

Major World Views in Summary

	Christian	Secular Humanism	Eastern	Post Modern	Islam
1	God is infinite, personal, sovereign, and good	Matter exists and that is all there is	The soul of each and every human being is the Soul of the cosmos	The universe is all there is	There is one God, and Allah is his name.
2	God created the universe from nothing and in an orderly way	The universe exists as a closed system of cause and effect	Some things are more one than others	We cannot describe reality. We can only tell stories about it.	Allah created the universe from nothing and orderly
3	Human beings are created in the image of God	Human beings are complex “machines”	To realize one’s oneness with the cosmos is to pass beyond personality	Human beings make themselves who they are by the languages they construct about themselves	As a just master, Allah allows us to be his servants, but not his children
4	Death is either a gate to life with God through His grace in Jesus Christ or a gate to eternal separation	Death is the extinction of personality and individuality	Death is the end of personal existence, but the universal <i>soul</i> is reincarnated in a different life form.		Death either leads to paradise because of one’s righteous-ness (especially killing enemies of Allah) or to hell
5	We can know God & the world around us because He gave us the ability to know, and He communicates with us by Word & Spirit	We can know by observing the relationship between cause and effect	Many (if not all) roads lead to the One	The truth about reality itself is forever hidden from us. All we can do is tell stories,	We can know Allah & the world around us because Allah gave us the ability to know, and He communicates through the Quran
6	Ethics is based on the character of God, and on His Word	Ethics is related only to human beings	The cosmos is perfect at every moment	Ethics is a linguistic construct. Social good is whatever society takes it to be.	Ethics is based on Allah and on the Quran
7	History is linear, a meaningful sequence of events leading to the fulfillment of God’s purposes for us	History is a linear stream of events linked by cause and effect but without any real purpose	History is cyclical. To realize oneness with the One is to pass beyond time	All stories mask a play for power	Everything that happens is ordained by Allah, and is for Allah.

SEVEN BASIC QUESTIONS OF LIFE: James Sire, *The Universe Next Door*

1. What is prime reality?
2. What is the nature of external reality, or of the world around us?
3. What is a human being?
4. What happens to a person at death?
5. Is it possible to know anything at all, and if so, how?
6. Is there such a thing as right and wrong, and how do we know?
7. What is the meaning of human history?