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I counsel thee to
buy of me gold
tried in the fire...
Revelation 3:18



Sects of Judaism

December 15, 2018

<http://hodf.org>

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On Tap

- What is a “Sect”?
- Sects of Judaism
- Douglas Bion: Remember this name

What is a Sect?

- What is a “Sect”?
- In the LXX lexicon (LEH), the Greek word αὐρεσεως “free will, by choice”. Heb. Nedavah
- Leviticus 22:18,21 “free will offering”
- Acts 5:1-18 [17]
- Ananias and Sapphira
- Disciples doing great miracles upsets the leadership

What is a Sect?

- Acts 5:1-17 [17]
- ¹⁷Then the High Priest rose up, along with all his associates (Insert parenthetical note by the author)
- which is the **sect** of the Sadducees
- Greek αἵρεσις Friberg: strictly *choice* or *option*
- (1) of a separatist group characterized by loyalty to a certain school of thought and practice

What is a Sect?

- Thayer: *“a body of men separating themselves from others and following their own tenets (a **sect** or party): as the Sadducees (Acts 5:17) and the Pharisees*
- Acts 15:5 But certain ones of the **sect** of the Pharisees who had believed...
- Acts speaks of another “sect” and we will see it in a few minutes

What is a Sect?

- One more thing about “sect” (free will, choice)
- I Corinthians 11:18-19 I hear that when you come together as an assembly, there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it.
- ¹⁹But, there must in fact be **debates** among you, that is, you must hear the voices of others, in order that the approved (by God) ideas may be manifest. (LMM)

What is a Sect?

- What is Paul saying?
- “Dialogue is the vehicle of enlightenment”
- If you and I don’t see it the same way, that’s awesome.
- With a mind toward “Be ready to give an account...”, Explain to me how you arrived at your conclusion because I may have missed something.

What is a Sect?

- As they say, “A person can learn anything if they are willing to be corrected...”

Mother

Ancient Faith of Israel



**All siblings accept the Mosiac
revelation yet are different from
each other in their interpretation**

Mother

Ancient Faith of Israel



All siblings accept the Mosiac revelation yet are different from each other in their interpretation

**Samaritan
Israelites**



Mother

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Samaritan
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Elephantine
Judaism

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Zealots

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**Yeshuaic
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Sicarii



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Rabbinic Judaism



Yeshuaic Judaism



Sicarii



Zealots



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Karites

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What is a Sect?

- Thayer: *“a body of men separating themselves from others and following their own tenets (a **sect** or party): as the Sadducees, the Pharisees, and **The Way** (The Nazarenes)*
- Acts speaks of this “sect” 3 times
- Acts 24:5, 24:14, 28:22

The Way

- Acts 24:5
- We have found this fellow (Paul) to be a troublemaker and one who causes riots among all the Jews throughout the world. Also, he is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect.

The Way

- Acts 24:14
- But I (Paul) confess to you, that I worship the God of our fathers, according to **The Way** (which they call a **sect**), believing everything that is according to the Torah and that is written in the Prophets.

The Way

- Acts 28:22
- But we (leaders of the Jews in Rome) desire to hear from you what you think as regards this **sect**: What we know is that people everywhere speak against it.

The Way

- Acts 28:23
- And when they had set a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers.
- From morning until evening he explained things to them, testifying about the Kingdom of God, and making his case from the Torah and the prophets that Yeshua was the Messiah. (LMM)

Summary

- This movement, known as The Way and also known as The Nazarenes, was considered a **sect of Judaism**, that is, a separatist group characterized by loyalty to a certain school of thought and practice, in this instance, that Yeshua was the long awaited Messiah to Israel based on the Torah and the prophets.
- Did this mean that they followed Torah but interpreted it differently? (Acts 21:20; 24:14)

Summary

- In addition, this movement and its ringleader were being tried under the banner of “Judaism” and that would imply that this “sect” was considered a **sect** of Judaism from the standpoint of Judaism in the first century.
- What about “Christian”? (Acts 11:26)
- Here’s a Christian commentary study guide that clearly states that understanding...

6-SESSION
BIBLE STUDY

ACTS

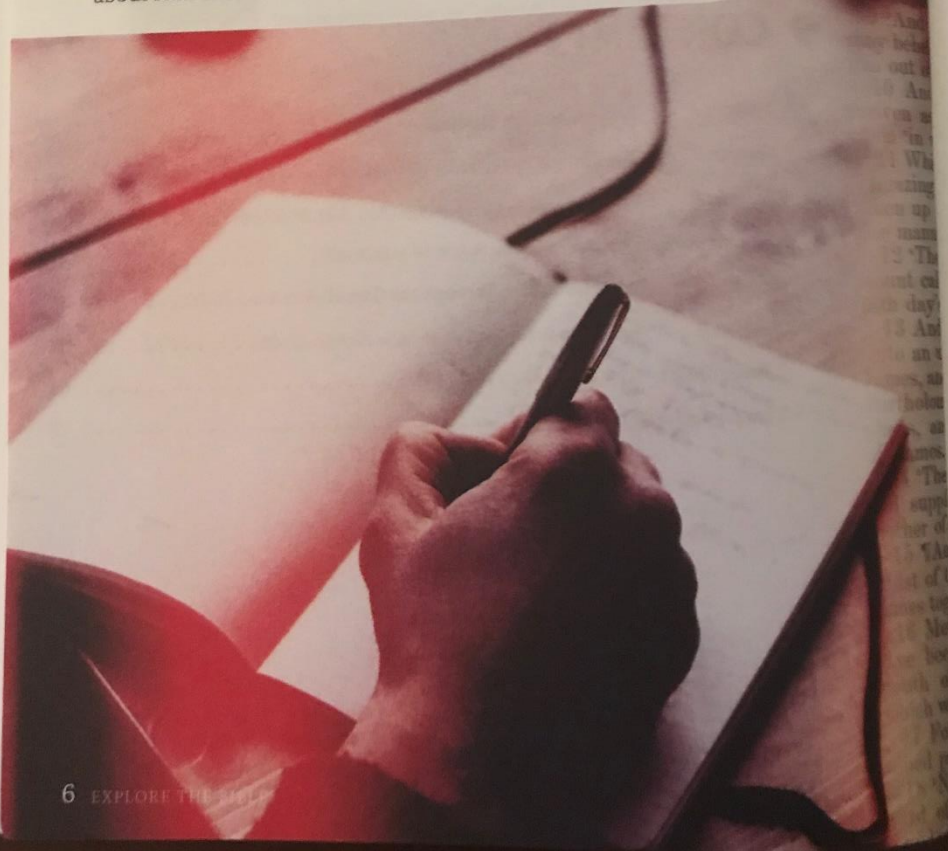
Chapters 1-12



SESSION 1

JESUS GIVES THE MISSION

Jesus assigned His followers the task of telling everyone about Him and His message.



6 EXPLORE THE BIBLE

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► ABOUT THE BOOK OF ACTS

As promised by Jesus, the Holy Spirit filled believers with His presence and power. For this reason many Bible students refer to this beloved Bible book as The Acts of the Holy Spirit. Through the power of the Spirit, the gospel message was proclaimed everywhere, and lives were transformed. That same reality continues for believers today.

AUTHOR

The writer of Acts didn't identify himself by name. However, clues within the book and its clear connection to the Gospel of Luke have led most evangelical Bible scholars to conclude that Luke, a physician and missionary associate of Paul (see Col. 4:14), wrote both the Third Gospel and Acts. He addressed both works to Theophilus (see Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1), and in Acts 1:1-2 he referred to the Gospel as his "first narrative ... about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day He was taken up." Luke thus wrote Acts as a sequel to the Third Gospel. He tied the two works together by reporting at the end of the Gospel and again at the beginning of Acts the Lord's promise about the Holy Spirit (see Luke 24:49; Acts 1:1-8), as well as Jesus' ascension into heaven (see Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-11).

DATE

Bible students hold differing views about the date Luke wrote Acts. One view (the view I hold) is that Acts was written in the early 60s. This view takes note that Luke made no mention in Acts of the Jerusalem temple's destruction in A.D. 70 or of the persecution of Christians instigated by Nero in A.D. 64. It seems probable that Luke would have mentioned these events if he had written after they occurred. Others, however, hold to a date of writing sometime around the temple's destruction in A.D. 70 or even as late as the mid-80s.

PURPOSE

Luke stated up front his purpose in writing Acts. He wanted to present an accurate narrative of the events surrounding Jesus' life on earth and the continuing influence of His ministry and message. Embedded within that purpose was an effort to defend the faith against assertions on the one hand that Christianity was a political movement against Rome and on the other hand that Christians were only a sect of Judaism.

"WE TALK OF THE SECOND
COMING; HALF THE
WORLD HAS NEVER
HEARD OF THE FIRST."

—Oswald J. Smith

but it's true!

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- Embedded within that purpose was an effort to defend the faith against assertions that **Christians were only a sect of Judaism**

