

History of the Maccabees in Israel (323 to 145 BC)

Sources:

- Outline of 1 Maccabees: Eugene Finnegan Bible Project, <https://efinne1540.wordpress.com/2015/04/17/outline-of-1-maccabees/>
- Outline of 2 Maccabees: Eugene Finnegan Bible Project, <https://efinne1540.wordpress.com/2015/05/30/outline-of-2-maccabees/>

NOTE: First Maccabees was written circa 140-100 BC. Second Maccabees was written circa 110 BC or later in the first century BC. The books of the Maccabees are to be viewed as historic or commentary, not as canon scripture.

Summary of 1 Maccabees

The First Book of 1 Maccabees is an ancient historical and religious text that chronicles the Jewish struggle for freedom and religious survival against the Seleucid Empire during the 2nd century BC (roughly 175 BC to 135 BC).

Key Events and Plot

- **Hellenistic Oppression:** The story opens after the reign of Alexander the Great, when the Seleucid king Antiochus IV Epiphanes seizes control of Judea. He outlaws traditional Jewish practices (such as circumcision and keeping the Sabbath), loots the Second Temple in Jerusalem, and sets up pagan altars.
- **The Outbreak of the Revolt:** In Modin, an aging Jewish priest named Mattathias refuses an order to sacrifice to Greek gods. When a renegade Jew steps up to comply, Mattathias kills him and the royal commissioner, tearing down the pagan altar and fleeing to the mountains with his five sons (John, Simon, Judas, Eleazar, and Jonathan).
- **Judas Maccabeus Leads the Army:** Upon Mattathias's death, his son Judas (nicknamed Maccabeus, meaning "the hammer") takes military leadership. Using guerrilla tactics, Judas wins a series of unexpected victories against much larger Seleucid armies.
- **Rededication of the Temple:** In 164 BC (or 165 BC), the rebels recapture Jerusalem, cleanse the defiled Temple, and restore traditional worship. This victory is celebrated today as the festival of Hanukkah.
- **Leadership of Jonathan and Simon:** Even after Judas falls in battle, his brothers carry on the fight. Jonathan and later Simon negotiate political autonomy, tax exemptions, and military alliances (including with Rome and Sparta).
- **Rise of the Hasmonean Dynasty:** Under Simon, Judea achieves formal independence, and Simon is proclaimed hereditary High Priest and leader, establishing the Hasmonean dynasty.

Main Themes and Significance

- **A Secular/Political Tone:** Unlike many other biblical books, 1 Maccabees reads like a royal chronicle or military history and does not explicitly mention God by name, focusing instead on human courage, obedience to the Law, and political strategy.
- **Justified Resistance:** It defends the Hasmonean family's right to rule, portraying them as the divine instruments who saved Judaism from forced cultural assimilation (Hellenization).
- **Canonical Status:** It is recognized as canonical scripture (part of the Deuterocanonical/Apocrypha) by Catholic and Orthodox churches, while Jewish traditions and Protestant Bibles treat it as historical/apocryphal literature.

Outline of 1 Maccabees

I. Preamble

Alexander the Great (1 Macc 1:1-1:4)

The division of the empire of Alexander the Great (1 Macc 1:5-1:9)

Antiochus Epiphanes (1 Macc 1:10-1:10)

The renegades accept the gentile customs (1 Macc 1:11-1:15)

King Antiochus Epiphanes attacks Egypt (1 Macc 1:16-1:19)

King Antiochus steals from the Jerusalem Temple (1 Macc 1:20-1:24)

Israel is in mourning (1 Macc 1:25-1:28)

King Antiochus attacks Jerusalem (1 Macc 1:29-1:35)

Lamenting the citadel in Jerusalem (1 Macc 1:36-1:40)

The unification of the kingdom (1 Macc 1:41-1:50)

Inspectors (1 Macc 1:51-1:53)

The persecution of the Jews (1 Macc 1:54-1:61)

Some Jews decide to die (Macc 1:62-1:64)

II. The Holy War

Mattathias and his sons (1 Macc 2:1-2:6)

The lament over Jerusalem of Mattathias (1 Macc 2:7-2:14)

The inspectors at Modein (1 Macc 2:15-2:18)

The response of Mattathias (1 Macc 2:19-2:22)

Mattathias kills the Jew offering a sacrifice (1 Macc 2:23-2:26)

Mattathias flees to the hills (1 Macc 2:27-2:28)

The test of the Sabbath in the wilderness (1 Macc 2:29-2:38)

Mattathias decides to fight on the Sabbath (1 Macc 2:39-2:41)

The organization and activity around Mattathias (1 Macc 2:42-2:48)

The dying words of Mattathias (1 Macc 2:49-2:50)

Mattathias reminds his sons about their ancestors (1 Macc 2:51-2:60)

The dying words of Mattathias about the law (1 Macc 2:61-2:64)

Mattathias appoints his two sons (1 Macc 2:65-2:68)

The death of Mattathias (1 Macc 2:69-2:70)

III. Judas Maccabeus

Judas Maccabeus (1 Macc 3:1-3:2)

History of the Maccabees in Israel (323 to 145 BC)

A poem about Judas Maccabeus (1 Macc 3:3-3:9)

The defeat of Apollonius (1 Macc 3:10-3:12)

Seron, commander of the Syrian army (1 Macc 3:13-3:15)

Preparing for the battle of Beth-horon (1 Macc 3:16-3:22)

The success of Judas Maccabeus at Beth-horon (1 Macc 3:23-3:26)

The money problems of King Antiochus IV (1 Macc 3:27-3:31)

Lysias was put in charge of half the Syrian army (1 Macc 3:32-3:37)

The Seleucid army pursues Judah (1 Macc 3:38-3:41)

Judas Maccabeus learns about the Syrian forces (1 Macc 3:42-3:43)

The payer of the Israelites (1 Macc 3:44-3:45)

The penitential assembly at Mizpah (1 Macc 3:46-49)

The prayer at Mizpah (1 Macc 3:50-3:53)

The division of the troops (1 Macc 3:54-3:57)

The pep talk of Judas Maccabeus (1 Macc 3:58-3:60)

Gorgias goes to Emmaus (1 Macc 4:1-4:5)

Judas and his men see the camp of Gorgias (1 Macc 4:6-4:11)

The battle of Emmaus (1 Macc 4:12-4:15)

Judas told them not to plunder the camp now (1 Macc 4:16-4:18)

The final defeat and plunder of the camp (1 Macc 4:19-4:25)

First campaign of Lysias (1 Macc 4:26-4:29)

The prayer of Judas Maccabeus (1 Macc 4:30-4:33)

First battle with Lysias (1 Macc 4:34-4:35)

Judas Maccabeus sees the desolation in Jerusalem (1 Macc 4:36-4:40)

Cleansing the sanctuary (1 Macc 4:41-4:43)

Rebuilding the altar (1 Macc 4:44-4:47)

Refurnishing the Temple (1 Macc 4:48-4:51)

The celebration at the renewed Temple (1 Macc 4:52-4:58)

The eight-day celebration (1 Macc 4:59-4:59)

Fortification of the Temple (1 Macc 4:60-4:61)

The neighbors are angry at the Jews (1 Macc 5:1-5:2)

Judas Maccabeus against Idumea (1 Macc 5:3-5:5)

Judas Maccabeus battles with the Ammonites (1 Macc 5:6-5:8)

The letter from Gilead (1 Macc 5:9-5:13)

History of the Maccabees in Israel (323 to 145 BC)

The dire message from the north (1 Macc 5:14-5:20)

The campaign in Galilee against the gentiles (1 Macc 5:21-5:23)

The meeting with the Nabateans (1 Macc 5:24-5:27)

The attack on Bozrah (1 Macc 5:28-5:28)

The attack on Dathema (1 Macc 5:29-5:34)

The attack on Alema and the other cities (1 Macc 5:35-5:36)

Timothy and the other gentiles (1 Macc 5:37-5:41)

The attack on Carnaim (1 Macc 5:42-5:44)

The people in Ephron refuse passage to the Jews (1 Macc 5:45-5:48)

The attack on Ephron (1 Macc 5:49-5:51)

The return to Jerusalem (1 Macc 5:52-5:54)

The reversal of fortunes at Jamnia (1 Macc 5:55-5:62)

The success of Judas and his brothers (1 Macc 5:63-5:64)

The further adventures of Judas Maccabeus (1 Macc 5:65-5:68)

The defeat of King Antiochus IV in Elymais (1 Macc 6:1-6:4)

King Antiochus IV got the bad news about Judah (1 Macc 6:5-6:7)

The death bed repentance of King Antiochus IV (1 Macc 6:8-6:13)

The death of King Antiochus IV (1 Macc 6:14-6:17)

The siege of the citadel in Jerusalem (1 Macc 6:18-6:27)

The expedition of Antiochus V (1 Macc 6:28-6:31)

Judas Maccabeus goes to Beth-zachariah (1 Macc 6:32-6:32)

The king's army prepares to do battle (1 Macc 6:33-6:39)

The Jewish defeat at the battle of Beth-zachariah (1 Macc 6:40-6:47)

The taking of Bethzur and siege of Jerusalem (1 Macc 6:48-6:54)

The dispute between Lysias and Philip (1 Macc 6:55-6:59)

The king agrees to a peace treaty (1 Macc 6:60-6:63)

Demetrius I become king (1 Macc 7:1-7:4)

The renegades led by Alcimus (1 Macc 7:5-7:7)

The mission of Bacchides (1 Macc 7:8-7:11)

The meeting with the Hasideans (1 Macc 7:12-7:18)

Bacchides leave Jerusalem (1 Macc 7:19-7:20)

Alcimus as high priest in charge in Jerusalem (1 Macc 7:21-7:25)

Nicanor in Judea (1 Macc 7:26-7:28)

History of the Maccabees in Israel (323 to 145 BC)

The meeting of Nicanor and Judas (1 Macc 7:29-7:32)

Menace against the Temple (1 Macc 7:33-7:38)

Judas prays (1 Macc 7:39-7:42)

The defeat of Nicanor (1 Macc 7:43-7:50)

The importance of the Romans (1 Macc 8:1-8:11)

The trust worthy Roman Senate (1 Macc 8:12-8:16)

Two Jews sent to Rome (1 Macc 8:17-8:21)

A copy of the letter of the Romans to the Jews (1 Macc 8:22-8:30)

Postscript about King Demetrius I (1 Macc 8:31-8:32)

King Demetrius I sends more troops to Jerusalem (1 Macc 9:1-9:4)

Judas and his small group (1 Macc 9:5-9:6)

Judas decides to fight (1 Macc 9:7-9:10)

The battle begins (1 Macc 9:11-9:13)

The death of Judas Maccabeus (1 Macc 9:14-9:18)

Funeral of Judas Maccabeus (1 Macc 9:19-9:22)

IV. Jonathan, Chief of the Jews

Triumph of the pro-Syrian party (1 Macc 9:23-9:27)

Jonathan becomes the new leader (1 Macc 9:28-9:31)

Jonathan in the wilderness (1 Macc 9:32-9:34)

John wants help with baggage (1 Macc 9:35-9:36)

Jonathan attacks the Jambri wedding party (1 Macc 9:37-9:42)

Jonathan rallies the troops (1 Macc 9:43-9:46)

The battle at the Jordan River (1 Macc 9:47-9:49)

The fortifications of Bacchides (1 Macc 9:50-9:53)

The death of Alcimus (1 Macc 9:54-9:57)

The plan to attack Jonathan (1 Macc 9:58-9:61)

The gathering at Bethbasi (1 Macc 9:62-9:64)

Bacchides is defeated and leaves (1 Macc 9:65-9:69)

Jonathan and the peace treaty (1 Macc 9:70-9:73)

King Demetrius I seeks peace with Jonathan (1 Macc 10:1-10:6)

Jonathan releases the men at the citadel in Jerusalem (1 Macc 10:7-10:9)

Jonathan rebuilds Jerusalem (1 Macc 10:10-10:11)

The renegades flee (1 Macc 10:12-10:14)

History of the Maccabees in Israel (323 to 145 BC)

Jonathan and King Alexander (1 Macc 10:15-10:17)

The letter of King Alexander to Jonathan (1 Macc 10:17-10:21)

King Demetrius I realizes what King Alexander has done (1 Macc 10:22-10:24)

The letter of King Demetrius I (1 Macc 10:25-10:28)

King Demetrius I says no more taxes (1 Macc 10:29-10:33)

King Demetrius I allows all the Jewish feast days (1 Macc 10:34-10:35)

King Demetrius I allows Jews to be in his army (1 Macc 10:36-10:37)

King Demetrius I will give money to Jerusalem (1 Macc 10:38-10:45)

Jonathan favors King Alexander (1 Macc 10:46-10:47)

The fall of King Demetrius I (1 Macc 10:48-10:50)

King Alexander I sends a message to Egypt (1 Macc 10:51-10:54)

The response of King Ptolemy (1 Macc 10:55-10:56)

The wedding of King Alexander I and Cleopatra (1 Macc 10:57-10:58)

Jonathan is honored by the king of Syria (1 Macc 10:59-10:66)

Demetrius II appears on the scene (1 Macc 10:67-10:69)

The message from Apollonius to Jonathan (1 Macc 10:69-10:73)

Jonathan goes to Joppa (1 Macc 10:74-10:76)

Jonathan fights at Azotus (1 Macc 10:77-10:81)

Jonathan with Simon wins at Azotus (1 Macc 10:82-10:85)

King Alexander I honors Jonathan (1 Macc 10:86-10:89)

King Ptolemy VI of Egypt visits Syria (1 Macc 11:1-11:3)

King Ptolemy VI sees the destruction at Azotus (1 Macc 11:4-11:6)

King Ptolemy VI gives his daughter to King Demetrius II (1 Macc 11:8-11:12)

King Ptolemy VI defeats King Alexander I (1 Macc 11:13-11:19)

King Demetrius II and Jonathan disagree (1 Macc 11:20-11:22)

The meeting of Jonathan and King Demetrius II (1 Macc 11:23-11:28)

King Demetrius II's letter to Jonathan (1 Macc 11:29-11:37)

King Demetrius II and the growing opposition to him (1 Macc 11:38-11:40)

Jonathan sends troops to King Demetrius II (1 Macc 11:41-11:44)

The revolt in Antioch (1 Macc 11:45-11:51)

King Demetrius II does not keep his word with Jonathan (1 Macc 11:52-11:53)

Trypho returns to unseat King Demetrius II (1 Macc 11:54-11:56)

King Antiochus VI favors Jonathan (1 Macc 11:57-11:59)

History of the Maccabees in Israel (323 to 145 BC)

Jonathan is on the offensive at Gaza (1 Macc 11:60-11:62)

Jonathan meets the officers of the deposed King Demetrius II (1 Macc 11:63-11:66)

Jonathan and the battle at Hazor (1 Macc 11:67-11:74)

Jonathan sends messengers to Rome (1 Macc 12:1-12:4)

The letter to the Spartans about the past (1 Macc 12:5-12:8)

The letter to the Spartans about the present (1 Macc 12:9-12:18)

A copy of the letter sent to Onias, the high priest (1 Macc 12:19-12:23)

Jonathan and the commanders of army of the deposed King Demetrius II (1 Macc 12:24-12:32)

Simeon goes to Askalon (1 Macc 12:33-12:34)

Fortifications in Jerusalem (1 Macc 12:35-12:38)

Trypho wants to become king (1 Macc 12:39-12:40)

Jonathan and Trypho meet (1 Macc 12:41-12:45)

The capture of Jonathan (1 Macc 12:46-12:48)

Trypho wants to defeat the Jewish troops (1 Macc 12:49-12:53)

V. Simon, High Priest

Simon's speech in Jerusalem (1 Macc 13:1-13:6)

Simon takes command (1 Macc 13:7-13:11)

Trypho sends a message to Simon (1 Macc 13:12-13:16)

Trypho tricks Simon (1 Macc 13:17-13:19)

The death of Jonathan (1 Macc 13:20-13:24)

Jonathan is buried in a tomb in Modein (1 Macc 13:25-13:30)

Trypho becomes king of Asia (1 Macc 13:31-13:32)

Simon wants to contact the deposed King Demetrius II (1 Macc 13:33-13:35)

The letter of King Demetrius II to Simon (1 Macc 13:35-13:40)

Israel gains independence (1 Macc 13:41-13:42)

Simon takes Gazara (1 Macc 13:43-13:48)

Simon takes the citadel in Jerusalem (1 Macc 13:49-13:53)

King Demetrius II rises up again (1 Macc 14:1-14:3)

A poem to Simon (1 Macc 14:4-14:15)

The response of Sparta and Rome (1 Macc 14:16-14:19)

The letter of the Spartans (1 Macc 14:20-14:23)

Simon makes an alliance with Rome (1 Macc 14:24-14:24)

The people honor Simon and his brothers (1 Macc 14:25-14:27)

History of the Maccabees in Israel (323 to 145 BC)

A copy of the bronze tablets (1 Macc 14:27-14:28)

The proclamation about Simon and Jonathan (1 Macc 14:29-14:34)

The peace of Simon (1 Macc 14:35-14:37)

King Demetrius II praises Simon (1 Macc 14:38-14:40)

Simon takes command (1 Macc 14:41-14:43)

The dictatorial authority of Simon (1 Macc 14:44-14:45)

Simon accepts the title of ethnarch (1 Macc 14:46-14:47)

The decree is put on bronze tablets (1 Macc 14:48-14:49)

King Antiochus VII sends a letter to Simon (1 Macc 15:1-15:1)

The letter of King Antiochus VII to Simon (1 Macc 15:2-15:9)

King Antiochus VII invades Dor (1 Macc 15:10-15:14)

Return of the ambassadors of Rome to Judea (1 Macc 15:15-15:15)

The letter from Rome to the Egyptian king (1 Macc 15:15-15:21)

Similar letters to the other kings (1 Macc 15:22-15:24)

King Antiochus VII and the dispute with Simon (1 Macc 15:25-15:31)

Athenobius goes to Jerusalem to meet Simon (1 Macc 15:32-15:36)

Cendebeus, commander of the coastal country (1 Macc 15:37-15:41)

Simon sends his sons to fight (1 Macc 16:1-16:3)

John defeats Cendebeus (1 Macc 16:4-16:10)

The tragic death of Simon and his sons (1 Macc 16:11-16:17)

Ptolemy takes charge (1 Macc 16:18-16:22)

John (1 Macc 16:23-16:24)

Summary of 2 Maccabees

The Second Book of Maccabees is a deuterocanonical work written in Koine Greek around 150–100 BC that condenses a five-volume history by Jason of Cyrene. It covers the Jewish resistance against Seleucid oppression from roughly 180 to 161 BC, emphasizing divine intervention, religious martyrdom, and the physical resurrection of the dead.

Core Themes and Structure

- **Opening Letters:** The book begins with two letters written to the Jewish diaspora in Egypt, urging them to celebrate the festival of the purification of the Temple (Hanukkah).
- **Persecution under Antiochus IV:** It documents how King Antiochus IV Epiphanes tried to eradicate Judaism, plundered and desecrated the Jerusalem Temple, and forced pagan practices onto the Jews.
- **Famous Martyrdoms:** It highlights the steadfast faith of martyrs who chose death over breaking God's law, including the elderly scribe Eleazar and a mother with her seven sons.
- **The Revolt and Temple Rededication:** Led by Judas Maccabeus, the Jewish resistance defeated Seleucid forces (such as Lysias and Nicanor) and successfully purified and rededicated the Temple in 165 BC.
- **Doctrinal Contributions:** Unlike 1 Maccabees, this text explicitly promotes theological concepts like the resurrection of the body, prayers for the dead, purgatory, and the intercession of saints.

Status and Canonical Views

- **Canon Status:** It is accepted as canonical Scripture by Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches, but is classified as apocryphal/historical by Protestants and outside the Hebrew Bible.
- **Historical Value:** Historians and scholars still value it as a critical secondary source for understanding the events surrounding the Maccabean Revolt.

Outline of 2 Maccabees

I. Letters to the Jews in Egypt

1. First letter

The salutation of the first letter (2 Macc 1:1-1:1)

The blessings for the Jews in Egypt (2 Macc 1:2-1:6)

The situation of this letter (2 Macc 1:7-1:9)

2. Second Letter

The address of the second letter (2 Macc 1:10-1:10)

Thanksgiving for the punishment to King Antiochus IV (2 Macc 1:11-1:17)

The festival of fire (2 Macc 1:18-1:18)

The importance of fire (2 Macc 1:19-1:23)

The prayer to God over the fire (2 Macc 1:24-1:29)

History of the Maccabees in Israel (323 to 145 BC)

The sacredness of naphtha (2 Macc 1:30-1:36)

The admonition of the prophet Jeremiah (2 Macc 2:1-2:3)

Jeremiah hides the cult material (2 Macc 2:4-2:8)

The importance of fire to Moses and Solomon (2 Macc 2:9-2:12)

The library of Nehemiah (2 Macc 2:13-2:15)

The invitation to the dedication festival (2 Macc 2:16-2:18)

II. Preface of the Author

The story of Judas Maccabeus (2 Macc 2:19-2:22)

The condensed story (2 Macc 2:23-2:28)

The role of a historian (2 Macc 2:29-2:31)

Time to get to the story (2 Macc 2:32-2:32)

III. History of the Hellenistic Movement

The good old days (2 Macc 3:1-3:3)

Simon and Apollonius of Tarsus (2 Macc 3:4-3:8)

Heliodorus comes to Jerusalem (2 Macc 3:9-3:12)

Setting a day to review the Temple funds (2 Macc 3:13-3:14)

The distress of the priests in Jerusalem (2 Macc 3:14-3:17)

The distress of the women of Jerusalem (2 Macc 3:18-3:23)

The punishment of Heliodorus (2 Macc 3:24-3:28)

The prayer of thanksgiving (2 Macc 3:29-3:30)

The high priest Onias prays for the life of Heliodorus (2 Macc 3:31-3:34)

The conversion of Heliodorus (2 Macc 3:35-3:40)

IV. Hellenistic Propaganda

Simon and Onias (2 Macc 4:1-4:6)

Jason, the high priest takes over (2 Macc 4:7-4:10)

The actions of Jason, the high priest (2 Macc 4:11-4:17)

The Olympics at Tyre (2 Macc 4:18-4:20)

King Antiochus IV is welcomed at Jerusalem (2 Macc 4:21-4:22)

Menelaus become the high priest (2 Macc 4:23-4:29)

The murder of the high priest Onias (2 Macc 4:30-4:34)

The death of Andronicus (2 Macc 4:35-4:38)

The activities of Lysimachus (2 Macc 4:39-4:42)

History of the Maccabees in Israel (323 to 145 BC)

Menelaus is acquitted (2 Macc 4:43-4:50)

The apparition in Jerusalem (2 Macc 5:1-5:4)

The deposed high priest Jason leads an unsuccessful uprising (2 Macc 5:5-5:10)

King Antiochus IV despoils the Temple (2 Macc 5:11-5:16)

The happiness of King Antiochus IV (2 Macc 5:17-5:20)

The governors of King Antiochus IV (2 Macc 5:21-5:23)

The second attack on Jerusalem (2 Macc 5:24-5:26)

The escape of Judas Maccabeus (2 Macc 5:27-5:27)

The introduction of the Greek god Zeus in the Temple (2 Macc 6:1-6:2)

The gentiles take over the Temple (2 Macc 6:3-6:6)

The installation of the pagan cults (2 Macc 6:7-6:9)

The punishment for circumcision (2 Macc 6:10-6:10)

The punishment for keeping the Sabbath (2 Macc 6:11-6:11)

The providential meaning of the persecution (2 Macc 6:12-6:17)

Eleazar refuses to eat the swine food (2 Macc 6:18-6:20)

Eleazar is urged to eat (2 Macc 6:21-6:23)

The speech of Eleazar (2 Macc 6:24-6:28)

The last words of Eleazar (2 Macc 6:28-6:30)

The death of Eleazar (2 Macc 6:31-6:31)

The arrest of the seven brothers with their mother (2 Macc 7:1-7:2)

The mutilation and killing of the spokesman for the sons (2 Macc 7:3-7:6)

The second son is brought forward to be mutilated (2 Macc 7:7-7:9)

The third son is willing to suffer (2 Macc 7:10-7:12)

The fourth son is also tortured (2 Macc 7:13-7:14)

The mutilation of the fifth son (2 Macc 7:15-7:17)

The sixth son dies (2 Macc 7:18-7:19)

The mother of the seven sons exhorts her sons (2 Macc 7:20-7:23)

The mother appeals to her youngest son (2 Macc 7:24-7:29)

The seventh son speaks out (2 Macc 7:30-7:38)

The mother and the last son are killed (2 Macc 7:39-7:42)

V. Victory of Judaism

The prayer of Judas Maccabeus and his men (2 Macc 8:1-8:4)

The army of Judas Maccabeus (2 Macc 8:5-8:7)

History of the Maccabees in Israel (323 to 145 BC)

The decision to wipe out the Jews (2 Macc 8:8-8:11)

Judas Maccabeus hears about the invasion (2 Macc 8:12-8:15)

Judas Maccabeus rallies his troops (2 Macc 8:16-8:18)

Judas Maccabeus recalls the past aid to their ancestors (2 Macc 8:19-8:20)

Judas Maccabeus gives his brothers assignments (2 Macc 8:21-8:23)

The defeat of the army of Nicanor (2 Macc 8:24-8:29)

Timothy and Bacchides are defeated (2 Macc 8:30-8:33)

The flight of Nicanor (2 Macc 8:34-8:36)

The anger of King Antiochus IV (2 Macc 9:1-9:4)

The cruel painful illness of King Antiochus IV (2 Macc 9:5-9:10)

King Antiochus IV accepts God (2 Macc 9:11-9:12)

King Antiochus IV reverses himself about the Jews (2 Macc 9:13-9:18)

The letter of King Antiochus IV to the Jews (2 Macc 9:18-9:22)

King Antiochus IV appoints a successor (2 Macc 9:23-9:27)

King Antiochus IV dies (2 Macc 9:28-9:29)

Purification of the Temple (2 Macc 10:1-10:4)

The celebration (2 Macc 10:5-10:9)

VI. The Struggles of Judas Maccabeus

King Antiochus V, Eupator (2 Macc 10:10-10:11)

The disgrace of Ptolemy (2 Macc 10:12-10:13)

Gorgias succeeds Ptolemy (2 Macc 10:14-10:14)

The war with the Idumeans (2 Macc 10:15-10:17)

The problem of bribery (2 Macc 10:18-10:23)

Judas Maccabeus prays for success against Timothy (2 Macc 10:24-10:26)

Judas Maccabeus relies on the Lord (2 Macc 10:27-10:28)

The heavenly horsemen (2 Macc 10:29-10:31)

The death of Timothy (2 Macc 10:32-10:38)

The first campaign of Lysias (2 Macc 11:1-11:4)

The divine intervention at Beth-zur (2 Macc 11:5-11:12)

The peace treaty with Lysias (2 Macc 11:13-11:15)

The letter of Lysias to the Jews (2 Macc 11:16-11:21)

The letter of King Antiochus V to Lysias (2 Macc 11:22-11:26)

The letter of King Antiochus V to the Jewish senate (2 Macc 11:27-11:33)

History of the Maccabees in Israel (323 to 145 BC)

The letter of the Romans to the Jews (2 Macc 11:34-11:38)

Other problems for the Jews (2 Macc 12:1-12:2)

The drowning of Jews at Joppa (2 Macc 12:3-12:4)

Judas Maccabeus attacks Joppa and Jamnia (2 Macc 12:5-12:9)

Judas Maccabeus and the nomads (2 Macc 12:10-12:12)

The attack of Judas Maccabeus on Caspin (2 Macc 12:13-12:16)

The battle at Carnaim with Timothy (2 Macc 12:17-12:23)

The guile of Timothy (2 Macc 12:24-12:25)

The taking of the temple at Carnaim (2 Macc 12:26-12:26)

The battle of Ephron (2 Macc 12:27-12:28)

The happy visit to Scythopolis (2 Macc 12:29-12:31)

The campaign against Gorgias (2 Macc 12:31-12:34)

The defeat of Gorgias (2 Macc 12:35-12:37)

The Sabbath at Adullam (2 Macc 12:38-12:38)

The dead Jewish soldiers were idolaters (2 Macc 12:39-12:42)

The sacrifice for the dead in hope of the resurrection (2 Macc 12:43-12:46)

King Antiochus V and Lysias and their army (2 Macc 13:1-13:2)

The death of the high priest Menelaus (2 Macc 13:3-13:8)

Judas Maccabeus asks for prayers (2 Macc 13:9-13:12)

God's victory at Modein (2 Macc 13:13-13:17)

King Antiochus V attacks the Jews (2 Macc 13:18-13:19)

The strange peace treaty (2 Macc 13:20-13:23)

Lysias defends the peace treaty in Ptolemais (2 Macc 13:24-13:26)

VII. The Struggle Against General Nicanor

King Demetrius I (2 Macc 14:1-14:2)

The intervention of the high priest Alcimus (2 Macc 14:3-14:5)

The speech of Alcimus before King Demetrius I (2 Macc 14:6-14:10)

Nicanor as the governor of Judea (2 Macc 14:11-14:14)

The battle with Nicanor (2 Macc 14:15-14:17)

Nicanor sends friendly emissaries (2 Macc 14:18-14:19)

The consultation of Judas Maccabeus and Nicanor (2 Macc 14:20-14:22)

Judas Maccabeus and Nicanor become friends (2 Macc 14:23-14:25)

Alcimus claims that Nicanor is disloyal (2 Macc 14:26-14:27)

History of the Maccabees in Israel (323 to 145 BC)

Nicanor and Judas Maccabeus split (2 Macc 14:28-14:33)

The prayer of the priests in Jerusalem (2 Macc 14:34-14:36)

The tragic suicide death of Razis (2 Macc 14:37-14:46)

Nicanor plans to attack Judas Maccabeus (2 Macc 15:1-15:5)

Judas Maccabeus prepares to attack (2 Macc 15:6-15:11)

The dream about Onias the high priest (2 Macc 15:12-15:16)

The people prepare (2 Macc 15:17-15:19)

Judas Maccabeus prepares for battle (2 Macc 15:20-15:21)

The prayer of Judas Maccabeus (2 Macc 15:22-15:24)

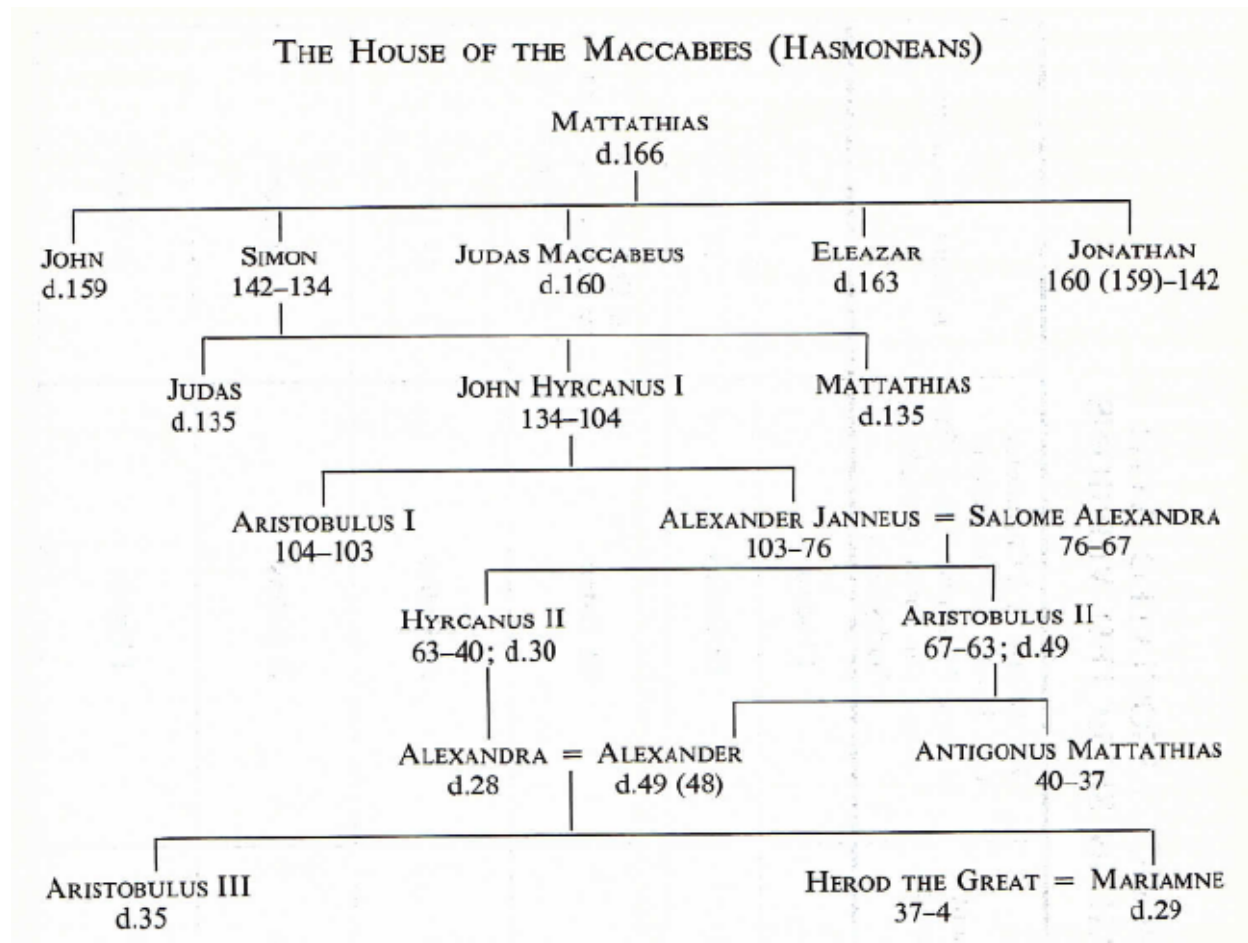
The death of Nicanor (2 Macc 15:25-15:28)

The victory celebration (2 Macc 15:29-15:35)

The celebration of this event (2 Macc 15:36-15:36)

The end of the story (2 Macc 15:37-15:37)

Epilogue (2 Macc 15:38-15:39)



Dates are the date of death or date range of reign. All dates are B.C.

The equal sign (=) indicates marriage.