

Scribes

- 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

