

Verses for "Which Denomination was Yeshua?"

Mat 7:12

Mat 11:28

Mat 22:17

Mar 6:3

Luk 16:8

Luke 2:46

Luk 6:13

Luk 3:12

Luk 7:29

Joh 1:6 Joh 1:35

Joh 1:45 Joh 1:49

Joh 6:71

Joh 12:4 Joh 12:36 Joh 13:2 Joh 13:26

Act 5:34

Acts 10:24

Acts 15:1

Act 23:6 Act 22:3 Acts 21:20

1 Th 5:5

1 Joh 1:5 1 Joh 2:15

Which Denomination was Yeshua?

THE SADDUCCEES

THE ESSENES

THE ZEALOTS

THE PHARISEES

THE LEVITES

Luk 6:13 And²⁵³² when³⁷⁵³ it was¹⁰⁹⁶ day,²²⁵⁰ he called⁴³⁷⁷ *unto him* his⁸⁴⁸ disciples:³¹⁰¹ and²⁵³² of⁵⁷⁵ them⁸⁴⁶ he chose¹⁵⁸⁶ twelve,¹⁴²⁷ whom³⁷³⁹ also²⁵³² he named³⁶⁸⁷ apostles;⁶⁵²

Luk 6:14 Simon,⁴⁶¹³ (whom³⁷³⁹ he also²⁵³² named³⁶⁸⁷ Peter,)⁴⁰⁷⁴ and²⁵³² Andrew⁴⁰⁶ his⁸⁴⁶ brother,⁸⁰ James²³⁸⁵ and²⁵³² John,²⁴⁹¹ Philip⁵³⁷⁶ and²⁵³² Bartholomew,⁹¹⁸

Luk 6:15 Matthew³¹⁵⁶ and²⁵³² Thomas,²³⁸¹ James²³⁸⁵ the³⁵⁸⁸ *son* of Alphaeus,²⁵⁶ and²⁵³² Simon⁴⁶¹³ called²⁵⁶⁴ Zelotes,²²⁰⁸

Luk 6:16 And Judas²⁴⁵⁵ *the brother* of James,²³⁸⁵ and²⁵³² Judas²⁴⁵⁵ Iscariot,²⁴⁶⁹ which³⁷³⁹ also²⁵³² was¹⁰⁹⁶ the traitor

PETER

ANDREW (BROTHER OF PETER)

JAMES

JOHN (THE EVANGELIST)

PHILIP

BARTHOLOMEW (NATHANAEL)

MATTHEW (LEVI)

THOMAS

JAMES (THE TWIN)

SIMON the zealot

JUDAS (BROTHER OF JAMES)

JUDAS ISCARIOT (SON OF SIMON)

THE SADDUCCEES

"The Sadducees mainly represented the wealthier and more aristocratic circles in Jewish society,

Their first leaders came from families that were close to the pre-Maccabean high priesthood.

They tended to be wealthy and held powerful positions, including that of chief priests and high priest, and they held the majority of the 70 seats of the ruling council called the Sanhedrin.

They worked hard to keep the peace and their power by agreeing with the decisions of Rome

They denied the existence of a spiritual world, they didn't believe in angels and demons

The Sadducees opposed the upholding of the oral law as a source of legislation equal in authority to the written.

The Sadducees did not believe life after death. They believed that the soul died with the body. The sadducees did not believe in heaven which is why "They were sad you see." (LOL)

The Sadducees were probably the **JEWS** mentioned so often in the New Testament since they were the Jewish group with the most power and because they did not get along very well with the Pharisees the other big group at that time.

The Sadducees ceased to exist in A.D. 70. Since they existed because of their political and priestly ties, when Rome destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in A.D. 70, the Sadducees were also "destroyed".

So the Sadducees were a group of powerful Jews that ran the Temple and cared more about their political power than God. They bought and sold the role of High Priest and often contended with the other Jewish groups. None of Yeshua's disciples were Sadducees.

THE ESSENES

- Pliny the Elder (23 C.E?-79 C.E.)

"On the west side of the Dead Sea, but out of range of the noxious exhalations of the coast, is the solitary tribe of the Essenes , which is remarkable beyond all the other tribes in the whole word, as it has no women and has renounced all sexual desire, has no money , and has only palm-trees for company.

Day by day the refugees are recruited to equal the numerous departures of those tired of that life”

When we were driving to the Dead Sea and went past the area where the scrolls were found our tour guide pointed out the **remnants of an old village**. They had once sold some type of mineral or oil that was very expensive and people would travel long distances to acquire. They cant say that is how the Essenes supported themselves or what it was they were selling because they haven't found anything of value there.

The Essenes believed the High Priests in Jerusalem were **usurpers** who were only concerned with wealth and power. Which since the leaders were mostly Sadducees...

They called them **'prostitutes and fornicators'**.

Yeshua also had trouble with the sanctity of the Temple. He tried to cleanse it of money changers.

And like Yeshua, the Essenes believed that prayer and inner holiness were more important than sacrifice.

Most scholars believe that the Essenes were the Qumran community which gave us the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Since the Catholics kept the Dead Sea Scrolls to themselves for the first fifty or so years, we are only just now being able to use them to learn about this community that existed at the time of Yeshua.

As more and more scholars gain access to the scrolls, more and more is learned about the Essenes.

Within the writings of the scrolls is the common dichotomy of light and darkness, goodness and evil.

The first lines of the scroll (1QM 1:1-7) lay the framework for a three-stage conflict between the Sons of Light--that is, members of the community (see 1QS 3:13)--and the Sons of Darkness.

Many of the scrolls refer to the community as **Sons of Light**.

Both Yeshua quoted by Luke along with Paul and John (the evangelist) seem to use the sons of light analogies.

Luk 16:8 And²⁵³² the³⁵⁸⁸ lord²⁹⁶² commended¹⁸⁶⁷ the³⁵⁸⁸ unjust⁹³ steward,³⁶²³ because³⁷⁵⁴ he had done⁴¹⁶⁰ wisely:⁵⁴³⁰ for³⁷⁵⁴ the³⁵⁸⁸ children⁵²⁰⁷ of this⁵¹²⁷ world¹⁶⁵ are¹⁵²⁶ in¹⁵¹⁹ their¹⁴³⁸ generation¹⁰⁷⁴ wiser⁵⁴²⁹ than⁵²²⁸ the³⁵⁸⁸ **children⁵²⁰⁷ of light.**⁵⁴⁵⁷

Luk 16:9 And I²⁵⁰⁴ say³⁰⁰⁴ unto you,⁵²¹³ Make⁴¹⁶⁰ to yourselves¹⁴³⁸ friends⁵³⁸⁴ of¹⁵³⁷ the³⁵⁸⁸ mammon³¹²⁶ of unrighteousness;⁹³ that,²⁴⁴³ when³⁷⁵² ye fail,¹⁵⁸⁷ they may receive¹²⁰⁹ you⁵²⁰⁹ into¹⁵¹⁹ everlasting¹⁶⁶ habitations.⁴⁶³³

Luk 16:10 He that is faithful⁴¹⁰³ in¹⁷²² that which is least¹⁶⁴⁶ is²⁰⁷⁶ faithful⁴¹⁰³ also²⁵³² in¹⁷²² much:⁴¹⁸³ and²⁵³² he that is unjust⁹⁴ in¹⁷²² the least¹⁶⁴⁶ is²⁰⁷⁶ unjust⁹⁴ also²⁵³² in¹⁷²² much.⁴¹⁸³

Joh 12:36 While²¹⁹³ ye have²¹⁹² **light,**⁵⁴⁵⁷ believe⁴¹⁰⁰ in¹⁵¹⁹ the³⁵⁸⁸ **light,**⁵⁴⁵⁷ that²⁴⁴³ ye may be¹⁰⁹⁶ the **children⁵²⁰⁷ of light.**⁵⁴⁵⁷ These things⁵⁰²³ spake²⁹⁸⁰ Yeshua,²⁴²⁴ and²⁵³² departed,⁵⁶⁵ and did hide²⁹²⁸ himself from⁵⁷⁵ them.⁸⁴⁶

1Th 5:5 Ye⁵²¹⁰ are²⁰⁷⁵ all³⁹⁵⁶ the **children⁵²⁰⁷ of light** ,⁵⁴⁵⁷ and²⁵³² the children⁵²⁰⁷ of the day:²²⁵⁰ we are²⁰⁷⁰ not³⁷⁵⁶ of the night,³⁵⁷¹ nor³⁷⁶¹ of **darkness.**⁴⁶⁵⁵

1Jo 1:5 This³⁷⁷⁸ then²⁵³² is²⁰⁷⁶ the³⁵⁸⁸ message¹⁸⁶⁰ which³⁷³⁹ we have heard¹⁹¹ of⁵⁷⁵ him,⁸⁴⁶ and²⁵³² declare³¹² unto you,⁵²¹³ that³⁷⁵⁴ God²³¹⁶ is²⁰⁷⁶ **light**,⁵⁴⁵⁷ and²⁵³² in¹⁷²² him⁸⁴⁶ is²⁰⁷⁶ no³⁷⁵⁶ **darkness**⁴⁶⁵³ at all.³⁷⁶²

1Jo 1:6 If¹⁴³⁷ we say²⁰³⁶ that³⁷⁵⁴ we have²¹⁹² fellowship²⁸⁴² with³³²⁶ him,⁸⁴⁶ and²⁵³² walk⁴⁰⁴³ in¹⁷²² **darkness**,⁴⁶⁵⁵ we lie,⁵⁵⁷⁴ and²⁵³² do⁴¹⁶⁰ not³⁷⁵⁶ the³⁵⁸⁸ truth:²²⁵

1Jo 1:7 But¹¹⁶¹ if¹⁴³⁷ we walk⁴⁰⁴³ in¹⁷²² the³⁵⁸⁸ **light**,⁵⁴⁵⁷ as⁵⁶¹³ he⁸⁴⁶ is²⁰⁷⁶ in¹⁷²² the³⁵⁸⁸ **light**,⁵⁴⁵⁷ we have²¹⁹² fellowship²⁸⁴² one with another,^{240, 3326} and²⁵³² the³⁵⁸⁸ blood¹²⁹ of Yeshua²⁴²⁴ Christ⁵⁵⁴⁷ his⁸⁴⁶ Son⁵²⁰⁷ cleanseth²⁵¹¹ us²²⁴⁸ from⁵⁷⁵ all³⁹⁵⁶ sin.²⁶⁶

1Jo 2:15 Love²⁵ not³³⁶¹ the³⁵⁸⁸ world,²⁸⁸⁹ neither³³⁶⁶ the things³⁵⁸⁸ *that are* in¹⁷²² the³⁵⁸⁸ world.²⁸⁸⁹ If¹⁴³⁷ any man⁵¹⁰⁰ love²⁵ the³⁵⁸⁸ world,²⁸⁸⁹ the³⁵⁸⁸ love²⁶ of the³⁵⁸⁸ Father³⁹⁶² is²⁰⁷⁶ not³⁷⁵⁶ in¹⁷²² him.⁸⁴⁶

1Jo 2:16 For³⁷⁵⁴ all³⁹⁵⁶ that³⁵⁸⁸ is in¹⁷²² the³⁵⁸⁸ world,²⁸⁸⁹ the³⁵⁸⁸ lust¹⁹³⁹ of the³⁵⁸⁸ flesh,⁴⁵⁶¹ and²⁵³² the³⁵⁸⁸ lust¹⁹³⁹ of the³⁵⁸⁸ eyes,³⁷⁸⁸ and²⁵³² the³⁵⁸⁸ pride²¹² of life,⁹⁷⁹ is²⁰⁷⁶ not³⁷⁵⁶ of¹⁵³⁷ the³⁵⁸⁸ Father,³⁹⁶² but²³⁵ is²⁰⁷⁶ of¹⁵³⁷ the³⁵⁸⁸ world.²⁸⁸⁹

So, when you see sons of light, children of the light, etc. it is very likely a reference towards living a pious life.

The Jews of today respect the Lubavitch Jews (with the black hats and curly q's) for their dedication to being pious. The Reformed Synagogues even support them.

In the same way, the Jews of Yeshua's time respected the lifestyle of the Essenes, even if they disagreed with their theology.

It even would appear that John the evangelist describes John the Baptist as an Essene.

Joh 1:6 There was¹⁰⁹⁶ a man⁴⁴⁴ sent⁶⁴⁹ from³⁸⁴⁴ God,²³¹⁶ whose⁸⁴⁶ name³⁶⁸⁶ was John.²⁴⁹¹

Joh 1:7 The same³⁷⁷⁸ came²⁰⁶⁴ for¹⁵¹⁹ a witness,³¹⁴¹ to²⁴⁴³ bear witness³¹⁴⁰ of⁴⁰¹² **the³⁵⁸⁸ Light**,⁵⁴⁵⁷ that²⁴⁴³ all³⁹⁵⁶ men through¹²²³ him⁸⁴⁶ might believe.⁴¹⁰⁰

Joh 1:8 He¹⁵⁶⁵ was²²⁵⁸ not³⁷⁵⁶ **that Light**,⁵⁴⁵⁷ but²³⁵ was sent to²⁴⁴³ bear witness³¹⁴⁰ of⁴⁰¹² **that Light**.⁵⁴⁵⁷

Joh 1:9 That was²²⁵⁸ **the³⁵⁸⁸ true²²⁸ Light**,⁵⁴⁵⁷ which³⁷³⁹ lighteth⁵⁴⁶¹ every³⁹⁵⁶ man⁴⁴⁴ that cometh²⁰⁶⁴ into¹⁵¹⁹ the³⁵⁸⁸ world.²⁸⁸⁹

Joh 1:35 The next day John was standing there again with two of **his disciples**,

Joh 1:36 when he saw Yeshua walking by. "There is the Lamb of God!" he said.

Joh 1:37 The two disciples heard him say this and went with Yeshua.

Joh 1:38 Yeshua turned, saw them following him, and asked, "What are you looking for?" They answered, "Where do you live, Rabbi?" (This word means "Teacher.")

Joh 1:39 "Come and see," he answered. (It was then about four o'clock in the afternoon.) So they went with him and saw where he lived, and spent the rest of that day with him.

Joh 1:40 One of them was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

Who was the other? John the Evangelist

And since John the Evangelist and Andrew were disciples of John the Baptist's before they were disciples of Yeshua, it makes sense that they had an Essene bent.

THE ZEALOTS

Luk 6:13 And²⁵³² when³⁷⁵³ it was¹⁰⁹⁶ day,²²⁵⁰ he called⁴³⁷⁷ unto him his⁸⁴⁸ disciples:³¹⁰¹ and²⁵³² of⁵⁷⁵ them⁸⁴⁶ he chose¹⁵⁸⁶ twelve,¹⁴²⁷ whom³⁷³⁹ also²⁵³² he named³⁶⁸⁷ apostles;⁶⁵²

Luk 6:14 Simon,⁴⁶¹³ (whom³⁷³⁹ he also²⁵³² named³⁶⁸⁷ Peter,)⁴⁰⁷⁴ and²⁵³² Andrew⁴⁰⁶ his⁸⁴⁶ brother,⁸⁰ James²³⁸⁵ and²⁵³² John,²⁴⁹¹ Philip⁵³⁷⁶ and²⁵³² Bartholomew,⁹¹⁸

Luk 6:15 Matthew³¹⁵⁶ and²⁵³² Thomas,²³⁸¹ James²³⁸⁵ the³⁵⁸⁸ son of Alphaeus,²⁵⁶ and²⁵³²

Simon⁴⁶¹³ called²⁵⁶⁴ Zelotes,²²⁰⁸

Luk 6:16 And Judas²⁴⁵⁵ the brother of James,²³⁸⁵ and²⁵³² Judas²⁴⁵⁵ Iscariot,²⁴⁶⁹ which³⁷³⁹ also²⁵³² was¹⁰⁹⁶ the traitor.⁴²⁷³

Joh 6:71 He spake of **Judas Iscariot the son of Simon:** for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.

The modern-day definition of *zealot* is "a fervent or militant proponent of something."

The original Zealots, or Zelotes, from the Greek, were members of a Jewish sect that at first just **refused to pay tribute** to the pagan Romans who then occupied the land of Israel, declaring that God was their only King. Eventually they were part of the revolt.

"The Zealots were a splinter group of the Pharisees. The Pharisees were content to ignore the Romans. The Zealots were not. They wanted to drive them out. They planned to establish the Kingdom of Heaven on earth - a kingdom ruled by God and not by man. - Peter Connolly, *Living in the Time of Yeshua of Nazareth*

Does it makes sense that the following interaction took place between Yeshua and some Zealots who did not want the Jews to support Rome.

Mat 22:17 Tell²⁰³⁶ us²²⁵⁴ therefore,³⁷⁶⁷ What⁵¹⁰¹ thinkest¹³⁸⁰ thou?⁴⁶⁷¹ Is it lawful¹⁸³² to give¹³²⁵ tribute²⁷⁷⁸ unto Caesar,²⁵⁴¹ or²²²⁸ not?³⁷⁵⁶

Mat 22:18 But¹¹⁶¹ Yeshua²⁴²⁴ perceived¹⁰⁹⁷ their⁸⁴⁶ wickedness,⁴¹⁸⁹ and said,²⁰³⁶ Why⁵¹⁰¹ tempt³⁹⁸⁵ ye me,³¹⁶⁵ ye hypocrites?⁵²⁷³

Mat 22:19 Show¹⁹²⁵ me³⁴²⁷ the³⁵⁸⁸ tribute²⁷⁷⁸ money.³⁵⁴⁶ And¹¹⁶¹ they³⁵⁸⁸ brought⁴³⁷⁴ unto him⁸⁴⁶ a penny.¹²²⁰

Mat 22:20 And²⁵³² he saith³⁰⁰⁴ unto them,⁸⁴⁶ Whose⁵¹⁰¹ is this³⁷⁷⁸ image¹⁵⁰⁴ and²⁵³² superscription?¹⁹²³

Mat 22:21 They say³⁰⁰⁴ unto him,⁸⁴⁶ Caesar's.²⁵⁴¹ Then⁵¹¹⁹ saith³⁰⁰⁴ he unto them,⁸⁴⁶ Render⁵⁹¹ therefore³⁷⁶⁷ unto Caesar²⁵⁴¹ the things³⁵⁸⁸ which are Caesar's;²⁵⁴¹ and²⁵³² unto God²³¹⁶ the things³⁵⁸⁸ that are God's.²³¹⁶

Who is Josephus?

This is what **Josephus the historian** said about the Sicarii:

Under their cloaks they concealed "sicæ," or small daggers, from where they received their name; and at popular assemblies, especially during the pilgrimage to the Temple mount, they stabbed their enemies, usually those who were friendly to the Romans, lamenting ostentatiously after the deed, and thus escaping detection (Josephus, "Ant." xx. 8, § 10; *idem*, "B. J." ii. 13, § 3).

Zealots-sicarii—"dagger men" believed that when the last of the priests were gone, the Messiah would com, which is why they would kill priests.

Judas the Sicarii

Messiah ben Joseph vs Messiah ben David

It is usually assumed that Judas had a personal, self-serving motive for his actions. Many state that it was his love of money that dictated his actions. And it is just a short jump from that plot line to that of the so-called "Gospel of Judas" that paints Judas as a co-conspirator with Yeshua to make Yeshua a martyr figure.

But what if Judas had bigger motives than just getting bribed?

One of the big debates has often been what Iscariot means. I lean towards the Sicarii definition. There are a couple of reasons for this:

First, a fact often overlooked or unknown by many Christian commentators is that during the time of Yeshua another Jewish messianic movement, called the Sicarii, fought in Judea against imperial Rome.

This militaristic movement interpreted — quite logically -- that the same prophecies that the Gospels claim envisioned Yeshua, actually predicted the coming of a warrior Messiah who would lead the Jews against Rome. They were expecting Messiah ben David!

The Sicarri are often linked with the Zealots as either a subset more militaristic group or parallel thinking group.

We know that Yeshua had at least one Zealot as a disciple, Simon the Zealot.

Some have even suggested that Simon and Judas were father and son, which is not a terrible stretch since John always refers to him as Judas, son of Simon.

Joh 6:71 ⁽¹¹⁶¹⁾ He spake³⁰⁰⁴ of Judas²⁴⁵⁵ Iscariot²⁴⁶⁹ *the son* of Simon:⁴⁶¹³ for¹⁰⁶³ he³⁷⁷⁸ it was that should³¹⁹⁵ betray³⁸⁶⁰ him,⁸⁴⁶ being⁵⁶⁰⁷ one¹⁵²⁰ of¹⁵³⁷ the³⁵⁸⁸ twelve.¹⁴²

Joh 12:4 Then³⁷⁶⁷ saith³⁰⁰⁴ one¹⁵²⁰ of¹⁵³⁷ his⁸⁴⁶ disciples,³¹⁰¹ Judas²⁴⁵⁵ Iscariot,²⁴⁶⁹ Simon's⁴⁶¹³ *son*, which should³¹⁹⁵ betray³⁸⁶⁰ him,⁸⁴⁶

Joh 13:2 And²⁵³² supper¹¹⁷³ being ended,¹⁰⁹⁶ the³⁵⁸⁸ devil¹²²⁸ having now²²³⁵ put⁹⁰⁶ into¹⁵¹⁹ the³⁵⁸⁸ heart²⁵⁸⁸ of Judas²⁴⁵⁵ Iscariot,²⁴⁶⁹ Simon's⁴⁶¹³ *son*, to²⁴⁴³ betray³⁸⁶⁰ him;⁸⁴⁶

Joh 13:26 Yeshua²⁴²⁴ answered,⁶¹¹ He¹⁵⁶⁵ it is,²⁰⁷⁶ to whom³⁷³⁹ I¹⁴⁷³ shall give¹⁹²⁹ a sop,⁵⁵⁹⁶ when I have dipped⁹¹¹ *it*. And²⁵³² when he had dipped¹⁶⁸⁶ the³⁵⁸⁸ sop,⁵⁵⁹⁶ he gave¹³²⁵ *it* to Judas²⁴⁵⁵ Iscariot,²⁴⁶⁹ *the son* of Simon.⁴⁶¹³

So if Judas was the son of a zealot then what would he have been like?.....Peaceful protestors ...violent children

So Judas being a Sicarii is not too remote a possibility.

The Sicarri believed that the Messiah would one day appear to lead the Jews against their oppressors the Romans. They believed that the Messiah would not come while there were still priests present. So, part of their actions as "dagger-men" was to kill the priests so that the Messiah would appear. Josephus gives at least one account of their killing a priest.

If Judas was a Sicarii and he expected the Messiah to be militant in his leadership, then his actions could be his way of removing another obstacle or more logically **his way of prodding Yeshua to start his "campaign"**.

Like Mel Gibson in that scene in *Braveheart* where they ask him **where he is going and he says, "I'm going to pick a fight."**

After all, for someone who expected the Messiah to lead his people, **Yeshua' teaching approach** was probably getting tiresome.

The Leaders got Yeshua charged with **sedition**, which is being a threat to the king, and that usually resulted in being put to death by the Romans, usually by crucifixion.

Therefore Judas had to know what his "so-called betrayal" would result in:

So let me ask you a question. If Judas knew that getting Jesus arrested would result in his being crucified but did it anyway. Why was he so remorseful?

I think he was surprised when Yeshua went to his death like a lamb. That would make him remorseful.

I just think it more likely that a Judas who was looking for a Messiah ben David but found a Messiah ben Joseph would feel remorse more than a Judas who sold out his rabbi for money.

THE PHARISEES

Unlike the Sadducees, the Pharisees lived relatively simple lives and emphasized virtuous conduct.

They started during the time that the Israelites were being held in Babylon when they no longer had access to the Temple.

Food was their key to preserving cultural identity. The Pharisees instituted the same procedures for the preparation and consumption of food as those used by the priests during temple service.

The purpose was to entirely remove Hellenistic culture from the dining room and provide a regular reminder that they were different from the Greeks.

In fact their name comes from the Hebrew word meaning the separated ones.

At the time of Yeshua, the Pharisees numbered about 6000 and were divided between two schools of teaching named after their founders, Hillel and Shammai.

Here is the most famous teaching that shows the difference between Hillel and Shammai.

Standing on One Foot

It happened that a heathen came before Shammai and said to him, "Convert me on the condition that you teach me the entire Torah while I am standing on one foot." Shammai drove him away with the builder's measuring stick that was in his hand.

The heathen then came before Hillel who converted him. Hillel said to him, "That which is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. This is the entire Torah; the rest is commentary – go and learn it." [Shabbat 31a]

This is probably the most famous teaching of Hillel. And of course we see that even Yeshua uses it.

Mat 7:12 Therefore³⁷⁶⁷ all things³⁹⁵⁶ whatsoever^{3745. 302} ye would²³⁰⁹ that²⁴⁴³ men⁴⁴⁴ should do⁴¹⁶⁰ to you,⁵²¹³ do⁴¹⁶⁰ ye⁵²¹⁰ even²⁵³² so³⁷⁷⁹ to them.⁸⁴⁶ for¹⁰⁶³ this³⁷⁷⁸ is²⁰⁷⁶ the³⁵⁸⁸ law³⁵⁵¹ and²⁵³² the³⁵⁸⁸ prophets.⁴³⁹⁶

Because Yeshua quotes Hillel and his teachings match Hillel's teachings so much, some claim that Yeshua was a Hillel Pharisee. Whether you agree with that or not, when you read the teachings of Hillel, it is hard not to see Yeshua.

In fact, Paul also appears to have been a Hillel Pharisee.

Act 23:6 But¹¹⁶¹ when Paul³⁹⁷² perceived¹⁰⁹⁷ that³⁷⁵⁴ the³⁵⁸⁸ one¹⁵²⁰ part³³¹³ were²⁰⁷⁶ Sadducees,⁴⁵²³ and¹¹⁶¹ the³⁵⁸⁸ other²⁰⁸⁷ Pharisees,⁵³³⁰ he cried out²⁸⁹⁶ in¹⁷²² the³⁵⁸⁸ council,⁴⁸⁹² Men⁴³⁵ and brethren,⁸⁰ **I¹⁴⁷³ am¹⁵¹⁰ a Pharisee.**⁵³³⁰ the son⁵²⁰⁷ of a Pharisee:⁵³³⁰ of⁴⁰¹² the hope¹⁶⁸⁰ and²⁵³² resurrection³⁸⁶ of the dead³⁴⁹⁸ I¹⁴⁷³ am called in question.²⁹¹⁹

Act 22:3 I¹⁴⁷³ am¹⁵¹⁰ verily³³⁰³ a man⁴³⁵ which am a Jew,²⁴⁵³ born¹⁰⁸⁰ in¹⁷²² Tarsus,⁵⁰¹⁹ a city in Cilicia,²⁷⁹¹ yet¹¹⁶¹ brought up³⁹⁷ in¹⁷²² this⁵⁰²⁶ city⁴¹⁷² at³⁸⁴⁴ the³⁵⁸⁸ feet⁴²²⁸ of Gamaliel,¹⁰⁵⁹ and taught³⁸¹¹ according²⁵⁹⁶ to the perfect manner¹⁹⁵ of the law³⁵⁵¹ of the³⁵⁸⁸ fathers,³⁹⁷¹ and was⁵²²⁵ zealous²²⁰⁷ toward God,²³¹⁶ as²⁵³¹ ye⁵²¹⁰ all³⁹⁵⁶ are²⁰⁷⁵ this day.⁴⁵⁹⁴

The school of Hillel was of course started by Hillel. When he died his son Hillel II took over the reins. And finally his son Gamaliel became the leader of the school of Hillel. So Gamaliel was the grandson of Hillel and he ran the school of Hillel in Yeshua's time. He also seemed to have a soft spot for Yeshua and his disciples.

Act 5:34 But one of them, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, who was a teacher of the Law and was highly respected by all the people, stood up in the Council. He ordered the apostles to be taken out for a while,

Act 5:35 and then he said to the Council, "Fellow Israelites, be careful what you do to these men.

Act 5:36 You remember that Theudas appeared some time ago, claiming to be somebody great, and about four hundred men joined him. But he was killed, all his followers were scattered, and his movement died out.

Act 5:37 After that, Judas the Galilean appeared during the time of the census; he drew a crowd after him, but he also was killed, and all his followers were scattered.

Act 5:38 And so in this case, I tell you, do not take any action against these men. Leave them alone! If what they have planned and done is of human origin, it will disappear,

Act 5:39 but if it comes from God, you cannot possibly defeat them. You could find yourselves fighting against God!" The Council followed Gamaliel's advice.

One of the biggest difference between the Hillel and Shammai Pharisees was in how they saw the Gentiles. Shammai taught that Gentiles could not be saved where Hillel encouraged his disciples to reach out to the Gentiles.

Act 10:24 And^{G2532} the^{G3588} morrow after^{G1887} they entered^{G1525} into^{G1519} Caesarea.^{G2542} And^{G1161} Cornelius^{G2883} waited for^{G2258} ^{G4328} them,^{G846} and had called together^{G4779} his^{G848} kinsmen^{G4773} and^{G2532} near^{G316} friends.^{G5384}

Act 10:25 And^{G1161} as^{G5613} Peter^{G4074} was^{G1096} coming in,^{G1525} Cornelius^{G2883} met^{G4876} him,^{G846} and fell down^{G4098} at^{G1909} his feet,^{G4228} and worshipped^{G4352} *him*.

Act 10:26 But^{G1161} Peter^{G4074} took him up,^{G1453} ^{G846} saying,^{G3004} Stand up;^{G450} I myself also^{G2504} ^{G846} am^{G1510} a man.^{G444}

Act 10:27 And^{G2532} as he talked with^{G4926} him,^{G846} he went in,^{G1525} and^{G2532} found^{G2147} many^{G4183} that were come together.^{G4905}

Act 10:28 And^{G5037} he said^{G5346} unto^{G4314} them,^{G846} **Ye^{G5210} know^{G1987} how^{G5613} that it is^{G2076} against the law^{G111} for a man^{G435} that is a Jew^{G2453} to keep company,^{G2853} or^{G2228} come unto^{G4334} one of another nation;^{G246}**

What law?

but^{G2532} God^{G2316} hath shewed^{G1166} me^{G1698} that I should not call^{G3004} any^{G3367} man^{G444} common^{G2839} or^{G2228} unclean.^{G169}

Many scholars believe that Peter was a Shammai Pharisee which is why it took the vision in Acts 10 to convince him to accept the Gentiles.

Act 21:20 And when they heard *it*, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law:

Act 21:21 And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise *their* children, neither to walk after the customs.

Act 15:4 And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and *of* the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them.

Act 15:5 But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command *them* to keep the law of Moses.

Act 15:6 And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter.

Act 15:7 And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men *and* brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.

Their view about Gentiles might also explain Acts 15 and Gal 2 as a dispute between Pharisees about Gentiles rather than a Jew/Christian issue.

Levites

Remember that the Sadducees ran the temple.

The lowest-ranking temple officials were the Levites. These men were descendants of Levi, the father of the priestly tribe. Aaron and all Israel's priests had been members of this tribe.

There were some 9600 Levites in the first century BC. Like the majority of priests, they comprised 24 families or courses, each course serving one week at a time as guards, policemen, doorkeepers, singers, musicians and servants of the temple.

Even though Matthew was from the tribe of Levi, the fact that he worked as a tax collector showed that his focus was not the same as many of the other disciples.

The Levites play a larger role in the Dead Sea Scrolls Community than in Jerusalem at that time. And who is probably the best known Essene-----John the Baptist.

It is also interesting to note that John the Baptist, baptizes tax collectors.

Luk 3:12 Then¹¹⁶¹ came²⁰⁶⁴ also²⁵³² tax collectors⁵⁰⁵⁷ to be baptized,⁹⁰⁷ and²⁵³² said²⁰³⁶ unto⁴³¹⁴ him,⁸⁴⁶ Master,¹³²⁰ what⁵¹⁰¹ shall we do?⁴¹⁶⁰

Luk 3:13 And¹¹⁶¹ he³⁵⁸⁸ said²⁰³⁶ unto⁴³¹⁴ them,⁸⁴⁶ Exact⁴²³⁸ no³³⁶⁷ more⁴¹¹⁹ than³⁸⁴⁴ that which is appointed¹²⁹⁹ you.⁵²¹³

Luk 7:29 And²⁵³² all³⁹⁵⁶ the³⁵⁸⁸ people²⁹⁹² that heard¹⁹¹ him, and²⁵³² the³⁵⁸⁸ tax collectors,⁵⁰⁵⁷ justified¹³⁴⁴ God,²³¹⁶ being baptized⁹⁰⁷ with the³⁵⁸⁸ baptism⁹⁰⁸ of John.²⁴⁹¹

Is it possible that Matthew was chosen partly because of his ties to John the Baptist, the Levites and the Essenes?

Other students:

Joh 1:45 Philip⁵³⁷⁶ findeth²¹⁴⁷ Nathanael,³⁴⁸² and²⁵³² saith³⁰⁰⁴ unto him,⁸⁴⁶ We have found²¹⁴⁷ him, of whom³⁷³⁹ Moses³⁴⁷⁵ in¹⁷²² the³⁵⁸⁸ law,³⁵⁵¹ and²⁵³² the³⁵⁸⁸ prophets,⁴³⁹⁶ did write,¹¹²⁵

Yeshua²⁴²⁴ of⁵⁷⁵ Nazareth,³⁴⁷⁸ the³⁵⁸⁸ son⁵²⁰⁷ of Joseph.²⁵⁰¹

Joh 1:46 And²⁵³² Nathanael³⁴⁸² said²⁰³⁶ unto him,⁸⁴⁶ Can¹⁴¹⁰ there any⁵¹⁰⁰ good thing¹⁸ come¹⁵¹¹ out of¹⁵³⁷ Nazareth?³⁴⁷⁸ Philip⁵³⁷⁶ saith³⁰⁰⁴ unto him,⁸⁴⁶ Come²⁰⁶⁴ and²⁵³² see.¹⁴⁹²

Joh 1:47 Yeshua²⁴²⁴ saw¹⁴⁹² Nathanael³⁴⁸² coming²⁰⁶⁴ to⁴³¹⁴ him,⁸⁴⁶ and²⁵³² saith³⁰⁰⁴ of⁴⁰¹² him,⁸⁴⁶ Behold²³⁹⁶ an Israelite²⁴⁷⁵ indeed,²³⁰ in¹⁷²² whom³⁷³⁹ is²⁰⁷⁶ no³⁷⁵⁶ guile!¹³⁸⁸

Joh 1:48 Nathanael³⁴⁸² saith³⁰⁰⁴ unto him,⁸⁴⁶ Whence⁴¹⁵⁹ knowest¹⁰⁹⁷ thou me?³¹⁶⁵ Yeshua²⁴²⁴ answered⁶¹¹ and²⁵³² said²⁰³⁶ unto him,⁸⁴⁶ Before⁴²⁵³ that Philip⁵³⁷⁶ called⁵⁴⁵⁵ thee,⁴⁵⁷¹ when thou wast⁵⁶⁰⁷ under⁵²⁵⁹ the³⁵⁸⁸ fig tree,⁴⁸⁰⁸ I saw¹⁴⁹² thee.⁴⁵⁷¹

Joh 1:49 Nathanael³⁴⁸² answered⁶¹¹ and²⁵³² saith³⁰⁰⁴ unto him,⁸⁴⁶ Rabbi,⁴⁴⁶¹ thou⁴⁷⁷¹ art¹⁴⁸⁸ the³⁵⁸⁸ Son⁵²⁰⁷ of God;²³¹⁶ thou⁴⁷⁷¹ art¹⁴⁸⁸ the³⁵⁸⁸ King⁹³⁵ of Israel.²⁴⁷⁴

Joh 1:50 Yeshua²⁴²⁴ answered⁶¹¹ and²⁵³² said²⁰³⁶ unto him,⁸⁴⁶ Because³⁷⁵⁴ I said²⁰³⁶ unto thee,⁴⁶⁷¹ I saw¹⁴⁹² thee⁴⁵⁷¹ under⁵²⁷⁰ the³⁵⁸⁸ fig tree,⁴⁸⁰⁸ believest⁴¹⁰⁰ thou? thou shalt see³⁷⁰⁰ greater things³¹⁸⁷ than these.⁵¹³⁰

Joh 1:51 And²⁵³² he saith³⁰⁰⁴ unto him,⁸⁴⁶ Verily,²⁸¹ verily,²⁸¹ I say³⁰⁰⁴ unto you,⁵²¹³ Hereafter⁵⁷⁵,⁷³⁷ ye shall see³⁷⁰⁰ heaven³⁷⁷² open,⁴⁵⁵ and²⁵³² the³⁵⁸⁸ angels³² of God²³¹⁶ ascending³⁰⁵ and²⁵³² descending²⁵⁹⁷ upon¹⁹⁰⁹ the³⁵⁸⁸ Son⁵²⁰⁷ of man.⁴⁴⁴

Yeshua calls Nathanael an Israelite, a term he never uses in reference to anyone else. So was Nathanael from one of the other tribes, yet still seeking out the Rabbis? First century talmidim (disciples) would follow their Rabbi as he walked throughout the land teaching with both word and action.

The term “sitting at his feet” is a Hebrew idiom which means learning from a teacher or Rabbi which was often done in the Synagogue as well as in the Temple colonnades. When journeying, sitting at the Rabbi’s feet was often done “under a fig tree” not only because of the shade it provided but also because of the tree’s sweet fruit. Soon “under the fig tree” became an idiom for one who sits under the shade of a Rabbi’s teaching enjoying the sweet fruit of his instruction & wisdom.

We even see an interesting example of a student learning at the feet of Yeshua:

Luk 8:27 And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in *any* house, but in the tombs.

Luk 8:28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, *thou* Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not.

Luk 8:29 (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.)

Luk 8:30 And Jesus asked him, saying, **What is thy name?** And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him.

Luk 8:31 And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.

Luk 8:32 And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them.

Luk 8:33 Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked.

Luk 8:34 When they that fed *them* saw what was done, they fled, and went and told *it* in the city and in the country.

Luk 8:35 Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.

While we do not know what group Nathanael and Phillip came from, it is clear that they came as those who had been following some other teacher.

How did the different groups get along?

The School of Hillel took a different approach from the Essenes in manifesting the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth. The Essenes had separated themselves from the community of Yisrael and were preparing for the coming Eschaton, while Hillel, mindful of the Maccabee debacle was preparing his disciples for the long haul.

The Hillel Pharisees and the Essenes worked together verses the Shammai Pharisees and the Zealots.

After Zealot supporters of Shammai had killed a number of prophets from Hillel's "School of Prophets," Menachem the Essene, took his disciples and some of Hillel's disciples and moved to Damascus. This incident triggered a "recession" of sorts in the House of Hillel, which slid into a "depression" period upon his death in 10 C.E. Their agenda continued, but Shimon ben Hillel doesn't appear to have been as charismatic as his father, because he's only mentioned briefly in the rabbinic literature.

So just a couple of decades before Yeshua's ministry began the Hillel Pharisees were nearly wiped out by the zealots. But by Yeshua's time the Hillel Pharisees had grown back to equal the Shammai Pharisees in number.

So it appears that Yeshua chose disciples that came from the Essenes, Shammai Pharisees, Hillel Pharisees, Levites, Zealots and Sicarii and possibly other groups. Over the prior decades these groups had disagreed to the point of murder and at the time of Yeshua the divisions between them were still quite substantial.

In the first century it was more common for prospective disciples to seek out rabbis to follow. Consequently, they tended to choose and be accepted by Rabbis with whom they agreed. When a Rabbi said "follow me", he was saying that he believed that the disciple was capable of becoming him.

So why would Yeshua choose this motley crew of disciples? Remember, ultimately he chose them.

Either he was insane for his choice or brilliant. Clearly his choice of disciples allowed his teachings to spread like no other because his disciples were so diverse.

As an example: Reggie White.

Each disciple would have a different group of people that he was likely to return to. But what else would we expect from a God who wants all of his creation to turn back to him.