

DOCTRINES OF THE SADDUCEES

- Pharisees and Sadducees came to John insincerely
- Sadducees were aristocrats that ruled the Temple
- They were of the wrong Levite clans, and some purchased their positions
- They were complicit with Rome
- Did not believe in resurrection or life after death
- Did not believe in free will but rather in Fate
- Did not accept the Traditions of the Pharisees



TRADITION & THE PHARISEES

- Sadducees denied the authority of Tradition because that was the focus of the Pharisees
- Dual religious system: Temple and Synagogue
- Common Jews attached to a local Synagogue
- People went to the Temple for judicial reasons, sacrificing, tithing, and the appointed times
- Matthew acutely aware of this dual system and the nuances involved





GENTILES ?



- The Baptist knew that what the religious authorities believed wasn't compatible with his message
- Jerome says the stones are gentiles and points to Ezekiel 36
- That verse is cherry picked out of context; it refers to exiled Israelites
- The meaning is that being born a descendant of Abraham isn't enough
- One must adopt the FAITH of Abraham

DEFENDING THE FAITH

- There is biblical truth and there is NOT biblical truth
- We must not be rigid on highly nuanced matters, nor should we compromise on the weightier matters
- We can respect the person without respecting their false faith
- Our best defense is to know sound biblical truth
- We must know when to walk away, and when to stay and explain more



I called you to win Souls
not to win Arguments;
Come On!!!



The axe is already laid at the root of the trees;
therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down
and thrown into the fire.

Matthew 3:10



- A metaphor for what happens to the insincere
- The fruit is the product of that person's life, reflected in their actions and deeds
- John is applying this to his fellow Jews, primarily the religious leadership
- Yeshua uses the same metaphor to refer to what happens to False Prophets
- Matthew 7:15 - 20



FALSE PROPHETS

- In Matt. 7 Christ was referring ONLY to False Prophets
- In 1st Century “prophets” were Scripture teachers of all kinds
- In the Bible fire is used to purify or to destroy
- Purification burns off the dross of sin
- Destruction is for the evil



- Vs. 11 Yeshua is introduced
- John baptizing in water expresses a repentant condition
- The water is only symbolic but is God ordained
- However to be immersed into the Holy Spirit brings actual change of nature
- Accepting Our Savior allows us to be immersed into the Holy Spirit
- Those who refuse Our Savior face eternal destruction

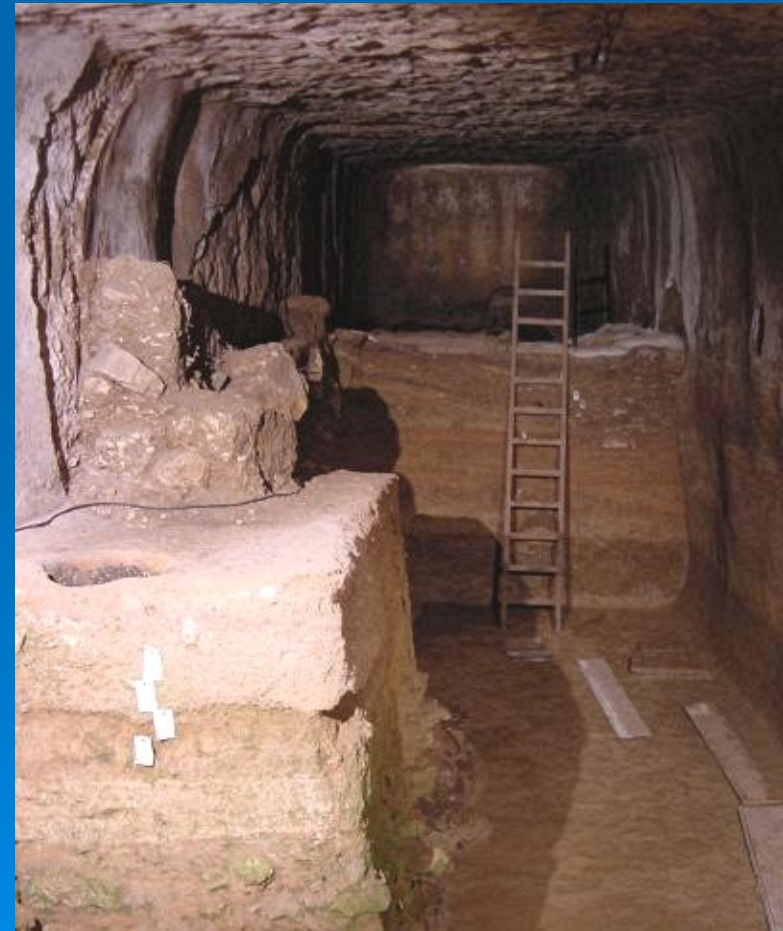




- Vs. 12 speaks of the unsaved
- Winnowing is a process of separation
- The usable wheat kernels are kept
- The unusable chaff blows away, is gathered up, and burned
- The saved and unsaved come from the same harvest
- Both will experience fire
- Believer's fire is for purification, non-Believer's fire is for destruction

IMMINENCE OF THE END TIMES

- Vss. 10 & 12 denote “imminence”
- Jews believed they were living in the End of Days
- John was baptizing in the Jordan River
- Why not use the *Mikvehs* around Jerusalem? John was not welcome
- Good evidence that the place John lived, near where he baptized, has been found





- Theologians have many different views on why Christ wanted baptism, and what it meant
- As an observant Jew, Yeshua would have immersed hundreds of times by now..... It was standard purification procedure
- As a whole, John's baptism was for repentance of sins
- It had to do less with purification and more with declaration
- So if Christ is sinless, why does He need John's baptism of "repentance of sins"?

WHAT RIGHTEOUSNESS WAS CHRIST SPEAKING ABOUT?



- Yeshua was referring to God's righteousness
- God's righteousness is about Salvation
- Humans are the objects of God's saving will
- God's plan involved a Messiah (a Deliverer) that was as human as He was divine
- Yeshua made the journey to John to obey His Father and carry out His part of the plan
- Yeshua is the focus and fulfillment of God's plan

YESHUA ACHIEVED THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD



- The “Dove” is a metaphor to describe a spiritual happening in physical terms
- Yeshua was a readily identifiable human being from Nazareth
- The Holy Spirit descending on Jesus was visible proof that God’s righteousness was now within Him
- A contrast between Yeshua and John
- Acts 19:1 – 7
- Matt. 11:1 - 3