

PERIOD BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS—SCRIBES, PHARISEES AND SADUCEES

I. INTRODUCTION.

- a. What happened during the 400+ years between the writing of the last book of the Old Testament and 1st book of New Testament?
- b. Persia, Greece, Rome and other countries (empires) ruled. Some were favorable to God's people and some were not.
- c. There are groups mentioned in the New Testament with little or no mention in the Old Testament.
- d. Such were the Scribes, the Pharisees and the Sadducees.

II. THE SCRIBES, PHARISEES AND SADDUCEES.

a. SCRIBES.

- i. Thought to have first appeared during the exile.
- ii. Though not considered a sect of the Jews—were quite influential.
- iii. Job was to study, interpret and copy the scriptures.
- iv. Because of their acquaintance with the law, gave rise to being called "lawyers".
- v. Scribes and Jesus—see Mk. 2:16, Matt. 15:1-3 and Matthew 23:1-3, 13, 14, and 23.

b. PHARISEES.

- i. ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT.
 - i. Likely grew out of Jewish conflict beginning with Babylonian Captivity.
 - ii. Name Pharisee means "separated" or "separated ones".
- ii. DOCTRINE AND CHARACTERISTICS.
 - i. Believed in angels, spirits and the resurrection.
 - ii. Very rigid, loyalists and self-righteous.
 - iii. Scrupulously tithed, even to giving of their wild herbs (Matt. 23:23)
 - iv. The Pharisee stood for "Synagogue, Rabbi and Prayer".
- iii. THE PHARISEES AND JESUS.
 - i. Objected to His association with sinners. (Matthew 9:10-11)
 - ii. Charged Him with breaking the Sabbath law. (Luke 6:1,11)
 - iii. Complained He disregarded their traditions. (Matthew 15:1,2)
 - iv. Charged Him with being a custom breaker. (Mark 2:18)
- iv. JESUS CHARGED PHARISEES WITH A MULTITUDE OF SINS.
- v. NOT ALL PHARISEES WERE HOSTILE TO JESUS (NICODEMUS, GAMALIEL).

c. SADDUCEES.

- i. ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT.
 - a. Possibly originated from the priestly group after exile.
- ii. DOCTRINE AND CHARACTERISTICS.
 - a. Did not believe in resurrection of the body, angels or spirits (Acts 23:8). They stood for temple, priest and sacrifice.
- iii. SADDUCEES AND JESUS.

III. CONCLUSION.