

## ***"The Divisions of the Jews"***

*Sunday Evening Message by Ray Reynolds (January 5, 2014)*

Introduction: This morning we began to consider the significance of the 400 years of silence. We noted the rise and fall of kingdoms. Each of these kingdoms led us to the establishment of the kingdom of God, the church of Christ (**Daniel 2:44, Matthew 16:18-19**). However, it is also during this time that the Jews began to establish new traditions, which caused divisions. These divisions are mentioned in the New Testament. Let's study them together...

Discussion:

- I. ***The Division of the Pharisees***  
**Matthew 9:11-14, 12:1-8, 16:1-12, Luke 11:37-44, Acts 15:5, 23:6-8**
- II. ***The Division of the Sadducees***  
**Matthew 21:12, Mark 11:15ff, Luke 19:47, Acts 5:17,33**
- III. ***The Division of the Essenes***  
**Matthew 19:12, Acts 26:5**
- IV. ***The Division of the Zealots***  
**Luke 6:15, Acts 1:13**
- V. ***The Division of the Herodians***  
**Matthew 22:16, Mark 3:6, 12:13**
- VI. ***The Division of the Samaritans***  
**II Kings 17:29, Matthew 10:5, Luke 9:52, John 4:9, 39-40, Acts 8:25**
- VII. ***The Division of the Galileans***  
**Mark 14:70, Luke 13:1, 22:59, 23:6, Acts 5:37, John 4:45**
- VIII. ***The Division of the Nazarites***  
**Numbers 6:1-21, Judges 13:1-7, I Samuel 1:11, Luke 1:15, Acts 18:18 21:23-26**
- IX. ***The Division of the Proselytes***  
**Matthew 23:15, Acts 2:10, 6:5, 13:43**
- X. ***The Division of the Publicans***  
**Matthew 9:10, 11:19, 18:17, 21:32, Luke 18:11**
- XI. ***The Division of the Scribes***  
**Matthew 16:21, 17:10, 20:18, 23:13-29, Mark 10:33, Luke 6:7, John 8:3**

Conclusion: When we read about all these divisions, we can't help but think about how God calls us to unity. Where is that unity described in **Psalms 133**? The Lord prayed for unity (**John 17**). The apostle Paul taught about unity (**I Corinthians 1:10, 12:1-12, Ephesians 4**). What happens to a house when it is divided (**Matthew 12:25**)? Let's seek unity! Let's pray for peace. May God help us to be peacemakers and ministers of reconciliation! Do you need the peace of God?