



# THE “SILENT” YEARS

How the time between the Old and New Testament shaped the world of Jesus

*Participant Guide*

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WEEK 2: Who's Who: The People, Political Groups, and Social Groups of the Silent Years

## DIASPORA

- \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
- Refers to Jews living \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- By the time of Jesus, there were \_\_\_\_\_ as many Jews living outside of Israel as were living in it.
- They mainly spoke \_\_\_\_\_ and not Hebrew
- A Jewish Diaspora spread all over the Greek and Roman worlds, where synagogues attracted Gentile “\_\_\_\_\_”
- The Greek historian, Strabo (64 BC - AD24) said that it was hard to find a city where Jews had not settled.

## AM HA 'ARETZ

- “\_\_\_\_\_”
- Common Jewish people (some religious, some not)
- In Jesus' day, some were not overly concerned with \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Jew by \_\_\_\_\_ but not by \_\_\_\_\_)
- Some would even say they were “intentionally careless” about following Torah
- Luke 15:1-2 may represent this group
- After the time of Jesus, the term became an insult for someone who is \_\_\_\_\_

## HERODIANS

- \_\_\_\_\_ party (not religious group)
- Supporters of the \_\_\_\_\_ dynasty
- Sympathized with the policy of government of Herod and the social customs of Rome
- Aligned with \_\_\_\_\_ in submitting to Rome and supporting the Herods on the throne.

## **SAMARITANS**

- Israelite survivors of the \_\_\_\_\_ (722 BC) who intermarried with imported foreigners.
- Never reintegrated with Judah (southern Kingdom)
- Built their own temple on \_\_\_\_\_, which caused further disdain from the Jews.
- Samaritan temple destroyed by the Jews (Hyrcanus) in 128 BC
- Bible was \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen-Deut)
- In the time of Jesus, the Jews and Samaritans had a \_\_\_\_\_ for one another.

## **SADDUCEES**

- One of two main parties in the time of Jesus
- Made up of \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ party in charge of the \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ chosen from the Sadducees
- Dominant party of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Jewish ruling council)
- \_\_\_\_\_ by most Jews (no influence)
- Sought to stay on Rome's good side (\_\_\_\_\_)
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### **TEACHINGS OF THE SADDUCEES**

- Religiously conservative - only \_\_\_\_\_! (Gen-Deut)
- More known for what they \_\_\_\_\_ than what they \_\_\_\_\_.
- Denied a \_\_\_\_\_, angels, \_\_\_\_\_, and the Oral Tradition (teachings that resulted from a study of Torah).

## **A Few Passages...**

## PHARISEES

- One of two main parties
- Name means “\_\_\_\_\_”
- Main goal: Strict \_\_\_\_\_
- Saw it as their job to \_\_\_\_\_ the Law (God’s word) and keep it \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ among the Jewish people (influence)
- Resisted outside beliefs
- Placed a high value on strict \_\_\_\_\_ observance (food laws, etc) - led to a sense of \_\_\_\_\_ over “common” Jews

### TEACHINGS OF THE PHARISEES

- Twofold Law: The \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ Tradition (that resulted from a study of the Torah)
- “\_\_\_\_\_”—rules that would protect people from breaking the Law

## SCRIBES

- “\_\_\_\_\_”
- Professional students and guardians of the Law and traditions
- Worked out \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s Law for all occasions.
- Example: “Don’t work on the Sabbath”

### **A Few Passages...**

## ESSENES

- “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”
- Very strict group requirements
- Characterized by \_\_\_\_\_ from the world
- Lived in the \_\_\_\_\_ near the \_\_\_\_\_
- Strict discipline and purity
- Rejected the activities of \_\_\_\_\_ (corrupt)
- Rejected people \_\_\_\_\_ of their community
- Saw themselves as the “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”
- Committed to the diligent \_\_\_\_\_ and a strict adherence to the Law (even more strict than the \_\_\_\_\_)
- Responsible for the \_\_\_\_\_ (found in 1947)
- Mindset: “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”
- Waiting for \_\_\_\_\_ - priestly Messiah of Aaron and Messiah of Israel
- Waiting for \_\_\_\_\_ between the Sons of Light (them) and the Sons of Darkness (everybody else) when God would vindicate their faithfulness.

## ZEALOTS

- \_\_\_\_\_ fighters
- Sicarii or “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” (a splinter cell of zealots)
- Religiously motivated patriots / \_\_\_\_\_ —the people of God should not be subject to \_\_\_\_\_
- Motto: “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”
- Refused to accept Roman rule and pushed to \_\_\_\_\_ in Palestine
- Refused to \_\_\_\_\_ to Rome
- Initiated several \_\_\_\_\_ - willing to get violent if needed
- Apocalyptic mindset
- Mindset: “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

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ADDITIONAL NOTES: