

The Holy Texts of the Three Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

An attempt at textual analysis

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What are the Abrahamic Religions?

Abraham was a Prophet who had 2 sons, Ishmael and Isaac. He preached monotheism and the descendants of his sons were also Prophets. The three Abrahamic religions are the teachings of the Prophets Moses, Jesus, and Muhammed (PBUH).

The People of Moses (Peace Be Upon Him) practice Judaism.

The People of Jesus (PBUH) practice Christianity.

The People of Muhammed (PBUH) practice Islam.

What are the religious texts?

Judaism is based off the teachings in the Tanakh which is an acronym for the three books that it's made up of: Torah, Nevi'im, and Ketuvim.

Christianity is based off the teachings in the Bible which is traditionally made up of both the Old Testament (Tanakh) and the New Testament.

Islam is based off the teachings in the Qur'an, which is made up of 114 chapters and is considered the word of God.

Methods

I have run word frequency calculations on all the texts. Halfway through my project, I realized that I would probably benefit from also finding word frequencies of the New Testament and the Torah separate from the other texts as the Christian Bible is made up of both the New and Old Testament and the Tanakh is also the Old Testament.

In order to compare the word frequencies fairly, I found percentage of how much the word comes up in the text instead simply the number of times. This is important because all the texts are different lengths.

I also made word clouds from my results as a visual representation.

Top 10 words

Quran		KJB		Tanakh		New		Torah	
the	4.0590%	the	7.3174%	the	7.6739%	the	6.1079%	the	6.8648%
and	3.7502%	and	5.9089%	and	5.8613%	and	5.9362%	and	5.8601%
you	2.4284%	of	3.9624%	of	4.1044%	of	3.3898%	of	3.6563%
of	1.9688%	to	1.5522%	to	1.4565%	that	2.0819%	shall	1.4199%
to	1.7738%	that	1.4758%	in	1.4030%	to	1.8676%	unto	1.1830%
they	1.5429%	in	1.4478%	that	1.3703%	he	1.7010%	in	1.1619%
allah	1.5189%	he	1.1909%	shall	1.0649%	in	1.6057%	that	1.1252%
is	1.5102%	shall	1.1245%	he	1.0525%	him	1.3654%	to	1.1147%
them	1.2085%	unto	1.0284%	lord	1.0093%	unto	1.3544%	he	1.0228%
he	1.2009%	for	1.0254%	for	0.9905%	for	1.2630%	his	0.9962%

Top two words in every text is “the” and “and”. This is not surprising at all as that would be common in almost all texts.

Interestingly, the third word most common is “of” in all the texts except the Qur’an which has “you” instead. This can tell us that the Qur’an probably speaks more directly to the reader than the other texts. Or maybe there are many quotes in the Qur’an that include people talking directly to others.

Most of the top 10 words are simply propositions or words that just connect other words and do not have much value in terms of analyzing the meaning of the texts.

However, it would be interesting to note that only the Tanakh and the Qur’an have mention of “lord” or “allah” in top ten.

Top ten words won’t tell us much about the texts. We must dig deeper.

Quran		KJB		Tanakh		New		Torah	
will	1.1644%	i	1.0120%	unto	0.9740%	i	1.2098%	lord	0.9309%
in	1.1110%	his	0.9685%	a	0.9703%	is	1.2010%	a	0.8877%
a	1.0860%	a	0.9346%	his	0.9558%	not	1.1423%	for	0.8470%
we	0.9874%	lord	0.8950%	i	0.9134%	they	1.0880%	be	0.8420%
for	0.9498%	they	0.8431%	they	0.7806%	a	1.0570%	it	0.8219%
who	0.9389%	be	0.8016%	is	0.7075%	be	0.9507%	thou	0.7652%
it	0.9302%	is	0.7988%	be	0.6989%	them	0.9413%	i	0.6342%
not	0.9111%	him	0.7611%	it	0.6958%	but	0.9241%	thy	0.6291%
are	0.7717%	not	0.7539%	them	0.6691%	ye	0.8632%	them	0.6151%
their	0.6759%	them	0.7349%	with	0.6607%	which	0.8599%	all	0.5870%

Quran		KJB		Tanakh		New		Torah	
have	0.6530%	it	0.7005%	thou	0.6536%	his	0.7957%	with	0.5639%
that	0.6486%	with	0.6872%	thy	0.6414%	shall	0.7835%	they	0.5483%
those	0.6475%	all	0.6424%	all	0.6394%	with	0.7580%	not	0.5423%
your	0.6170%	thou	0.6257%	not	0.6363%	god	0.7508%	is	0.5352%
from	0.6132%	thy	0.5258%	him	0.5911%	was	0.7475%	him	0.5282%
what	0.6018%	was	0.5169%	my	0.5394%	it	0.7071%	which	0.4926%
do	0.5953%	god	0.5082%	'	0.5072%	you	0.6888%	thee	0.4815%
but	0.5915%	which	0.5044%	will	0.4828%	all	0.6257%	shalt	0.4484%
with	0.5898%	my	0.4993%	their	0.4804%	have	0.6002%	said	0.4378%
him	0.5713%	me	0.4682%	thee	0.4786%	said	0.5875%	ye	0.4238%
be	0.5310%	said	0.4571%	me	0.4648%	as	0.5758%	their	0.4203%
lord	0.5294%	but	0.4563%	was	0.4544%	jesus	0.5388%	god	0.4017%
his	0.4831%	ye	0.4553%	god	0.4302%	when	0.5382%	upon	0.3806%
when	0.4308%	their	0.4494%	from	0.4228%	are	0.5332%	from	0.3495%
said	0.4215%	have	0.4462%	said	0.4124%	we	0.4812%	was	0.3465%
say	0.4096%	will	0.4385%	have	0.3889%	man	0.4812%	land	0.3429%
so	0.4063%	thee	0.4374%	as	0.3706%	thou	0.4745%	moses	0.3188%
if	0.3747%	from	0.4163%	israel	0.3541%	me	0.4668%	will	0.3088%
on	0.3736%	as	0.4023%	upon	0.3516%	this	0.4524%	children	0.2972%
people	0.3698%	are	0.3372%	ye	0.3473%	by	0.4485%	out	0.2922%

The words that come up now are mostly words that are associated with storytelling.

There are a lot of “they”, “thy”, “thou”, “them” and “ye”. Which can indicate that the books are talking about other people or referencing them.

The Tanakh and Torah have words like “moses”, “children”, and “israel”. Clearly, these words are featured in those texts often. The New Testament include “jesus” many times meaning that the name is mentioned a lot. But the Qur’an does not have the word “muhammed” anywhere near the top.

Interestingly, the Qur’an only mentions “muhammed” 4 times. It mentions “messenger” and “messengers” much often. And mentions “moses” the most out of all the prophets it mentions.

Word Clouds

I tried pasting images of the word clouds onto here, but the quality of the images were compromised. So here are links to them:

[Tanakh](#)

[Bible](#)

[Qur'an](#)

Issues with Results

For me, this project has not been as successful as I hoped it would be.

I thought that getting over the hump of simply getting the data would be the hardest part of the project. I was proven very wrong.

Reading data is much more difficult than I imagined it would be, and I don't think I did justice to the texts at all.

I plan on continuing this project in the future. So I will need to research how to interpret the results. I also believe that the results I have are not enough to make any definitive claim. Overall, I am proud that I have been able to even get the data I wanted, but am very disappointed in myself because of my inability to make much of it.

Conclusion

Because of issues mentioned in the previous slide, I could not prove my argument.

I did, however, learn a lot about how difficult it can be to obtain data. I learned that more time should be put in when attempting to do something you have never done before. I also learned A LOT about the history and make-up of these three texts and plan on learning more about them - I just ordered my first Bible (with 4 side-by-side versions).

I also learned that “lord”, “god”, “father”, and “allah” all refer to the same idea of an ultimate being. Different words that refer to the same guy? Maybe.