

Lesson 7: Introduction to Buddhism: Core Beliefs

Buddha (real name Siddharta Gautama) is the main prophet in Buddhism (5th to 4th Century) Around the time period of the Babylonian Empire in the book of Daniel. Believed to be born in present day Nepal.

- Goal in Buddhism
 - Overcome Suffering
 - Overcome the Cycle of Death and Rebirth

Right Beliefs

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four_Noble_Truths

The Four Noble Truths

1. **Dukkha** (suffering, incapable of satisfying, painful) is an innate characteristic of existence with each rebirth;
2. **Samudaya** (origin, cause) of this dukkha is the "craving, desire or attachment";
3. **Nirodha** (cessation, ending) of this dukkha can be attained by eliminating all "craving, desire, and attachment";
4. **Magga** (path, **Noble Eightfold Path**) is the means to end this dukkha.

They are traditionally identified as the first teaching given by the Buddha, and considered one of the most important teachings in Buddhism.^[12]

Right Practices

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noble_Eightfold_Path

Noble Eightfold Path

1. Right View - "Our actions have consequences, death is not the end, and our actions and beliefs have consequences after death. Includes understanding karma and Rebirth."
2. Right Resolve- giving up everything to live in a place of solitude to avoid passions (lust, greed, etc)
3. "Right Speech- no lying, no rude speech, no telling one person what another says about him to cause discord or harm their relationship."
4. "Right Conduct or Action: refraining from killing, stealing, sexual misconduct."
5. "Right Livelihood: Gaining one's livelihood by benefiting others also not selling weapons, poisons or intoxicants."
6. Right Effort – Trying with all your being to not feel but to think about what is true
7. Right Mindfulness – Controlling your thoughts and choosing to think only on things that will lead to enlightenment
8. Right Meditation – Controlling your thoughts to one thought at a time. Practice of keeping your mind on one thing ultimately to reach the state of emptiness of mind.









Lesson 8:
8 Concepts to Understand Soteriology (The Study of Salvation)
Buddhism in Light of these 8 Concepts

Standard	<p>Buddha’s Life & Teachings</p> <p>Passed down through oral (word of mouth) and traditions</p>
Sin	<p>3 Fires (3 Poisons)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raga (Passion)- avoid greed, lust, desire 2. Dvesha (Hate) 3. Ignorance (Confusion about what is real), Not Understanding the Truth <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nirvana_(Buddhism)</p>
Shame	<p>“However, good or bad karma accumulates even if there is no physical action, and just having ill or good thoughts creates karmic seeds; thus, actions of body, speech or mind all lead to karmic seeds. In the Buddhist traditions, life aspects affected by the law of karma in past and current births of a being include the form of rebirth, realm of rebirth, social class, character and major circumstances of a lifetime. It operates like the laws of physics, without external intervention, on every being in all six realms of existence including human beings and gods.”</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhism</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Separation</p>	<p>“Rebirth in Buddhism refers to its teaching that the actions of a person lead to a new existence after death, in endless cycles called <i>samsāra</i>. This cycle is considered to be <i>dukkha</i>, unsatisfactory and painful. The cycle stops only if liberation is achieved by insight and the extinguishing of desire. Rebirth is one of the foundational doctrines of Buddhism, along with Karma, nirvana and moksha.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rebirth_(Buddhism)</p> <p>The rebirth doctrine in Buddhism, sometimes referred to as reincarnation or metempsychosis, asserts that rebirth does not necessarily take place as another human being, but as an existence in one of the six <i>Gati</i> (realms) called Bhavachakra.^[4] The six realms of rebirth include Deva (heavenly), Asura (demigod), Manusya (human), Tiryak (animals), Preta (ghosts), and Naraka (resident of hell).[!]“</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Savior/ Substitution</p>	<p>Self is Savior = Try and reach Nirvana to end your life cycle of rebirth</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“The rebirth depends on the merit or demerit gained by one's karma, as well as that accrued on one's behalf by a family member.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhism</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Saving Faith or Work</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“In Buddhism, karma (from Sanskrit: "action, work") drives <i>samsāra</i> – the endless cycle of suffering and rebirth for each being. Good, skilful deeds (Pāli: <i>kusala</i>) and bad, unskilful deeds (Pāli: <i>akusala</i>) produce "seeds" in the unconscious receptacle (<i>ālaya</i>) that mature later either in this life or in a subsequent rebirth.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“A notable aspect of the karma theory in Buddhism is merit transfer. A person accumulates merit not only through intentions and ethical living, but also is able to gain merit from others by exchanging goods and services, such as through <i>dāna</i>(charity to monks or nuns). Further, a person can transfer one's own good karma to living family members and ancestors.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhism</p>

<p>Salvation</p>	<p>Gautama was moved by the suffering (<i>dukkha</i>) of life and death, and its endless repetition due to rebirth. He thus set out on a quest to find liberation from suffering (also known as "nirvana").</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhism</p> <p>Nirvana, or the liberation from cycles of rebirth, is the highest aim of the Theravada tradition. In the Mahayana tradition, the highest goal is Buddhahood, in which there is no abiding in Nirvana. Buddha helps liberate beings from saṃsāra by teaching the Buddhist path. There is no rebirth for Buddha or people who attain Nirvana. But his teachings remain in the world for a certain time as a guidance to attain Nirvana.</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nirvana_(Buddhism)</p>
<p>Sanctification</p>	<p>“The rebirth depends on the merit or demerit gained by one's karma, as well as that accrued on one's behalf by a family member.”</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhism</p>

Lesson 9: Honor/Shame in the Gospel

	<p style="text-align: center;">STANDARD</p> <p>God is king and creator and is the standard of all that is honorable & good. He is the most powerful being and deserves to be honored as Lord/God and King. We should love, respect, and obey God above any other because He should be number one in our lives.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Revelation 4:11</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”</i></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">SIN</p> <p>Sin means to miss the mark or to fall short. We as people miss the mark of always keeping God as #1 in our hearts. We fall short of honoring God and we honor ourselves or others as kings/rulers when we don't love and obey Him fully.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Romans 2:23</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law.”</i></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">SHAME</p> <p>To have shame means to lose face (or turn ones face away). Shame involves embarrassment and fear. When our sin and rebellion is exposed/seen by God or others we feel bad and afraid of what might happen. Shame is the fear of losing honor, love, and respect from God and from others. We deserve punishment in eternal shame.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jeremiah 17:13</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“O Lord, the hope of Israel, all who forsake you <u>shall be put to shame</u>; those who turn away from you shall be written in the earth, for they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living water.”</i></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">SEPARATION</p> <p>Because people have dishonored God through disobedience to his commands, they have to be separated from God and his Kingdom. This separation is called death which is physical (body dies), spiritual (relational separation from God), & Eternal (Never Ending in Hell & Lake of Fire).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Isaiah 59:2</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.”</i></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">SUBSTITUTION</p> <p>Jesus was willing to take our sin, shame and separation (death) that we deserve. He became a man so that He might substitute His honorable life, death, and resurrection on our behalf to restore us to an honorable relationship with Him.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1 Peter 3:18</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,”</i></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">SAVING FAITH</p> <p>God reveals that we cannot restore our own honor and be good enough to be saved from shame and death. Saving faith involves following Jesus as Lord God/King & trusting the truth that His life, death, & resurrection has the power to save us.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Romans 10:9</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”</i></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">SALVATION</p> <p>Salvation means deliverance or rescue. God knows that we dishonor Him, but because of His love for us and desire to keep His own honor, he offers salvation. This involves delivering us from shame & separation and rescuing us to restored honorable status as His kingdom children.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Romans 10:11</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“For the Scripture says, ‘Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.’”</i></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">SANCTIFICATION</p> <p>Sanctification means to be set apart for a purpose and to be cleaned. Once we trust Jesus and our relationship with Him is restored, we are continually being set apart as honorable children growing up into God's honorable people.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Philippians 1:6</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”</i></p>

