

Jewish Religious and Political Groups

	Pharisees	Sadducees	Scribes <i>("Teachers of the Law")</i>	Herodians
Religious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservative religious leaders of the Jews; name means "separatist" ▪ Advocated strict adherence to the law and "traditions of the elders" ▪ Especially concerned with laws on tithing, ritual purity, and the Sabbath 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Observed the written "law of Moses" and rejected the traditions of the Pharisees ▪ Did not believe in the resurrection of the dead, immortality, heaven, or angels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Experts in Mosaic law ▪ Studied, interpreted, taught, and ruled on matters of the law ▪ Originally were public writers, secretaries and copiers of the law; given a high place alongside the high priest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (Looked on as a political rather than a religious party)
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Many were ordinary people and enjoyed popular support ▪ Separated themselves from Gentiles and other Jews because of their need to maintain purity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Political party of the privileged and wealthy, included most powerful members of priesthood ▪ Not as popular with the people ▪ Actively opposed early Christians during Acts period (Acts 5:17,18,27-33) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People of all classes and occupations, most belonged to the Pharisee party ▪ Held positions in government and education ▪ Highly esteemed by the people; addressed as "rabbi" (master, teacher) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generally men of influence and standing
Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nationalistic zeal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cooperative with Roman rule ▪ Wanted to maintain order to preserve their privileged positions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nationalistic zeal ▪ Scribes held an office, were not a religious or political party 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jewish political party that supported Herod and favored the friendship of Rome ▪ Pro Greek and Roman sympathies
Biblical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>"They tie up heavy loads and lay them on men's shoulders;...they do all their deeds to be noticed by men."</i> (See Matt 23:2-7; 25-28) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God."</i> (See Mark 12:18-27) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>"...on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness."</i> Matt 23:28 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me?"</i> Matt 22:18