

Discussion: Sadducees and pharisees

The pharisees were rabbis who believed the temple was unnecessary and Torah was the most important aspect of Jewish life. They worshipped in synagogues, interpreted the Torah, and most notably, believed in the importance of oral law. This group believed that God gave us instructions orally at Mt. Sinai, and those laws were just as important as the laws written in the torah. The pharisees were the lower class citizens and lived in the worst conditions in Jerusalem. Finally, the pharisees didn't really like living under the roman rule. The pharisees Judaism is what we practice today, as we can't make sacrifices at the temple and instead, we worship in synagogues. The pharisees did not rely on the temple to structure their Jewish practice. They used the Torah to build their own interpretations for Judaism. The pharisees were a religious sect that opposed Jesus because they wanted to maintain their own power. Jesus rejected the way the pharisees were living and instead taught a higher law, inviting all to come unto him.

The Sadducees were the wealthy upper class, who were involved with the priesthood. They completely rejected oral law, and unlike the pharisees, their live revolved around the temple. The Sadducees job was to make sacrifices and maintain the temple's purity. Although the Sadducees were the most involved with the temple, they were also the most Hellenized Jews, and respected Greco-Roman civilization and rule. The Sadducees rejected Jesus and eventually supported his brutal crucifixion. They would go on to kill James, the brother of Jesus as well. Not only did they refuse to heed the warning of Jesus regarding their ignorance, it's likely that many of them pressed on and found themselves in hell upon death.

