Scribes were a class of learned men who made the systematic study of the law and its exposition their professional occupation.

The scribes of pre-exilic days were public writers, governmental secretaries, and copiers of the law as well as other documents. Ezra being the most notable.

The majority of the scribes belonged to the Pharisee party. Some were Sadducees.

Zealous defenders of the law and true teachers of the people.

Were called “rabbi” meaning “My master, or my teacher.”

Were known as lawyers. Because of their legal knowledge, scribes were often called upon to serve as judges in Jewish courts.

The decisions of leading scribes became oral law, or “tradition.”

Where details were lacking in the law they filled in with things designed to safeguard the law. Thus, they loaded the people with “burdens grievous to be borne.” (Luke 11:46; Matthew 23:3)

It has been said that it took a scribe about a year to make one copy of the Jewish Scriptures.