



JEWISH SECTS IN JESUS'S DAY



	WHO THEY WERE	HOW THEY VIEWED SCRIPTURE	HOW THEY VIEWED THE MESSIAH
Essenes	Sect of Jews who lived in the wilderness, practiced communal living, ritualistic diets, and did not worship in the temple. They were formed roughly 100 BC and were not mentioned by name in the New Testament.	They were devoted to studying Scripture. Many scholars attribute the Dead Sea Scrolls to the Essenes.	They believed the Messiah would be a teacher of righteousness but only a man, perhaps a high priest.
Pharisees	Sect of Jews who emphasized personal holiness. Divided into two schools of thought based on the teachings of two influential rabbis: Shammai (more strict interpretation of laws) and Hillel (more liberal view of the law).	They had a high view of Scripture, believing Jews should keep all 600+ laws of the Mosaic Covenant. They also believed the Law (first five books) and the Prophets were inspired by God. Yet they also held traditions as equal to Scripture. They affirmed the resurrection.	They believed the Messiah would be a descendant of David who would keep the law, convert the Gentiles, and overthrow Rome. They rejected Jesus as the Messiah because He did not uphold their traditions (Mark 7:1-13) and claimed He was the Son of God (Matthew 26:63-68).
Sadducees	A wealthy and aristocratic set of Jews, they were connected with the temple in Jerusalem and held the majority on the Sanhedrin. They were political, often in league with Rome.	They believed only the Law of Moses (first five books) was inspired by God. They believed God was unconcerned with everyday lives. They did not believe in angels or the resurrection.	They did not believe in a Messiah as we know it. They were unconcerned about Jesus until they feared He would upset their relationship with Rome (John 11:47-48; 19:12-15).
Zealots	Judean Jews who wanted to throw off Roman rule. Zealots overtook Jerusalem in AD 66 but fled to Masada in AD 70 when Rome destroyed Jerusalem.	They believed much of what the Pharisees taught but were extremists who believed only God should rule the Jews.	They believed the Messiah would be a military leader who would defeat Rome and set up God's kingdom in Israel.

ITEM 13

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