



Jewish Groups in the Time of Jesus

See if you can successfully match the following 10 Jewish groups with their descriptions. (Check your answers in the key below.)

Assassins Essenes Herodians High Priest Pharisees
Publicans Sadducees Sanhedrin Scribes Zealots



1. _____ Disciplined group of religious Jews who rejected all worldly pleasures and personal wealth. They had high regard for hard work and a lifestyle of non-violence.



2. _____ The highest court in Israel with 71 members. It made the legal judgments concerning all civil, criminal, and religious matters of the Jews.



3. _____ Jewish businessmen who paid Rome for the privilege of collecting taxes. They became rich by overcharging their fellow Jews and keeping the extra money for themselves.



4. _____ Professional students of the Scriptures who taught and wrote interpretations of the Law of God. These scholars were called rabbis.



5. _____ Religious group of middle class Jews who oversaw the synagogues and schools. They were intent on leading Israel back to God through obedience to both the written Law and the traditions of the oral law.



6. _____ The leader in the Jewish religion who functioned as the head and president of the highest court.



7. _____ Jewish political party with religious beginnings. Its members refused to pay taxes and plotted to free Israel from her enemies through violence, force, and deception.



8. _____ Jewish political party whose members desired to keep the Roman government and King Herod in control over Israel.



9. _____ Jewish fanatics who hated Rome's rule over Israel so much that they often mingled in crowds to murder their enemies with hidden daggers — even if it meant killing Jews who supported Rome.



10. _____ Religious group of upper class Jews who controlled the high priest and oversaw the Jerusalem temple. They accepted the written Law only apart from the traditions, yet did not believe in the resurrection of the dead.

Answers: 1-Essenes, 2-Sanhedrin, 3-Publicans, 4-Publicans, 5-Pharisees, 6-High Priest, 7-Zealots, 8-Herodians, 9-Assassins, 10-Sadducees