



BIBLE

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **9th Grade | Unit 1**

BIBLE 901

Introduction to the New Testament

INTRODUCTION | **3**

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION **5**

VARIOUS EMPIRES AND PERIODS | **7**

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE | **12**

RELIGIOUS PARTIES | **16**

SELF TEST 1 | **22**

2. NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS **25**

HISTORICAL BOOKS | **25**

INSTRUCTIVE BOOKS | **32**

PROPHETICAL BOOK | **41**

SELF TEST 2 | **46**

3. CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE **49**

EVENTS IN THE GOSPELS | **50**

EVENTS IN THE EARLY CHURCH | **64**

EVENTS IN REVELATION | **73**

SELF TEST 3 | **79**



LIFEPAC Test is located in the center of the booklet. Please remove before starting the unit.

Authors:

Ronald Jerry Evans, Th.M.

Muriel Irene Evans, Th.M.

Editor:

Richard W. Wheeler, M.A. Ed.

Consulting Editor:

John L. Booth, Th.D.

Revision Editor:

Alan Christopherson, M.S.

Westover Studios Design Team:

Phillip Pettet, Creative Lead

Teresa Davis, DTP Lead

Nick Castro

Andi Graham

Jerry Wingo



804 N. 2nd Ave. E.

Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

© MCMXCVI by Alpha Omega Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. LIFEPAK is a registered trademark of Alpha Omega Publications, Inc.

All trademarks and/or service marks referenced in this material are the property of their respective owners. Alpha Omega Publications, Inc. makes no claim of ownership to any trademarks and/or service marks other than their own and their affiliates, and makes no claim of affiliation to any companies whose trademarks may be listed in this material, other than their own.

Introduction to the New Testament

Introduction

The Bible is God's *revelation* of Himself to man. It is inspired by the Holy Spirit and was written for us in two main divisions. The first contains thirty-nine books and is called the Old Testament. The second has twenty-seven books and is known as the New Testament. The term *testament* means *covenant* or *agreement*. The death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ brought the old covenant to an end and began the new agreement. He is the focal point of all history. Hebrews 1:1-2 states that God has spoken to us in these last days by His Son.

Studying this LIFEPAAC® you will learn about the events between the Old Testament and the New Testament. You will see how the way was prepared for the coming of the Messiah and the spreading of the good news of the Gospel to the ends of the earth. A look at the political and religious situation will set the scene for the events that are shared in the *Gospels*, *Acts*, the *Epistles*, and *Revelation*. After you examine the inter-Testamental period, you will learn how the four Gospels were written. You will see how they relate to one another and to the rest of the New Testament. You will also realize that Acts, the Epistles, and Revelation are really rooted in the facts which the Gospels record.

As you study the sequence of events in the New Testament, you will understand that the Bible is a living organism. Every part is vitally connected with every other part. The Holy Spirit, who is the Author, made sure of this. The central subject of the whole Bible is the Lord Jesus Christ. Learning the names of the books of the New Testament and how they fit into the time sequence will give you a better grasp of the events of the first century. Studying about the authors will help you to appreciate the fact that God used ordinary men to pen the greatest Book the world has ever known. You will become aware that the Lord made sure that we would have a reliable written record so that we could believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and find abundant life in Him.

In this LIFEPAAC you will study as *background information* the history between the Old Testament and New Testament periods. You will look at the religious literature that was written during that time and see the rise of religious parties or sects which were in existence in Jesus' day. In this LIFEPAAC an overview of both the *content* and the *chronological sequence* of the New Testament books will be presented.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAAC. When you have finished this LIFEPAAC, you should be able to:

1. Tell how the events in the inter-Testamental period paved the way for the coming of Christ and the spreading of the Gospel.
2. Name the three divisions of the New Testament and tell how they relate to each other.
3. Tell about the major events in the Gospels, the early church, and the Revelation.

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The last book of the Old Testament is Malachi. Between Malachi and the first book of the New Testament, Matthew, 400 years of history elapsed. The period between Malachi and Matthew has been called the inter-Testamental period, and also the Silent Years. The term *silent* is used because no words from any prophets of God were recorded as Scripture during this period. In Malachi 4:4-6 the prophet had warned the people that the next main event from God would be a ministry similar to that of Elijah. This prophecy was fulfilled at the beginning of the New Testament period in the person of John the Baptist (Matthew 11:7-15; 17:9-13).

The *various empires* that came into power during the inter-Testamental period had a great

effect on the Jews. Each new empire gained or fought for control of the Land of Israel. The Gentile empires helped to mold Jewish life and thought. The attitudes and actions of the Jews during Christ's day were a result of the impact of the inter-Testamental period on their nation. The main empires during this time were the Persian, Grecian, and Roman, with Egyptian, Syrian, and Maccabean periods between the Grecian Empire and the Roman Empire. The *religious literature* of this period included the Apocrypha, the Pseudepigrapha, and the Septuagint. The conflicts which the Jews had with these empires helped to shape the *religious groups* within Judaism. The three main groups in Jesus' day were the scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees.

SECTION OBJECTIVES

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Tell how the events in the inter-Testamental period paved the way for the coming of Christ and the spreading of the Gospel.
 - 1.1 Tell how the various empires changed Jewish thought and life.
 - 1.2 Tell how the religious literature of the inter-Testamental period had good and bad effects on the Jewish nation.
 - 1.3 Name the religious groups of Jesus' day and state how their views differed from His.

VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

apocalyptic (u pok' u lip' tik). Containing or pertaining to revelation.

compromise (kom' pru mī z). To surrender or give up one's principles.

denounce (di nouns'). To condemn strongly as evil.

desecrate (des' u krā t). To profane or treat as not sacred.

Hellenism (hel' u niz' um). The adoption of the Greek language and customs.

hypocrite (hip' u krit). One who pretends to be what he is not.

immortality (i' mōr tal' u tē). The condition of being deathless or undying.

inspiration (in´ spu rā´ shun). A divine influence upon human beings resulting in writing.

monotheistic (mon´ u thē is´ tik). Believing that there is only one God.

persecute (pe´ r´ su kyüt). To afflict or harass constantly so as to injure or distress.

polytheistic (pol´ ē thē is´ tik). Believing in or worshiping many gods.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAK appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʃh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.



Complete these sentences.

- 1.1 The last book of the Old Testament is a _____ ,
and b. _____ is the first book of the New Testament.
- 1.2 Between the books of Malachi and Matthew, _____
years of history elapsed.
- 1.3 The period of the “Silent Years” is also called the _____ period.
- 1.4 John the Baptist had a ministry similar to that of _____ .
- 1.5 Each major empire and power fought for control of the land of a. _____ ,
where the b. _____ lived.
- 1.6 The three main empires in the silent period were the a. _____ ,
b. _____ , and c. _____ .
- 1.7 Other periods in between included the a. _____ ,
b. _____ , and c. _____ .
- 1.8 The three main religious groups in Jesus’ day were the a. _____ ,
b. _____ , and c. _____ .

VARIOUS EMPIRES AND PERIODS

The Persian Empire, which existed during the time of Malachi, was followed by the Grecian Empire, which was divided into four segments following Alexander the Great's death. Following 323 BC, the Land of Israel was controlled by:

Egypt – 323-204 BC,
 Syria – 204-165 BC,
 Maccabees – 165-63 BC
 (Jewish independence)

The Persian Empire. The Persian Empire was in existence during the time of Malachi. This empire dates from approximately 539 to 334 BC. The Jewish people had just come out of the Babylonian captivity under which they had been taken captive to the land of Babylon for 70 years. This captivity had cured them of idol worship, and they now knew that Jehovah was the one true God. Two main groups of several thousand people returned to Land of Israel under Zerubbabel and Ezra during the Persian period. Many others decided to stay in the land where they had been captive. Under Persian rule the Jews were allowed to be governed by their high priest, who had to answer to the Persian rulers. The priest's office should have been used to give the people spiritual guidance. Instead, it became a much-sought-after political office. The violence connected with the priest's office caused the Persian government to send troops to occupy Jerusalem. They began to **persecute** the Jews and to impose fines on them. The Samaritans, Jews who had intermarried with Gentiles, meekly obeyed the Persian rulers and escaped persecution. The Jews hated the Samaritans for disobeying the law of Moses and compromising with the Persian rulers.

The Grecian Empire. The Grecian Empire followed the Persian Empire (334-323 BC) as



Alexander the Great became a world conqueror. He came to power at the age of twenty and reigned for twelve years until his sudden death. When Alexander approached Jerusalem for battle, Jaddua, the high priest, went out to meet him. With other priests and in full dress, he begged for mercy on behalf of Jerusalem. Alexander had a previous dream in which he saw priests coming out to meet him in peace, so he spared the city. He even offered sacrifices to the God of the Hebrews, Jehovah.

The priests told Alexander about Old Testament prophecies concerning him (Daniel 8:5, 21). Afterwards, Alexander showed the Jews favor. He used them in his army and granted them equal rights with Greeks as first citizens in his cities. The influence of Alexander upon many of the Jews caused them to become Grecian or **Hellenistic** in attitude. This attitude met with opposition from the conservative nationalistic Jews.





Write the correct answers on the blanks. Choose from the list to the right.

Answer Numbers

- 343
- 70
- 12
- 539
- 334
- 20
- 323
- 18

1.9 The Persian Empire was in existence from answer numbers

a. _____ to b. _____ BC.

1.10 The Jewish people had been captive in the land of Babylon for _____ years.

1.11 The Grecian Empire lasted from a. _____ to b. _____ BC.

1.12 Alexander came to power at age a. _____

and reigned for b. _____ years.

Answer these questions in complete sentences.

1.13 Why was the high priest's office important under the Persian Empire? _____

1.14 Who were the Samaritans and why did the Jews hate them? _____

1.15 Why did Alexander the Great spare Jerusalem, and what favors did he show to the Jews?



The Egyptian period. The Egyptians came into control of land of Israel after the death of Alexander the Great (323 to 204 BC). The Grecian Empire was divided among four of his generals. General Ptolemy Soter ruled over the southern section known as Egypt. Judea was a part of this kingdom. The northern part came under control of the Seleucid dynasty. The Syrian nation arose from this sector. General Soter's son, Philadelphia, ruled after his father in the southern kingdom. During his reign the Jews who lived in Alexandria in Egypt wanted to preserve their heritage. They were losing the use of their Hebrew language because the business world of Egypt had forced the Jews to adopt the Greek language. The Hebrews had their Old Testament Scriptures translated into Greek by seventy scholars. This translation became known as the Septuagint, or LXX version. We will learn more about this translation later.

The Syrians to the north were now beginning to increase in power. The land of Israel became the battleground between the Syrian princes (Seleucids) and the Egyptian rulers (Ptolemies). When invading Judea, Ptolemy Philopator tried to **desecrate** the Temple by entering the Holy of Holies, the most sacred part. He retreated from the Temple in confusion, encountering Jewish opposition for his act. He returned persecution for their opposition. Eventually, Judea came under the control of Syria.

The Syrian period. The Syrian Period (204-165 BC) was a period of constant persecution and martyrdom. Hellenistic (Grecian) Jews were fighting the conservative nationalistic Jews over the high priest's office. The political fighting in Jerusalem gave the Syrian ruler, Antiochus Epiphanes, a reason to invade the city. He hated the Jews, and, upon entering Jerusalem, he desecrated the Temple by sacrificing a pig on its altar. Later he erected a statue there to the heathen god, Jupiter Olympius.

Antiochus killed thousands of Jews and sold the women and children into slavery. He tried forcibly to make the Jews into pagans by cruel acts. He tore down the city walls and forbade sacrifices and circumcision, a sign to the Jews of their covenant relationship with Jehovah. He had them beaten with whips until many died. He tried to break their wills, but they resisted. The Samaritans again escaped persecution through compromise, gaining even more hatred from the Jews.

Finally, a priest by the name of Mattathias and his five sons rose in rebellion against Syrian bondage. After the father's death, the sons continued the struggle until eventual freedom was gained. The descendants of Mattathias became known as the Maccabees.





Write the correct letter and answer in the blank.

- 1.16 The Egyptian period ran from _____ BC.
a. 539-334 b. 343-246 c. 323-204
d. 434-364 e. 204-165
- 1.17 The Greek Old Testament Scriptures became known as the _____.
a. Ptolemy b. Version c. Seleucid
d. Grecian e. Septuagint
- 1.18 The Egyptian rulers were called _____.
a. Generals b. Ptolemies c. Philopators
d. Syrians e. Greeks
- 1.19 The Syrian period dated from _____ BC.
a. 334-263 b. 413-287 c. 324-264
d. 204-165 e. 214-163
- 1.20 The Syrian ruler was _____ Epiphanes.
a. Philopator b. Antiochus c. Jupiter
d. Mattathias e. Olympius
- 1.21 The descendants of Mattathias, the priest, were known as the _____.
a. Syrians b. Grecians c. Seleucids
d. Romans e. Maccabees

Answer these questions in complete sentences.

1.22 Why and how did the Septuagint come into being? _____

1.23 Why was Antiochus Epiphanes hated by the Jews? _____



The Maccabean period. The Maccabean period (165-63 BC) was a continuation of the battles with Syria. The Maccabean family led patriotic Jews in revolt against Antiochus. After the Syrian ruler died of a dreaded disease, Judas Maccabaeus became governor of the Land of Israel. His first act as governor was to purify and rededicate the Temple in Jerusalem. The occasion gave rise to the Jewish Feast of Purification.

When the Syrians renewed their war against Israel, Judas asked for aid from the Romans, an upcoming power. He was killed in battle before help arrived. His descendants took his place but later fought among themselves as to who would rule in the office over the Land of Israel. As Rome came into greater power, General Pompey took Jerusalem in order to stop the political fighting. After three months of siege, he took over the city and entered the Holy of Holies in the Temple. The Jews forever hated the Romans for defiling their Temple, since according to the Law of Moses no Gentile was allowed to enter the sacred chambers of the Temple.

The Roman Empire. The Roman Empire came into real power around 63 BC and continued until hundreds of years after the death of



Christ. It existed the longest of any earthly empire. When Judea fell under Roman rule, the high priest's office had no governing power, only a minor political influence. Rome made the Jews pay tribute or taxes to the government, to which the people were much opposed.

To govern their large empire, the Romans developed an extensive road and water travel system. A strong central government located in Rome guaranteed a measure of peace and safety for its citizens. The Romans were greatly influenced by the Greeks. They adopted much of Grecian art, philosophy, and language. The common language of the empire was Greek, which made commerce and travel easy for everyone. The majority of the New Testament books were written in the common Greek language.

The Roman Empire provided an ideal setting, in some respects, for the coming of the Messiah. An efficient travel system and common language aided the spread of the Gospel. Jews, who were scattered all over the empire, had built synagogues in which to worship God and to read the Old Testament Scriptures. Small rebellions against Rome were always brewing within Jewish society. The Jews had long awaited any sign of a prophet or Messiah to free them from Roman bondage.



Answer these questions in complete sentences.

1.24 In your own words, how would you describe the Maccabean Period? _____

1.25 How did the Roman Empire provide a good setting for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ?

Just as the political situation during the four centuries between the Testaments helped mold Jewish thought, so the religious literature of this period was an important influence on Jewish life. We turn now to study the literary activity in the inter-Testamental period.

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE

The religious literature produced during this time is in three main divisions: the Apocrypha, the Pseudepigrapha, and the Septuagint. We shall examine first the Apocrypha.

The Apocrypha. The voice of prophecy was silent for 400 years between Malachi and Matthew. Many wars and persecutions had taken place, but they had not stopped the Jews

from writing literature for their own **inspiration**. The literature of this period, however, lacks proof of Holy Spirit inspiration. It does help us, though, to understand some of the history and problems experienced by the Jewish nation.

The first group of books is called the Apocrypha. The word means *hidden* or *secret*. This meaning implies that the writer often used objects, numbers, or symbols to hide the real meaning. The Apocryphal books of the inter-Testamental period number from eleven to sixteen. The Jews who were taken captive into Egypt included the Apocryphal books in the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament, The Septuagint. The Jews of



1 ESDRAS
2 ESDRAS
BARUCH
1 MACCABEES
2 MACCABEES
JUDITH
TOBIT

THE EPISTLE OF JEREMIAH
THE HISTORY OF SUSANNA
BEL AND THE DRAGON
THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON
THE PRAYER OF MANASSEH
ADDITIONS TO ESTHER
ECCLESIASTICUS
THE SONG OF THE THREE HOLY CHILDREN



| APOCRYPHAL SCROLLS IN RANDOM ORDER



Review the material in this section in preparation for the Self Test. The Self Test will check your mastery of this particular section. The items missed on this Self Test will indicate specific areas where restudy is needed for mastery.

TEACHER CHECK

_____ initials

_____ date

SELF TEST 1

Match these items (each answer, 2 points).

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1.01 _____ covenant | a. no prophecy recorded at this time |
| 1.02 _____ John the Baptist | b. last book in the Old Testament |
| 1.03 _____ 400 years | c. religious writings of the inter-Testamental period |
| 1.04 _____ Septuagint | d. Jews who intermarried with Gentiles |
| 1.05 _____ Silent Years | e. agreement |
| 1.06 _____ Hellenism | f. believing there is only one God |
| 1.07 _____ Alexander the Great | g. Sanhedrin |
| 1.08 _____ Malachi | h. same type of ministry as Elijah |
| 1.09 _____ Samaritans | i. approximate time between testaments |
| 1.010 _____ Jewish religious council | j. Greek translation of Hebrew Scriptures |
| 1.011 _____ Apocryphal | k. influence of Greek culture |
| 1.012 _____ Alexandria | l. interchangeable with covenant |
| 1.013 _____ testament | m. land where Jews were in captivity |
| 1.014 _____ monotheistic | n. city in Egypt where Septuagint was written |
| 1.015 _____ polytheistic | o. Greek ruler |
| | p. believing in many gods |
| | q. Hebrew Old Testament |

Answer these questions (each answer, 5 points).

1.025 What three main Jewish religious groups were in existence by the time Jesus was born?

1.026 What false views did the Jews have of the person and work of the Messiah? _____

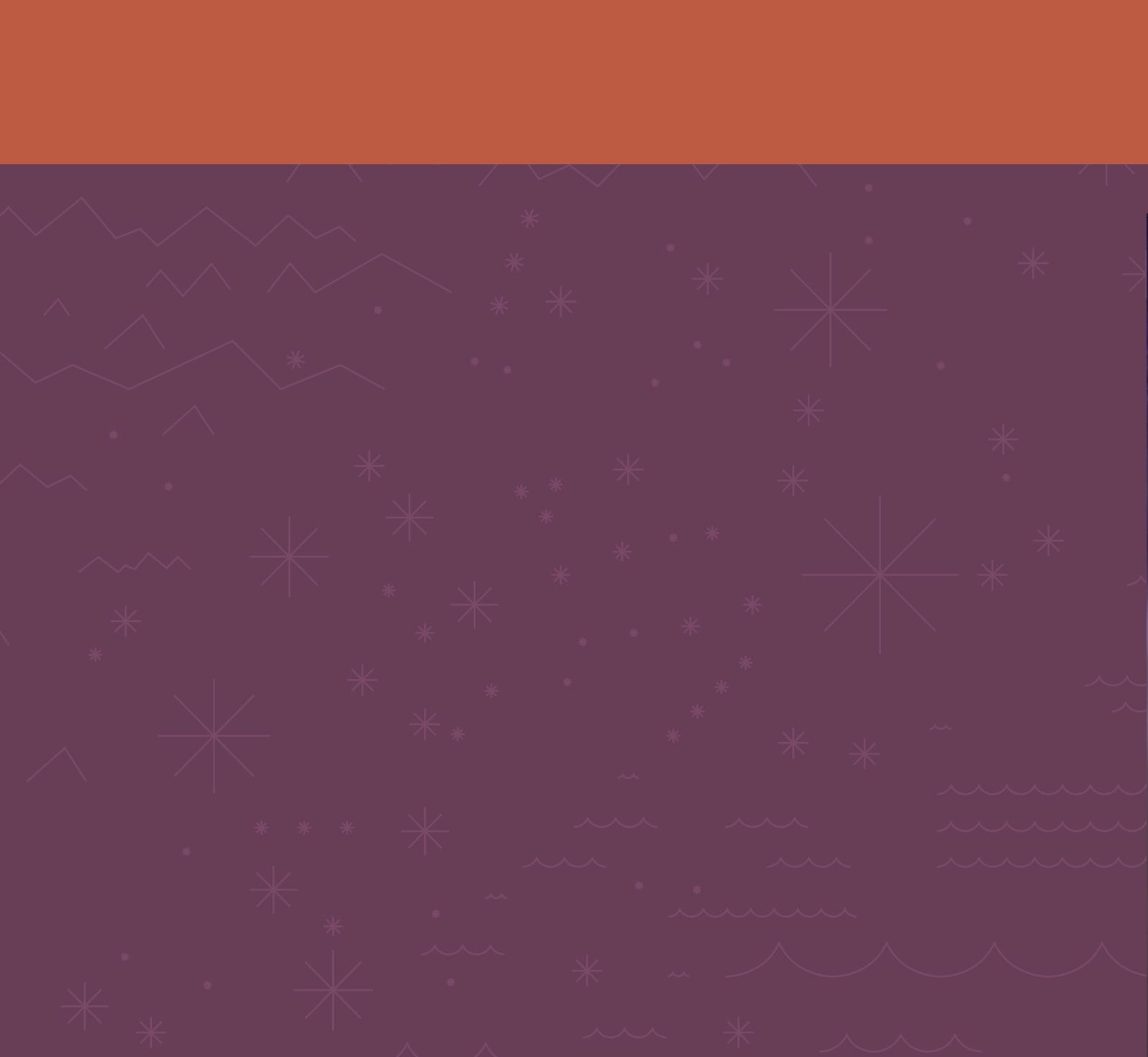
1.027 What did the Sadducees believe to be the law? _____

1.028 What did the Pharisees believe that the Sadducees did not? _____

1.029 Why did Jesus denounce the Pharisees more than any other group? _____

1.030 When and why did the Sadducees oppose Jesus? _____

	SCORE _____	TEACHER _____	_____
		initials	date



BIB0901 - May '14 Printing

ISBN 978-0-86717-181-5



9 780867 171815



804 N. 2nd Ave. E.
Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

800-622-3070
www.aop.com