

# Part 4, Paper 131, The World's...Religions, Midwayer Commission

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Melchizedek teachings, divine benevolence, God's intimacy, personal responsibility, spiritual liberation, supreme god, cosmic battle, inner peace, divine presence, human virtue, moral compass, loving father, universal longing, spiritual journey, divine spark

## SPEAKERS

Sarah, John

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**S** Sarah 00:00  
Ever feel like the universe is whispering secrets and we're just missing the language, kind of how this deep dive feels, honestly, like we're cracking the code on how 10, kind of 10 different world religions answered the big one, you know, what? Ask God? God

**J** John 00:11  
a question that is echoed through, well, pretty much all of human history. And you might be surprised, these diverse cultures separated by like everything, time, geography, they found ways to understand the divine. Some totally unique, some, you'll be like, wait, they thought that too, right? And

**S** Sarah 00:29  
you sent over excerpts from each gotta be honest. At first, I was a bit intimidated, like, whoa. Am I even qualified to unpack all this? But then I dove in and, wow, it's like a crash course and global spirituality, you know,

**J** John 00:42  
like any good Crash Course will hit those highlights, but we're going deep too on the insights that really, you know, make you think

**S** Sarah 00:48

— exactly, not just checking boxes here. This is the good stuff. So strap in everyone, because we're starting with a name you might not recognize, Melchizedek.

J

John 00:58

Melchizedek, yeah, he's like, the unexpected influencer of world religion.

S

Sarah 01:03

Okay, tell me more.

J

John 01:05

So his teachings, right about one God, a single force behind everything, they rippled out, influenced tons of different faiths. Like discovering your favorite band was, like, deeply inspired by some hidden gem from, like, way back when. Okay,

S

Sarah 01:18

now that's a musical deep cut I can get behind. So where do we find this? Melchizedek

J

John 01:22

fella, first up in the source material is cynicism. Cynicism.

S

Sarah 01:25

See, now, I know what you're thinking. Isn't that like being grumpy about everything? Understandable?

J

John 01:29

It's easy to associate it with that modern definition, but cynicism, like in its original form, it's a whole philosophy emphasizes virtue, living in sync with nature and central to all that. Yeah, very powerful concept of God, right? And

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Sarah 01:43

reading this, what struck me was the I don't know how else to put it, pure goodness, just radiating from these excerpts, God as the ultimate source of everything positive, everything life giving. There's

**J** John 01:55

no room for doubt in these passages. God is the peace giver, a faithful protector, offering salvation to all who serve him. It's beautiful, pure, Divine benevolence. It really

**S** Sarah 02:04

is. It's like if you could just strip away all the noise, right, all the negativity, you'd find this core of pure, radiant goodness. And that's God. Have you ever felt that like deep down, there's this wellspring of love and support, even when things are tough? Oh,

**J** John 02:18

absolutely. It's a very, very human experience to sense there's something greater than ourselves holding it all together. And cynicism emphasizes both God's immensity, he's the Perfected circle of eternity, immortal and infinite, but also his intimate involvement in our lives, infinite,

**S** Sarah 02:35

A and D, personal. See, that's where my brain starts to short circuit a little bit, I gotta be honest, like trying to picture the entire universe fitting inside a grain of sand, how can something be both vast and D present in every single detail? It's a

**J** John 02:49

paradox at the heart of well, many religions grapple with it. It speaks to the limits, really, of what we can understand when we're talking about the divine. But even though we may never fully grasp that immensity, cynicism reminds us he's still knowable through our hearts, through living a life guided by by his wisdom. So

**S** Sarah 03:06

less about trying to fit the ocean in a teacup and more about feeling a single drop of water and understanding like that's the essence of the whole thing. I dig it. Okay? What's next on our spiritual survey here?

**J** John 03:18

Next up is a faith many are familiar with Judaism, okay? And we encounter a concept we've touched on God as the Creator, the architect of the universe, everything in it, right?

S

Sarah 03:28

And that is a powerful image, but what really got me was this, this passage, God knows the number of stars and calls each by name. That's That's a level of personal attention I haven't even gotten from my barista. A

J

John 03:41

beautiful illustration, though, isn't it, of God's intimate knowledge of creation, every star, every planet, every grain of sand right here on Earth. Not only did he create them, he knows them individually. Yeah, intimately makes you

S

Sarah 03:54

feel pretty seen, you know, like maybe we're not just random specs in the cosmic void. There's a purpose, a plan, even if we don't always get it Okay, now buckle up, because we're heading to a completely different part of the world, a whole new perspective, Buddhism,

J

John 04:07

I think when most people think of Buddh, right, yeah, the first thing that comes to mind meditation, maybe finding that inner peace, not necessarily, you know, a deity in a traditional sense, exactly.

S

Sarah 04:19

It's almost like it could be a religion without God, yeah, to focus on personal enlightenment, overcoming suffering, all that, but Ki, ti, and this is where it gets really interesting. There are these hints of a higher power kind of woven throughout. Yeah, exactly.

J

John 04:33

While Buddhism does emphasize that personal responsibility, achieving enlightenment, like you said, these excerpts, though, they definitely point towards something larger than just us, a force that goes beyond like our individual existence. You

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Sarah 04:47

know what I mean? I do? I do like when it talks about the immortal and the idea that by living like righteously, we can tap into this incredible, enlightened state. It's like this whole other level of. Existence that that we can aspire to,

**J** John 05:02

right? It's powerful, yeah, because our actions then have these like cosmic consequences, not just in this life, but in the grand scheme of things. It suggests that even though, yeah, we experience suffering now, there's a path to liberation, a way to transcend our limitations and connect with something eternal. It's like, yeah,

**S** Sarah 05:18

life is messy. We face challenges, for sure, but there's this underlying, I don't know, hope, hope that we can rise above it all through our actions, our intentions. It's not just about us. It's about aligning ourselves with something, something bigger. And that

**J** John 05:33

actually brings us to another belief system with this, like, really rich and complex understanding of the Divine, Hinduism. Okay, now Hinduism is often associated with, you know, a multitude of gods and goddesses,

**S** Sarah 05:44

right? It's like the cosmic guest list is never

**J** John 05:47

ending, right? But even with all those deities, what really stood out to me in these excerpts was the emphasis on one supreme god, this, like, ultimate source of everything, yeah,

**S** Sarah 05:57

and this supreme god, this ultimate reality. It says he even counts the blinks of our eyes. It's like, Hey, you're not alone in this grand, cosmic dance. I'm with you every step of the way, even the tiniest moments.

**J** John 06:07

I love that such a powerful image, right? God's all encompassing awareness is intimate knowledge of literally every aspect of creation. Nothing is too small, too insignificant for his attention. And honestly, I think that's a very comforting thought for a lot of people, that even amidst the chaos the uncertainty of life, there's this force that sees us, cares for us, even the smallest details, like

**S** Sarah 06:29

**Sarah 06:29**  
that feeling of being truly known, you know, truly seen by someone who just loves you unconditionally. Okay, wow, after that dose of cosmic comfort, I think we need to Yeah, we're heading over to ancient Persia, Zoroastrianism, and this one, I gotta say, had a different vibe very much about that battle, yeah, between good and evil, light and darkness. Have you ever felt that that struggle like in your own life?

**J John 06:50**  
Oh, absolutely. And Zoroastrianism really puts it front and center. It's built upon this fundamental duality, right, that constant interplay positive and negative forces, both within us and in the world all around us, pretty universal human experience. Would you

**S Sarah 07:05**  
say for sure? It's like that inner voice that tells you to hit snooze versus the one yelling at you to get up and chase your dreams. But what really struck me about Zoroastrianism specifically was how it connects our actions to our spiritual progress.

**J John 07:17**  
Yes, personal responsibility is huge in this tradition, our thoughts, our words, our deeds, they directly impact our spiritual journey, our connection to the divine. It's a called actively choose good, align ourselves with those forces of light,

**S Sarah 07:31**  
right? It's not just about like what you believe up here. It's about how you live your life, choices you make every single day. I mean, okay, maybe the fate of the universe doesn't depend on me doing my dishes tonight, but, but there's something kind of empowering about knowing that even small acts of kindness, of choosing that light over darkness, it can have this ripple effect.

**J John 07:48**  
Yeah, absolutely speaks to the interconnectedness of all things. Our actions, however small they seem, can contribute to a greater good. Now from this, this grand, cosmic battle of Zoroastrianism, returning to a faith that emphasizes a different kind of struggle, the internal one. All

**S Sarah 08:06**  
right, next up ancient India. And get this, a faith that was totally new to me, pseudonymism. Later on, it became known as Jainism. And this one all about conquering those inner demons. They took self help to a whole other level. Self

they took self-help to a whole other level. Self-

**J** John 08:19

Mastery is like the core of Jainism, intense self discipline, a really, really rigorous pursuit of spiritual liberation through conquering. Like you said, those negative tendencies within

**S** Sarah 08:31

and they don't mess around, anger, pride, greed. It's like all on the hit list, you know, and their idea of heaven. It's not floating around on a cloud. It's about this total inner victory, like, imagine the most peaceful content version of yourself. That's what they're aiming for, powerful

**J** John 08:46

stuff, true happiness, fulfillment. It comes from within, overcoming those negative patterns, attachments that keep us honestly bound to suffering. Ever feel that that inner peace when you finally overcome some personal challenge, let go of something that was holding you back,

**S** Sarah 09:01

totally like finally cleaning out that junk drawer You've been avoiding for months. Okay, maybe not on par with spiritual enlightenment, but that sense of lightness, freedom from clutter, I get it. Speaking of feeling lighter, though, our next stop is all about finding the divine in the beauty of you know, the everyday Shintoism, Shintoism, I'm already feeling calmer, honestly, just thinking about it, nature, harmony, respecting the world around us. What's not to love,

**J** John 09:26

right? It's a really beautiful tradition, finding that divine presence in nature and like just the simple elegance of everyday life. Yeah, have you ever just, I don't know, felt that sense of peace? Maybe walking in the woods watching a sunset? Shintoism reminds us those moments they're filled with spiritual significance. Oh,

**S** Sarah 09:43

yeah, it's like that feeling of, whoa, I'm part of something so much bigger. But Shintoism also emphasizes human virtue too, right? Like being our best selves is another way to connect with the divine. Absolutely,

**J** John 09:54

it's not just about appreciating that beauty out there. It's about reflecting it back. Yeah. Yeah, in our actions, our character, you know, and one of the biggest obstacles to that, according to

our actions, our character, you know, and one of the biggest obstacles to that, according to Shintoism, pride, right,

S

Sarah 10:06

right? And this line kind of stopped me in my tracks. Every hair of pride shuts off, saving light, ouch. Someone's not mincing words, nope.

J

John 10:15

It's a powerful reminder, though, humility, it's essential for us to grow spiritually. Pride, it's like this barrier, you know, spiritual blindness almost keeps us from seeing the divine spark in ourselves and in everyone else too. So

S

Sarah 10:27

less ego tripping, more awe inspiring. Got it Okay, deep breaths everyone, because we're heading into the home stretch of the spiritual journey. And this next one, this one feels like trying to catch Lightning in a Bottle Taoism. Taoism

J

John 10:43

is, yeah, it could be a little elusive. Can it the emphasis on aligning ourselves with the Tao the natural order of the universe, this flow of existence that never, ever stops, right?

S

Sarah 10:53

Go with the flow, man. But even with all that you know, acceptance, letting go. The excerpts you picked out, they highlighted God's constant presence influence even when we're clueless, totally oblivious.

J

John 11:04

Yeah, it's like Taoism gets that we might not always be aware of it, but that divine it's always working, shaping, guiding the universe even in the smallest details. Remember the quote you cannot find the supreme it says, Neither can you go to a place where he is not. It's

S

Sarah 11:17

like trying to outrun your own shadow. Not gonna happen. Okay? That one goes mind blown category for sure. All right, last, but definitely not least. We're ending our global tour with a philosophy that emphasizes ethics social harmony, Confucianism.

J John 11:33

Yeah, Confucianism. It's deeply concerned with creating a just and harmonious society. Sees the divine as the like the ultimate source of order morality, and we're all connected, right part of this bigger web of relationships. Our actions have consequences. They ripple outward, affect everyone around us. It's

S Sarah 11:50

a good reminder. You know, we're not just isolated individuals off doing our own thing. We have this responsibility to each other, to the community, to the world, even. But Confucianism also says God gave us this inner moral compass, this ability to know right from wrong. Right?

J John 12:04

It's not blind obedience. It's about cultivating that innate sense of goodness, acting in accordance with heaven's order. We've all got the potential for greatness, for virtue, and when we strive for that, we contribute to a better world. Okay, so

S Sarah 12:18

after this whirlwind tour, 10 different religions, countless insights. My brain feels a little fried. Honestly. Where does that leave us? Where did it leave Gunny, the guy who compiled all this wisdom in the first place

J John 12:32

it led him to create what he called our religion, drawing on the wisdom of all these traditions. But it really boils down to this understanding God as a loving father, simple but profound,

S Sarah 12:42

after everything we've just talked about, honestly, that's kind of reassuring. You know? It

J John 12:46

is speaks to that universal longing we all have, connection, belonging, feeling loved, supported by something beyond ourselves.

S Sarah 12:54

And the way to connect with this loving Father according to pretty straightforward treat others how you want to be treated golden rule. But with this a special

now you want to be treated golden rule, but with like a cosmic

**J** John 13:03

upgrade, right? It's so simple but so powerful. You know, the path to God isn't about these elaborate rituals or doctrines you have to memorize. It's about living a life guided by love, compassion, empathy, recognizing that divine spark in ourselves and in everyone we meet, so

**S** Sarah 13:21

less about theological debates and more about just like being a decent human being, I think I can handle that. And maybe

**J** John 13:27

that's the biggest takeaway from all of this, that search for God, for meaning, for connection. It comes down to how we show up in the world, how we treat each other. We're all in this together on this wild, incredible journey of discovery and growth.

**S** Sarah 13:39

Man, a mic drop moment right there. I need a minute to process all of this. But you know what? As fried as my brain might feel, I'm also feeling really inspired. It's like even if we never get all the answers, just asking these questions, exploring these different perspectives, it makes life richer, more meaningful, for sure. Couldn't

**J** John 13:58

agree more, and maybe that's the beauty of faith, of spirituality in general. It's not about having it all figured out. It's about embracing the mystery, the awe, the wonder of it all.

**S** Sarah 14:08

It's that feeling of There's so much I don't know, but I'm open to it, to learning, growing, expanding what I think is possible Exactly.

**J** John 14:16

It's a lifelong journey. Each step along the way, each question that brings us closer to a deeper understanding of ourselves, the universe, and yeah, the divine.

**S** Sarah 14:25

 Sarah 14:23

So to everyone listening, if you're feeling a little overwhelmed, trust me, it's okay. It's okay to not have it all figured out. Just keep asking those questions. Keep exploring. Keep your mind and your heart open to what's possible. You never know what you might discover. And hey, maybe you'll create your own version of our religion along the way. That's

 John 14:42

what it's all about. Embracing that journey, every twist, every turn, trusting that path, however winding it gets, it's leading us right where we need to be. Beautifully

 Sarah 14:51

said, Well, on that note of cosmic encouragement, I think it's time to wrap up this deep dive. Thank you, as always, for joining us. Bye. Been an incredible exploration faith, spirituality and those big questions that connect us all until next time everyone keep seeking, keep questioning and keep diving deep into those mysteries out there.