

Assignment 9b

Discuss the following topics in at least one well-developed paragraph.

1. Who were the Maccabean leaders? Explain.
During the rule of Antiochus Epiphanes Jewish priest were ordered to make sacrifices at pagan alters. However, a priest name Mattathias, was very upset and killed the Syrian officer who presented him with this order. As a result, some of the Jews decided to protest this order. The leaders were Mattathias, and his sons Judas Maccabeus, Jonathan, and Simon
2. Who was Judas Maccabeus? Explain his role.
Mattathias' eldest son Judas was nicknamed Maccabeus and that his how the movement got its name. Judas was responsible for leading the revolts against the Syrians. In 162 B.C.E. Judas regained control of Jerusalem, removed all pagan signs of worship and rebuilt temple. Lastly, the priests could resume sacrificial offerings.
3. What did this group have to do with the establishment of the Pharisee sect of Judaism? Explain.
According to our text how the Pharisee sect first started is unknown. However, the Pharisees along with other Jewish sects of that time developed due to the renewed interest in Judaism. This was due to the victories and achievements made for Judaism because of the Maccabean revolt.
4. Who was the first Roman Emperor? Discuss
The first Roman Emperor was Julius Caesar. However, before he gained control of the Roman empire the First Triumvirate ruled it. The Triumvirate were rule by Pompey, Julius Caesar, and Crassus. It was Pompey who ascertained Roman rule in Judea. The first of the three rulers that were killed was Crassus during a battle. Julius Caesar obtained total control after he defeated Pompey in Greece.
5. Who was the second Roman Emperor? Discuss
The second Roman Emperor was Augustus (Octavian). He was part of the Second Triumvirate which included Antony and Lepidus. Octavian was the nephew of Julius Caesar who was an opponent of Marc Antony. Lepidus was not viewed as a threat by Octavian. So, Octavian was able to gain power after his forces defeated Marc Antony's. He ruled the Roman Empire from 31 B.C.E. to 14 C.E.
6. Who was emperor during the time of Jesus? When He was born? When He ministered?
During the birth of Jesus Augustus was the emperor of Rome and Herod the Great ruled over Jerusalem. Tiberius ruled during Jesus ministry and death.
7. What Roman Prefect was instrumental in the death of Jesus?
Pontius Pilate was the Roman Prefect who was instrumental in the death of Jesus.
8. How did the Hellenistic culture infiltrate Judaism? Explain.
Judaism was first infiltrated through the process of Hellenization. The process was used to assimilate foreign territories to the culture, religion, and mindset of

the ruling empire. This included outlawing practices such as Judaism and other practices that did not support the Roman Empire.

9. List the seven different groups of Judaism. Explain what each group represented and its effect on Jesus' ministry. The seven groups within Judaism are the Sadducees, Pharisees, Essenes, Zealots, Priests, Scribes, and the Jewish people. The *Sadducees* were conservative in their religious and political views. They viewed only the Hebrew Bible as significant.

The *Pharisees* were the religious traditionalists of the sects. They had a huge following there was desire was to see obedience to God in every area of life and not just the temple. They were layman who were against everything that Hellenism stood for.

The *Essenes* disliked the Sadducees and the Pharisees and believed that they were corrupt. So, they moved out of Jerusalem and lived an ascetic lifestyle.

The *Zealots* were a group of anti-Roman activists. One outcome of the prematurely ended uprising was the disassembling of the Jerusalem Christians that had just as of late appeared, and the scattering of its individuals far from Jerusalem. This was the finish of the early Christian activity to declare the Easter message to Aramaic-speaking Jews in Palestine.

The *Priests*, were recognized by their religious capacity. Some were part of the Sadducees, and Pharisees. The chief priests were wealthy and lived in Jerusalem. While the other priest resided in villages and other areas of outside of Jerusalem.

The *Scribes*, were known by the duties they performed like the priest were. The main function was to write copies of the Jewish Law. Eventually they were viewed as experts in interpretation and application of the law.

The Jewish People during the first-century did not belong to any of the groups previously mentioned. However, they were ruled and influenced and even burdened by them. They were made up of the lower class and consisted of peasants, farmers, merchants, laborers, fisherman, women, and slaves. They observed the Jewish traditions, regulations, and scriptures as they served God.

I believe these different sects made it easier for Jesus to minister because the people could not live up to the demands of the different sects. Because the Word of God is nullified because of the tradition of men.

10. What religion was dominant in the Graco-Roman world? What factors supported the acceptance of Christianity as a religion? During the time of the Greco-Roman world except for the Jews people were polytheistic in their beliefs. The most popular were the Greek mystery religions, cults from Egypt, Phrygia, and Tracia. Because the Greco-Roman world was a "cross-fertilization of religious ideas" Christianity was easily accepted.

