CONTENTS

Letter to the Reader

1 ON BEING STUDENTS OF RELIGION

Toward a Working Definition of Religion 1
Man: The Religious Animal 6
The Study of Religion 9
Types of Religion 16
Recurring Issues and Themes 18

2 SOME PAST RELIGIONS 25

Prehistoric Religion 25 Themes in Folk Religion 31 Mesopotamian Religion 39 Greek Religion 44

3 THE BEGINNINGS OF INDIAN RELIGION 59

Indus Valley Civilization 61
The Vedic Aryans and Their Religion 64
Philosophic Vision of the Upanishads 73

4 MA	HAVIRA	AND	JAINISM	85
------	--------	-----	---------	----

The Axis Age in Ancient India 85
Life of the Founder 89
Mahavira's Followers 92
Jain Philosophy 93
The Jain Community 101

5 BUDDHA AND EARLY BUDDHISM 107

The Founder's Life 108
Buddha's Teaching 114
The First Two Centuries in Indian Buddhism 120
The Way of the Elders 124
The Great Vehicle 130
The Thunderbolt Vehicle 136
Tibetan Buddhism 139

6 HINDUISM 145

What Is Hinduism? 145
Sources of Hinduism 148
Four Ends of Man 151
Three Paths to Salvation 155
Six Viewpoints 161
Popular Hinduism 167
Modern and Contemporary Issues 177

7 SIKHISM 185

The Founder's Life 186
Nanak's Teachings 189
The Great Transformation of Sikhism 192
The Sikh Community Today 197
Reflections on Sikh Faith and Community 200

8 CHINESE RELIGION 203

Chinese Beginnings 205 Confucius the First Teacher 211 Lao-tzu and Chuang-tze Other Chou Schools Confucian Tradition in Development 227 The Han Establishment of Confucianism 229 Neo-Taoism 233 Chinese Buddhism 237 Neo-Confucianism 246 Recent and Contemporary Issues 252

9 JAPANESE RELIGION 259

Shinto Myth and Ritual 260
Buddhist Beginnings 267
Main Forms of Japanese Buddhism 271
Tokugawa Developments 281
Modern and Contemporary Issues 289

10 ZOROASTRIANISM 299

Iranian Religion before Zoroaster 301
The Prophet's Life 302
The Prophet's Message 305
Later Zoroastrianism 309
Contemporary Zoroastrians 316

11 BIBLICAL SOURCES OF MONOTHEISM 321

Ancient Israel against Her Environment 322
Ancient Israel's Divine-Human Drama 325
Prophetic Religion 340
Postexilic Judaism 354

XIV CONTENTS

	12	JUDAISM	363
--	----	---------	-----

Judaism in the Ancient World
Judaism in the Medieval Period
Judaism in the Modern World
Jewish Religious Observance
364
373
384
390

13 JESUS AND CHRISTIAN ORIGINS 399

The New Testament against Its Environment
Life of Jesus 400
Teachings of Jesus 412
The New Testament Christian Community 416
Christianity in the Ancient World: 100–500 425
Eastern Orthodox Christianity 436

14 ISLAM 443

Arabian Source Religion 445 The Prophet's Life 446 Muhammad's Teaching: The Muslim Creed 452 The Formative Centuries 462 Shi'a 467 Mystics and Philosophers 470 475 Muslim Expansion in Asia Islam Confronts the Modern World 478

15 THE MEDIEVAL CATHOLIC SYNTHESIS 485

Augustine's Life and Thought 486
The Monastic Orders 489
Augustine's Two Cities: Medieval Church and State 494
Life and Worship in the City of God 498
Christian Scholasticism 503
Medieval Christian Mystics 510
The Break-up of the Medieval Synthesis 512

16 THE REFORMATION AND PROTESTANTISM 519

Luther and Lutheranism 520
Calvin and Calvinism 526
The English Reformation 531
Sectarian Protestantism 536

The Roman Catholic Reformation and Counter-Reformation 541

Protestantism in America 544

17 MODERN CRITICISM OF RELIGION 553

Elements of Modernity 555
The Radical Century 564
Some Modern Credos 570
The End of Modern Times 576

18 TRADITIONAL FAITHS AND THE HUMAN FUTURE 581

The Post-Modern Prospect 581
Challenge and Response 591
The Shape of Faiths to Come 594
Let the Best Faith Win 605
A Time of Waiting 608

Glossary 611

Index 627