



N.G. Carraway

Religious Jewish Groups Before and During the Time of Jesus

Beliefs and Lifestyle	Essenes	Pharisees	Saducees
Believed in the supernatural, such as angels and miracles?	Yes	Yes	No
Had legal and political influence?	Little to none	Sometimes	Yes
How to interpret the Old Testament?	By the writings of the Patriarchs, which the Essenes had preserved.	By their oral tradition; they said the old writings were lost.	Had no concern, they were not religious.
Education and lifestyle	Religious education and voluntary poverty	Successful Jewish businessmen and rabbis	Wealthy Jewish aristocrats
Admired/respected by the common people?	Yes	Sometimes	No
Calendar used	Their own solar calendar, which they believed was the <i>only</i> correct calendar. Their calendar went back to creation.	The 'Jewish' calendar based on the moon (but copied from the Babylon calendar).	They were not religious, so they used the Pharisee calendar for business.
Current year on their calendar, from creation (as of Jan 1, 2022)	5946, a new year will start in March.	5782, a new year will start in the fall.	N/A
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Believed and practiced prophecy?	Yes, it is reported that 100% of their prophecies came true. See the Essene Prophecy Chart.	Believed in prophecies from the 'old prophets', but did not believe prophesy continued into their time.	No
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