

THE FOUR SECTS OF JUDAISM ACCORDING TO JOSEPHUS

Review the descriptions below and match the candidate to their sect!

Essenes- Jewish religious sect, which, like the Pharisees and Sadducees, flourished during the last two centuries B.C.E. and up to the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 C.E. The origin of the name: some scholars have derived it from the Syriac *hasya* meaning pious. They were an exclusive people who abstained from Temple worship in Jerusalem and believed in the soul living on in the after life. The Essenes were also known for voluntarily living in poverty and performing water purification rituals. The Essenes devoted much of their time to studying and were stricter than the Pharisees in regards to the Sabbath. This group was reported to have avoided marriage and often led a celibate life. Immersion and joining the sect proved to be very difficult and required an extensive trial period along with many vows, oaths and pledges. They were also opposed to the current corrupt Temple in Jerusalem. After the destruction of the Temple, the Essenes seemed to have disappeared.

Pharisees- Along with the Sadducees, they were one of the two largest sects in Israel during the two centuries prior to the destruction of the Second Temple in the year 70 C.E. The Pharisees were the most popular sect in Judea. They were involved in government, in community and in the religious practices. This was a sect that was supported by the masses as a whole. They believed in a combination of fate and free will and that the soul is indestructible. In the afterlife, the Pharisees believed that the evil would be punished for their sins and the good be rewarded and so acted accordingly. As community members they focused on fellowship meals and followed the written and oral of Torah. This group did not live peacefully with the Sadducees. The Pharisees were the only group to recover from the events in the years of 66-70 C.E. and developed the rabbinic movement which eventually became the normative tradition of Judaism.

Sadducees- The word Sadducee is thought to be derived from Zadok, Solomon's High Priest. The sect was drawn from priestly, aristocratic, and military circles. Were often accused of being boorish and rude at times in their pursuit of wealth and higher social standing. Most Hellenized of all the sects. Believed that God is not actively involved with the world and far removed from evil. This group believed that human beings have complete free will. They dismissed the idea of a soul living after death and punishment in the next world. They rejected Oral law and focused instead on Temple worship.

Zealots (also known as the Fourth Philosophy)- The most important trait for this group was their passion for liberty. They also showed real zeal for God. The Zealot must act on behalf of God or the Lord will punish the whole nation. Zealots will kill or root out all offenders! Some of the so-called Sicarii, a sub-group of the Zealots, were famous for doing their killing with a dagger. Josephus described them as a bunch of bandits and robbers. He opposed this group and the feeling was mutual. The Zealots spoke of Josephus as being a traitor. The most famous story involving the Fourth Philosophy was their stand atop the mountain of Masada. In this story, eight hundred Jews committed suicide rather than being taken alive by the Romans.

Who is Bachelor #1?

Who is Bachelor #2?

Who is Bachelor #3?

Who is Bachelor #4?