**OHH! Vayeshev – “He continued living”**

**Introduction**:

Hebrew letter:

* + ט - tet – 9
  + Meaning: good or best

Hebrew names/words and meanings:

* Maccabee – “the hammer of God”
* Makav – hammer
* Mekabeh – to extinguish.

History:

* In 330 BCE, Alexander the Great conquered much of the known world including Jerusalem.
  + Alexander was a benevolent ruler and allowed the Jewish people to continue to practice Judaism.
  + The Jewish people became comfortable under Alexander’s reign and began to become Hellenized.
* After Alexander the Great died, his kingdom was divided into four parts.
  + In 175 BCE, Antiochus Epiphanes became ruler of one of the four parts of Alexander’s former empire which included the land of Israel.
* Antiochus IV Epiphanes
  + Was the opposite of Alexander.
  + He wanted everyone in his part of the empire to become one united people.
    - To accomplish this, he outlawed Judaism.
    - He placed a Hellenistic, Greek priest in the Temple of God.
  + In 167 BCE, he created an idol of Zeus and placed it on the altar of He forced Jews to convert to Hellenism or they were massacred.
  + He also ordered the Hellenistic priests to sacrifice pigs on the altar.
* Mattathias Maccabee and his son, Judah, led a resistance movement which opposed Antiochus.
  + Fasted and prayed, God was with them, and they defeated Antiochus.
  + In 164 BCE, they rededicated the Temple – three and a half years after Antiochus had defiled the Temple.

Fun Factoid:

* + Israelis eat some 24 million sufganiyot (donuts) during the eight-day holiday of Hanukkah.

**Body**:

Torah Portion summation (Genesis 37:1-40:23):

* Joseph Has Two Dreams
* Joseph is Sold by His Brothers
* Judah and Tamar
* Joseph and the Wife of Potiphar
* The Wine Taster and the Baker

Torah Portion Themes:

* Justice

**Conclusion**:

So What?!! Application section:

1. The Scripture says Joseph’s brothers hated him. What does it mean to hate someone?
2. Can you love and hate at the same time?
3. How can we ensure that we are acting justly like our Creator?
4. What do Joseph’s dreams teach us about how God communicates to us in our dreams?