1. **In a video game appearance, this character appears in a flashback singing “Rock You Like a Hurricane” and accidentally dropping a booklet on the ground. This character gives another character a frisbee and the advice to “just stay away from the three-bean salad” at the nearest buffet. A snowplowing entrepreneur claimed that “when two best friends work together, not even (\*)** [this character] can stop them,” which resulted in all nearby snow immediately melting. This character was deliberately and uniquely depicted with five fingers on each hand, as confirmed by Matt Groening [GRAY-ning]. For 10 points, name this divine being who is venerated by Reverend Lovejoy and Ned Flanders.

ANSWER: **God** [do not accept “Jebus,” even from Homer Simpson]

2. **The history of these objects is a major interest of the anthropologist Regula Tschumi, who has claimed that Ataa Oko was the first to experiment with the *abebuu adekai* style of these objects. The creation of these religious objects is the subject of the documentary *Paa Joe and the Lion*. Workshops that specialize in creating these objects include one founded by Kane (\*)** Kwei, whose grandson Eric Adjetey Anang continues the family business. Many people order custom versions of these objects shaped like aspects of their professional lives in a religious tradition from Ghana. For 10 points, go ahead and put the “fun” in “funeral” by identifying these objects in which a human body is typically buried.

ANSWER: **coffin**s [or obvious equivalents such as **caskets**, **sarcophagi**, **catafalque**s, and so forth]

3. **This writer described seeing a monk selling popular religious tracts to an old peasant but refusing to sell a vernacular copy of the Gospels. In the same text, this writer claimed that the hypocrisy of current society exceeds the hypocrisy of the Pharisees because people today allow themselves to be protected by armed policemen. A red thistle which lost its beauty when plucked is compared to a Muslim (\*)** freedom fighter in a story by this writer. This author created a character who regains his faith after a lightning storm threatens his family and a peasant named Fyodor talks to him. Another character created by this author argues with her lover Vronsky and then throws herself under a train. For 10 points, name this author of *The Kingdom of God is Within You*, *Hadji Murad*, and *Anna Karenina*.

ANSWER: Leo **Tolstoy** [or Lev Nikolayevich **Tolstoy**]

4. **A voice which came from this place ordered humanity to offer “the firstlings of their flocks” as a sacrifice in a passage from the Book of Moses. Ezekiel compared Assyria to a great cedar tree in Lebanon which was the envy of all the trees in this place. Rivers such as the Pison, Gihon, and Hiddekel flowed out of this place and around nearby regions such as (\*)** Havilah, where gold is plentiful. The land of Nod is located east of this place, where the son of this place’s former inhabitants was sent to live. According to a certain holy text, this place is currently guarded by cherubim and a flaming sword in order to protect the Tree of Life. For 10 points, name this earthly paradise that was the original home of Adam and Eve.

ANSWER: Garden of **Eden** [prompt on Paradise]

5. **This religious writer composed a song about how wonderful it is to “hunt, sing, and dance” with friends so that “God be pleased, thus live will I.” A longer text by this author is usually published alongside an oration by Mr. John Clark which praises its eloquence. Shortly before citing Hugo de Sancto Victore, this writer argued that because Jesus said “This is My Body” and not “My Body is in this,” that (\*)** transubstantiation should be true doctrine. This author of the folk song “Pastime in Good Company” also wrote the treatise *Defense of the Seven Sacraments* which resulted in this man being named “Defender of the Faith” by Pope Leo X. For 10 points, name this English king who beheaded some people and left the Catholic Church in order to marry Anne Boleyn.

ANSWER: **Henry VIII** of England [prompt on Henry]

6. **Shia Muslims in this country conduct the Mourning of Muharram by building tall, colorful sculptures and then throwing them into the sea as part of the *tabuik* festival. Religious education in this country is largely handled through instructors called kyai [KYA-ee] who teach at boarding schools called *pesantren*. The annual human migration of (\*)** *mudik* takes place during Lebaran, which is this country’s name for Eid al-Fitr. Leaders of this country are required to be monotheists due to the state philosophy of Pancasila. For 10 points, name this most populous Muslim country in the world which contains islands like Sulawesi, Sumatra, and Java.

ANSWER: **Indonesia** [or **Republic of Indonesia**; or **Republik Indonesia**]

7. **Cornel West praised this thinker for being explicitly Marxian and called him relevant “even in the Age of Obama” as part of an introduction to a new edition of a book by this man. This writer claimed that “no society has ever achieved peace without incorporating injustice into its harmony” in his magnum opus. Until 2017, former FBI Director James Comey’s private twitter account remained hidden because he used this man’s name as a (\*)** pseudonym. This author of *Moral Man and Immoral Society* wrote a prayer asking for God to give “serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.” For 10 points, name this American theologian and brother of Helmut Richard who pioneered the school of Christian realism.

ANSWER: Reinhold **Niebuhr** [Karl Paul Reinhold **Niebuhr**]

8. **Bart Ehrman compared this book’s arguments to Plato’s allegory of the cave and noted that because this book lacks a prescript it likely began as a spoken homily. This book’s author warns people that “it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” The eleventh chapter of this book describes faith as “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” before describing instances of faith from the Old (\*)** Testament. This book uniquely describes Jesus as a “high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne,” and argues that Jesus is owed tithes as the rightful heir to Melchizedek, who blessed the descendants of Abraham. For 10 points, name this epistle of the New Testament that is addressed either to converted Christians or to the Jewish community.

ANSWER: Epistle to the **Hebrews**

9. **A famous quote describes how belief returns to this city just as a snake returns to its burrow. A woman named Rayhana from this city eventually married a man who had ordered most of her relatives here killed. Friendly residents of this city were known as Ansar, in contrast with the visiting Muhajirun. A building in this city was formerly the only place to contain a mihrab on two (\*)** different walls. The Banu Qurayza was exterminated after threatening to betray the defense of this city during the Battle of the Trench. Phrases like “O ye who believe!” are characteristic of surahs revealed in this city after the Hijra. For 10 points, name this Arabian city which Muhammad fled to after he was expelled from Mecca.

ANSWER: **Medina** [or **Yathrib**]

10. **Priests from this ethnic group would experience possession by spirits in order to discover the reason for unusual behavior as part of the practice of Veriyatal. Ancient literature of this ethnic group often honors a red god on a blue peacock who is most favored by these people. These people who venerate the god Murugan prepare a dish of rice boiled in milk and jaggery during their solar festival of (\*)** Thai Pongal. The language of this ethnic group was used to write the Five Great Epics. In ancient times, these people were ruled by three dynasties named Pandya, Chera, and Chola. For 10 points, name this Dravidian ethnic group from southeastern India and northeastern Sri Lanka.

ANSWER: **Tamil**s [or **Tamilar**; or **Tamilans**; or **Tamiẓarkaḷ**]

11. **This spiritual leader reassured a soldier who had killed many people by telling him that all the people he killed were actually the offspring of wolves. Because this man was accused of sorcery by enemies who scattered hair and fingernails in his house, followers of this man dispose of those substances by burying them. A religious leader named Bradres is sometimes identified as this person’s assassin. This person had a vision while bathing of (\*)** Vohu Manah, which inspired this man to begin teaching the conflict between asha and druj. The religion founded by this man is concerned with the destructive spirit Angra Mainyu and the creator Ahura Mazda. For 10 points, name this founder of a dualistic ancient Persian religion.

ANSWER: **Zoroaster** [or **Zarathustra**]

12. **A Greek version of this religious text was among those read by Alonzo Typer during the events of his mysterious disappearance. Another notable copy of this book was disguised as the *Qanoon-e-Islam* and was found in the possession of Joseph Curwen, the resurrected ancestor of Charles Dexter Ward. A horrified crowd watched as an invisible monster tore apart this book’s author, Abdul (\*)** Alhazred. A rhymed couplet from this text states that “That is not dead which can eternal lie / And with strange aeons even death may die,” likely referring to ancient gods such as Yog-Sothoth and Cthulhu. For 10 points, name this fictional religious text from the writings of H. P. Lovecraft.

ANSWER: ***Necronomicon*** [or *Kitab* ***al-Azif***]

13. **A recent unsourced edit to Wikipedia that was *not* made by Vasa Clarke identifies chaplain Michael Smith as a leader of this religion. The use of encrypted scriptures are a key feature of a religion with this name, which began after the unexpected pregnancy of Technical Sergeant Ruby Goldenberg. Trinity Broadcasting Network stopped airing programs produced by Jack Van Impe after he accused Robert Schuller and Rick (\*)** Warren of following this syncretic religion. The denominations of Oke-Tude and Ifeoluwa are examples of this religion among the Yoruba people. Prominent writers on this religion include Arthur C. Clarke, with his novel *The Hammer of God*, and Auroni Gupta, with a tossup he wrote for the 2014 Tricon side event. For 10 points, identify this portmanteau of the two largest Abrahamic religions which may or may not actually exist.

ANSWER: **Chrislam**

14. **This leader was criticized for seeking the deportation of Patricia Fox, a nun who visited some political prisoners. In 2015, this person became the latest to accuse disgraced Jesuit Mark Falvey of child abuse. A public prayer for the healing of this man was offered by Archbishop Socrates Villegas after this man asked “Who is this stupid God?” in public. Pope Francis accepted an (\*)** apology from this public figure for calling the pope a “son of a whore.” This leader, who believes that three million Jews were killed in the Holocaust, has vowed to kill the same number of drug dealers in his country, continuing his policies as former mayor of Davao City. For 10 points, name this eccentric and highly controversial president of the Philippines.

ANSWER: Rodrigo Roa **Duterte** [or **“Rody” Duterte**; or **Digong**]

15. **In a gnostic text, this figure correctly interpreted the first repentance of Pistis Sophia using an allegory from Psalm 68. *The Golden Legend* describes how this figure’s miraculous intercession allowed a child to survive for several years nursing at the breast of its dead mother. This person is instructed in the Gospel of John “do not touch me, for I have not yet ascended” after this person became the first witness to the (\*)** resurrection of Jesus. This person was described in the New Testament as having had seven demons driven from her. Despite popular misconceptions, this person was likely not a penitent sinner nor a former prostitute. For 10 points, name this female Biblical character who in many works of fiction is depicted as the lover or wife of Jesus.
ANSWER: **Mary Magdalene** [prompt on Mary]

16. **This group’s “cultic sites” were analyzed by Scott Langston, who studied the etymology of cities controlled by this group such as Kephirah and Ramah. This group was described as a “ravenous wolf” which devours prey in the morning and divides the spoils in the evening. The men of this group are said to have taken new wives after the town of Jabesh-Gilead was wiped out. A civil war in Israel was sparked by members of this tribe murdering a (\*)** concubine from the Tribe of Levi, resulting in this tribe being massacred at Gibeah. The namesake of this tribe was named “son of my sorrow” by his dying mother and was accused of stealing a silver cup while in Egypt. For 10 points, name this Israelite tribe descended from the youngest son of Jacob.

ANSWER: **Benjamin** [or **Binyamin**; or **Benoni**]

17. **Among the Dogon people of West Africa, the appearance of one of these objects is commemorated with the creation ceremony of Sigui. Traditional Chinese religion assigns one of these things the name Tai Sui to predict the events of the coming year. The Book of Abraham describes how the Urim and Thummim were used to view one of these objects named (\*)** Kolob, which Mormons believe is sacred to God. Psalm 147 describes how God has the power to name and number these things. A prophecy describes an object of this type that will come “out of Jacob” with a scepter to smite Moab and destroy the sons of tumult. For 10 points, name these heavenly bodies, one of which appeared over Bethlehem during the birth of Jesus.

ANSWER: **star** [do not accept “planet” despite the failure of ancient astronomers to distinguish between different kinds of lights in the sky, as all of these clues refer to objects identified as stars in primary sources]

18. **A historical essay by Jonathan Z. Smith which is titled for “[this substance] Everywhere” confidently asserts that this substance is produced by a tamarisk parasite. In the Book of Revelation, Jesus promises to give a white stone and some of this valuable substance to whomever overcomes in the Church of Pergamum. This substance was preserved as a reminder to future generations in a golden (\*)** jar with the Ark of the Covenant. This stuff would start to decompose if people gathered more than they needed, and after the Israelites ate the food of Canaan this substance stopped appearing. For 10 points, name this white powdery substance that apparently tastes like honey, which was provided to the Israelites as they journeyed through the desert.

ANSWER: **manna**

19. **Renovation of this landmark controversially resulted in the inadvertent destruction of the Sheikh Eid Mosque. The Shaw Commission investigated a 1929 riot that began with a march to this location. A tunnel which runs along this landmark can be exited at its far end near the Struthion Pool. Women have been restricted from visiting this place although recent court cases have allowed them the use of the neighboring structure at (\*)** Robinson’s Arch. Worshippers at this place have for centuries placed notes into the crevices of this landmark and have mourned the destruction of a nearby building. For 10 points, name this holy site that is the only surviving structure from the Second Temple in Jerusalem.

ANSWER: **Western Wall** [or **Wailing Wall**; or Ha**Kotel** HaMa’aravi; or el-**Mabka**; or al-**Buraq**; prompt on answers such as Jerusalem until mentioned]

20. **This activity is classically divided into three forms depending on whether the subject lies upon a bed of straw, lies upon the bare ground, or stands upright like a tree. Stone monuments called *Nishidhi* are used to mark where people have performed this action. The hill of Chandragiri is reportedly located where Chandragupta Maurya and his teacher did this activity together. People who undertake this practice may face sanctions under Section 309 of the Indian Penal Code, although prosecution is rarely carried out. This act is considered the ultimate expression of (\*)** ahimsa by an ascetic religion divided into Svetambara and Digambara sects. For 10 points, name this practice from Jainism in which a person with no further responsibilities begins a fast that lasts until their death.

ANSWER: **sallekhana** [or **santhara**; or **samlehna**; prompt on answers such as “fasting” until mentioned; prompt on answers such as “suicide” or “starving to death”]