

What ancient philosophy was closest to Christianity?

Whereas philosophy is the study of man's knowledge and existence; theology is the study of God and man's relationship and responsibility to him in the universe (1 Pe 4:5, Ro 14:12).

Christianity has been with us since the beginning. In the Book of Genesis we learn about the origin of: the universe, order and complexity, the solar system, the atmosphere and hydrosphere, man, life, marriage, evil, language, government, culture, nations, religion and God's chosen people.¹

Judaism is the only religion that God gave the world. Christianity is an extension of Judaism (Ro 10:12) and a fulfillment of the prophecies of scripture (Ac 2:36). Jews believe that Jesus was *not* the promised Messiah while Christians maintain that he was and is (Is 53). All genealogical records are now lost (Mt 24:2) so even if another Messiah came today that Jews *would* accept, they can no longer prove that he is who he says he is. The only way for Jews to know that their Messiah came before is to believe it or to see him with their own eyes (Zech 12:10, Jn 19:39, Re 1:7).

Jews of today do not necessarily think similarity to ancient Jews. For example, Genesis 1:1 reads: *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.* In the original language this is: *In the beginning Gods אֱלֹהִים (Elohim, plural) he created.* This is our first indication of a triune God. Deuteronomy 6:4 reads: *Hear, Oh Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord, is one.* This is: *Hear, Oh Israel, the Lord יהוה (Yhwh) our Gods אֱלֹהִים (again root word Elohim plural), the Lord יהוה (Yhwh) is one.* Scripture speaks of the Angel of the Lord and God as one in the same--yet two (Ge 16:10-11, 18:1-2, 16017, 19:1, 23-24, Ex 3:1-6, 14 (LXX), Judg 6:11-24, 13:26, 21, Josh 5:13-15, Nu 22:22-35, 2 Ki 19:35).² Ancient Jews had an understanding of God--*and another God* often spoken about interchangeably.

It is safe to say that when men agreed with historical biblical Christianity from Genesis on, they were right; and, when they departed from historical biblical Christianity, they were in error (Ga 5:9). Today, we work to root out false teaching such as Greek paganism—prevalent in Christianity today. The bible says: The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever (Ps 119:160, ESV). The apostle Paul wrote: Let God be true, and every human being a liar (Ro 3:4). We are to test all things based on God's word (Ac 17:11). If a worldview cannot be proven by scripture, it is to be rejected.

When individuals do not receive God's word with all eagerness (Ac 17:11), it is unlikely that they are citizens of the kingdom of God (Jn 5:24). The Holy Spirit provides assurance for the true believer. Paul wrote: For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are his children (Ro 8:15–16) not children of wrath (Eph 2:3). If one loves him and loves other Christians, he can be sure that his worldview is true (1 Jn 3:14).

¹ Morris, H. M. (1976). *The Genesis record: a scientific and devotional commentary on the book of beginnings* (pp. 20–21). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

² The Preincarnate Christ as the "Angel of the LORD" (YHWH): ChristianDefense.org.
http://www.christiandefense.org/Artical_%20Angel%20of%20the%20LORD.htm