The problem of evil in comparison with other religions and world views.

Question: The preparation for Week OT 3 suggested choosing one of the religions listed and explain how they each deal with the problem of evil. ***Are we still to do this?*** And we were to compare with Judeo-Christian approach.

It seems to me the question here is whether it would be good still to do this. If that's the question, the answer is, yes. Let me deal with the issue behind the assignment. Your question gives me the excuse to do that! ☺

All three weeks OT 2, OT 3 and OT 4, tee up the question. The problem of evil is a big part of the reason we have this section of the Bible. God made all things good—very good. He made humans all good and able to keep themselves that way. So why did the world get all messed up? Why did it all "disintegrate?"

The end of OT 4 (p. 7-8) presents the three possible responses to the question of evil:

Three possible kinds of answers:

1. **Stuff happens**—in other words that's just the way the world is—a self-generated world has to accept that good and evil exist side by side, like ying and yang.

2. **It's God's fault**—He made the world wrong.

3. **Humans caused the fall. ADAM's MUTINY** puts the world, including nature, in a mutiny against God's Project. This is the biblical (Judeo-Christian) answer.

   Romans 5. 12—and other passages express explicitly what Genesis 1-3 describes: *just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people* **. . .**

So we live in a world where other people have their religions and philosophies. So how do they answer the question of evil? Do their answers fall under one of the categories above? I would think it would be interesting to know. Maybe in some of the classes there will be opportunity to report.

The questions are sometimes meant to get students who want to go further up and further in to do that on their own. If we have time, we can have a discussion? Would you like that?