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What are we trying to do when we are reading scripture?

- There is a reason why Jesus came at the time that he did
- A lot of people don't understand the priesthood:
 - Came after the Maccabean revolt
 - Pharisees
 - Problem: put excessive fences around all parts of the law
 - Sadducees (sad u see said Kandi – don't believe in the resurrection)
 - Corrupt priest
 - Exploiting the people
 - These are the guys that Jesus flipped tables in the temple over
 - Using the temple as a money maker and plush living
 - Herodians
 - Hellenistic Jews that love Herod
 - Only mentioned twice in the Bible and we don't know much about them
 - Essenes Themes:
 - Priests
 - Baptism – seem in Bible translation
 - Desert - Never left the community was because they never believed Jesus was the messiah. John did and that's why he left. Also left the plush corrupt living of the Sadducees for a life of difficulty and pain.
 - Adoption – Possibly seen with John the Baptist
 - Zealots
 - Simon the *Zealot* – Cut off ear in the garden.
 - Passionate about restoring Israel, but going about it in the wrong way and Jesus didn't like it.
 - They would carry hook swords and literally assassinate people against Israel
 - Taking over by force
 - Carried small swords for assassinations

Was Jesus influenced by the Essenes?

- Luke 22:7 – Passover – Timeline (sunset is the start of the next day) (Jesus following the Essene Passover calendar)

	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
6 AM		TRIAL BEATING		MARY COMES TO TOMB
9 AM	PASSOVER PREPARATIONS	HANGS ON CROSS	1 PETER PROCLAIMS TO CAPTIVES	
12 PM		SKY GOES DARK		
3 PM		DIES IN TOMB		
SUNDOWN	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	
6 PM	ESSENE PASSOVER MEAL	JEWISH PASSOVER		
9 PM	JESUS ARRESTED			



The 6 Elements of the Story (Chaos, Water, Spirit over the water, God speaks, Expected order, Testing) –

Creation:

- Genesis 1
 - There was **Chaos** – Chaos existed in the beginning of the world
 - **Water** – A description of water
 - The **Spirit** of God was hovering over the surface of the water
 - **God speaks** words of creation
 - **Expected order** of the creation happens
 - God forms in the first 3 days and then fills those days in the last 3 (1 and 4, 2 and 5, 3 and 6)
 - **Test** – Adam is tested and he fails
- Noah account:
 - **Chaos** with the people sinning
 - **Water** – flood
 - **The spirit over the water** in the form of a dove
 - **God speaks** the **expected order** to Noah
 - **Test Noah** – Gen. 9:20 – Passes the test and then blows it by getting drunk. Curse of Canaan because of Ham's folly. Ham sneered and dishonored Noah for his foolish nakedness.
- Exodus, the crossing of the red sea:
 - **Chaos** – The whole nation is oppressed
 - **Water** – The Red Sea
 - **Spirit over the water/** wind over the water – Moses stretches hand over the water and parts

- **God speaks** – God tells him to put the water back
- **Expected order** –
- **Tests**
 - Ex. 17 – Bedouin (person who lives in the desert finding water by striking rocks) Moses found water by striking a rock. Impressive, but people who live in the desert do that all the time.
 - Moses speaks to the rock and fails in a water encounter. This would have been the real test.
- Jesus - Matthew 3
 - **Chaos** – Romans are oppressing the people
 - **Water** – Baptism – “All righteousness to be fulfill” – means I am going to keep the law perfectly
 - Remez: Matthew 3 when the heavens are opened Ezekiel 1:1
 - **Spirit over the water** –
 - Mereiphefet = dove = Holy Spirit in the OT
 - **God Speaks** – God speaks from heaven “This is my Son in whom I am well pleased.”
 - He does this before Jesus does anything miraculous
 - **Expected Order** – The next event is the testing
 - **Testing** - Jesus goes into the desert to be tested and passes
 - How does Jesus pass the test? He knew the Word of God.
- The only thing that puts Chaos into normalcy is the word
 - When there is no word from God, things go wrong.
 - Every time there is a test, Jesus used the Word to defend.

Side Notes

- Who killed Jesus? Ultimately, God, “It pleased the father to crush the son,” (Isaiah 53:10) for the sake of salvation. The Sadducees directly killed Jesus through encouraging the Israelites to revolt.