WORLDVIEWS: RELIGION VS. ATHEISM

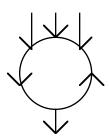
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Religious people view existence from the "top down." They believe a supernatural world precedes and supersedes the natural world. This supernatural world is "revealed" to humans and is a matter of faith.

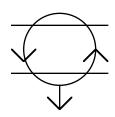
Atheists view existence from the "bottom up." They start with what is detectable in the natural world and add conclusions that seem reasonable. Atheists lack a belief in a supernatural world because they see no evidence or reason for its existence. Atheists are unwilling to make a "leap of faith," but are willing to be persuaded by evidence or reason.



One god (3 incarnations?) Heaven Son of a god? Angels/Souls Physical universe Life/Evolution? Earth



One god (many incarnations) Reincarnation/Souls Physical universe Life/Evolution? Earth



No gods Astral planes Reincarnation/Souls Physical universe Life/Evolution? Earth Lack of a belief in gods, angels, ghosts, prophets, afterlife, supernatural, etc.

Physical universe Life/Evolution Earth

JUDAISM CHRISTIANITY ISLAM

HINDUISM

BUDDHISM

ATHEISM

RELIGION

Idealism ("idea-ism") Supernatural Revelation Faith **ATHEISM**

Materialism (matter/energy) Natural Observation Lack of faith

Religion is often used to explain the unknown in nature (the "god of the gaps"). Supernatural claims have never been verified by the scientific method. Some supernatural claims have been proven false.

Atheists do not assume a supernatural explanation for what is unknown in nature.