



# A Guide to Hanukkah

## The Feast of Dedication The Festival of Lights

### What is Hanukkah?

Hanukkah (חַנּוּכָּה, also spelled commonly Chanukah) means Dedication in Hebrew. The Festival of Hanukkah, or the Feast of Dedication, is an eight day Biblical Feast, beginning on the 25th of Chislev (the ninth Hebrew month) each year. It is one of the two non-commanded feasts in the Bible (the other non-commanded feast is Purim). Non-commanded means that it is not one of the commanded feasts given in Leviticus 23. The commanded feasts are required for Israel to celebrate by Yah Himself. The non-commanded feasts are anniversaries of great deliverances for Israel, in which the elders came together to declare the people to observe.

Hanukkah is not the “Hebrew Christmas”. In fact, the central message of Hanukkah is resistance to compromising the Torah of Yah. It is about standing up to any adversary that is opposed to our Elohim and customs, and maintaining our customs and culture even in the face of imminent death. So, it is not a way to eek out the “benefits” of the “Holiday Season,” but it’s a way to instill in our children as well as ourselves dedication to our Elohim and His ways. And these ways are contrary to Christmas.

### The Story of Hanukkah

The story of Hanukkah is located in the Books of 1 Maccabees and 2 Maccabees. These books are located in the KJV Apocrypha. The pertinent Hanukkah verses will be pasted at the end of this guide so that you will be able to read it in totality if you chose to do so. The timing occurred between the time the “Old Testament” was written, and the “New Testament” was written. The fact that Y’shua celebrated Hanukkah is discussed later in this guide.

1 Maccabees 1:1-16	Background on how Antiochus Epiphanes became king over the Kingdom of the Greeks and how some Hebrew people were already trying to forsake Yah and join with the pagans.
1 Maccabees 1:16-28 2 Maccabees 5:11-27	Explains how Antiochus Epiphanes captured Egypt, and then conquered Jerusalem. He ordered the looting of the Holy Temple, and the theft of the golden altar, lamp stand/menorah, the table of shewbread, the vessels, cups, and sensors, the veil, crowns, all the golden decoration, and the silver, gold, and secret treasures.
1 Maccabees 1:29-67 2 Maccabees 6:1-17	After two years, mercenaries were sent to finish the job. This section describes the abomination of desolation (pork offering to Zeus in the Temple) and the King’s decree for everyone to become one people.
2 Maccabees 6:18-7:42	Describes the persecution of those who would not conform to the King’s decree. Eleazar, a respected elder who was given the option to pretend to eat pork or die, and the woman with her seven sons, who were also given the option to eat pork or die.

1 Maccabees 2:1-28	Mattathias (Mattityahu/ Matthew), a respected leader, was called upon to be the first to step forward and sacrifice on a pagan altar. He refused, and even killed someone who did! He then rallied Hebrews who were loyal to their faith and they fled outside the cities.
1 Maccabees 2:29-70	The king sent warriors out to the desert on the sabbath to the people who fled from the cities. They offered the people to live if they would break shabbat. They refused, but also refused to fight and 1000 people were killed. Matthew says that the loyal Israelites will fight instead of being destroyed.
1 Maccabees 3:1-9	Judah Maccabee succeeds his father Matthew after his death.
1 Maccabees 3:10-4:35 2 Maccabees 8:1-9:29	Recounts all the battles
1 Maccabees 4:36-59 2 Maccabees 10:1-8	After defeating the enemies, Judas and his brothers go up to purify the temple and dedicate it. The altar is dedicated on the same day it was defiled by the abomination of desolation 3 years prior. Judah Maccabee and his brothers establish the annual celebration of Hanukkah.

King Antiochus Epiphanes conquered Egypt and then turned to conquer Jerusalem. He looted the Holy Temple, taking all things he deemed valuable (the golden altar, lamp stand/menorah, the table of shewbread, the vessels, cups, and sensors, the veil, crowns, all the golden decoration, and the silver, gold, and secret treasures).

After two years, he sent paid warriors to Jerusalem to finish the job. The King made a proclamation that throughout his kingdom, all people were to become a single people, everyone was to renounce their particular customs. He had messengers set up shrines and altars to sacrifice pigs and other unclean animals. All the religious practices of the Torah, all brooks of the Torah, were to be burnt. If anyone was caught doing any of Yah's commands, they would be put to death. Women who had their sons circumcised would have their newborns hung around their necks. The reason for he king doing this was so that in Israel's conformity they would "forget the Law and revoke all observance of it."

The King then ordered the abomination of desolation. Pigs were sacrificed to Zeus in the Temple. This was on the 25th of the ninth Hebrew month (Chislev).

Matthew (Mattthias) was a respected leader with five sons. The king's officials wanted him to step forward and confirm to the King's decree, to be even the first to sacrifice on a pagan altar. He was promised that he and his sons would be reckoned as friends of the king, and would be honored with silver and gold and gifts. Matthew refused, and said he would never forsake the Torah. He then killed an Israelite who was stepping forward to offer sacrifice. He rallied loyal Israelites together and fled from the cities to observe their faith.

The king then dispatched warrior to root out the faithful Israelites who hid in the desert. The soldiers came to a group of people on the Sabbath and said if they would profane the Shabbat, then they would be spared. No one budged, so they attacked. Rather than fight back, the people allowed themselves to be slaughtered. One Thousand people died. Matthew mourned and was vexed by the news. He said if they refuse to fight the pagans, they would be destroyed from the earth. So he and his friends decided that they would fit, and resist, even if they are attacked on the sabbath.

There were also other persecutions. A 90 year old elder named Eleazar was given the option to pretend to eat pork or die. He, of course, refused to do so and be a stumbling block to the people. A mother and her 7 sons is another account given. She watched as each of her seven sons refused to eat pork and meet the same fate of death. She also was put to death.

## BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE HANUKKAH STORY:

The story of Hanukkah begins with the reign of King Antiochus Epiphanes. He reigned over the Kingdom of the Greeks.

A group of Israelites went to King Antiochus Epiphanes to conform to the ways of the pagan Greeks. The king authorized them to practice the pagan observances, build a gymnasium in Jerusalem, and they would fight naked and hide their circumcisions... They also abandoned the Torah.

Matthew died and left his son Judah Maccabee in charge. Maccabee means hammer in Hebrew. He was known as a great warrior. After many battles, he returned to Jerusalem to dedicate the temple with his brothers. They found the temple totally desolate, it was so defiled that they didn't know what to do with the stones of the abomination. They remade all the holy implements that were plundered, and made a new altar of incense. For 8 days, beginning on the 25th of the 9th month (Chisleb), exactly three years after the abomination of desolation offering, the temple was dedicated. Judah Maccabee and his brothers declared that every year, Israel should remember the great miracle that happened there. That in the face of imminent death, they did not conform to pagan influence, they did not forsake Yah or their Torah, and in fighting for Yah's ways, He destroyed their powerful enemy.

## The Message of Hanukkah

The Message of Hanukkah is to not conform to the ways of this world:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of Elohim, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto Elohim, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of Elohim." Romans 12:1-2, KJV

We must not compromise on the things of Yah. We must stand up for Him and His ways. We don't conform to this world, but we are transformed in Him. The carnal to the Spiritual.

We are not to trade in our Hebrew gold for the worthless tin coins of the Greeks. We are to maintain allegiance to the Torah and even despise the appearance of evil or hypocrisy.

The message of Hanukkah is that even under persecution, we should continue to encourage our children to also be obedient to the covenant of our Elohim.

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6 KJV

The Hebrew word "train up" is Chanak... from which the word Chanukah is derived. We can see that we are to dedicate our children to Yah's service, train them up in His ways, and when they are older, they will not depart.

## Y'shua HaMoshiach and Hanukkah

We can see that Y'shua was present at the Holy Temple during the Feast of Hanukkah:

And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter.

And Y'shua walked in the temple in Solomon's porch. John 10:22-23, KJV

## The Hanukkah Myth of Oil

One of the myths or folklore that is popularly spoken of is the miracle of the oil.

This is not located in the account, however since at least the first century (in Josephus's Antiquities of the Jews Ch 12 sec 7), Hanukkah has been called the festival of lights.

The myth is that when Judah Maccabee and company went to dedicate the temple, they only had one sealed vial of kosher oil for the menorah, enough to last one night. It took 8 nights to make more kosher oil. The menorah had to be kept burning. The one vial of oil miraculously lasted the 8 nights needed until new oil could be produced.

## Observance of Hanukkah

Because Hanukkah is non-commanded, it does not have any High Days or Holy Convocations associated with it. That means that you can work, go to school, buy/sell etc every day of Hanukkah, except the weekly Sabbaths that fall within it. It begins on the 25th of the ninth Hebrew month (Chisleb), for 8 days. It is normally celebrated most in the evening, because traditionally each night, a candle is lit for the 8 days.

## How to Celebrate Hanukkah Biblically

### BIBLE READINGS

Reading the Account of Hanukkah is one good way of celebrating Hanukkah because you are remembering the great miracles that happened. The readings are included at the end of the chapter. You may want to opt to read the summary in this guide with children, or make your own summary of the events to condense things for children.

**Psalm 30** is a very popular psalm to read during Hanukkah. It is the Psalm of dedication.

## BIBLE THEMES

We already discussed the message of Hanukkah. Bible lessons for Hanukkah can be centered around:

1. Bible Characters who refused to conform to this world and stood up for Yah: For Example Phinehas (Numbers 25:1-18), Joshua and Caleb's report in the face of the other 10 spies (Numbers 13:1-14:45), Joshua's standard of commitment to Yah (Joshua 24:14-15)
2. Not Conforming to the world, being holy and acceptable to Yah: Micah 4:5, Romans 12:1-2
3. Being the Light of the World: Matthew 5:13-16
4. We are the Temple of the Living Elohim - Dedicate yourselves to Yah: 1 Corinthians 3:16, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18
5. Don't Fear People, Fear Yah: Matthew 10:28
6. You can't serve two masters, don't be blinded by riches: Matthew 4:1-11, Matthew 6:19-24
7. The Shema (Israel's watchword of faith), Yah is a Jealous Elohim: Exodus 20:1-7, Deuteronomy 6:4-5
8. What can separate us from the Love of Yah?: Romans 8:38-39
9. Talk about the persecutions that the prophets, Y'shua, the Apostles, and martyrs endured throughout time. And how persecution did not stop them from preaching the message of the Kingdom and loving their Elohim. Several specific examples can be found in the Book of Daniel: Daniel refusing to eat unclean meat and being blessed - Daniel 1:8-16, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abendago refusing to bow to idols, and being thrown in the Lion's den - Daniel Ch 3, Daniel and the Lion's den - Daniel Ch 6.

## Fun ways to Celebrate Hanukkah

### DECORATE THE HOUSE FOR HANUKKAH

Every year, my children hang window clings, and I put up a "Happy Hanukkah" banner in the house. We do not go *all out* with decorating, but make it festive enough for them to know it's a special time.

### HANUKKAH PARTIES, GATHERING, DINNERS, GAME NIGHTS FOR CHILDREN

For children, parties and game nights are especially fun. Adults may enjoy a dinner or a gathering to celebrate the festival.

### LIGHTING LIGHTS EACH NIGHT OF HANUKKAH

#### *The Hanukkah Menorah:*

A regular menorah has 7 lamps for each day of the week.



A Hanukkah menorah (called a Chanukiah - "Hah-Noo-Kee-yah") has nine lamps. The lamp in the center is called the servant lamp (Shamash in Hebrew, which means servant). You light servant candle first, and then use the servant candle to light the other lights. On each side of the servant candle are four candles. Each candle represents one of the 8 nights of Hanukkah.

#### *How to Light the Hanukkah Menorah:*

At sunset each evening of Hanukkah (which is the beginning of the Hebrew day), you light the Hanukkah lights.

Anyone in the family can light the candles. It's fun sometimes for children old enough to take turns lighting the candles. It should be done in a place where the menorah can be on display for the family to enjoy.

1. Always begin with placing a candle in the middle lamp, the Shamash Candle. Light the Shamash candle.

2. On the first night of Hanukkah, add one candle to the right-most lamp. Then have the designated family member light the candle using the Shamash candle.
3. On the second night of Hanukkah, add two candles to the right-most two lamps. Light the candles with the Shamash candle, lighting the candles from left to right.
4. On the third night of Hanukkah, add three candles to the right-most three lamps. Light the candles with the Shamash candle, lighting the candles from left to right.
5. Each evening, continue to add the candles, beginning at the right most lamp and working to the left, and then lighting the candles from the left-most candle working to the right, until you've lit all 8 for the 8 nights!

If all this ordering of how to position and light the candles is way too complicated for you, then just add a new candle each night, and light them with the Shamash candle however you like! There is no commandment behind this, it's just traditional!!! I don't even know why I took all the effort to explain these instructions!!!

Traditionally, and again optionally, you can recite a blessing after you light the shamash, and before lighting the candles, for example:

Blessed are You, YHWH our Elohim, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments,

Blessed are You, YHWH our Elohim, King of the universe, who performed miracles for our forefathers in those days, at this time.

Chanukah Menorah Tips:

It is essential to have paper, cardboard, a plate, or some type of tray under the menorah to catch all the wax.

Over the days wax will build up on the menorah. You can dip the menorah into a pot of hot water in order to remove the wax from year to year.

## THE DREIDEL GAME

Another fun way to celebrate Hanukkah is to play the Dreidel Game!

A dreidel is a four sided top. The Hebrew word for the dreidel is Sevivon (seh-vee-vohn). Each side has a Hebrew letter:

נ Nun (Noon)	ה Heh (Hay)
ג Gimel (Gee-mail)	ש Shin (Sheen)

The letters represent an acronym for the Hebrew of "A Great Miracle Happened There" (Nes gadol hayah sham).

## Dreidel Game Rules:

1. Each player begins with 10 coins, candies (like MandM's), or game pieces.
2. At the beginning of each round, each player adds a piece to the pot.
3. Taking turns, each player spins the dreidel. If the Dreidel lands on:

1. Nun נ (Noon) - Get None, Take None!
2. Gimel ג (Gee-mail) - Take All! - the player takes all in the pot. Then each player will have to add one for the next round.
3. Heh ה (Hay) - Take Half! - the player takes half of the pot.
4. Shin ש (Sheen) - Put 1 in the Pot

4. The game is over for a player when they run out of pieces.

## HANUKKAH MUSIC/SONGS

Look up Hanukkah songs and playlists on Youtube. You will find lots of options. Some of our favorite songs are:

Chanukah, Oh Chanukah

Dreidel Song

How Many Candles do we light!

Sevivon Sov Sov Sov

## HANUKKAH CRAFTS IDEAS

Over the years, we have done many Hanukkah crafts. A search on Pinterest or other web search will turn up good ideas for crafts.

Some of the things we have done in recent years is to make Hanukkah Cards for family and friends. We also make Hanukkah Bookmarks. We have done a variety of crafts in which we made our own Hanukkah menorah out of different materials. Decorating Cookies that are in Hanukkah themed shapes is also a fun craft for children.

## HANUKKAH BOOKS

Go to the Library to find books about Hanukkah for children. If you like them, buy them for your personal library to bring out year after year.

## TO GIFT OR NOT TO GIFT

Many families give their children gifts during Hanukkah. Sometimes the gifts are fun, and sometimes the gifts are centered on the Faith, like a Bible. Giving gifts is the choice of each family that observes Hanukkah.

# Hanukkah Foods and Recipes

Hanukkah foods are recognizable because they are normally fried in oil, to go along with the myth. Some traditional Hanukkah foods include - Fried Potato pancakes (latkes), Fried donuts, and and other fried foods. A popular candy to buy at Hanukkah time is gold wrapped chocolate coins.

## HOW TO MAKE LATKES

- 2 pounds russet potatoes, peeled
- 1 medium onion
- 1/2 cup chopped green onions
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- Oil for frying

Coarsely grate potatoes and onion; drain any liquid. Place in a bowl; add green onions, egg, salt and pepper.

In a cast-iron or electric skillet, heat 1/8 in. of oil to 375°. Drop batter by heaping tablespoonfuls into hot oil. Flatten to form patties. Fry until golden brown; turn and cook the

other side. Drain on paper towels. If desired, serve with toppings.

Recipe From: <https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/potato-latkes/>

## HOW TO MAKE HOMEMADE DONUTS

- 2 (.25 ounce) envelopes active dry yeast
- 1/4 cup warm water (105 to 115 degrees)
- 1 1/2 cups lukewarm milk
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs
- 1/3 cup shortening
- 5 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 quart vegetable oil for frying
- 1/3 cup butter
- 2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
- 4 tablespoons hot water or as needed

Sprinkle the yeast over the warm water, and let stand for 5 minutes, or until foamy.

In a large bowl, mix together the yeast mixture, milk, sugar, salt, eggs, shortening, and 2 cups of the flour. Mix for a few minutes at low speed, or stirring with a wooden spoon. Beat in remaining flour 1/2 cup at a time, until the dough no longer sticks to the bowl. Knead for about 5 minutes, or until smooth and elastic. Place the dough into a greased bowl, and cover. Set in a warm place to rise until double. Dough is ready if you touch it, and the indentation remains.

Turn the dough out onto a floured surface, and gently roll out to 1/2 inch thickness. Cut with a floured doughnut cutter. Let doughnuts sit out to rise again until double. Cover loosely with a cloth.

Melt butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Stir in confectioners' sugar and vanilla until smooth. Remove from heat, and stir in hot water one tablespoon at a time until the icing is somewhat thin, but not watery. Set aside.

Heat oil in a deep-fryer or large heavy skillet to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Slide doughnuts into the hot oil using a wide spatula. Turn doughnuts over as they rise to the surface. Fry doughnuts on each side until golden brown. Remove from hot oil, to drain on a wire rack. Dip doughnuts into the glaze while still hot, and set onto wire racks to drain off excess. Keep a cookie sheet or tray under racks for easier clean up.

Recipe From: <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/45921/crispy-and-creamy-doughnuts/?internalSource=hub%20recipe&referringContentType=Search>

## ROLLED SUGAR COOKIES - USE HANUKKAH COOKIE CUTTERS

1 1/2 cups butter, softened

2 cups white sugar

4 eggs

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

5 cups all-purpose flour

2 teaspoons baking powder

1 teaspoon salt

In a large bowl, cream together butter and sugar until smooth. Beat in eggs and vanilla. Stir in the flour, baking powder, and salt. Cover, and chill dough for at least one hour (or overnight).

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Roll out dough on floured surface 1/4 to 1/2 inch thick. Cut into shapes with Hanukkah cookie cutters. Place cookies 1 inch apart on ungreased cookie sheets.

Bake 6 to 8 minutes in preheated oven. Cool completely.

Decorate with the children!

Recipe From: <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/10402/the-best-rolled-sugar-cookies/>

## Concluding Thoughts

It is my hope that this guide is a useful introduction to some ways to celebrate Hanukkah. Hanukkah is an excellent way to encourage children to be different at a time when their friends are celebrating Christmas. It is also a good way to help children transition from celebrating Christmas by giving them a reason to come out of the world and be holy (Yah requires this of us!), new heroes to look up to like the Maccabees, and some fun traditions to replace their old ones. It is my hope that your family learns to enjoy celebrating Hanukkah just as much as my family! Check our YouTube Channel for video tutorials on recipes and even songs for the Holy Days!

## Happy Chanukah!!!!!!

Tirtzah Lewis, Derek Echad Talmidah

For questions or comments, reach me at:

[DerekEchad.OneWay@DerekEchad.com](mailto:DerekEchad.OneWay@DerekEchad.com)

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# The Full Hanukkah Account - All Taken from the KJV Apocrypha

## 1 Maccabees 1

1And it happened, after that Alexander son of Philip, the Macedonian, who came out of the land of Chettiim, had smitten Darius king of the Persians and Medes, that he reigned in his stead, the first over Greece,

2And made many wars, and won many strong holds, and slew the kings of the earth,

3And went through to the ends of the earth, and took spoils of many nations, insomuch that the earth was quiet before him; whereupon he was exalted and his heart was lifted up.

4And he gathered a mighty strong host and ruled over countries, and nations, and kings, who became tributaries unto him.

5And after these things he fell sick, and perceived that he should die.

6Wherefore he called his servants, such as were honourable, and had been brought up with him from his youth, and parted his kingdom among them, while he was yet alive.

7So Alexander reigned twelves years, and then died.

8And his servants bare rule every one in his place.

9And after his death they all put crowns upon themselves; so did their sons after them many years: and evils were multiplied in the earth.

10And there came out of them a wicked root Antiochus surnamed Epiphanes, son of Antiochus the king, who had been an hostage at Rome, and he reigned in the hundred and thirty and seventh year of the kingdom of the Greeks.

11In those days went there out of Israel wicked men, who persuaded many, saying, Let us go and make a covenant with the heathen that are round about us: for since we departed from them we have had much sorrow.

12So this device pleased them well.

13Then certain of the people were so forward herein, that they went to the king, who gave them licence to do after the ordinances of the heathen:

14Whereupon they built a place of exercise at Jerusalem according to the customs of the heathen:

15And made themselves uncircumcised, and forsook the holy covenant, and joined themselves to the heathen, and were sold to do mischief.

16Now when the kingdom was established before Antiochus, he thought to reign over Egypt that he might have the dominion of two realms.

17Wherefore he entered into Egypt with a great multitude, with chariots, and elephants, and horsemen, and a great navy,

18And made war against Ptolemee king of Egypt: but Ptolemee was afraid of him, and fled; and many were wounded to death.

19Thus they got the strong cities in the land of Egypt and he took the spoils thereof.

20And after that Antiochus had smitten Egypt, he returned again in the hundred forty and third year, and went up against Israel and Jerusalem with a great multitude,

21And entered proudly into the sanctuary, and took away the golden altar, and the candlestick of light, and all the vessels thereof,

22And the table of the shewbread, and the pouring vessels, and the vials. and the censers of gold, and the veil, and the crown, and the golden ornaments that were before the temple, all which he pulled off.

23He took also the silver and the gold, and the precious vessels: also he took the hidden treasures which he found.

24And when he had taken all away, he went into his own land, having made a great massacre, and spoken very proudly.

25Therefore there was a great mourning in Israel, in every place where they were;

26So that the princes and elders mourned, the virgins and young men were made feeble, and the beauty of women was changed.

27Every bridegroom took up lamentation, and she that sat in the marriage chamber was in heaviness,



28The land also was moved for the inhabitants thereof, and all the house of Jacob was covered with confusion.

29And after two years fully expired the king sent his chief collector of tribute unto the cities of Juda, who came unto Jerusalem with a great multitude,

30And spake peaceable words unto them, but all was deceit: for when they had given him credence, he fell suddenly upon the city, and smote it very sore, and destroyed much people of Israel.

31And when he had taken the spoils of the city, he set it on fire, and pulled down the houses and walls thereof on every side.

32But the women and children took they captive, and possessed the cattle.

33Then builded they the city of David with a great and strong wall, and with mighty towers, and made it a strong hold for them.

34And they put therein a sinful nation, wicked men, and fortified themselves therein.

35They stored it also with armour and victuals, and when they had gathered together the spoils of Jerusalem, they laid them up there, and so they became a sore snare:

36For it was a place to lie in wait against the sanctuary, and an evil adversary to Israel.

37Thus they shed innocent blood on every side of the sanctuary, and defiled it:

38Insomuch that the inhabitants of Jerusalem fled because of them: whereupon the city was made an habitation of strangers, and became strange to those that were born in her; and her own children left her.

39Her sanctuary was laid waste like a wilderness, her feasts were turned into mourning, her sabbaths into reproach her honour into contempt.

40As had been her glory, so was her dishonour increased, and her excellency was turned into mourning.

41Moreover king Antiochus wrote to his whole kingdom, that all should be one people,

42And every one should leave his laws: so all the heathen agreed according to the commandment of the king.

43Yea, many also of the Israelites consented to his religion, and sacrificed unto idols, and profaned the sabbath.

44For the king had sent letters by messengers unto Jerusalem and the cities of Juda that they should follow the strange laws of the land,

45And forbid burnt offerings, and sacrifice, and drink offerings, in the temple; and that they should profane the sabbaths and festival days:

46And pollute the sanctuary and holy people:

47Set up altars, and groves, and chapels of idols, and sacrifice swine's flesh, and unclean beasts:

48That they should also leave their children uncircumcised, and make their souls abominable with all manner of uncleanness and profanation:

49To the end they might forget the law, and change all the ordinances.

50And whosoever would not do according to the commandment of the king, he said, he should die.

51In the selfsame manner wrote he to his whole kingdom, and appointed overseers over all the people, commanding the cities of Juda to sacrifice, city by city.

52Then many of the people were gathered unto them, to wit every one that forsook the law; and so they committed evils in the land;

53And drove the Israelites into secret places, even wheresoever they could flee for succour.

54Now the fifteenth day of the month Casleu, in the hundred forty and fifth year, they set up the abomination of desolation upon the altar, and builded idol altars throughout the cities of Juda on every side;

55And burnt incense at the doors of their houses, and in the streets.

56And when they had rent in pieces the books of the law which they found, they burnt them with fire.

57And whosoever was found with any the book of the testament, or if any committed to the law, the king's commandment was, that they should put him to death.

58Thus did they by their authority unto the Israelites every month, to as many as were found in the cities.

59Now the five and twentieth day of the month they did sacrifice upon the idol altar, which was upon the altar of God.

60At which time according to the commandment they put to death certain women, that had caused their children to be circumcised.

61And they hanged the infants about their necks, and rifled their houses, and slew them that had circumcised them.

62Howbeit many in Israel were fully resolved and confirmed in themselves not to eat any unclean thing.

63Wherefore the rather to die, that they might not be defiled with meats, and that they might not profane the holy covenant: so then they died.

64And there was very great wrath upon Israel.

## 1 Maccabees 2

1In those days arose Mattathias the son of John, the son of Simeon, a priest of the sons of Joarib, from Jerusalem, and dwelt in Modin.

2And he had five sons, Joannan, called Caddis:

3Simon; called Thassi:

4Judas, who was called Maccabeus:

5Eleazar, called Avaran: and Jonathan, whose surname was Apphus.

6And when he saw the blasphemies that were committed in Juda and Jerusalem,

7He said, Woe is me! wherefore was I born to see this misery of my people, and of the holy city, and to dwell there, when it was delivered into the hand of the enemy, and the sanctuary into the hand of strangers?

8Her temple is become as a man without glory.

9Her glorious vessels are carried away into captivity, her infants are slain in the streets, her young men with the sword of the enemy.

10What nation hath not had a part in her kingdom and gotten of her spoils?

11All her ornaments are taken away; of a free woman she is become a bondslave.

12And, behold, our sanctuary, even our beauty and our glory, is laid waste, and the Gentiles have profaned it.

13To what end therefore shall we live any longer?

14Then Mattathias and his sons rent their clothes, and put on sackcloth, and mourned very sore.

15In the mean while the king's officers, such as compelled the people to revolt, came into the city Modin, to make them sacrifice.

16And when many of Israel came unto them, Mattathias also and his sons came together.

17Then answered the king's officers, and said to Mattathias on this wise, Thou art a ruler, and an honourable and great man in this city, and strengthened with sons and brethren:

18Now therefore come thou first, and fulfil the king's commandment, like as all the heathen have done, yea, and the men of Juda also, and such as remain at Jerusalem: so shalt thou and thy house be in the number of the king's friends, and thou and thy children shall be honoured with silver and gold, and many rewards.

19Then Mattathias answered and spake with a loud voice, Though all the nations that are under the king's dominion obey him, and fall away every one from the religion of their fathers, and give consent to his commandments:

20Yet will I and my sons and my brethren walk in the covenant of our fathers.

21God forbid that we should forsake the law and the ordinances.

22We will not hearken to the king's words, to go from our religion, either on the right hand, or the left.

23Now when he had left speaking these words, there came one of the Jews in the sight of all to sacrifice on the altar which was at Modin, according to the king's commandment.

24Which thing when Mattathias saw, he was inflamed with zeal, and his reins trembled, neither could he forbear to shew his anger according to judgment: wherefore he ran, and slew him upon the altar.

25Also the king's commissioner, who compelled men to sacrifice, he killed at that time, and the altar he pulled down.

26Thus dealt he zealously for the law of God like as Phinees did unto Zambri the son of Salom.

27And Mattathias cried throughout the city with a loud voice, saying, Whosoever is zealous of the law, and maintaineth the covenant, let him follow me.

28So he and his sons fled into the mountains, and left all that ever they had in the city.

29Then many that sought after justice and judgment went down into the wilderness, to dwell there:

30Both they, and their children, and their wives; and their cattle; because afflictions increased sore upon them.

31Now when it was told the king's servants, and the host that was at Jerusalem, in the city of David, that certain men, who had broken the king's commandment, were gone down into the secret places in the wilderness,

32They pursued after them a great number, and having overtaken them, they camped against them, and made war against them on the sabbath day.

33And they said unto them, Let that which ye have done hitherto suffice; come forth, and do according to the commandment of the king, and ye shall live.

34But they said, We will not come forth, neither will we do the king's commandment, to profane the sabbath day.

35So then they gave them the battle with all speed.

36Howbeit they answered them not, neither cast they a stone at them, nor stopped the places where they lay hid;

37But said, Let us die all in our innocency: heaven and earth will testify for us, that ye put us to death wrongfully.

38So they rose up against them in battle on the sabbath, and they slew them, with their wives and children and their cattle, to the number of a thousand people.

39Now when Mattathias and his friends understood hereof, they mourned for them right sore.

40And one of them said to another, If we all do as our brethren have done, and fight not for our lives and laws against the heathen, they will now quickly root us out of the earth.

41At that time therefore they decreed, saying, Whosoever shall come to make battle with us on the sabbath day, we will fight against him; neither will we die all, as our brethren that were murdered in the secret places.

42Then came there unto him a company of Assideans who were mighty men of Israel, even all such as were voluntarily devoted unto the law.

43Also all they that fled for persecution joined themselves unto them, and were a stay unto them.

44So they joined their forces, and smote sinful men in their anger, and wicked men in their wrath: but the rest fled to the heathen for succour.

45Then Mattathias and his friends went round about, and pulled down the altars:

46And what children soever they found within the coast of Israel uncircumcised, those they circumcised valiantly.

47They pursued also after the proud men, and the work prospered in their hand.

48So they recovered the law out of the hand of the Gentiles, and out of the hand of kings, neither suffered they the sinner to triumph.

49Now when the time drew near that Mattathias should die, he said unto his sons, Now hath pride and rebuke gotten strength, and the time of destruction, and the wrath of indignation:

50Now therefore, my sons, be ye zealous for the law, and give your lives for the covenant of your fathers.

51Call to remembrance what acts our fathers did in their time; so shall ye receive great honour and an everlasting name.

52Was not Abraham found faithful in temptation, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness?

53Joseph in the time of his distress kept the commandment and was made lord of Egypt.

54Phinees our father in being zealous and fervent obtained the covenant of an everlasting priesthood.

55Jesus for fulfilling the word was made a judge in Israel.

56Caleb for bearing witness before the congregation received the heritage of the land.

57David for being merciful possessed the throne of an everlasting kingdom.

58Elias for being zealous and fervent for the law was taken up into heaven.

59Ananias, Azarias, and Misael, by believing were saved out of the flame.

60Daniel for his innocency was delivered from the mouth of lions.

61And thus consider ye throughout all ages, that none that put their trust in him shall be overcome.

62Fear not then the words of a sinful man: for his glory shall be dung and worms.

63To day he shall be lifted up and to morrow he shall not be found, because he is returned into his dust, and his thought is come to nothing.

64Wherefore, ye my sons, be valiant and shew yourselves men in the behalf of the law; for by it shall ye obtain glory.

65And behold, I know that your brother Simon is a man of counsel, give ear unto him alway: he shall be a father unto you.

66As for Judas Maccabeus, he hath been mighty and strong, even from his youth up: let him be your captain, and fight the battle of the people.

67Take also unto you all those that observe the law, and avenge ye the wrong of your people.

68Recompense fully the heathen, and take heed to the commandments of the law.

69So he blessed them, and was gathered to his fathers.

70And he died in the hundred forty and sixth year, and his sons buried him in the sepulchres of his fathers at Modin, and all Israel made great lamentation for him.

## 1 Maccabees 3

1Then his son Judas, called Maccabeus, rose up in his stead.

2And all his brethren helped him, and so did all they that held with his father, and they fought with cheerfulness the battle of Israel.

3So he gat his people great honour, and put on a breastplate as a giant, and girt his warlike harness about him, and he made battles, protecting the host with his sword.

4In his acts he was like a lion, and like a lion's whelp roaring for his prey.

5For He pursued the wicked, and sought them out, and burnt up those that vexed his people.

6Wherefore the wicked shrunk for fear of him, and all the workers of iniquity were troubled, because salvation prospered in his hand.

7He grieved also many kings, and made Jacob glad with his acts, and his memorial is blessed for ever.

8Moreover he went through the cities of Juda, destroying the ungodly out of them, and turning away wrath from Israel:

9So that he was renowned unto the utmost part of the earth, and he received unto him such as were ready to perish.

10Then Apollonius gathered the Gentiles together, and a great host out of Samaria, to fight against Israel.

11Which thing when Judas perceived, he went forth to meet him, and so he smote him, and slew him: many also fell down slain, but the rest fled.

12Wherefore Judas took their spoils, and Apollonius' sword also, and therewith he fought all his life long.

13Now when Seron, a prince of the army of Syria, heard say that Judas had gathered unto him a multitude and company of the faithful to go out with him to war;

14He said, I will get me a name and honour in the kingdom; for I will go fight with Judas and them that are with him, who despise the king's commandment.

15So he made him ready to go up, and there went with him a mighty host of the ungodly to help him, and to be avenged of the children of Israel.

16And when he came near to the going up of Bethhoron, Judas went forth to meet him with a small company:

17Who, when they saw the host coming to meet them, said unto Judas, How shall we be able, being so few, to fight against so great a multitude and so strong, seeing we are ready to faint with fasting all this day?

18Unto whom Judas answered, It is no hard matter for many to be shut up in the hands of a few; and with the God of heaven it is all one, to deliver with a great multitude, or a small company:

19For the victory of battle standeth not in the multitude of an host; but strength cometh from heaven.

20They come against us in much pride and iniquity to destroy us, and our wives and children, and to spoil us:

21But we fight for our lives and our laws.

22Wherefore the Lord himself will overthrow them before our face: and as for you, be ye not afraid of them.

23Now as soon as he had left off speaking, he leapt suddenly upon them, and so Seron and his host was overthrown before him.

24And they pursued them from the going down of Bethhoron unto the plain, where were slain about eight hundred men of them; and the residue fled into the land of the Philistines.

25Then began the fear of Judas and his brethren, and an exceeding great dread, to fall upon the nations round about them:

26Insomuch as his fame came unto the king, and all nations talked of the battles of Judas.

27Now when king Antiochus heard these things, he was full of indignation: wherefore he sent and gathered together all the forces of his realm, even a very strong army.

28He opened also his treasure, and gave his soldiers pay for a year, commanding them to be ready whensoever he should need them.

29Nevertheless, when he saw that the money of his treasures failed and that the tributes in the country were small, because of the dissension and plague, which he had brought upon the land in taking away the laws which had been of old time;

30He feared that he should not be able to bear the charges any longer, nor to have such gifts to give so liberally as he did before: for he had abounded above the kings that were before him.

31Wherefore, being greatly perplexed in his mind, he determined to go into Persia, there to take the tributes of the countries, and to gather much money.

32So he left Lysias, a nobleman, and one of the blood royal, to oversee the affairs of the king from the river Euphrates unto the borders of Egypt:

33And to bring up his son Antiochus, until he came again.

34Moreover he delivered unto him the half of his forces, and the elephants, and gave him charge of all things that he would have done, as also concerning them that dwelt in Juda and Jerusalem:

35To wit, that he should send an army against them, to destroy and root out the strength of Israel, and the remnant of Jerusalem, and to take away their memorial from that place;

36And that he should place strangers in all their quarters, and divide their land by lot.

37So the king took the half of the forces that remained, and departed from Antioch, his royal city, the hundred forty and seventh year; and having passed the river Euphrates, he went through the high countries.

38Then Lysias chose Ptolemee the son of Dorymenes, Nicanor, and Gorgias, mighty men of the king's friends:

39And with them he sent forty thousand footmen, and seven thousand horsemen, to go into the land of Juda, and to destroy it, as the king commanded.

40So they went forth with all their power, and came and pitched by Emmaus in the plain country.

41And the merchants of the country, hearing the fame of them, took silver and gold very much, with servants, and came into the camp to buy the children of Israel for slaves: a power also of Syria and of the land of the Philistines joined themselves unto them.

42Now when Judas and his brethren saw that miseries were multiplied, and that the forces did encamp themselves in their borders: for they knew how the king had given commandment to destroy the people, and utterly abolish them;

43They said one to another, Let us restore the decayed fortune of our people, and let us fight for our people and the sanctuary.

44Then was the congregation gathered together, that they might be ready for battle, and that they might pray, and ask mercy and compassion.

45Now Jerusalem lay void as a wilderness, there was none of her children that went in or out: the sanctuary also was trodden down, and aliens kept the strong hold; the heathen had their habitation in that place; and joy was taken from Jacob, and the pipe with the harp ceased.

46Wherefore the Israelites assembled themselves together, and came to Maspha, over against Jerusalem; for in Maspha was the place where they prayed aforetime in Israel.

47Then they fasted that day, and put on sackcloth, and cast ashes upon their heads, and rent their clothes,

48And laid open the book of the law, wherein the heathen had sought to paint the likeness of their images.

49They brought also the priests' garments, and the firstfruits, and the tithes: and the Nazarites they stirred up, who had accomplished their days.

50Then cried they with a loud voice toward heaven, saying, What shall we do with these, and whither shall we carry them away?

51For thy sanctuary is trodden down and profaned, and thy priests are in heaviness, and brought low.

52And lo, the heathen are assembled together against us to destroy us: what things they imagine against us, thou knowest.

53How shall we be able to stand against them, except thou, O God, be our help?

54Then sounded they with trumpets, and cried with a loud voice.

55And after this Judas ordained captains over the people, even captains over thousands, and over hundreds, and over fifties, and over tens.

56But as for such as were building houses, or had betrothed wives, or were planting vineyards, or were fearful, those he commanded that they should return, every man to his own house, according to the law.

57So the camp removed, and pitched upon the south side of Emmaus.

58And Judas said, arm yourselves, and be valiant men, and see that ye be in readiness against the morning, that ye may fight with these nations, that are assembled together against us to destroy us and our sanctuary:

59For it is better for us to die in battle, than to behold the calamities of our people and our sanctuary.

60Nevertheless, as the will of God is in heaven, so let him do.

## 1 Maccabees 4

1Then took Gorgias five thousand footmen, and a thousand of the best horsemen, and removed out of the camp by night;

2To the end he might rush in upon the camp of the Jews, and smite them suddenly. And the men of the fortress were his guides.

3Now when Judas heard thereof he himself removed, and the valiant men with him, that he might smite the king's army which was at Emmaus,

4While as yet the forces were dispersed from the camp.

5In the mean season came Gorgias by night into the camp of Judas: and when he found no man there, he

sought them in the mountains: for said he, These fellows flee from us

6But as soon as it was day, Judas shewed himself in the plain with three thousand men, who nevertheless had neither armour nor swords to their minds.

7And they saw the camp of the heathen, that it was strong and well harnessed, and compassed round about with horsemen; and these were expert of war.

8Then said Judas to the men that were with him, Fear ye not their multitude, neither be ye afraid of their assault.

9Remember how our fathers were delivered in the Red sea, when Pharaoh pursued them with an army.

10Now therefore let us cry unto heaven, if peradventure the Lord will have mercy upon us, and remember the covenant of our fathers, and destroy this host before our face this day:

11That so all the heathen may know that there is one who delivereth and saveth Israel.

12Then the strangers lifted up their eyes, and saw them coming over against them.

13Wherefore they went out of the camp to battle; but they that were with Judas sounded their trumpets.

14So they joined battle, and the heathen being discomfited fled into the plain.

15Howbeit all the hindmost of them were slain with the sword: for they pursued them unto Gazera, and unto the plains of Idumea, and Azotus, and Jamnia, so that there were slain of them upon a three thousand men.

16This done, Judas returned again with his host from pursuing them,

17And said to the people, Be not greedy of the spoil inasmuch as there is a battle before us,

18And Gorgias and his host are here by us in the mountain: but stand ye now against our enemies, and overcome them, and after this ye may boldly take the spoils.

19As Judas was yet speaking these words, there appeared a part of them looking out of the mountain:

20Who when they perceived that the Jews had put their host to flight and were burning the tents; for the smoke that was seen declared what was done:

21When therefore they perceived these things, they were sore afraid, and seeing also the host of Judas in the plain ready to fight,

22They fled every one into the land of strangers.

23Then Judas returned to spoil the tents, where they got much gold, and silver, and blue silk, and purple of the sea, and great riches.

24After this they went home, and sung a song of thanksgiving, and praised the Lord in heaven: because it is good, because his mercy endureth forever.

25Thus Israel had a great deliverance that day.

26Now all the strangers that had escaped came and told Lysias what had happened:

27Who, when he heard thereof, was confounded and discouraged, because neither such things as he would were done unto Israel, nor such things as the king commanded him were come to pass.

28The next year therefore following Lysias gathered together threescore thousand choice men of foot, and five thousand horsemen, that he might subdue them.

29So they came into Idumea, and pitched their tents at Bethsura, and Judas met them with ten thousand men.

30And when he saw that mighty army, he prayed and said, Blessed art thou, O Saviour of Israel, who didst quell the violence of the mighty man by the hand of thy servant David, and gavest the host of strangers into the hands of Jonathan the son of Saul, and his armourbearer;

31Shut up this army in the hand of thy people Israel, and let them be confounded in their power and horsemen:

32Make them to be of no courage, and cause the boldness of their strength to fall away, and let them quake at their destruction:

33Cast them down with the sword of them that love thee, and let all those that know thy name praise thee with thanksgiving.

34So they joined battle; and there were slain of the host of Lysias about five thousand men, even before them were they slain.

35Now when Lysias saw his army put to flight, and the manliness of Judas' soldiers, and how they were ready either to live or die valiantly, he went into Antiochia, and gathered together a company of strangers, and

having made his army greater than it was, he purposed to come again into Judea.

36Then said Judas and his brethren, Behold, our enemies are discomfited: let us go up to cleanse and dedicate the sanctuary.

37Upon this all the host assembled themselves together, and went up into mount Sion.

38And when they saw the sanctuary desolate, and the altar profaned, and the gates burned up, and shrubs growing in the courts as in a forest, or in one of the mountains, yea, and the priests' chambers pulled down;

39They rent their clothes, and made great lamentation, and cast ashes upon their heads,

40And fell down flat to the ground upon their faces, and blew an alarm with the trumpets, and cried toward heaven.

41Then Judas appointed certain men to fight against those that were in the fortress, until he had cleansed the sanctuary.

42So he chose priests of blameless conversation, such as had pleasure in the law:

43Who cleansed the sanctuary, and bare out the defiled stones into an unclean place.

44And when as they consulted what to do with the altar of burnt offerings, which was profaned;

45They thought it best to pull it down, lest it should be a reproach to them, because the heathen had defiled it: wherefore they pulled it down,

46And laid up the stones in the mountain of the temple in a convenient place, until there should come a prophet to shew what should be done with them.

47Then they took whole stones according to the law, and built a new altar according to the former;

48And made up the sanctuary, and the things that were within the temple, and hallowed the courts.

49They made also new holy vessels, and into the temple they brought the candlestick, and the altar of burnt offerings, and of incense, and the table.

50And upon the altar they burned incense, and the lamps that were upon the candlestick they lighted, that they might give light in the temple.

51Furthermore they set the loaves upon the table, and spread out the veils, and finished all the works which they had begun to make.

52Now on the five and twentieth day of the ninth month, which is called the month Casleu, in the hundred forty and eighth year, they rose up betimes in the morning,

53And offered sacrifice according to the law upon the new altar of burnt offerings, which they had made.

54Look, at what time and what day the heathen had profaned it, even in that was it dedicated with songs, and citherns, and harps, and cymbals.

55Then all the people fell upon their faces, worshipping and praising the God of heaven, who had given them good success.

56And so they kept the dedication of the altar eight days and offered burnt offerings with gladness, and sacrificed the sacrifice of deliverance and praise.

57They decked also the forefront of the temple with crowns of gold, and with shields; and the gates and the chambers they renewed, and hanged doors upon them.

58Thus was there very great gladness among the people, for that the reproach of the heathen was put away.

59Moreover Judas and his brethren with the whole congregation of Israel ordained, that the days of the dedication of the altar should be kept in their season from year to year by the space of eight days, from the five and twentieth day of the month Casleu, with mirth and gladness.

60At that time also they builded up the mount Sion with high walls and strong towers round about, lest the Gentiles should come and tread it down as they had done before.

61And they set there a garrison to keep it, and fortified Bethsura to preserve it; that the people might have a defence against Idumea.

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## 2 Maccabees 5

1About the same time Antiochus prepared his second voyage into Egypt:

2And then it happened, that through all the city, for the space almost of forty days, there were seen horsemen

running in the air, in cloth of gold, and armed with lances, like a band of soldiers,

3And troops of horsemen in array, encountering and running one against another, with shaking of shields, and multitude of pikes, and drawing of swords, and casting of darts, and glittering of golden ornaments, and harness of all sorts.

4Wherefore every man prayed that that apparition might turn to good.

5Now when there was gone forth a false rumour, as though Antiochus had been dead, Jason took at the least a thousand men, and suddenly made an assault upon the city; and they that were upon the walls being put back, and the city at length taken, Menelaus fled into the castle:

6But Jason slew his own citizens without mercy, not considering that to get the day of them of his own nation would be a most unhappy day for him; but thinking they had been his enemies, and not his countrymen, whom he conquered.

7Howbeit for all this he obtained not the principality, but at the last received shame for the reward of his treason, and fled again into the country of the Ammonites.

8In the end therefore he had an unhappy return, being accused before Aretas the king of the Arabians, fleeing from city to city, pursued of all men, hated as a forsaker of the laws, and being had in abomination as an open enemy of his country and countrymen, he was cast out into Egypt.

9Thus he that had driven many out of their country perished in a strange land, retiring to the Lacedemonians, and thinking there to find succour by reason of his kindred:

10And he that had cast out many unburied had none to mourn for him, nor any solemn funerals at all, nor sepulchre with his fathers.

11Now when this that was done came to the king's ear, he thought that Judea had revolted: whereupon removing out of Egypt in a furious mind, he took the city by force of arms,

12And commanded his men of war not to spare such as they met, and to slay such as went up upon the houses.

13Thus there was killing of young and old, making away of men, women, and children, slaying of virgins and infants.



14And there were destroyed within the space of three whole days fourscore thousand, whereof forty thousand were slain in the conflict; and no fewer sold than slain.

15Yet was he not content with this, but presumed to go into the most holy temple of all the world; Menelaus, that traitor to the laws, and to his own country, being his guide:

16And taking the holy vessels with polluted hands, and with profane hands pulling down the things that were dedicated by other kings to the augmentation and glory and honour of the place, he gave them away.

17And so haughty was Antiochus in mind, that he considered not that the Lord was angry for a while for the sins of them that dwelt in the city, and therefore his eye was not upon the place.

18For had they not been formerly wrapped in many sins, this man, as soon as he had come, had forthwith been scourged, and put back from his presumption, as Heliodorus was, whom Seleucus the king sent to view the treasury.

19Nevertheless God did not choose the people for the place's sake, but the place for the people's sake.

20And therefore the place itself, that was partaker with them of the adversity that happened to the nation, did afterward communicate in the benefits sent from the Lord: and as it was forsaken in the wrath of the Almighty, so again, the great Lord being reconciled, it was set up with all glory.

21So when Antiochus had carried out of the temple a thousand and eight hundred talents, he departed in all haste unto Antiochia, weening in his pride to make the land navigable, and the sea passable by foot: such was the haughtiness of his mind.

22And he left governors to vex the nation: at Jerusalem, Philip, for his country a Phrygian, and for manners more barbarous than he that set him there;

23And at Garizim, Andronicus; and besides, Menelaus, who worse than all the rest bare an heavy hand over the citizens, having a malicious mind against his countrymen the Jews.

24He sent also that detestable ringleader Apollonius with an army of two and twenty thousand, commanding him to slay all those that were in their best age, and to sell the women and the younger sort:

25Who coming to Jerusalem, and pretending peace, did forbear till the holy day of the sabbath, when taking the Jews keeping holy day, he commanded his men to arm themselves.

26And so he slew all them that were gone to the celebrating of the sabbath, and running through the city with weapons slew great multitudes.

27But Judas Maccabeus with nine others, or thereabout, withdrew himself into the wilderness, and lived in the mountains after the manner of beasts, with his company, who fed on herbs continually, lest they should be partakers of the pollution.

## 2 Maccabees 6

1Not long after this the king sent an old man of Athens to compel the Jews to depart from the laws of their fathers, and not to live after the laws of God:

2And to pollute also the temple in Jerusalem, and to call it the temple of Jupiter Olympius; and that in Garizim, of Jupiter the Defender of strangers, as they did desire that dwelt in the place.

3The coming in of this mischief was sore and grievous to the people:

4For the temple was filled with riot and revelling by the Gentiles, who dallied with harlots, and had to do with women within the circuit of the holy places, and besides that brought in things that were not lawful.

5The altar also was filled with profane things, which the law forbiddeth.

6Neither was it lawful for a man to keep sabbath days or ancient fasts, or to profess himself at all to be a Jew.

7And in the day of the king's birth every month they were brought by bitter constraint to eat of the sacrifices; and when the fast of Bacchus was kept, the Jews were compelled to go in procession to Bacchus, carrying ivy.

8Moreover there went out a decree to the neighbour cities of the heathen, by the suggestion of Ptolemee, against the Jews, that they should observe the same fashions, and be partakers of their sacrifices:

9And whoso would not conform themselves to the manners of the Gentiles should be put to death. Then might a man have seen the present misery.

10For there were two women brought, who had circumcised their children; whom when they had openly led round about the city, the babes hanging at their breasts, they cast them down headlong from the wall.

11And others, that had run together into caves near by, to keep the sabbath day secretly, being discovered by Philip, were all burnt together, because they made a

conscience to help themselves for the honour of the most sacred day.

12Now I beseech those that read this book, that they be not discouraged for these calamities, but that they judge those punishments not to be for destruction, but for a chastening of our nation.

13For it is a token of his great goodness, when wicked doers are not suffered any long time, but forthwith punished.

14For not as with other nations, whom the Lord patiently forbearth to punish, till they be come to the fulness of their sins, so dealeth he with us,

15Lest that, being come to the height of sin, afterwards he should take vengeance of us.

16And therefore he never withdraweth his mercy from us: and though he punish with adversity, yet doth he never forsake his people.

17But let this that we at spoken be for a warning unto us. And now will we come to the declaring of the matter in a few words.

18Eleazar, one of the principal scribes, an aged man, and of a well favoured countenance, was constrained to open his mouth, and to eat swine's flesh.

19But he, choosing rather to die gloriously, than to live stained with such an abomination, spit it forth, and came of his own accord to the torment,

20As it behoved them to come, that are resolute to stand out against such things, as are not lawful for love of life to be tasted.

21But they that had the charge of that wicked feast, for the old acquaintance they had with the man, taking him aside, besought him to bring flesh of his own provision, such as was lawful for him to use, and make as if he did eat of the flesh taken from the sacrifice commanded by the king;

22That in so doing he might be delivered from death, and for the old friendship with them find favour.

23But he began to consider discreetly, and as became his age, and the excellency of his ancient years, and the honour of his gray head, whereon was come, and his most honest education from a child, or rather the holy law made and given by God: therefore he answered accordingly, and willed them straightways to send him to the grave.

24For it cometh not our age, said he, in any wise to dissemble, whereby many young persons might think

that Eleazar, being fourscore years old and ten, were now gone to a strange religion;

25And so they through mine hypocrisy, and desire to live a little time and a moment longer, should be deceived by me, and I get a stain to mine old age, and make it abominable.

26For though for the present time I should be delivered from the punishment of men: yet should I not escape the hand of the Almighty, neither alive, nor dead.

27Wherefore now, manfully changing this life, I will shew myself such an one as mine age requireth,

28And leave a notable example to such as be young to die willingly and courageously for the honourable and holy laws. And when he had said these words, immediately he went to the torment:

29They that led him changing the good will they bare him a little before into hatred, because the foresaid speeches proceeded, as they thought, from a desperate mind.

30But when he was ready to die with stripes, he groaned, and said, It is manifest unto the Lord, that hath the holy knowledge, that whereas I might have been delivered from death, I now endure sore pains in body by being beaten: but in soul am well content to suffer these things, because I fear him.

31And thus this man died, leaving his death for an example of a noble courage, and a memorial of virtue, not only unto young men, but unto all his nation.

## 2 Maccabees 7

1It came to pass also, that seven brethren with their mother were taken, and compelled by the king against the law to taste swine's flesh, and were tormented with scourges and whips.

2But one of them that spake first said thus, What wouldest thou ask or learn of us? we are ready to die, rather than to transgress the laws of our fathers.

3Then the king, being in a rage, commanded pans and caldrons to be made hot:

4Which forthwith being heated, he commanded to cut out the tongue of him that spake first, and to cut off the utmost parts of his body, the rest of his brethren and his mother looking on.

5Now when he was thus maimed in all his members, he commanded him being yet alive to be brought to the fire, and to be fried in the pan: and as the vapour of the pan was for a good space dispersed, they exhorted

one another with the mother to die manfully, saying thus,

6The Lord God looketh upon us, and in truth hath comfort in us, as Moses in his song, which witnessed to their faces, declared, saying, And he shall be comforted in his servants.

7So when the first was dead after this number, they brought the second to make him a mocking stock: and when they had pulled off the skin of his head with the hair, they asked him, Wilt thou eat, before thou be punished throughout every member of thy body?

8But he answered in his own language, and said, No. Wherefore he also received the next torment in order, as the former did.

9And when he was at the last gasp, he said, Thou like a fury takest us out of this present life, but the King of the world shall raise us up, who have died for his laws, unto everlasting life.

10After him was the third made a mocking stock: and when he was required, he put out his tongue, and that right soon, holding forth his hands manfully.

11And said courageously, These I had from heaven; and for his laws I despise them; and from him I hope to receive them again.

12Insomuch that the king, and they that were with him, marvelled at the young man's courage, for that he nothing regarded the pains.

13Now when this man was dead also, they tormented and mangled the fourth in like manner.

14So when he was ready to die he said thus, It is good, being put to death by men, to look for hope from God to be raised up again by him: as for thee, thou shalt have no resurrection to life.

15Afterward they brought the fifth also, and mangled him.

16Then looked he unto the king, and said, Thou hast power over men, thou art corruptible, thou doest what thou wilt; yet think not that our nation is forsaken of God;

17But abide a while, and behold his great power, how he will torment thee and thy seed.

18After him also they brought the sixth, who being ready to die said, Be not deceived without cause: for we suffer these things for ourselves, having sinned against our God: therefore marvellous things are done unto us.

19But think not thou, that takest in hand to strive against God, that thou shalt escape unpunished.

20But the mother was marvellous above all, and worthy of honourable memory: for when she saw her seven sons slain within the space of one day, she bare it with a good courage, because of the hope that she had in the Lord.

21Yea, she exhorted every one of them in her own language, filled with courageous spirits; and stirring up her womanish thoughts with a manly stomach, she said unto them,

22I cannot tell how ye came into my womb: for I neither gave you breath nor life, neither was it I that formed the members of every one of you;

23But doubtless the Creator of the world, who formed the generation of man, and found out the beginning of all things, will also of his own mercy give you breath and life again, as ye now regard not your own selves for his laws' sake.

24Now Antiochus, thinking himself despised, and suspecting it to be a reproachful speech, whilst the youngest was yet alive, did not only exhort him by words, but also assured him with oaths, that he would make him both a rich and a happy man, if he would turn from the laws of his fathers; and that also he would take him for his friend, and trust him with affairs.

25But when the young man would in no case hearken unto him, the king called his mother, and exhorted her that she would counsel the young man to save his life.

26And when he had exhorted her with many words, she promised him that she would counsel her son.

27But she bowing herself toward him, laughing the cruel tyrant to scorn, spake in her country language on this manner; O my son, have pity upon me that bare thee nine months in my womb, and gave thee such three years, and nourished thee, and brought thee up unto this age, and endured the troubles of education.

28I beseech thee, my son, look upon the heaven and the earth, and all that is therein, and consider that God made them of things that were not; and so was mankind made likewise.

29Fear not this tormentor, but, being worthy of thy brethren, take thy death that I may receive thee again in mercy with thy brethren.

30Whiles she was yet speaking these words, the young man said, Whom wait ye for? I will not obey the king's commandment: but I will obey the commandment of the law that was given unto our fathers by Moses.

31And thou, that hast been the author of all mischief against the Hebrews, shalt not escape the hands of God.

32For we suffer because of our sins.

33And though the living Lord be angry with us a little while for our chastening and correction, yet shall he be at one again with his servants.

34But thou, O godless man, and of all other most wicked, be not lifted up without a cause, nor puffed up with uncertain hopes, lifting up thy hand against the servants of God:

35For thou hast not yet escaped the judgment of Almighty God, who seeth all things.

36For our brethren, who now have suffered a short pain, are dead under God's covenant of everlasting life: but thou, through the judgment of God, shalt receive just punishment for thy pride.

37But I, as my brethren, offer up my body and life for the laws of our fathers, beseeching God that he would speedily be merciful unto our nation; and that thou by torments and plagues mayest confess, that he alone is God;

38And that in me and my brethren the wrath of the Almighty, which is justly brought upon our nation, may cease.

39Than the king' being in a rage, handed him worse than all the rest, and took it grievously that he was mocked.

40So this man died undefiled, and put his whole trust in the Lord.

41Last of all after the sons the mother died.

42Let this be enough now to have spoken concerning the idolatrous feasts, and the extreme tortures.

## 2 Maccabees 8

1Then Judas Maccabeus, and they that were with him, went privily into the towns, and called their kinsfolks together, and took unto them all such as continued in the Jews' religion, and assembled about six thousand men.

2And they called upon the Lord, that he would look upon the people that was trodden down of all; and also pity the temple profaned of ungodly men;

3And that he would have compassion upon the city, sore defaced, and ready to be made even with the ground; and hear the blood that cried unto him,

4And remember the wicked slaughter of harmless infants, and the blasphemies committed against his name; and that he would shew his hatred against the wicked.

5Now when Maccabeus had his company about him, he could not be withstood by the heathen: for the wrath of the Lord was turned into mercy.

6Therefore he came at unawares, and burnt up towns and cities, and got into his hands the most commodious places, and overcame and put to flight no small number of his enemies.

7But specially took he advantage of the night for such privy attempts, insomuch that the fruit of his holiness was spread every where.

8So when Philip saw that this man increased by little and little, and that things prospered with him still more and more, he wrote unto Ptolemeus, the governor of Celosyria and Phenice, to yield more aid to the king's affairs.

9Then forthwith choosing Nicanor the son of Patroclus, one of his special friends, he sent him with no fewer than twenty thousand of all nations under him, to root out the whole generation of the Jews; and with him he joined also Gorgias a captain, who in matters of war had great experience.

10So Nicanor undertook to make so much money of the captive Jews, as should defray the tribute of two thousand talents, which the king was to pay to the Romans.

11Wherefore immediately he sent to the cities upon the sea coast, proclaiming a sale of the captive Jews, and promising that they should have fourscore and ten bodies for one talent, not expecting the vengeance that was to follow upon him from the Almighty God.

12Now when word was brought unto Judas of Nicanor's coming, and he had imparted unto those that were with him that the army was at hand,

13They that were fearful, and distrusted the justice of God, fled, and conveyed themselves away.

14Others sold all that they had left, and withal besought the Lord to deliver them, sold by the wicked Nicanor before they met together:

15And if not for their own sakes, yet for the covenants he had made with their fathers, and for his holy and glorious name's sake, by which they were called.

16So Maccabeus called his men together unto the number of six thousand, and exhorted them not to be stricken with terror of the enemy, nor to fear the great multitude of the heathen, who came wrongly against them; but to fight manfully,

17And to set before their eyes the injury that they had unjustly done to the holy place, and the cruel handling of the city, whereof they made a mockery, and also the taking away of the government of their forefathers:

18For they, said he, trust in their weapons and boldness; but our confidence is in the Almighty who at a beck can cast down both them that come against us, and also all the world.

19Moreover, he recounted unto them what helps their forefathers had found, and how they were delivered, when under Sennacherib an hundred fourscore and five thousand perished.

20And he told them of the battle that they had in Babylon with the Galatians, how they came but eight thousand in all to the business, with four thousand Macedonians, and that the Macedonians being perplexed, the eight thousand destroyed an hundred and twenty thousand because of the help that they had from heaven, and so received a great booty.

21Thus when he had made them bold with these words, and ready to die for the law and the country, he divided his army into four parts;

22And joined with himself his own brethren, leaders of each band, to wit Simon, and Joseph, and Jonathan, giving each one fifteen hundred men.

23Also he appointed Eleazar to read the holy book: and when he had given them this watchword, The help of God; himself leading the first band,

24And by the help of the Almighty they slew above nine thousand of their enemies, and wounded and maimed the most part of Nicanor's host, and so put all to flight;

25And took their money that came to buy them, and pursued them far: but lacking time they returned:

26For it was the day before the sabbath, and therefore they would no longer pursue them.

27So when they had gathered their armour together, and spoiled their enemies, they occupied themselves about the sabbath, yielding exceeding praise and thanks to the Lord, who had preserved them unto that day, which was the beginning of mercy distilling upon them.

28And after the sabbath, when they had given part of the spoils to the maimed, and the widows, and orphans,

the residue they divided among themselves and their servants.

29When this was done, and they had made a common supplication, they besought the merciful Lord to be reconciled with his servants for ever.

30Moreover of those that were with Timotheus and Bacchides, who fought against them, they slew above twenty thousand, and very easily got high and strong holds, and divided among themselves many spoils more, and made the maimed, orphans, widows, yea, and the aged also, equal in spoils with themselves.

31And when they had gathered their armour together, they laid them up all carefully in convenient places, and the remnant of the spoils they brought to Jerusalem.

32They slew also Philarches, that wicked person, who was with Timotheus, and had annoyed the Jews many ways.

33Furthermore at such time as they kept the feast for the victory in their country they burnt Callisthenes, that had set fire upon the holy gates, who had fled into a little house; and so he received a reward meet for his wickedness.

34As for that most ungracious Nicanor, who had brought a thousand merchants to buy the Jews,

35He was through the help of the Lord brought down by them, of whom he made least account; and putting off his glorious apparel, and discharging his company, he came like a fugitive servant through the midland unto Antioch having very great dishonour, for that his host was destroyed.

36Thus he, that took upon him to make good to the Romans their tribute by means of captives in Jerusalem, told abroad, that the Jews had God to fight for them, and therefore they could not be hurt, because they followed the laws that he gave them.

## 2 Maccabees 9

1About that time came Antiochus with dishonour out of the country of Persia

2For he had entered the city called Persepolis, and went about to rob the temple, and to hold the city; whereupon the multitude running to defend themselves with their weapons put them to flight; and so it happened, that Antiochus being put to flight of the inhabitants returned with shame.

3Now when he came to Ecbatane, news was brought him what had happened unto Nicanor and Timotheus.

4Then swelling with anger. he thought to avenge upon the Jews the disgrace done unto him by those that made him flee. Therefore commanded he his chariotman to drive without ceasing, and to dispatch the journey, the judgment of GOd now following him. For he had spoken proudly in this sort, That he would come to Jerusalem and make it a common burying place of the Jew s.

5But the Lord Almighty, the God of Isreal, smote him with an incurable and invisible plague: or as soon as he had spoken these words, a pain of the bowels that was remediless came upon him, and sore torments of the inner parts;

6And that most justly: for he had tormented other men's bowels with many and strange torments.

7Howbeit he nothing at all ceased from his bragging, but still was filled with pride, breathing out fire in his rage against the Jews, and commanding to haste the journey: but it came to pass that he fell down from his chariot, carried violently; so that having a sore fall, all the members of his body were much pained.

8And thus he that a little afore thought he might command the waves of the sea, (so proud was he beyond the condition of man) and weigh the high mountains in a balance, was now cast on the ground, and carried in an horselitter, shewing forth unto all the manifest power of God.

9So that the worms rose up out of the body of this wicked man, and whiles he lived in sorrow and pain, his flesh fell away, and the filthiness of his smell was noisome to all his army.

10And the man, that thought a little afore he could reach to the stars of heaven, no man could endure to carry for his intolerable stink.

11Here therefore, being plagued, he began to leave off his great pride, and to come to the knowledge of himself by the scourge of God, his pain increasing every moment.

12And when he himself could not abide his own smell, he said these words, It is meet to be subject unto God, and that a man that is mortal should not proudly think of himself if he were God.

13This wicked person vowed also unto the Lord, who now no more would have mercy upon him, saying thus,

14That the holy city (to the which he was going in haste to lay it even with the ground, and to make it a common buryingplace,) he would set at liberty:

15And as touching the Jews, whom he had judged not worthy so much as to be buried, but to be cast out with their children to be devoured of the fowls and wild beasts, he would make them all equals to the citizens of Athens:

16And the holy temple, which before he had spoiled, he would garnish with goodly gifts, and restore all the holy vessels with many more, and out of his own revenue defray the charges belonging to the sacrifices:

17Yea, and that also he would become a Jew himself, and go through all the world that was inhabited, and declare the power of God.

18But for all this his pains would not cease: for the just judgment of God was come upon him: therefore despairing of his health, he wrote unto the Jews the letter underwritten, containing the form of a supplication, after this manner:

19Antiochus, king and governor, to the good Jews his citizens wisheth much joy, health, and prosperity:

20If ye and your children fare well, and your affairs be to your contentment, I give very great thanks to God, having my hope in heaven.

21As for me, I was weak, or else I would have remembered kindly your honour and good will returning out of Persia, and being taken with a grievous disease, I thought it necessary to care for the common safety of all:

22Not distrusting mine health, but having great hope to escape this sickness.

23But considering that even my father, at what time he led an army into the high countries. appointed a successor,

24To the end that, if any thing fell out contrary to expectation, or if any tidings were brought that were grievous, they of the land, knowing to whom the state was left, might not be troubled:

25Again, considering how that the princes that are borderers and neighbours unto my kingdom wait for opportunities, and expect what shall be the event. I have appointed my son Antiochus king, whom I often committed and commended unto many of you, when I went up into the high provinces; to whom I have written as followeth:

26Therefore I pray and request you to remember the benefits that I have done unto you generally, and in special, and that every man will be still faithful to me and my son.

27For I am persuaded that he understanding my mind will favourably and graciously yield to your desires.

28Thus the murderer and blasphemer having suffered most grievously, as he entreated other men, so died he a miserable death in a strange country in the mountains.

29And Philip, that was brought up with him, carried away his body, who also fearing the son of Antiochus went into Egypt to Ptolemeus Philometor.

## **2 Maccabees 10:1-8**

1Now Maccabeus and his company, the Lord guiding them, recovered the temple and the city:

2But the altars which the heathen had built in the open street, and also the chapels, they pulled down.

3And having cleansed the temple they made another altar, and striking stones they took fire out of them, and offered a sacrifice after two years, and set forth incense, and lights, and shewbread.

4When that was done, they fell flat down, and besought the Lord that they might come no more into such troubles; but if they sinned any more against him, that he himself would chasten them with mercy, and that they might not be delivered unto the blasphemous and barbarous nations.

5Now upon the same day that the strangers profaned the temple, on the very same day it was cleansed again, even the five and twentieth day of the same month, which is Casleu.

6And they kept the eight days with gladness, as in the feast of the tabernacles, remembering that not long afore they had held the feast of the tabernacles, when as they wandered in the mountains and dens like beasts.

7Therefore they bare branches, and fair boughs, and palms also, and sang psalms unto him that had given them good success in cleansing his place.

8They ordained also by a common statute and decree, That every year those days should be kept of the whole nation of the Jews.