

Chapter 5	
<p>Lines 284 – 285</p> <p>This course covers different contemporary faiths and examines their development, initial impact, and continuing influence.</p>	
Line 303	<p>Zoroastrianism: An ancient yet living religion with adherents in Iran, India (the Parsis), and elsewhere. The life of Zoroaster. The Zoroastrian book of scripture: the Avesta, and its connection with the Rig Vedas. The world as a battleground between the forces of good led by Ahura Mazda, and the forces of evil led by Ahriman; and the inevitable triumph of the wise lord Ahura Mazda at the end of time. The impact of Zoroastrianism on the Abrahamic religions: resurrection and final judgement, heaven and hell, angels and demons. The injunction to “Good Deeds Good Words Good Thoughts.” The importance of purity of spirit but also of maintaining the purity of the elements fire, earth, air, and water. Historical charges of dualism leveled by detractors (e.g. the Muslim conquerors of Persia) against what scholars today consider as arguably the world’s earliest surviving monotheistic faith. Zoroaster and Zoroastrianism in the Hellenistic world.</p>