

# Japanese of Japan



## Religions in Japan (2010 census)

- Buddhism 69.59%
- Other 23.70%
- Non-religious 5%
- Christianity 1.54%
- Islam 0.02%

## Population (2010 census)

- Japan: 126,995,411
- Japanese in Japan: 120,991,000
- Japanese worldwide: 125,002,900

## Peoples

- Japanese 98.5%
- Korean 1.5%
- Chinese 0.3%
- Filipino 0.3%

## Location

Japan is an East Asia nation located in the Pacific Ocean and comprises of 6852 islands. Honshu, Kyushu, Shikoku and Hokkaido are the largest and prominent islands of Japan. It lies in the Pacific Ring of Fire, it has 108 active volcanoes and is highly prone to volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes. Tokyo, the capital city of Japan, is one of the prominent economic centers of the world.

## About the Japanese of Japan

Racially, culturally, and ethnically, the Japanese are one of the most homogenous people groups in the world. They identify themselves in terms of biological heritage, birth in Japan, a shared culture, and a common language. Japan's economy is based on a competitive market/private enterprise system. Many families farm as a secondary occupation. Japan's own leaders called it "a superpower without a moral compass". This is the most notable among young people, who struggle with social anxiety, a suicide epidemic, and teenage prostitution.

## What are their beliefs?

Shintoism is the native religion of Japan. It is rooted in animism (belief that non-living objects have spirits). Today, most Japanese claim to be both Shintoist and Buddhist. Scores of new religions are started each year- many based on the occult, worship of extraterrestrial aliens and so on.

## Gospel Work

Japan is the largest unevangelized nation that is completely open to missionaries. Yet, due to spiritual, socio-cultural, linguistic and financial difficulties, becoming an effective minister of the gospel is a long, hard process of adaptation. Japan Evangelical Missionary Association is a coordination body for the 46 missions organization representing over 1,100 missionaries. In no other country of the world is literature more appropriate for evangelism because they are a highly literate, reading, commuting society.

## Praying for the Japanese

- Materialism, dominates the ambition of most younger people. Pray that God would open the eyes of younger people to see their need for Him.
- One of the main things Japanese people seek in Eastern religion is peace. Pray that they will experience peace in their souls that only can come from a relationship with Christ.
- Ask the Lord to raise up more long term missionaries and Christian expats who are willing to love and serve the Japanese people.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Japanese toward Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel

## Scripture Verses for Prayer

Even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save. [Isaiah 46:4]

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. [Acts 4:12]

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. [2 Peter 3:9]