



JUDAISM

Judaism in the First Century

- ◇ Hellenized to varying extents in all its forms
- ◇ Varying “denominations” of 1st century Judaism
- ◇ Pharisees, a lay movement emphasizing purity and adherence to the Oral Torah
- ◇ Sadducees, Temple-oriented group emphasizing observance of Torah as written, cordial to Rome
- ◇ Dead Sea, a radical purity group emphasizing purified ideal Temple; separatists, Essenes (?)
- ◇ Rebels, an armed response to Roman occupation, theologically thin; “no king but God”
- ◇ Samaritans, keeping ancient form of Torah observance, with own Temple
- ◇ Ordinary people non-partisan, semi-observant
- ◇ Christians Gentile-inclusive, complex relations to Torah and Temple; comparable to Pharisees
- ◇ Destruction of Temple in 70 CE catalyzed change to a faith oriented toward prayer and way-of-life

“Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is One.”

Deuteronomy 6:4

“Judge not alone, for none may judge alone save One. And say not, ‘Receive my opinion,’ for it is for them to choose and not for thee.”

R. Ishmael son of Jose, *Pirkê Aboth* 4