

MACCABEAN REVOLT

- Revolt of the Maccabees (167-164)
- Mattathias and 5 sons of Modlin. Most famous is Judah (Judas) Maccabee (the Hammer)
- Series of successful guerrilla campaigns. Many followed.

THE ROMAN EMPIRE AT THE TIME OF JESUS' BIRTH



BIRTH OF THEOLOGIES AND FACTIONS

The Maccabean period generates:

- Apocalyptic theology and spirituality
- Sects and factions
- Resentment and combativeness against being ruled by pagan powers
- Intense Messianic expectations

WHAT IS APOCALYPTIC?

- Most Jewish theology during the 1st century BC and 1st century AD was apocalyptic in nature, and this genre is taken up by the NT writers.
- Apocalyptic is revelatory literature—God's hidden plan. A peek into the invisible world.
- Gives meaning to contemporary events as well as hope and courage to suffering believers.

APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE: LITERATURE OF THE OPPRESSED

- Forces of light against forces of darkness. God's re-conquest of the world.
- Vindication of both God's justice and the faith of the believer.

SADDUCEES

- Religious conservatives—rejected oral law and traditions.
- Called for a return to the written Torah.
- Rejected resurrection of the dead.
- Upper classes.
- Many were priests, but not all priests were Sadducees.
- Emphasized the need for Jews to be involved in Temple worship.



PHARISEES

- Receive incredibly bad press in the Gospels-this reflects the post 70 AD struggles and not necessarily the time of Jesus.
- No real independent political power.
- Followed both oral and written traditions.
- Resurrection of dead and existence angels.
- Pious lay group- enable ordinary person to observe the law.
- Highly respected as those who preserved and defended Judaism.
- Josephus and Saul of Tarsus
- Similarity with Jesus



SONS OF LIGHT: ESSENES



- Probably authors or owners of the Dead Sea Scrolls.
- Monastic like community.
- Withdrew to desert
- Saw temple and its priesthood as corrupt.
- Teacher of Righteousness.
- Very apocalyptic in nature
- Read scriptures as modern fundamentalists do
- Hyper-purity and rigorist observation of the Torah.
- Sons of Light-Sons of Darkness.
- Similarity with John the Baptist

SCRIBES

- Interpreters and the teachers of the Law.
- Closely affiliated with Pharisees, but also associated with Sadducees.
- Not a religious party
- Jewish scholars who assisted in preserving the religious traditions through writing and recounting the faith traditions.



ZEALOTS

- Rebellious movement, militant
- Sought to restore Jewish independence
- Foreign control and subsequent payment of taxes considered blasphemy
- Responsible for outbreak of violence against Rome- A.D. 66-70 and resulting destruction of Temple in 70 A.D.
- Sicari: a group called such because of the knives they used in assassinations.

