

THE PHARISEES

1. Sources: JOSEPHUS, NEW TESTAMENT, RABBINIC LITERATURE.
2. Origins around the 2nd century BCE. Precise date is given as 167BCE.
3. Major contribution to Jewish life was the democratisation of religion.
4. Sources of inspiration were the written Torah and the Oral Torah. The Oral Law included interpretations on codes of conduct, rituals, worship, interpersonal relations, dietary laws, festivals, marital relations, and claims for damages.
5. Beliefs:
 - a). They believed in the afterlife and the resurrection.
 - b). They believed in the concept of the messiah.
 - c). They believed that the ritual purity laws should not be confined to the temple.
 - d). Their view of the judgment was similar to the Adventist view.
6. They had some wonderful sages such as Hillel who died around 10CE:

“That which is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow. That is the whole Torah; the rest is explanation; go and learn.”
7. After the destruction of the temple, the pharisees morphed into Rabbinic Judaism. The Oral law was committed to writing, the Mishnah. (Completed around 200CE). There was now an emphasis on the teachings of Moses, stressing prayer over sacrifice. The Sadducees disappeared completely.