

Pharisees



- Their origin is uncertain.
 - The name “Pharisee” means “the separated one, separatists.”
 - Not mentioned in the Old Testament.
 - The name first appears during the reign of John Hyrcanus (135 B.C.) during the Intertestamental Period during the Maccabean Period.
 - They are mentioned dozens of times in the New Testament.
 - Josephus says that at their zenith of popularity they numbered more than 6,000.
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- Strict religious group of Jews who advocated minute obedience to the Jewish law and traditions.
 - Very influential in the synagogues.
 - They formalized the religion of the Scribes and placed it into practice.
 - Believed in the resurrection of the body, Heaven, Hell, the existence of angels and spirits.
 - Rejected Jesus’ claim to be the Messiah because:
 1. He did not follow their traditions.
 2. He associated with notoriously wicked people.