

P.M. OUTLINE
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JEWISH SECTS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

INTRODUCTION

"Sect" - (W.E. Vine) "denotes a predilection for a particular truth, or a perversion of one, generally with the expectation of personal advantage; party; faction; a division.

When Paul appeared before Governor Felix at Caesarea, the high priest Ananias and his company from Jerusalem were represented by a lawyer named Tertullus, and he gave evidence against Paul by calling Christianity a sect. (Acts 24:1-22 (v5, v14))

1. SCRIBES / LAWYERS

Scribe - (Greek: Grammateus) a man of letters, a teacher of the law. In the O.T. a scribe was a writer at dictation, a secretary, legal document writer. (Jer. 36:4, 18, 32)

NT references: (Mark 1:22; Matthew 21:15; Matt. 16:21; Luke 11:52)

"Scribes, Pharisees, hypocrites" - (Matthew 23:2, v14, v15, v23, v25, v27, v29)

2. PHARISEES

Pharisees - (W.E. Vine) "to separate; different manner of life from general public."
(Acts 26:5) "the strictest sect of our religion"

NT references: (Matt. 3:7; 9:14; 16:6; 22:15; 23:1-36; Luke 6:7; 18:9-12)

(Acts 23:6-8) We distinguish them by: "Fair-you-see" and "Sad-you-see"

3. SADDUCEES

Sadducees - "ones who sympathize with Zadok" based on their link to the high priest, Zadok and formed into a party about 200 BC as the priest's party.

NT references: (Matt. 3:7; 16:1, v6; 22:23-33; Acts 4:1-2, 5:17-18, 23:6-10)

4. ZEALOTS

Zealots - (Josephus) the zealots began with Judas (the Galilean), who led a revolt in 6 AD because of a census done for tax purposes. (i.e. Acts 5:37)
(W.E. Vine) "an extreme section of the Pharisees, bitterly antagonistic to the Romans.

NT references: (Luke 6:14-15 and Acts 1:13) "Simon the Zealot"

5. HERODIANS

Herodians - political action group; supported the Herods of the NT.

NT references: (Matt. 22:15-22; Mark 3:6, 8:15, 12:13-17)

6. **ESSENES** - not mentioned in NT; cliff-dwellers; ascetic life; monastic.

7. **NAZARITES** - (Numbers 6:1-21) gives the regulations for the vow.

Samson (Judges 13:5) and perhaps Paul (Acts 18:18 and (Acts 21:20-23))