Begins this Wednesday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> in the Community Room. We will look at 1 & 2 Peter. Bring your Bible and join us!

#### Velocity Bonfire

Overnight Bonfire for Velocity is October 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30. Bring your camping stuff to spend the night.

#### Boo Bash

Families are invited to a Boo Bash on Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30. There will be a costume contest, Trunk or Treat, Pancake Supper and games. Kids and their parents are invited. Arrive by 5:45 to register for the costume contest. Contest starts at 6pm.