

## Why Jesus? Comparative Models for the Human Problem and its Solution (rev. 2.12.07)

[Using the Crossings matrix. Follow the sequence of the numbers - 1,2,3,4,5,6]

### A Christian Model for Problem and Solution (Taken from Luke 2, the Christmas gospel)

<u>The Human Problem</u>	<u>Solution</u>
1. Living "in the dark." <u>Benighted</u>	6. " <u>Glorifying and praising God</u> ," originally the angels' job (!) now done by us as sub-shepherds of M.M.
2. (Deeper) "Heart" problem: " <u>Mega Fear</u> ". When God's agents announce God's visit.	5. <u>Joy trumps fear</u> , a faith <u>trusting the Manged Messiah</u> .
3. (Deepest) "Root" problem, a God-problem. <u>Lost</u> . Lost to God in that darkness.	4. " <u>Glad tidings</u> ." A <u>Savior</u> . [a finder] Christ the Lord-- "lying in a manger," (=a signal of the coming cross).

*Why Jesus needed here? To heal the root-problem (#3) which brings healing to everything else.*

### A Hindu Model for Problem and Solution

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Solution</u>
1. People create <u>suffering</u> : for self & others. Past bad karma brings more suffering.	6. <u>Practicing escape</u> in daily life. Many ways to do that. Many gods in the picture. Many sacrifices to the many gods, a daily ritual.
2. <u>Desires</u> in the heart cause suffering.	5. Getting <u>insight</u> into the "big picture" (1,2,3,4). <u>Committing one's</u> heart to <u>escape</u> , to <u>kill desire</u> .
3. <u>Imprisoned by karma</u> , by the endless cycle of <u>reincarnation</u> (samsara).	4. <u>Salvation is escape</u> from karma, from samsara. Complete escape = Nirvana, into nothingness.

*Why Jesus needed here? Yes, karma does rule, but problem is worse. See #3 in Christian model. Soul does not escape God's criticism. Good & New: Christ conquers karma, also God's criticism coming via karma.*

### A Buddhist Model for Problem and Solution

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Solution</u>
1. People create <u>suffering</u> : for self & others. Past bad karma brings more suffering.	6. <u>Practicing detachment</u> in daily life. Ideal life of the monk. In folk-Buddhism many gods in the picture. Making sacrifices, acquiring merit.
2. <u>Desire</u> in the heart to clutch the permanent causes suffering.	5. Acquiring <u>insight</u> into the "big picture" (1,2,3) <u>Commitment to escape</u> , to <u>kill desire</u> .
3. <u>Ignorance</u> and its results: <u>Imprisoned by karma</u> , by the endless cycle of <u>reincarnation</u> .	4. <u>Enlightenment</u> about 1,2,3 leads to <u>escape</u> from karma & samsara. Full escape = Nirvana.

*Why Jesus? Karma as critic, yes. Samsara the retribution. But the problem is worse. God IS present in our lived experience, both source of blessings and "final" critic. Soul also subject to God's criticism, no self-generated escape possible. Good & New: Christ conquers karma, also God's criticism. Liberates people to trust God, join God to participate in the world's suffering, not escape it. A good & new enlightenment: call it "the Mind of Christ."*

### A Muslim Model for Problem and Solution

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Solution</u>
1. Daily life lived <u>contrary to the Quran</u> . contrary to Allah's revealed will	6. Living in <u>obedience to Allah's revealed will</u> Doing the 5 pillars, believing the 6 doctrines.
2. Heart <u>not submitted</u> to Allah. <u>Not striving</u> to follow Allah's revealed will	5. <u>Submission</u> to Allah's revealed will: <u>Striving</u> . Either because of fear of #3, or faith in #4.
3. <u>Lost. Damned</u> . Allah, though also sometimes merciful, never ceases to be critic. Mercy never sure.	4. <u>Allah reveals his will</u> : via Muhammad in the Quran. Salvation is: "Obey this," Allah's final word.

*Why Jesus? Problem is even worse. Striving for righteousness = problem, not solution. Needed: liberation from striving, & from God's critique of strivers. Good & New: Jesus, compassionate Rescuer--sent from Allah! Swaps with sinners, takes the heat of God's critique. Easter says: God approves the deal--no divine critique for Christ-trusters. Christ says: Trust me [New #4]. Christ-trust replaces striving. [New #5] "Obeying" Christ [=New #6].*