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Week 2 DQ1: Sadducees And Pharisees

During the time of the second temple, the Pharisees were a Jewish political and religious organization. Ezra, whom the Pharisees revered after Moses, was hailed as the founding father of Judaism. All of their teachings were based on their belief in the Torah, and they preferred to submit to foreign rule over supporting an ungodly government at home as long as it did not interfere with their inner way of life. The name "Pharisees" refers to persons who have been isolated from the common people, such as those who forgo social interaction in order to maintain ceremonial purity. Their primary role was to preach and teach the word of GOD. They described GOD as the world's Creator and as the divine presence also known as "Theophany" in Hebrew and also in Greek. According to his actions, a man would either receive rewards or punishments in the end. As a result of the idea that man was accountable for his own deeds, the concept of divine punishment developed. The Pharisees held that the dead will one day rise from the grave. They acted in accordance with their conviction that the first five books of the Old Testament serve as a manual for how a person should live. All of their teachings revolved on the Torah. In both the Jewish and Greek regimes, they were quite influential. They rigidly enforced the sabbath rest, divorce, swearing allegiance, and donning of religious phylacteries and fringes. They cared more about appearances than they do with connecting to God and His character, if they had known God in that way, they would know that Jesus was sent by Elohim. For the many

miracles Jesus performed and the good He achieved would have been obvious to both parties had they had a genuine connection with God. If they had recognized Him as the only real Messiah, they would not have persecuted Him.