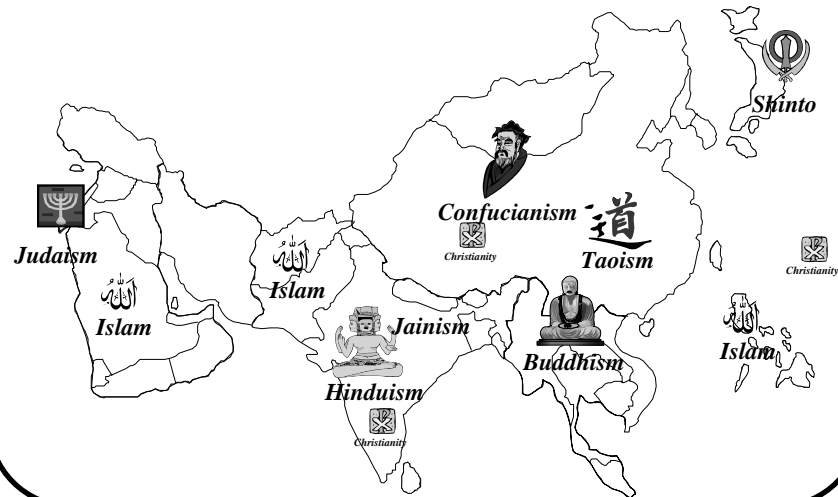


Theology in the Asian Context



The Setting for Asian Theology

- Economic diversity (Bangladesh to Japan)
- Political diversity (China to Israel to Japan)
- Cultural diversity (Bhutan to Vietnam to India)
- Religious diversity
- Sharing in the varieties of suffering
 - Economic
 - Political
 - Religious

Religious Pluralism:

The Issue for This Century

- Christianity tends to be marginalized
- Encounter with other religions out of weakness rather than strength
- Extracting religious from cultural heritage?

Christian Theological Context

- Influence of pluralistic thinking
- Proliferation of Asian theologies
- Themes in Asian theologies:
 - Christ and revolutionary social changes
 - Christ and massive poverty
 - Christ and ethnic and economic minorities
 - Christ and creative/destructive aspects of cultures
 - Christ and the people of other faiths
 - Christ and the reality of a divided church

Christian Theological Contexts

Ro, "Theological Trends"

Asia

- Religions
- Poverty
- Suffering
- Injustice
- Bribery
- Communism

The West

- Christian heritage
- Affluence
- Crimes
- Complacency
- Theological wars
- Time issues
- Battle over the Bible

Asian Theologies: Samples

- Pain of God theology (Kazoh Kitamori, Japan)
- Waterbuffalo Theology (Kosuke Koyama, Japanese missionary in Thailand)
- Third Eye Theology (Choan Seng-Song, China)
- Minjung Theology (Korean)
- Dalit Theology (India)
- Theology of Change (Yung Young Lee, Taiwan)
- Theology of Struggle (Eleazar Fernandez, Philippines)

Hindrances to Evangelical Theology

Gnanakan, "Theology for Asia"

- Other-worldly attitudes that blind us to all the Bible teaches
- Excessive concern for evangelism and church growth stop us from exploring all that the church should be
- Individual agendas have obstructed the collective mission of the church
- There is still a fixed idea of theology which is universal in its structure and content
- A lack of concern for the total biblical perspective

Concluding Reflections

- Religious pluralism will dominate the scene
- Penetrating the 10/40 Window
- Identifying people groups
- Enabling viable witness for Christ
- Cultural identity and Christian faith
- Future focus on creation and environment