# **Christianity**

<u>Creation</u>: We are created by the personal God who is transcendent. We are made in His image

<u>Fall</u>: Sin entered the world through the first humans; humans are sinful people in need of redemption

<u>Redemption</u>: We can't fix it; we can only be redeemed by the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ

<u>Eternity</u>: We will spend eternity with God in heaven or separated from God in hell

# <u>Islam</u>

<u>Creation</u>: Created by Allah, we are slaves of Allah and His vice regents on earth. Muslim scholars developed the cosmological argument.

<u>Fall</u>: Humans are in rebellion to God; Adam and Eve's sin is not significant

Redemption: submit to Allah and practice the 5 pillars of Islam

<u>Eternity</u>: we go to Paradise or hell depending on our deeds. Only martyrdom guarantees Paradise

## **Judaism**

<u>Creation</u>: created by a personal God outside time and space

<u>Fall:</u> the first humans sinned but humans are not basically sinful

<u>Redemption</u>: keep God's Old Testament law; wait for the Messiah to come (Micah 6:8)

Eternity: this world is more important than the afterlife

# **Humanism**

<u>Creation</u>: we evolved by random chance (molecules to man evolution)

<u>Fall:</u> religion and belief in sinful man have kept society from progressing

Redemption: no god will save us, we must save ourselves

Eternity: annihilation; there is nothing after physical death

# **Buddhism**

Creation: you have always existed, cycles of karma

<u>Fall</u>: *Mara* is the force of desire in the world, the root of all suffering. *Dukkha* (illusion) is the cause of suffering

<u>Redemption</u>: realize everything is illusion and suffering comes from your desires produced by illusion; follow 8-fold path

<u>Eternity</u>: achieve enlightenment & escape earthly desires; nirvana

#### **Marxism**

<u>Creation</u>: molecules to man evolution; specifically punctuated equilibrium

<u>Fall:</u> society has an economic problem; the rich/property owners oppress the workers

<u>Redemption</u>: the working class must rise up in revolution. Socialism is the answer with private property abolished and class distinctions eliminated

Eternity: annihilation; there is nothing after physical death

# New Age

<u>Creation</u>: I have always been; I'm an expression of consciousness

Fall: humans have failed to understand true consciousness

<u>Redemption</u>: Humans must have indifference to suffering and live the cycle of karma

<u>Eternity</u>: we go on to our next life to relieve our journey of suffering. This is sometimes called nirvana or stream of consciousness

# **Postmodernism**

<u>Creation</u>: we can't know how we got here; we are a collage of social constructs and we are not absolutely anything

<u>Fall</u>: our problem is adherence to meta-narratives; each worldview's claim to offer unbiased truth about the world

<u>Redemption:</u> abandon the search for objective truth; our experiences will allow us to generate a theory of living which will allow us to understand our experiences

Eternity: there is nothing after death. We should forget about eternity

#### **Hinduism**

<u>Creation</u>: I have always been; going through the cycle of karma

<u>Fall</u>: human sin is caused by ignorance of Oneness. Evil comes from failure to realize that what is seen is an illusion

<u>Redemption</u>: one must detach oneself from passion in action. One can burn off negative karma by work with a *satgura* (an advanced spiritual teacher)

<u>Eternity</u>: the goal of life is liberation from *samsara* (the cycle of rebirths). Liberation can't be achieved a person rises above the law of karma