

STUDY QUESTIONS ON ZOROASTRIANISM

1. Zoroastrianism has been largely replaced in its homeland by the religion of _____.

2. Most present day Zoroastrians live in _____ and are called _____.

3. The earliest known religion in Iran was
polytheistic\ monotheistic\ henotheistic.

Circle the answer that correctly completes the sentence.

4. The earliest known Iranian religion was very similar to:

- A. The Vedic religion of early India.
- B. The religion of the Old Testament.
- C. Babylonian and early Mesopotamian Polytheism.
- D. Monotheistic Christianity.

5. One time of extreme tension in the history of a religion is usually the time of transition from _____ to _____ styles of life and social organization.

6. T/F The name for the supreme being in Zoroastrianism was _____.

7. T/F The life of Zoroaster is quite well attested in existing documents.

8. T/F Early Zoroastrianism spread with royal backing.

9. Ahura Mazda has the same historical roots as which Vedic deity?

- A. Indra
- B. Rita
- C. Varuna
- D. Bramanaspati
- E. Daevas

10. T/F Zoroaster denied the existence, in any form whatsoever, of all ancient Iranian deities except Ahura Mazda himself.

11. T/F Ahura Mazda has, in early Zoroastrian thought, a court just as an earthly monarch would.

12. The supreme being of Zoroastrianism was opposed by a spirit of evil named _____.

13. The sense of tension between good and evil in Zoroastrianism looks to the question,

"How can there be _____ in the world when god has created it?"

14. T/F Contemporary followers of Zoroaster still emphasize free choice as a core concept of their religion and urge it as superior to other major religions on that basis.
15. The earliest Zoroastrian literature we possess consists of:
 - A. Stories about Zoroaster's life.
 - B. Mythology about the deeds of Ahura Mazda.
 - C. Spells, incantations and magic formulae.
 - D. Devotional hymns.
16. T/F Early Zoroastrianism had all the contempt of the nomadic herder for the settled farmer.
17. T/F Organized communal Zoroastrian worship takes place on Friday evening to distinguish it from Jewish worship (Saturday) and from Christian worship (Sunday).
18. In Zoroastrianism dead bodies are placed in a _____ or _____.
19. T/F In Zoroastrianism the basic conflict of good and evil is mostly played out externally, in the natural world and in conflict between good and evil people.
20. T/F Early Zoroastrianism had a tolerant attitude toward the religion it replaced. Neighborliness to those who worshiped the old gods was accepted easily.
21. To Zoroaster, the main religious symbol of Ahura Mazda was _____.
22. T/F Early Zoroastrians worshiped the fire in their fire temples.
23. T/F Two elements of the old religion Zoroaster forbade were animal sacrifices and the use of the intoxicating haoma.
24. The main religious ceremonial of contemporary Zoroastrianism is called the _____ and is a sacrifice, not of an animal but of _____ and _____.
25. T/F Zoroastrian funeral customs are best understood as a rite of purification.
26. T/F Zoroaster believed in a general resurrection of the dead at the end of the world.
27. The primary punishment in the Zoroastrian picture of hell is

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28. Zoroastrianism pictures the key point in the judgement of a soul to hell as the accusation of the person's own _____
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29. The failure of the Achaemenian Dynasty of Persia to conquer the _____ prevented Zoroastrianism from spreading to the Western world.
30. T/F In the later Zoroastrianism of the Achaemenians Zoroaster himself had become an object of devotion.
31. T/F Achaemenian Zoroastrianism displays a tendency to deify named attributes of Ahura Mazda.
32. Which of the following were old Aryan gods of pre-Zoroastrian Iranian religion whose worship reasserted itself under the Achaemenians.
- A. Vayu (Wind God) B. Asha (fire God) C. Armaiti (Goddess of the soil)
D. Mithra (God of the sun) D. Vohu Manu (God of Cattle)
E. Ameretat (Goddess of vegetation) F. The Ushas (Dawn Goddesses)
33. The Achaemenian goddess Anahita, borrowed from the old Babylonian religion, was another form of the ancient goddess _____, goddess of the waters of heaven and of increase of flocks and herds.
34. T/F Zoroastrianism has always refrained from animal sacrifice.
35. The concept of _____ signified for Achaemenian Zoroastrianism the spiritual and immortal part of every living thing, be it divine, human or animal.
36. T/F The concept mentioned in #35 received prayers and sacrifices during the Achaemenian period.
37. T/F In Achaemenian Zoroastrianism creation was a dualistic procedure with the Good Spirit creating that which was good and the Evil Spirit creating that which was evil.
38. T/F Achaemenian Zoroastrianism developed the concept of the Virgin birth of a series of saviors.
39. T/F Achaemenian Zoroastrianism tended to move in its emphasis from ceremonial to moral purity.