

Who were the Pharisees/Pherushim?	True Torah Jews who guarded the Torah and the mesorah of Oral Torah.. The zuggot were their leaders. We are Pharisees today.
Who were the Sadducees/Tzidukim?	Followers of Rabbi Tzadok. They rejected the concepts of reward and punishment, Olam Habba, the fact that G-d cares about people, and the Oral Torah. They did not assimilate like the Hellenists, but hey adapted Judaism to their views. They took the Torah completely literally. Their religion was not spiritual at all, only physical.
Who were the Essenes?	A divergent group. They shunned physical pleasure in order to become holy. They followed extra strict laws not found in the written or Oral Torah. They stressed equality within the group. Some believe that they were the basis of Christianity.
How did Yehudah/Judah strengthen Judaism and help persecuted Jews?	Yehudah wanted to strengthen Judaism. However, he had to face Hellenist Jews in Yerushalayim and the persecution of the Jews in the north. He sent Shimon and Eleazar to kill their enemies and brought the oppressed Jews to Yerushalayim. They recaptured Chevron as well. This created a safer, better religious atmosphere and strengthened the community, so it could fight Hellenism.
How did Antiochous die?	He realized that the Maccabee rebels had taken over, then slowly began to recognize that his empire was crumbling, so he moved on to other fights. He grew sick, with a disease that make his limbs smelly before he lost them. Expressing regret to his advisors regarding how he had treated the Jews, he died. Antiochous V Eupater succeeded him.
What happened with Lysias?	The Hellenists sent a message to Syria, asking for help. Lysias, a general, came with many soldiers and elephants and attacked the Jews. The Jews thought that they would lose. However, Hashem helped them—Lysias found out that there was an uprising in Syria and signed a peace treaty with the Jews so he could go help in Syria. This is celebrated on the 28 of Shevat.
What happened with Demetrius I?	He declared himself king and executed Antiochous and Lysias. He then ignored the peace treaty with Yehudah. Alcimus (see box below) persuaded him to attack Jerusalem and oppress the Jews.
Who was Alcimus/Yakum?	A Hellenist Jew. He persuaded Demetrius to make him Kohen Gadol and to attack Jerusalem. He gloated to his uncle, Yossi ben Yoetzer, who was being hanged, saying, “You serve Hashem and are punished; I do not and am rewarded with this good life.” But his uncle told him, “If you, who does not do Hashem's will, is rewarded, there is a greater reward for those who do; and if I, doing Hashem's will, am punished, then you will receive a worse punishment for not doing His will”. Yakum realized what he had been doing and went and killed himself with the four types of Beis-din punishments.
What happened with Nikanor?	An Assyrian general, Nikanor attacked Israel during the Chanukah battles. He wanted to defeat the Jews, but he was the first to be killed in battle. His army fled after his death.
What happened when	He was killed in battle, and the Jews fled. They buried him in Modiin. The

<p>Yehudah died?</p>	<p>Hellenist party grew stronger after his death. Many Jews were executed in the struggles after he died.</p>
<p>Who was Jonathan/Yonatan?</p>	<p>He organized the military to fight against Syria. He was appointed Kohen Gadol by Alexander, which wasn't the right way to have Kohen Gadol chosen.</p>
<p>Who was Simon/Shimon?</p>	<p>He captured Acra (the center of Jewish Hellenist power) and persuaded Demetrius not to attack. He ruled over an era of Torah and peace. He never took the title of “King,” but is remembered as the first official Hasmonean dynasty. He is the father of Hyrcanus and the father-in-law of Ptolemy.</p>
<p>Who was John/Yochanan Hyrcanus?</p>	<p>Shimon's son. His sister married a man—Ptolemy—who killed Shimon and two of his sons (Yochanan's brothers) at a family gathering. He took Shimon's wife (Yochanan's mother) and held her hostage in his Yericho fortress and threatened to kill Shimon's wife unless he was given the throne. Yochanan, who had been saved because he wasn't present, took power and laid siege to the fortress. Before a conclusion was reached, Jerusalem was besieged by the Syrian Antiochous VII. Hyrcanus lifted the siege and defended Jerusalem; Ptolemy killed the queen and fled. Hyrcanus worked out a deal with Antiochous—silver and the redemption of hostages for lifting the siege. Hyrcanus went on to extend the borders of Israel. He drove out the Samaritans in the North and annexed their land, and forced the Edomites in the south to convert to Judaism. (This action was condemned by the Pharisee Rabbinic authority.) At the time, the Kohen Gadol served as a spiritual leader and the Nassi (who was Yehoshoua ben Pracha) as a political leader. Hyrcanus encouraged the power of the Sanhedrin; however, he later became a Sadducee.</p>
<p>Who was Aristobolous I?</p>	<p>The son of Hyrcanus who took the throne after him. He was the first to take the title of “King” and ruled for a year. Paranoid, he imprisoned one of his brothers and killed the other.</p>
<p>Who was Alexander Yannai?</p>	<p>After Aristobolous' death, his wife, Shlomit Alexandra/Shlomtzion Hamalka/Salome Alexandra, took the throne. Her brother-in-law, Alexander Yannai, married her (yibum) and became king. He first unified the Pharisees and Sadducees in order to lead his nation to war, expanding the borders until they were the size they had been when Shlomo was king. He was motivated to do this for the glory and improvement of Israel, but also by greed, for personal power and glory.</p>
<p>What type of conflict happened between Yannai and the Pharisees?</p>	<p>After the war, the Sadducees (Yannai was one) devised a plot to make him angry with the Pharisees. They (especially Elazar ben Poara (פּוֹרַא)) convinced Yannai, who wanted to be Kohen Gadol but wasn't allowed to by the Pharisees because it wasn't clear if he was eligible (his lineage as a Kohen was disputed), to hold a feast and wear the bigdei kehunah. He wore the tziz—the Kohen's headband—to the feast. The Pharisees told him to “take the crown of kingship and leave the crown of kehunah”. Elazar ben Poara told Yannai that this was a sign of rebellion. Yannai killed, tortured, and exiled the Pharisee sages. The Sadducees took control of the Sanhedrin, and succeeded in destroying the</p>

	<p>nation's level of Halacha, Torah, and spirituality. It came to a point where there was not even one fluent Jew (see story about Shimon ben Shetach and benstching in the next question).</p> <p>Yannai is also famous for pouring the water from Sukkot's nisuach hamayim service onto his feet instead of onto the mizbayach (because, as a Sadducee, he did not believe in this practice because it is not explicitly mentioned in the Torah). The people threw their esrogim at him in indignation. However, he had troops present, who killed 6,000 Jews.</p>
How did the Sadducee/Pharisee conflict continue?	There was basically open warfare between them. For six years, they fought, resulting in a death toll of 50,000. 800 Pharisee sages were tortured in front of their children and wives.
What did Shlomit Alexandra do during Yannai's reign?	She hid her brother, the Pharisee Av Beis Din Shimon ben Shetach. One day, Yannai had eaten, but, because he had put all of the Pharisees to death, there wasn't anybody who could lead the zimun for bentsching. After making Yannai swear not to harm him, Shlomit brought out her hidden brother. He drank a cup of wine (to include himself in the meal) and then led benstching.
What did Shimon ben Shetach do next?	He carried out two missions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Replacing the members of the Sanhedrin with Pharisees, taking leadership, and recovering its power 2. Educating the young by introducing public education
How did Yannai die?	He was injured in battle, and died after being king for 27 years. He had imprisoned 70 Pharisees and decreed that he should die the day he did, so that his death would not be celebrated, because the people would be too busy mourning. However, when he died, Shlomit sent his ring and a message that they should be released, before anyone knew that Yannai had died. Their release was secured and Yannai's death was then celebrated.
What was the next stage of Shlomit's rule like?	She ended the persecution of the Pharisees and helped restore their power. However, after the death of her brother there was nobody like him. Her son, Aristobulus II, manipulated her, forcing her to give up all of her fortresses to the Sadducees. Her other son, Hyrcanus II, was the Kohen Gadol and the one she chose as successor. Shlomit's death marked the end of the Second Beis Hamikdash's "golden era".
Who succeeded her?	Hyrcanus was her chosen successor; however, after ruling for three months, Aristobulus took over. Civil war ensued. He won and they made a peace treaty.

Nassi	Av Beis Din
<i>Yossi ben Yoetzer</i> "Do anything to learn Torah from the sages and respect them". Teachings were counter to Sadducee idea of disregarding Oral Torah.	<i>Yossi ben Yochanan</i> Teachings were counter to idea that Essenes had a "monopoly on chessed".
<i>Yehoshoua ben Pracha</i>	<i>Neti ha Arbelee</i>

<p>Believed to be a teacher of Jesus (who sinned) and to have introduced new kashrus laws. Taught about judging favorably. To counter Sadducees, taught about finding role models to help overcome bad pressures.</p>	<p>Taught to keep a distance from evil neighbors and wicked people (Sadducees) and not to abandon Hashem (by turning to Sadducee beliefs).</p>
<p><i>Yehudah ben Tabbi</i> Gave advice to judges. Once one is punished, they should be viewed with not bias (this was relevant in terms of Sadducees who had done teshuvah).</p>	<p><i>Shimon ben Shetach</i> Taught to interrogate witnesses extensively and to be careful with one's words, lest one say the wrong thing and be condemned by the Sadducees.</p>
<p><i>Shemaya</i> "Love work and despise laziness"; stay away from (Sadducee run) government.</p>	<p><i>Avtalyon</i> Be cautious with what you say, lest you lead someone else away from Judaism.</p>
<p><i>Hillel</i></p>	<p><i>Shammai</i></p>
<p>According to the Ramban and Rabbi Yosef Adler, why shouldn't the Hasmoneans been kings?</p>	<p>The Hasmoneans are criticized for taking the throne from the tribe of Yehudah and the Davidic dynasty. Also, the the tribe of Levi is actually forbidden from accepting kingship. This is because the monarch must have a mochaich (somebody who tells him what he is doing correctly and incorrectly). These used to be neviim; after the end of nevuah, they were Leviim. If the monarch and the mochaich were the same person or in the same tribe, this system would fail. The merging of monarch and mochaich led to the downfall of Israel.</p>

