



#### DESTRUCTIBLE DEITIES

When a Buddhist temple burned in a nearby city recently, news reports stated that the image of Buddha, their object of worship, melted. While none should rejoice in the property loss our fellow-citizens sustained, the melted Buddha provokes reflection on the great contrasts between Christianity and other “world religions” (e.g., Hinduism, Islam, Bahaim) that have gained many adherents in our nation.

- **God:** The Bible’s God is the self-existent, omnipotent Spirit (Gen. 17:1; John 1:1–2; 4: 24) Who created and sustains all things. He is merciful, loving, and just (Tit. 3:4–7; 1 John 4:8; Acts 17:31). He lives not in earthly temples (24–29). **Buddhists** revere statues of a man and some ethical principles veiled in ancient mythology. **Hindus** have their

choice of 330 million gods in their pagan pantheon, most of which are tied to mere forces of nature. Both **Muslims** and **Bahais** profess monotheism, but deny God’s triune nature..

- **History:** Christianity is firmly rooted in history. The Christ-theme is threaded through God’s dealings with patriarchs, prophets, and princes from Eden (Gen. 3: 15) to Bethlehem (Gal. 4:4). Jesus ratified His credentials as Deity by undeniable signs and miracles (John 20:30–31). Upon being crucified, God raised Him, witnessed by hundreds (1 Cor. 15:1–8). **Eastern** religions have little certain history. **Islam** indeed has a history, but it stretches back only about fifteen centuries. Muhammad hijacked from the Bible all of Islam’s history before his time and warped it to his agenda. **Bahaim’s** history dates only from 1863, and like Islam, it purloins its pre-founding “history” from the Bible. Bible-related historical claims of Islam and Bahaim are contradictory both to sacred and profane history.
- **Truth:** God revealed all moral and religious truth and inspired men to record it in the Bible (John 17:17; Jude 3). It is thus objective (men did not originate it). It is both logical and consistent. Jesus is God’s final spokesman, and all truth for Christians is in the New Testament (Mat. 17:5; Heb. 1: 1–2). He is man’s only access to God (John 8:24; 14:6; Acts 4:12). **Oriental** religions hold “truth” to be whatever one says it is with no ultimate standard by which to measure any claim or principle. Their “truth” is subjective (from within), inconsistent, and illogical. **Islam’s** “truth” is the Koran, produced by a morally dissolute, violent man whose only prophetic credential was his own claim. **Bahais** rely upon their founder, and self-proclaimed “prophet” for their equally subjective “truth.” **True Christianity is the true religion.**

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