

# Listening Guide

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## **I. Introduction to Religious Developments**

[1] More specifically, what is the, “*interesting and significant question*” we will explore in this lesson?

## **II. Greco-Roman Religion**

[2] What are the “*two broad headings*” explored in this lesson?

a.

b.

### **A. Mythology**

[3] What were the myths of the ancient world a substitute for?

[4] Why were these ancient myths being abandoned? What had surpassed many of them?

[5] What other Greco-Roman option was widely accepted, especially in the eastern part of the Roman empire?

### **B. Emperor Worship**

[6] In Jesus' day, at the very beginning of this period, how did most people view emperor worship?

### **C. Mystery Religions**

[7] What two things did all the mystery religions have in common?

[8] Although the mystery religions were quite different from Christianity, in what two ways were they similar?

a.

b.

### **D. Philosophical Schools**

[9] What was the fourth option open to people? As you listen to the rest of this section on the Philosophical Schools, list the names of the three main philosophical options open to people.

### **E. Gnosticism**

[10] To what philosopher does Gnosticism go back to?

[11] What did the Gnostics believe about the material world?

[12] Therefore, unlike Judaism and Christianity, what did the Gnostics try to do?

[13] Why is Gnosticism of particular interest to students of the New Testament?

### **III. Jewish Religion**

[14] How did most of the Jews relate to the traditions of their ancestors?

[15] How many major sects are recorded in the pages of the New Testament?

[16] How many others do we know of?

**A. Am-ha-Aretz (People of the Land)**

[17] What percent of the Jewish people belonged to one of these sects?

[18] What does “Am-ha-aretz mean?

[19] Why were people called this? What did it say about them?

**B. Pharisees**

[20] What is a scribe?

[21] What was a major intention of the Pharisees?

[22] What was Jesus' problem with the Pharisees?

[23] Were all Pharisees this way?

[24] How may "Pharisaism" be reflected in the modern evangelical church?

[25] In a short paragraph, describe your own relationship to the kind of Christianity that is influenced by Pharisaism.

### **C. Sadducees**

[26] In your own words, summarize the difference between Pharisees and Sadducees.

[27] Which group was closer to many of the Christian beliefs?

[28] If you were alive in Jesus' time, which of these two groups would you feel greater identification with?

#### **D. Essenes**

[29] What famous set of documents reveals information about the Essenes?

[30] What did the Essenes believe was the only way to please God?

#### **E. Zealots**

[31] What was the major passion of the zealots?

#### **F. Summary of Jewish Religions**

[32] What were the 4 "Key Badges" that defined Jewish identity in Jesus' time?

## **Reflection**

Record one new fact or insight you discovered in this lesson

## **Application**

Review Section III. A. “A-ha-Aretz (People of the Land)”

Are there any A-ha-Aretz among Christians today? If so, describe what they are like.

Are you one or not? Explain why you answered as you did.