



Praying at the Western Wall

Philippians 3:4-6 provides greater detail into his family origins:

1. He was an \_\_\_\_\_.
2. From the tribe of \_\_\_\_\_, Jacob's only son born in the land of promise.
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. He was a Pharisee, one of the strictest sects of the Jews. Pharisee means 'separated one' and there were only about \_\_\_\_\_ of them in New Testament times.

### Paul grew up living in three worlds

1. His \_\_\_\_\_ world was by the strictest standard Jewish.
2. The cultural and business context of the city in which he grew up was \_\_\_\_\_ and he was thoroughly familiar with it. He could easily move in the world of business and commerce. He might even have traded in goat hair, the raw material for manufacturing tents, versus actually sewing them.
3. Being born a \_\_\_\_\_ citizen guaranteed him tremendous privileges. He had the right to travel throughout the empire without being questioned. And as a citizen, he could never be \_\_\_\_\_.



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What languages might Saul have spoken?

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Saul was sent to Jerusalem to complete his education. He would have sailed from Tarsus to the Judean port of \_\_\_\_\_, the greatest port on the eastern Mediterranean. This port, built by \_\_\_\_\_ the Great, was named in honor of Caesar and was located 50 miles from Jerusalem. Locate this city and Jerusalem on the map on page 8.

A pilgrimage to Jerusalem was the ultimate desire for Jews in his day and ours. The psalmist summed it up well when he wrote: **“If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither away; let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy”** (Psalm 137:5 & 6 N.E.B.).



## Modern Jerusalem



Model of Herod's Temple

## Arriving

in the holy city, he would have been dazzled by the beauty of the Temple of YAHWEH recently rebuilt by King Herod; it was the \_\_\_\_\_ location in Judaism.

### There were four major sects of Judaism in Saul's day

1. The wealthy, aristocratic \_\_\_\_\_ held the keys to power in the Temple.
2. The Hellenistic \_\_\_\_\_ compromised their faith by mixing it with Greek culture.
3. The scrupulous \_\_\_\_\_ attempted to obey every detail of the Mosaic Law.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ withdrew from society and lived a communal life in the desert.

According to Acts 22:3 Saul was trained by \_\_\_\_\_, grandson of the greatest rabbi of the era, Hillel. They were Pharisees who believed in the Scriptures and held to the hope of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.

At the time of prayer Saul would have worn the liturgical vestments — the \_\_\_\_\_ or prayer shawl — and would have put on the \_\_\_\_\_, the leather straps worn on the forehead and arm containing a copy of the law.