

Social Studies

For 10<sup>th</sup> EBG

Teacher:

Mauricio Torres

# THE PHARISEES

From a Jewish point of view





*"Be not grieved, my son. There is another way of gaining ritual atonement, even though the Temple is destroyed. We must now gain ritual atonement through deeds of loving-kindness."*

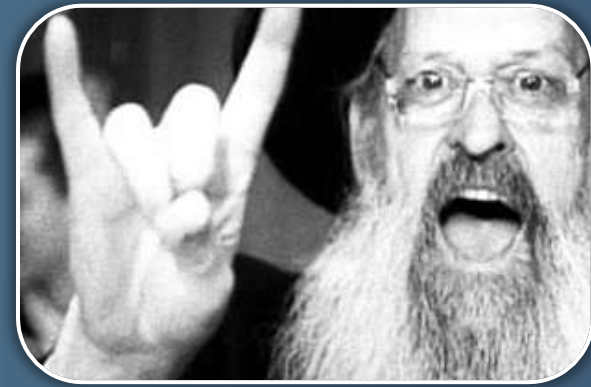
**Rabbi Yohannan ben Zakkai**

# Introduction



- Background
- Who were they?
- Characteristics / What did they represent?
- Comparing them to other Jewish sects of the era
- Roman Era
- What is their legacy?
- Christian view on Pharisees

# Background



- After the exile, Israel's monarchical form of government (*Saul, David, Solomon, etc*) had become a thing of the past; in its place the Jews created a community which was half State, half Church.
- Such was the state of things in the third century when the newly introduced **Hellenism** threatened Judaism with destruction.
  - The more *zealous* among the Jews drew apart calling themselves **Chasidim** or "pious ones".
- In the violent conditions during the Maccabean wars these "pious men", sometimes called the *Jewish Puritans*, became a distinct class:
  - They were called Pharisees

# Who were they?



- A politico-religious sect or faction among the adherents of later Judaism, that came into existence as a class:
  - *“those who separated themselves from the heathen, and from the heathenizing forces and tendencies which constantly invaded the precincts of Judaism”.*
- Owing to their heroic devotedness their influence over the people became great and far-reaching, and in the course of time they, instead of the priests, became the sources of authority.

# Characteristics



- Monotheistic:
  - "Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God; the Lord is one."
- Pharisees believed that people have *free will* but that God also has *foreknowledge* of human destiny.
- During these persecutions of Antiochus, the Pharisees became the most rigid *defenders* of the Jewish religion and traditions.
- Pharisees also believed in the **resurrection of the dead** in a future, *messianic* age.



# Pharisees and other Jewish sects

- **Sadducees:**

- They were a *sect* or group of Jews that were active in Judea starting from the second century BC through the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD.
- The sect was identified with the upper social and economic class of Judean society.
  - One can discern that the Pharisees represented **mainstream Judaism** in the Hellenistic world, while the Sadducees represented a more **aristocratic elite**
- As a whole, the sect fulfilled various political, social, and religious roles, including maintaining the Temple.
- The Pharisees and the Sadducees are historically seen as *antitheses* of one another.

# Pharisees and other Jewish sects

	Pharisees	Sadducees	Essenes
<b>Social Class</b>	Common People	Priests, aristocrats	Unknown
<b>Authority</b>	“Disciples of the Wise”	Priests	“Teacher of Righteousness”
<b>Practices</b>	Application of priestly laws to non-priests	Emphasis on priestly obligations	Criticism of texts
<b>Attitude towards:</b>			
<b>Hellenism</b>	Selective	For	Against
<b>Hasmoneans</b>	Opposed usurpation of Monarchy	Opposed usurpation of priesthood	Personally opposed to Jonathan
<b>Afterlife</b>	Resurrection	None	Spiritual survival



# Roman Era



- After the conflicts with Rome (A.D. 66-135) Pharisaism became practically synonymous with Judaism.
  - The great Maccabean wars had defined Pharisaism: another even more terrible conflict gave it a final ascendancy (revolts against Rome). The result of both wars was to create from the second century onward, the type of Judaism known to the western world.
  - They were the only sect to survive Roman aggression.
- Following the destruction of the Temple, Rome governed Judea through a Jewish **Patriarch** and levied the **Fiscus Judaicus** (*special tax on the Jews*).
  - **Yohanan ben Zakkai**, a leading Pharisee, was appointed the first Patriarch

# Legacy



- After the destruction of the Second Temple, these sectarian divisions ended.
  - The Rabbis claimed leadership over all Jews.
- Instead of sacrificing offerings at the (now-destroyed) Temple, the rabbis instructed Jews to give charity. Moreover, they argued that all Jews should study in local synagogues
  - Rabbinic Judaism eventually emerged as normative Judaism and in fact many today refer to Rabbinic Judaism simply as "Judaism."



# Timeline:

- Second Temple period in Jewish history

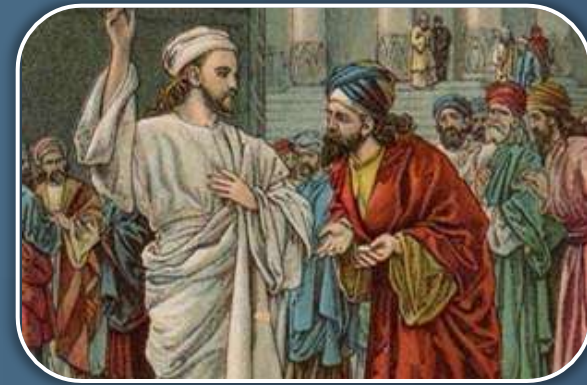
Babylonian Captivity	Alexander the Great takes over Judea	Maccabean Revolt	The Pharisees emerge	Roman general Pompey, captures Jerusalem.	Jewish-Roman wars.
597-537 BC	332 BC	167-165 BC	2 <sup>nd</sup> Century BC	63 BC	70 AD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jewish traditions change, and the monarchy ceases to exist.</li> <li>• Destruction of the Kingdom of Judea.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The region becomes Hellenized.</li> <li>• Judaism Becomes threatened.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Semi-independence of Judea and new sects are born within Judaism.</li> <li>• Hasmonean dynasty begins.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They succeed the Chasidim and become an important religious and political sect with Judaism.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rome takes over Judea and sacks Jerusalem.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second Temple is destroyed.</li> <li>• All sects, except for the Pharisees disappear.</li> <li>• They keep Jewish tradition alive through the Rabbis.</li> </ul>

# Why do we, Catholics, look at them under a negative light?



- Early Christianity was a Jewish sect, just as the Pharisees (St. Paul was a Pharisee!) and they contradicted each other on some issues.
- The Pharisees were those who persecuted Jesus even though, He shared many views with them.
  - Therefore, they were cast in a negative light which lasted on for centuries due to the fact that Phariseism later became **Rabbinic Judaism** (or simply, Judaism, in the way we know it today).

# Ask Yourself



- **Identify:**
  - Who was Yohanan ben Zakkai?
- **Define:**
  - Rabbinic Judaism, Fiscus Judaicus, mainstream Judaism, aristocratic elite, Hellenistic, Sadducees
- **Analyze:**
  - In what way did Phariseism survive?
  - Why did people follow and respect Pharisees?
- **Relate:**
  - How did the Maccabean Revolts influence the rise of Phariseism?
  - Why is Phariseism and the hatred towards the Jews related one to another?

# Resources

- Driscoll, J.F. (1911). **Pharisees**. In The Catholic Encyclopedia. New York: Robert Appleton Company. Retrieved June 18, 2013 from New Advent:  
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/11789b.htm>
- Source: Mitchell G. Bard, **The Complete Idiot's Guide to Middle East Conflicts**, NY: MacMillan, 1999.
  - Chart courtesy of **Prof. Eliezer Segal**.
- Images taken from [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)