Pharisees

- 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.

- 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 Intertestimental 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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