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## Political and Religious Groups Mentioned in the Bible

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### Biblical Topics—Political & Religious Groups

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|  | The Diaspora—the Jews scattered abroad because of the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities (Acts 2:5, 9-11)   |
|  | Epicureanism—a hedonistic philosophy developed by Epicurus (341-270 B.C.) (Acts 17:18)   |
|  | The Galileans—Jewish followers of a rebel named Judas of Galilee (Luke 13:1)   |
|  | The Hellenists—Greek-speaking Jews (Acts 6:1)  |
|  | The Herodians—a political dynasty from the family of Herod, deriving authority from the Roman government (Mark 3:6; 8:15; 12:13-17)                                      |
|  | The Levites—the descendants of Levi who had charge of the temple (John 1:19; Luke 10:32)   |
|  | The Libertines—a group of ex-slaves who apparently had their own synagogues in Jerusalem (Acts 6:9)  |
|  | The Nazarites—men taking a special religious vow as prescribed in Numbers 6 (Judg. 13:3-7; Luke 1:15)  |
|  | The Pharisees—the separatists, legalists, and guardians of both the written and oral law (Matt. 12:1-2; 23)  |
|  | The proselytes—Gentile converts to Judaism (Matt. 23:15; Acts 2:10; 13:43)   |
|  | The publicans—the state-appointed tax collectors of Roman revenue, widely disliked (Luke 3:13; 19:8; Matt. 9:9)  |
|  | The Sadducees—the aristocrats among the Jews, who denied belief in angels and the afterlife and believed only in the Torah (Mark 12:18; Luke 20:27)                      |
|  | The Samaritans—the hated half-Jew, half-Gentile people living between the provinces of Judea and Galilee (John 4:9; 8:48; Matt. 10:5; Luke 10:33; 17:16)                 |
|  | The Sanhedrin—the religious and legal Jewish Supreme Court (Matt. 26:65-66; 27:1-2)  |
|  | The scribes (also called lawyers)—the students, interpreters, and teachers of the Old Testament law (Matt. 16:21; 21:15; 23:2; 26:3)                                     |
|  | The Stoics—a group founded by the philosopher Zeno (c. 300 B.C.) who believed life's goal was to rise above all things and to show no emotion in either pain or pleasure |
|  | The Zealots—a group of Jewish patriots, fanatical defenders of theocracy and haters of the Romans (Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13)   |
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