

Religious Sects and Political Groups

Logos Educator's Network

Religious Sects and Political Groups	
Hassideans "pious ones"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formed the core of the Maccabean Revolt.• Strictly obeyed the commandments• Divided into three main groups – Pharisees, Essenes and the Sadducees.
Pharisees "separated"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Struggled against the control of the corrupt priesthood.• A middle-class, religious political party "of the people."• Objected to Hellenization.
Essenes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refrained from marriage and relinquished all wealth.• Lived in monastic communities and rejected worship at the "polluted" temple.• Founded the community at Qumran (Dead Sea Scrolls).• Teacher of the Law was the interpreter.• They see themselves as "the voice crying in the wilderness."
Sadducees "Members of the supreme council."	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The religious party of the high priests, and upper class families.• They were tolerant of Hellenism and were in favor with the Roman rulers.• Denied the resurrection of the dead, the existence of angels and spirits, and life after death.• When the temple was destroyed in AD 70 the Sadducees disintegrated leaving the Pharisees to become the foundation of Orthodox Judaism.• They were the land owners.
Zealots	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Their religious zeal gave them their name.• They were extremely opposed to Roman rule and would not tolerate peace with Rome.• They refused to pay taxes and terrorized the Roman rulers.
High Priest/ Sanhedrin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jews were also ruled directly by their own high priest and the Sanhedrin (70 leaders).• Religious life centered in the temple and the synagogues (places of instruction)