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CHRISTmas & Hanukkah Edition. We hope
you find value in these pages. Here is a look at
what we have included in the pages ahead.



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*Come Celebrate Christmas
& Hanukkah with the
Grace & Truth Magazine
family!*

With Grateful Hearts Full of Love,

*Jessie
Stanford*





with Jessica Stern Foster

Welcome Notes...

from the Founder & Editor

As we walk through stores during this Christmas and Hanukkah season, we hear the holiday carols and songs filling the air. The hustle and bustle to get the right gifts for your friends and loved ones seems ever pressing! Yet, we mustn't forget the true meaning of this time and season.

As we come together and Believers in our Messiah Yeshua, we are all celebrating that the Light (Yeshua Jesus) has come! While us Jewish Believers are lighting our menorah candles for eight crazy nights filled with family, fun, gifts, and all things fried... We remember the miracle of Hanukkah.

There was only one small cruse of pure oil, enough to light the menorah in the Temple for one day. But it lasted eight days, in time to produce new pure oil and the menorah was able to remain lit and never burn out. This miracle is attributed to God and the faith that the Children of Israel had in God.

We know that our God is faithful! Because of God's great love for us, He sent His Son to be born in a manger! You may believe that Yeshua Jesus was born at Christmastime, during the Feasts, or at Passover. Yet no matter, we come together to celebrate the birthday of our Messiah, Yeshua Jesus!

We hope that you find peace, joy, and the love of Yeshua Jesus during this CHRISTmas and Hanukkah season of the year!

May This CHRISTmas Time Remind
You Of Yeshua Jesus Birth As We
Celebrate That The Light Has
Come! To You And Your Family,
Chag Urim Sameach!



A Father to the Fatherless

Finding Hope Again During the Holiday Season

with Jessica Stern Foster

"A Father to the fatherless, a Defender of widows, His God in is holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families..." Psalm 68:5-6a (NIV)

"It's the most wonderful time of the year!" The loudspeaker blared out the joyful lyrics of the familiar holiday song that snowy afternoon on Christmas Eve. Everywhere I glanced, people were searching for last-minute gift purchases, holiday baking ingredients or that one final string of twinkle lights that would make their Christmas picturesque, HGTV approved, and downright Norman Rockwell perfect.

However, as I stood in front of the store front brick singing Carols while ringing the Salvation Army bell, I noticed a man sitting in his car watching and listening. I had passers by depositing money into the red kettle when the nice Cadillac pulled into the premium parking spot near the door. The night was busy with shoppers of that small Shore town of Onancock as Christmas was only hours away and within reach.

I noticed the older lady exit the car passenger's door with the man's assistance. And instead of going into the shop with the woman, the man returned to the car. He pulled off into another spot, likely being kind to allow someone else to enjoy the close proximity. Yet a few minutes later, with the spot still empty, the man pulled back into the coveted spot and sat with the car running.

It was cold that night. I could see my breath with every word I sang. I caroled into a long Gevity of 1920s to 30s and then 40s Christmas adorations, singing for someone else's supper. I felt like I knew who the man was in the driver's seat. Yet, I kept singing with the joy of Yeshua Jesus in my heart.

As I continued to sing, I noticed the man weeping into his steering wheel. I prayed for him while I sang and asked the Holy Spirit to touch his heart, mind/soul, and body! And then it hit me! A lump in my throat and an ache in my heart hit me hard. This was the same man who had treated me so poorly some ten years earlier when he found out I was a Jew and almost spit in my face when he heard that I loved Yeshua Jesus as my Messiah.

As I watched the man cry harder into his steering wheel, I asked God to forgive me for hating that man and that if I had done anything to offend him, to forgive me, too! While knowing that my mere Jewishness was enough for offense for some, I still gave it to Yeshua and to foot of the Cross! And then my song: Away In The Manger came to an end and I heard the Holy Spirit ever so softly nudge me to sing Silent Night. So I did.

At the end of the hymn, I paused for something warm to drink. The cold air was taking a toll on my voice and I was hoping to be able to enjoy Christmas Day without miming to everyone! And while my head was turned, the man from the Cadillac had exited his car and made his way to my kettle.

I wasn't sure if he would remember me. As he approached, he kindly asked, very softly... Young Lady, do you remember me? I smiled and kindly replied... A long time ago, but I am not that little girl anymore. I hope you are finding peace this Christmas?!

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MERRY CHRISTmas!

happy
HANUKKAH



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Please join us each week as we dive a little deeper into the Word of God and pray for the world around us. Every week, as we gather together, we learn, we grow, we pray, we cry, we praise the Lord, and we make Him the center of our hectic lives.

If you would like to learn more about our ministry, go to GraceAndTruthMagazine.com. From there you can learn more about, "Worship at the ROC", by selecting the W.A.R. tab.

The man bowed his head and began to tell me that after he had been so cruel to me all those years ago, his life took a very long, dark road. He told me how his businesses collapsed and his son was killed, he had lost so much, yet his wife by some grace, stuck with him through the thick and the thin, but not without its trials. The man asked me to forgive him for being so mean to me so long ago.

I told him how sorry I was to hear of all his loss and that forgiveness had been given all those years ago! I asked if I could give him a hug. That hug was the most genuine hug and then I shared with him how Yeshua Jesus loved him and still cared about him. I told him that the Lord was returning his joy and to not lose hope. The man then shared with me that he had become bitter and had planned to take his own life later that night, but hearing me sing Silent Night was the answer to his prayer that he wouldn't go through with making his wife a widow.

We talked for a little more, he even put some very large money into the kettle as we laughed how I sang so hard for other people's supper like it was my own. His wife came and he helped her in the car. They sat there talking and she began to cry. I received a hug from her before they left.

Shortly after, my parents had arrived back at the kettle to check on me and so we could soon pack up the kettle. I shared with them about what had happened. My Dad remembered the man well and we were all happy that he found the peace of Yeshua Jesus that night instead of the end of his gun barrel.

Ever since that year, our family has become even more aware of the fact that for many, Christmas are not the most wonderful time of the year for some. It is downright painful for so many. Loneliness looms. Depressions darken for some. Even suicides soar. While scores of us delight in the yuletide season, drinking in deep the sights, sounds and smells, there are others who meander about, numb from pain, despising the season.

A sweet neighbor of mine once told me, "Christmas is an excuse for making someone's life better." She was so right! Right in our midst, there are souls waiting to be encouraged and included at the holidays. If only we would cease our own sometimes self-centered hustle and bustle long enough to see!

This season has become so commercialized with the expectancy of Instagram photos and TikTok rock out themes! Christmas is so not about getting. Its very essence is giving in remembrance of what God gave us... His Son!

When our family has been intentional about being Yeshua Jesus hands and feet at the holidays, He has allowed us to brighten the lives of many and, in return, make our own season even sweeter. We've Christmas caroled while bell ringing, decorated cookies and sent cards, shopped for the needy, baked for the brokenhearted, taken in a wandering foreign exchange student once upon a time and often included the lonely in our normal Christmas and Hanukkah activities as if they were part of our family....

Because really, they are. Maybe it is your family God wants to set a lonely soul in this year. Vow this Christmas and Hanukkah season to use this time as an excuse to make someone else's life better. As a result, your life too will be immeasurably blessed.

Dear Lord, at this time when You sent Your Son, Yeshua Jesus to earth, may I too reach out to make someone's life richer, fuller, and far less lonely. As Colossians 3:17 says, that whatever I do in word or deed, that I do it in Your Name Lord so that my actions give thanks to You, O Lord, and glory to You alone! I want to be Your hands and feet. Help me reflect Your love this season and always! In the Might Name of Yeshua Jesus, Amen!

THE MESSIANIC BELIEVER'S HANUKKAH CELEBRATION FAMILY GUIDE

A Brief History of Hanukkah

The 11th chapter of Daniel records a prophecy concerning a tyrant who would someday rule over the people of Judah. Daniel prophesied that this man would profane the holy temple by entering the Holy of Holies demanding to be worshipped as God. This prophecy was fulfilled in 168 BCE by the Syrian king Antiochus IV Epiphanes. The history of this evil ruler is recorded in the book of Maccabees.

In the year 168 BCE, Antiochus issued his “Evil Decrees”. Maccabees 1:41 states, “Throughout his empire, his subjects were all to become one people and abandon their own laws and religion.” Antiochus began at this time to believe that he himself was the earthly manifestation of the supreme god of the Greek pantheon, Zeus Olympios. Antiochus’ claim to be God coincided with his persecution of the Jewish people. His Evil Decrees are listed in 1Maccabees 2:1-7. Antiochus...

1. ...ordered the destruction of the Torah scrolls.
2. ...enforced eating of swine’s flesh.
3. ...made it illegal to circumcise sons.
4. ...forbade observance of the Sabbath and holy days.
5. ...discontinued morning and evening sacrifices.
6. ...desecrated the temple and dedicated it to the worship of Zeus.
7. ...set up the abomination of desolation.

No one knows exactly what the abomination was, but it was probably some sort of image which represented both Zeus and Antiochus that was set up in the Holy of Holies.

Daniel's prophecy refers to three types of people at this time:

A) "Such as do wickedly against the covenant..." (11:32) These were the Hellinizers.

B) "...many [who] shall join themselves unto them by flatteries..." (11:34) These were the ones who were willing to go either way with their allegiance.

C) "...that are wise among the people [who] shall instruct many. And some of them that are wise shall fall." (11:33, 35) These were the Hasidim.





In 165 BC, the Jews under the leadership of Judas Maccabeus overthrew the much larger Syrian army. After cleansing the temple, the temple was rededicated on the 25th of Kislev. The priests found only enough uncontaminated oil for one night's lighting of the menorah. But, miraculously, the oil burned for eight days.

It is tradition that the eight-day celebration of Hanukkah represents the important first eight days in the conception of a child. This is why birth is related to giving light. It is also a tradition that the lighting of the candles will announce the conception of Messiah because the acronym of "We light eight days of Hanukkah" in the Talmud spells out "Messiah": מ ד ל י ק ין ש מו נה י מ י ח נ כו ה (madlikin shemonah yomei Chanukah).

HANUKKAH OBSERVANCE

There are many significant reasons why believers should observe the Hanukkah season. Here are a few:

- It is a time to celebrate God's victory over our spiritual enemy.
- We are "temples" that have been cleansed and made holy by God's victory.
- As temples of the holy spirit, we too should dedicate ourselves to God.
- The eight days of Hanukkah illustrate that dedication to God is a process which takes place over an extended period of time.
- Hanukkah illustrates that as our dedication grows, so too does our light.
- The shamash (servant) candle reminds us that Yeshua is the shamash light of the world and we derive our light from Him.
- The lighting of the menorah impresses upon the minds of our children the importance of dedicating themselves to God and being lights in the world.
- If there had been no Hanukkah, there would be no Christmas.

Candle Lighting Ceremony

The candles are placed in the menorah from right to left. On the first night one candle is lit; the second night, two are lit; and so on. However, the candles are lit starting left to right. The idea is that you are lighting each day's new candle first. The menorah is lit only at night. The first candle to be lit is called the *shamash* or "servant" candle. This is the ninth candle on your menorah. It is usually raised higher or separated from the other candles so that it can be recognized and distinguished from them. With this candle all of the other regular candles are lit.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו במצותיו, וצונו להדליק נר של חנוכה.

Baruch atah Adonai Elohenu Melech ha-olam asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav, v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.

"Blessed are You Lord our God, King of the universe, Who sanctified us by His commandments and commands us to kindle the Hanukkah lights."

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם שעשה נסים לאבותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה.

Baruch atah Adonai Elohenu Melech ha-olam she'asah ni-sim la-avotenu bayamim haheim baz'man hazeh.

"Blessed are You Lord our God, King of the universe, Who has wrought miracles for our forefathers, in those days at this season."

(And on the first evening only, add the following blessing.)

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם שהחיו וקיימו והגיענו לזמן הזה.

Baruch atah Adonai Elohenu Melech ha-olam shehechyanu, ve-higianu, lazman hazeh.

"Blessed are You Lord our God, King of the universe, Who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season."

After lighting all of the candles for that night, place the *shamash* back into its position, still lit.





Day One – The Word of God

Read: Psalm 19:7-11 / 119:1-16

Meditation: Thank God for providing the light of His Word. Commit to becoming a more dedicated student of God's Word and to living it out in our current culture.

Day Two – Holiness

Read: Leviticus 11:44-47 / 1Peter 1:13-19

Meditation: Thank God for providing for us a better way to live. Dedicate yourself to following His ways more faithfully, instead of the ways of the world.

Day Three – Family

Read: Deuteronomy 6:4-7, 20-25 / Ephesians 6:1-4

Meditation: Thank God for the family you were born into and for those who have joined your family since. Pray that you will be a more loving servant to your family and lift up any family members who do not yet know their Savior.

Day Four – Obedience

Read: Deuteronomy 6:4-9 / Joshua 1:8 / James 1:22-25

Meditation: Thank God for His commandments, for the protection they provide you, and for the light they produce through you. Commit yourself to a greater level of obedience to God and His ways.

Day Five - Sacrifice

Read: Romans 12:1-2 / Galatians 2:20

Meditation: Ask God to help you relinquish any fear you have of serving Him completely.

Day Six - Repentance

Read: Luke 24:44-47 / Acts 17:29-31 / Revelation 2:4-5

Meditation: Ask God to reveal those things that you need to be put aside. Ask Him to give you a greater love and appreciation for living a holy life. Thank Him for accepting you into His family.

Day Seven - Dedication

Read: Psalm 30 / Matthew 22:16-21

Meditation: Pray using expressions of joy, praise, adoration, and thanksgiving to the Lord for the joy of knowing Messiah Yeshua. Pray for those ministering in Israel that they can be lights for the Messiah in their communities. Pray that all believers will dedicate themselves more fully to God's service.

Day Eight - Light

Read: Genesis 1:3-5 / John 1:1-14 / Matthew 5:14-16

Meditation: Turn out all household light. have everyone look at the Hanukkah lights while someone reads Isaiah 60:1-5. Pray that the Lord



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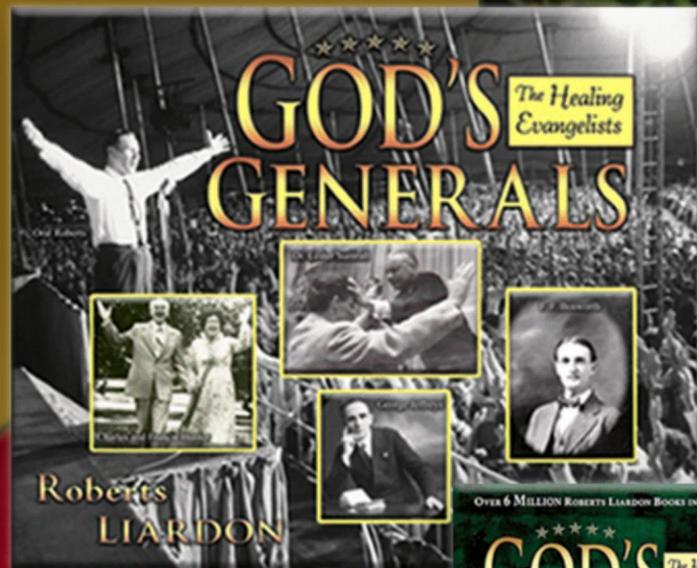
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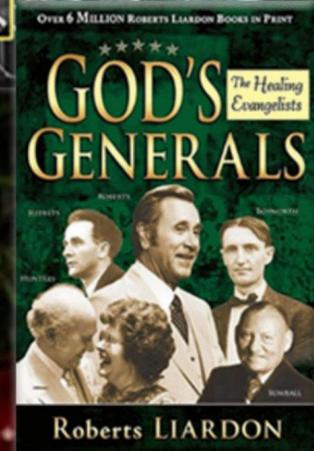
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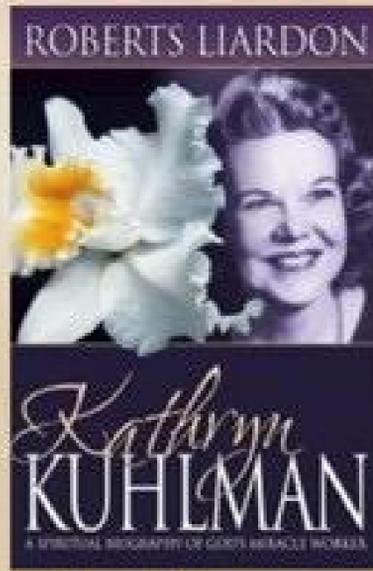
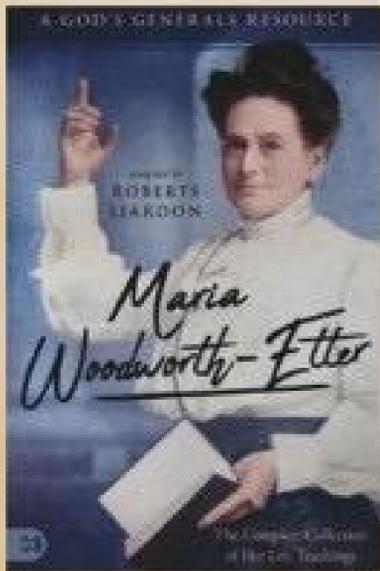


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These books are so called, because they contain the history of the people of G-d under the command of Judas Machabeus, and his brethren : and he, as some will have it, was surnamed Machabeus, from carrying in his ensigns, or standards, those words of Exodus 15:11. Who is like to thee among the strong, O L-RD : in which the initial letter, in the Hebrew, are M.C.B.E.I..

CHAPTER 1

The reign of Alexander and his successors : Antiochus rifles and profanes the temple of G-d : and persecutes unto death all that will not forsake the law of G-d, and the religion of their fathers.

- 1 Now it came to pass, after that Alexander the son of Philip the Macedonian, who first reigned in Greece, coming out of the land of Cethim, had overthrown Darius king of the Persians and Medes :
- 2 He fought many battles, and took the strong holds of all, and slew the kings of the earth :
- 3 And he went through even to the ends of the earth, and took the spoils of many nations : and the earth was quiet before him.
- 4 And he gathered a power, and a very strong army : and his heart was exalted and lifted up.
- 5 And he subdued countries of nations, and princes : and they became tributaries to him.
- 6 And after these things, he fell down upon his bed, and knew that he should die.
- 7 And he called his servants the nobles that were brought up with him from his youth : and he divided his kingdom among them, while he was yet alive.
- 8 And Alexander reigned twelve years, and he died.
- 9 And his servants made themselves kings every one in his place :
- 10 And they all put crowns upon themselves after his death, and their sons after them many years, and evils were multiplied in the earth.
- 11 And there came out of them a wicked root, Antiochus the Illustrious, the son of king Antiochus, who had been a hostage at Rome : and he reigned in the hundred and thirty-seventh year of the kingdom of the Greeks.
- 12 In those days there went out of Israel wicked men, and they persuaded many, saying : Let us go, and make a covenant with the heathens that are round about us : for since we departed from them, many evils have befallen us.
- 13 And the word seemed good in their eyes.

- 14 And some of the people determined to do this, and went to the king : and he gave them license to do after the ordinances of the heathens.
- 15 And they built a place of exercise in Jerusalem, according to the laws of the nations :
- 16 And they made themselves prepuces, and departed from the holy covenant, and joined themselves to the heathens, and were sold to do evil.
- 17 And the kingdom was established before Antiochus, and he had a mind to reign over the land of Egypt, that he might reign over two kingdoms.
- 18 And he entered into Egypt with a great multitude, with chariots and elephants, and horsemen, and a great number of ships :
- 19 And he made war against Ptolemee king of Egypt, but Ptolemee was afraid at his presence, and fled, and many were wounded unto death.
- 20 And he took the strong cities in the land of Egypt : and he took the spoils of the land of Egypt.
- 21 And after Antiochus had ravaged Egypt in the hundred and forty-third year, he returned and went up against Israel.
- 22 And he went up to Jerusalem with a great multitude.
- 23 And he proudly entered into the sanctuary, and took away the golden altar, and the candlestick of light, and all the vessels thereof, and the table of show bread, and the pouring vessels, and the vials, and the little mortars of gold, and the veil, and the crowns, and the golden ornament that was before the temple : and he broke them all in pieces.
- 24 And he took the silver and gold, and the precious vessels: and he took the hidden treasures which he found : and when he had taken all away he departed into his own country.
- 25 And he made a great slaughter of men, and spoke very proudly.
- 26 And there was great mourning in Israel, and in every place where they were :
- 27 And the princes, and the ancients mourned, and the virgins and the young men were made feeble, and the beauty of the women was changed.
- 28 Every bridegroom took up lamentation : and the bride that sat in the marriage bed, mourned :
- 29 And the land was moved for the inhabitants thereof, and all the house of Jacob was covered with confusion.
- 30 And after two full years the king sent the chief collector of his tributes to the cities of Judah, and he came to Jerusalem with a great multitude.
- 31 And he spoke to them peaceable words in deceit : and they believed him.
- 32 And he fell upon the city suddenly, and struck it with a great slaughter, and destroyed much people in Israel.
- 33 And he took the spoils of the city, and burnt it with fire, and threw down the houses thereof, and the walls thereof round about :
- 34 And they took the women captive, and the children, and the cattle they

possessed.

- 35** And they built the city of David with a great and strong wall, and with strong towers, and made it a fortress for them :
- 36** And they placed there a sinful nation, wicked men, and they fortified themselves therein : and they stored up armour, and victuals, and gathered together the spoils of Jerusalem :
- 37** And laid them up there : and they became a great snare.
- 38** And this was a place to lie in wait against the sanctuary, and an evil devil in Israel.
- 39** And they shed innocent blood round about the sanctuary, and defiled the holy place.
- 40** And the inhabitants of Jerusalem fled away by reason of them, and the city was made the habitation strangers, and she became a stranger to her own seed, and her children forsook her.
- 41** Her sanctuary was desolate like a wilderness, her festival days were turned into mourning, her sabbaths into reproach, her honors were brought to nothing.
- 42** Her dishonor was increased according to her glory, and her excellency was turned into mourning.
- 43** And king Antiochus wrote to all his kingdom, that all the people should be one : and every one should leave his own law.
- 44** And all nations consented according to the word of king Antiochus.
- 45** And many of Israel consented to his religion, and they sacrificed to idols, and profaned the sabbath.
- 46** And the king sent letters by the hands of messengers to Jerusalem, and to all the cities of Judah : that they should follow the law of the nations of the earth.
- 47** And should forbid holocausts and sacrifices, and atonements to be made in the temple of God.
- 48** And should prohibit the sabbath, and the festival days, to be celebrated.
- 49** And he commanded the holy places to be profaned, and the holy people of Israel.
- 50** And he commanded altars to be built, and temples, and idols, and swine's flesh to be immolated, and unclean beasts.
- 51** And that they should leave their children uncircumcised, and let their souls be defiled with all uncleanness, and abominations, to the end that they should forget the law, and should change all the justifications of Elohim.
- 52** And that whosoever would not do according to the word of king Antiochus should be put to death.

- 53** According to all these words he wrote to his whole kingdom, and he appointed rulers over the people that should force them to do these things.
- 54** And they commanded the cities of Judah to sacrifice.
- 55** Then many of the people were gathered to them that had forsaken the law of Adonai : and they committed evils in the land :
- 56** And they drove away the people of Israel into lurking holes, and into the secret places of fugitives.
- 57** On the fifteenth day of the month Kislev, in the hundred and forty-fifth year, king Antiochus set up the abominable idol of desolation upon the altar of Elohim, and they built altars throughout all the cities of Judah round about :
- 58** And they burnt incense, and sacrificed at the doors of the houses, and in the streets.
- 59** And they cut in pieces, and burnt with fire the books of the Law of Elohim :
- 60** And every one with whom the books of the testament of Adonai were found, and whosoever observed the law of Adonai, they put to death, according to the edict of the king.
- 61** Thus by their power did they deal with the people of Israel, that were found in the cities, month after month.
- 62** And on the 25th day of the month they sacrificed upon the altar of the idol that was over against the altar of Elohim.
- 63** Now the women that circumcised their children, were slain according to the commandment of king Antiochus.
- 64** And they hanged the children about their necks in all their houses : and those that had circumcised them, they put to death.
- 65** And many of the people of Israel determined with themselves, that they would not eat unclean things : and they chose rather to die than to be defiled with unclean meats.
- 66** And they would not break the holy law of Elohim, and they were put to death :
- 67** And there was very great wrath upon the people.

CHAPTER 2

The seal and success of Mathathias. His exhortation to his sons at his death

In those days arose Mathathias the son of John, the son of Simeon, a priest of the sons of Joarib, from Jerusalem, and he abode in the mountain of Modin.

- 2** And he had five sons : John who was surnamed Gaddis :
- 3** And Simon, who was surnamed Thasi :

- 4 And Judas, who was called Machabeus:
- 5 And Eleazar, who was surnamed Abaron : and Jonathan, who was surnamed Apphus.
- 6 These saw the evils that were done in the people of Judah, and in Jerusalem.
- 7 And Mathathias said : Woe is me, wherefore was I born to see the ruin of my people, and the ruin of the holy city, and to dwell there, when it is given into the hands of the enemies ?
- 8 The holy places are come into the hands of strangers : her temple is become as a man without honour.
- 9 The vessels of her glory are carried away captive : her old men are murdered in the streets, and her young men are fallen by the sword of the enemies.
- 10 What nation hath not inherited her kingdom, and gotten of her spoils ?
- 11 All her ornaments are taken away. She that was free is made a slave.
- 12 And behold our sanctuary, and our beauty, and our glory is laid waste, and the Gentiles have defiled them.
- 13 To what end then should we live any longer ?
- 14 And Mathathias and his sons rent their garments, and they covered themselves with hair cloth, and made great lamentation.
- 15 And they that were sent from king Antiochus came near, to compel them that had fled into the city of Modin, to sacrifice, and to burn incense, and to depart from the Law of Elohim.
- 16 And many of the people of Israel consented, and came to them : but Mathathias and his sons stood firm.
- 17 And they that were sent from Antiochus, answering, said to Mathathias : Thou art a ruler, and an honorable, and great man in this city, and adorned with sons, and brethren.
- 18 Therefore come thou first, and obey the king's commandment, as all nations have done, and the men of Judah, and they that remain in Jerusalem : and thou, and thy sons, shall be in the number of the king's friends, and enriched with gold, and silver, and many presents.
- 19 Then Mathathias answered, and said with a loud voice : Although all nations obey king Antiochus, so as to depart every man from the service of the law of his fathers, and consent to his commandments :
- 20 I and my sons, and my brethren will obey the law of our fathers.
- 21 God be merciful unto us : it is not profitable for us to forsake the Law, and the justices of Elohim :
- 22 We will not hearken to the words of king Antiochus, neither will we sacrifice, and transgress the commandments of our law, to go another way.
- 23 Now as he left off speaking these words, there came a certain Jew in the sight of all to sacrifice to the idols upon the altar in the city of Modin, according to the king's commandment.
- 24 And Mathathias saw and was grieved, and his reins trembled, and his wrath



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Ein Engel des HERRN führet Israel gegen den Feind.

Als bald sie aber vor die Stadt Jerusalem hinaus kamen, erschien ihnen einer zu Ross in einem weißen Kleide und güldenen Harnisch, und zog vor ihnen her. Da lobten sie alle den barmherzigen GOTT, und wurden feck, daß sie ihre Feinde schlagen wollten, wenn sie gleich die wildesten Thiere wären, und hätten eiserne Mauern vor sich.

II Buch d. Maccabäer. Cap. 11. v. 8. 9.



was kindled according to the judgment of the law, and running upon him he slew him upon the altar :

- 25** Moreover the man whom king Antiochus had sent, who compelled them to sacrifice, he slew at the same time, and pulled down the altar.
- 26** And showed zeal for the Law, as Phineas did by Zamri the son of Salomi.
- 27** And Mathathias cried out in the city with a loud voice, saying : Every one that hath zeal for the Law, and maintaineth the testament, let him follow me.
- 28** So he, and his sons fled into the mountains, and left all that they had in the city.
- 29** Then many that sought after judgment, and justice, went down into the desert :
- 30** And they abode there, they and their children, and their wives, and their cattle : because afflictions increased upon them.
- 31** And it was told to the king's men, and to the army that was in Jerusalem in the city of David, that certain men who had broken the king's commandment, were gone away into the secret places in the wilderness, and that many were gone after them.
- 32** And immediately they went out towards them, and made war against them on the sabbath day.
- 33** And they said to them : Do you still resist ? come forth, and do according to the edict of king Antiochus, and you shall live.
- 34** And they said : We will not come forth, neither will we obey the king's edict, to profane the sabbath day.
- 35** And they made haste to give them battle.
- 36** But they answered them not, neither did they cast a stone at them, nor stopped up the secret places.
- 37** Saying : Let us all die in our innocency : and heaven and earth shall be witnesses for us, that you put us to death wrongfully.
- 38** So they gave them battle on the sabbath : and they were slain with their wives, and their children, and their cattle , to the number of a thousand persons.
- 39** And Mathathias and his friends heard of it, and they mourned for them exceedingly.
- 40** And every man said to his neighbor : If we shall all do as our brethren have done, and not fight against the heathens for our lives, and our justifications : they will now quickly root us out of the earth.
- 41** And they determined in that day, saying : Whosoever shall come up against us to fight on the sabbath day, we will fight against him : and we will not all die, as our brethren that were slain in the secret places.
- 42** Then was assembled to them the congregation of the Assideans, the stoutest of Israel, every one that had a good will for the Law.
- 43** And all they that fled from the evils, joined themselves to them, and were a support to them.
- 44** And they gathered an army, and slew the sinners in their wrath, and the

wicked men in their indignation : and the rest fled to the nations for safety.

- 45 And Mathathias and his friends went round about, and they threw down the altars:
- 46 And they circumcised all the children whom they found in the confines of Israel that were uncircumcised : and they did valiantly.
- 47 And they pursued after the children of pride, and the work prospered in their hands :
- 48 And they recovered the law out of the hands of the nations, and out of the hands of the kings : and they yielded not the horn to the sinner.
- 49 Now the days drew near that Mathathias should die, and he said to his sons : Now hath pride and chastisement gotten strength, and the time of destruction, and the wrath of indignation :
- 50 Now therefore, O my sons, be ye zealous for the law, and give your lives for the covenant of your fathers.
- 51 And call to remembrance the works of the fathers, which they have done in their generations : and you shall receive great glory, and an everlasting name.
- 52 Was not Abraham found faithful in temptation, and it was reputed to him unto justice?
- 53 Joseph in the time of his distress kept the commandment, and he was made lord of Egypt.
- 54 Phineas our father, by being fervent in the zeal of Elohim, received the covenant of an everlasting priesthood.
- 55 Joshua, while he fulfilled the word, was made ruler in Israel.
- 56 Caleb, for bearing witness before the congregation, received an inheritance.
- 57 David by his mercy obtained the throne of an everlasting kingdom.
- 58 Elijah, while he was full of zeal for the law, was taken up into heaven.
- 59 Ananias and Azarias and Misael by believing, were delivered out of the flame.
- 60 Daniel in his innocency was delivered out of the mouth of the lions.
- 61 And thus consider through all generations : that none that trust in him fail in strength.
- 62 And fear not the words of a sinful man, for his glory is dung, and worms :
- 63 Today he is lifted up, and tomorrow he shall not be found, because he is returned into his earth, and his thought is come to nothing.
- 64 You therefore, my sons, take courage, and behave manfully in the law : for by it you shall be glorious.
- 65 And behold, I know that your brother Simon is a man of counsel : give ear to him always, and he shall be a father to you.
- 66 And Judas machabeus who is valiant and strong from his youth up, let him be the leader of your army, and he shall manage the war of the people.

- 67 And you shall take to you all that observe the law : and revenge ye the wrong of your people.
- 68 Render to the Gentiles their reward, and take heed to the precepts of the law.
- 69 And he blessed them, and was joined to his fathers.
- 70 And he died in the hundred and forty-sixth year : and he was buried by his sons in the sepulchres of his fathers in Modin, and all Israel mourned for him with great mourning.

CHAPTER 3

Judas Machabeus succeeds his father, and over-throws Apollonius and Seron. A great army is sent against him out of Syria. He prepares his people for battle by fasting and prayer.

Then his son Judas, called Machabeus, rose up in his stead.

- 2 And all his brethren helped him, and all they that had joined themselves to his father, and they fought with cheerfulness the battle of Israel.
- 3 And he got his people great honour, and put on a breastplate as a giant, and girt his warlike armour about him in battles, and protected the camp with his sword.
- 4 In his acts he was like a lion, and like a lion's whelp roaring for his prey.
- 5 And he pursued the wicked and sought them out, and them that troubled his people he burnt with fire :
- 6 And his enemies were driven away for fear of him, and all the workers of iniquity were troubled : and salvation prospered in his hand.
- 7 And he grieved many kings, and made Jacob glad with his works, and his memory is blessed forever.
- 8 And he went through the cities of Judah, and destroyed the wicked out of them, and turned away wrath from Israel.
- 9 And he was renowned even to the utmost part of the earth, and he gathered them that were perishing.
- 10 And Apollonius gathered together the Gentiles, and a numerous and great army from Samaria, to make war against Israel.
- 11 And Judas understood it, and went forth to meet him : and he overthrew him, and killed him : and many fell down slain, and the rest fled away.
- 12 And he took their spoils, and Judas took the sword of Apollonius, and fought with it all his lifetime.
- 13 And Seron captain of the army of Syria heard that Judas had assembled a company of the faithful, and a congregation with him.
- 14 And he said : I will get me a name, and will be glorified in the kingdom, and



will overthrow Judas, and those that are with him, that have despised the edict of the king.

- 15** And he made himself ready : and the host of the wicked went up with him, strong succours, to be revenged of the children of Israel.
- 16** And they approached even as far as Bethoron : and Judas went forth to meet him, with a small company.
- 17** But when they saw the army coming to meet them, they said to Judas : How shall we, being few, be able to fight against so great a multitude and so strong, and we are ready to faint with fasting today?
- 18** And Judas said : It is an easy matter for many to be shut up in the hands of a few : and there is no difference in the sight of the Elohim of heaven to deliver with a great multitude, or with a small company :
- 19** For the success of war is not in the multitude of the army, but strength cometh from heaven.
- 20** They come against us with an insolent multitude, and with pride, to destroy us, and our wives, and our children, and to take our spoils.
- 21** But we will fight for our lives and our laws :
- 22** And Adonai himself will overthrow them before our face : but as for you, fear them not.
- 23** And as soon as he had made an end of speaking, he rushed suddenly upon them : and Seron and his host were over-thrown before him :
- 24** And he pursued him by the descent of Bethoron even to the plain, and there fell of them eight hundred men, and the rest fled into the land of the Philistines.
- 25** And the fear of Judas and of his brethren, and the dread of them fell upon all the nations round about them.
- 26** And his fame came to the king, and all nations told of the battles of Judas.
- 27** Now when king Antiochus heard these words, he was angry in his mind : and he sent and gathered the forces of all his kingdom, an exceeding strong army.
- 28** And he opened his treasury, and gave out pay to the army for a year : and he commanded them, that they should be ready for all things.
- 29** And he perceived that the money of his treasures failed, and that the tributes of the country were small because of the dissension, and the evil that he had brought upon the land, that he might take away the laws of old times :
- 30** And he feared that he should not have as formerly enough, for charges and gifts, which he had given before with a liberal hand : for he had abounded more than the kings that had been before him.
- 31** And he was greatly perplexed in mind, and purposed to go into Persia, and to take tributes of the countries, and to gather much money.
- 32** And he left Lysias, a nobleman of the blood royal, to oversee the affairs of the kingdom, from the river Euphrates even to the river of Egypt :

- 33** And to bring up his son Antiochus, till he came again.
- 34** And he delivered to him half the army, and the elephants: and he gave him charge concerning all that he would have done, and concerning the inhabitants of Judea, and Jerusalem :
- 35** And 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 the memory of them from that place :
- 36** And that he should settle strangers to dwell in all their coasts, and divide their land by lot.
- 37** So the king took the half of the army that remained, and went forth from Antioch the chief city of his kingdom, in the hundred and forty-seventh year : and he passed over the river Euphrates, and went through the higher countries.
- 38** Then Lysias chose Ptolemee the son of Dorymenus, and Nicanor, and Gorgias, mighty men of the king's friends.
- 39** And he sent with them forty thousand men, and seven thousand horsemen : to go into the land of Juda, and to destroy it according to the king's orders.
- 40** So they went forth with all their power, and came, and pitched near Emmaus in the plain country.
- 41** And the merchants of the countries heard the fame of them : and they took silver and gold in abundance, and servants : and they came into the camp, to buy the children of Israel for slaves : and there were joined to them the forces of Syria, and of the land of the strangers.
- 42** And Judas and his brethren saw that evils were multiplied, and that the armies approached to their borders : and they knew the the orders the king had given to destroy the people and utterly abolish them.
- 43** And they said every man to his neighbour : Let us raise up the low condition of our people, and let us fight for our people, and our sanctuary.
- 44** And the assembly was gathered that they might be ready for battle : and that they might pray, and ask mercy and compassion.
- 45** Now Jerusalem was not inhabited, but was like a desert : there was none of her children that went in or out : and the sanctuary was trodden down : and the children of strangers were in the castle, there was the habitation of the Gentiles : and joy was taken away from Jacob, and the pipe and harp ceased there.
- 46** And they assembled together, and came to maspha over against Jerusalem : for in Maspha was a place of prayer heretofore in Israel.
- 47** And they fasted that day, and put on hair cloth, and put ashes upon their heads : and they rent their garments :
- 48** And they laid open the books of the law, in which the Gentiles searched for the likeness of their idols :

- 49 And they brought the priestly ornaments, and the first fruits and tithes, and stirred up the Nazarites that had fulfilled their days :
- 50 And they cried with a loud voice toward heaven, saying : What shall we do with these, and whither shall we carry them?
- 51 For thy holies are trodden down, and are profaned, and thy priests are in mourning, and were rought low.
- 52 And behold the nations are come together against us to destroy us : thou knowest what they intend against us.
- 53 How shall we be able to stand before their face, unless thou, O God, help us ?
- 54 Then they sounded with trumpets, and cried out with a loud voice.
- 55 And after this Judas appointed captains over the people, over thousands, and over hundreds, and over fifties, and over tens.
- 56 And he said to them that were building houses, or had betrothed wives, or were planting vineyards, or were fearful, that they should return every man to his house, according to the law.
- 57 So they removed the camp, and pitched on the south side of Emmaus.
- 58 And Judas said : Gird yourselves, and be valiant men, and be ready against the morning, that you may fight with these nations that are assembled against us to destroy us and our sanctuary.
- 59 For it is better for us to die in battle, than to see the evils of our nation, and of the holies :
- 60 Nevertheless as it shall be the will of Eohim in heaven so be it done.

CHAPTER 4

Judas routs the king's army. Gorgias flees before him. Lysias comes against him with a great army, but is defeated. Judas cleanses the temple, sets up a new altar, and fortifies the sanctuary.

Then Gorgias took five thousand men, and a thousand of the best horsemen : and they removed out of the camp by night.

- 2 That they might come upon the camp of the Jews, and strike them suddenly : and the men that were of the fortress were their guides.
- 3 And Judas heard of it, and rose up, he and the valiant men, to attack the king's forces that were in Emmaus.
- 4 For as yet the army was dispersed from the camp.
- 5 And Gorgias came by night into the camp of Judas, and found no man, and he sought them in the mountains : for he said : These men flee from us.
- 6 And when it was day, Judas showed himself in the plain with three thousand



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men only, who neither had armour nor swords.

- 7 And they saw the camp of the Gentiles that it was strong, and the men in breastplates, and the horsemen round about them, and these were trained up to war.
- 8 And Judas said to the men that were with him : Fear ye not their multitude, neither be ye afraid of their assault.
- 9 Remember in what manner our fathers were saved in the Red sea, when Pharaoh pursued them with a great army.
- 10 And now let us cry to heaven : and the Lord will have mercy on us, and will remember the covenant of our fathers, and will destroy this army before our face this day :
- 11 And all nations shall know that there is one that redeemeth and delivereth Israel.
- 12 And the strangers lifted up their eyes, and saw them coming against them.
- 13 And they went out of the camp to battle, and they that were with Judas sounded the trumpet.
- 14 And they joined battle : and the Gentiles were routed, and fled into the plain.
- 15 But all the hindmost of them fell by the sword, and they pursued them as far as Gezeron, and even to the plains of Idumea, and of Azotus, and of Jamnia : and there fell of them to the number of three thousand men.
- 16 And Judas returned again with his army that followed him.
- 17 And he said to the people : Be not greedy of the spoils : for there is war before us :
- 18 And Gorgias and his army are near us in the mountain : but stand ye now against our enemies, and overthrow them, and you shall take the spoils afterwards with safety.
- 19 And as Judas was speaking these words, behold part of them appeared looking forth from the mountain.
- 20 And Gorgias saw that his men were put to flight, and that they had set fire to the camp : for the smoke that was seen declared what was done.
- 21 And when they had seen this, they were seized with great fear, seeing at the same time Judas and his army in the plain ready to fight.
- 22 So they all fled away into the land of the strangers.
- 23 And Judas returned to take the spoils of the camp, and they got much gold, and silver, and blue silk, and purple of the sea, and great riches.
- 24 And returning home they sung a hymn, and blessed God in heaven, because he is good, because his mercy endureth forever.
- 25 So Israel had a great deliverance that day.
- 26 And such of the strangers as escaped, went and told Lysias all that had happened.
- 27 And when he heard these things, he was amazed and discouraged : because

things had not succeeded in Israel according to his mind, and as the king had commanded.

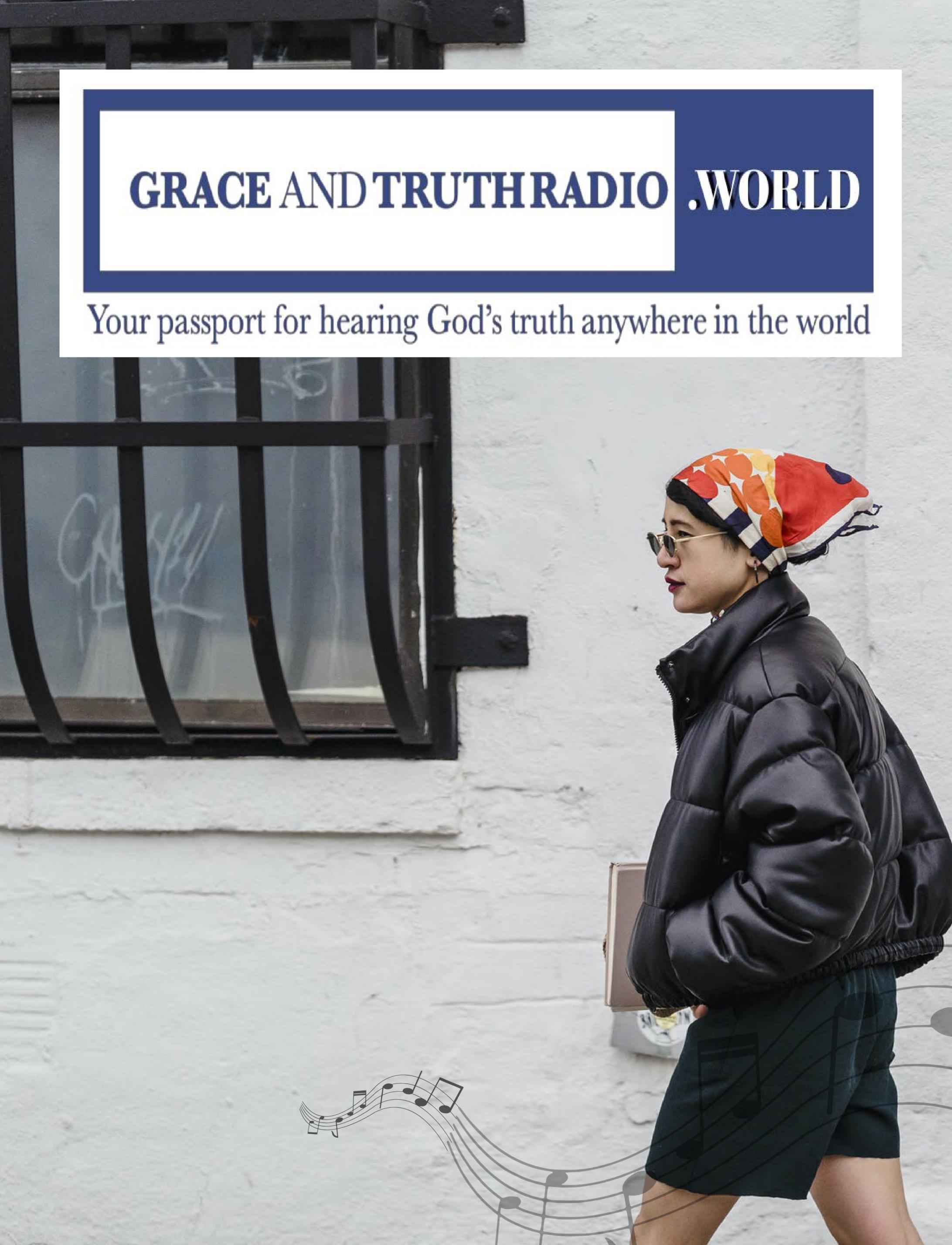
- 28** So the year following Lysias gathered together sixty thousand chosen men, and five thousand horsemen, that he might subdue them.
- 29** And they came into Judea, and pitched their tents in Bethoron, and Judas met them with ten thousand men.
- 30** And they saw that the army was strong, and he prayed, and said : Blessed art thou, O Saviour of Israel, who didst break the violence of the mighty by the hand of thy servant David, and didst deliver up the camp of the strangers into the hands of Jonathan the son of Saul and of his armourbearer.
- 31** Shut up this army in the hands of thy people Israel, and let them be confounded in their host and their horsemen.
- 32** Strike them with fear, and cause the boldness of their strength to languish, and let them quake at their own destruction.
- 33** Cast them down with the sword of them that love thee :
- 34** and let all that know thy name, praise thee with hymns.
- 35** And they joined battle : and there fell of the army of Lysias five thousand men.
- 36** And when Lysias saw that his men were put to flight, and how bold the Jews were, and that they were ready either to live, or to die manfully, he went to Antioch, and chose soldiers, that they might come again into Judea with greater numbers.
- 37** Then Judas, and his brethren said : Behold our enemies are discomfited : let us go up now to cleanse the holy places and to repair them.
- 38** And all the army assembled together, and they went up into mount Zion.
- 39** And they saw the sanctuary desolate, and the altar profaned, and the gates burnt, and shrubs growing up in the courts as in a forest, or on the mountains, and the priest's chambers joining to the temple thrown down.
- 40** And they rent their garments, and made great lamentation, and put ashes on their heads :
- 41** And they fell down to the ground on their faces, and they sounded with the trumpets of alarm, and they cried towards heaven.
- 42** Then Judas appointed men to fight against them that were in the castle, till they had cleansed the holy places.
- 43** And he chose priests without blemish, whose will was set upon the Law of God :
- 44** And they cleansed the holy places, and took away the stones that had been defiled into an unclean place.
- 45** And he considered about the altar of holocausts that had been profaned, what he should do with it.
- 46** And a good counsel came into their minds, to pull it down : lest it should be a

- reproach to them, because the Gentiles had defiled it; so they threw it down.
- 47** And they laid up the stones in the mountain of the temple in a convenient place, till there should come a prophet, and give answer concerning them.
- 48** Then they took whole stones according to the law, and built a new altar according to the former :
- 49** And they built up the holy places, and the things that were within the temple : and they sanctified the temple, and the courts.
- 50** And they made new holy vessels, and brought in the candlestick, and the altar of incense, and the table into the temple.
- 51** And they put incense upon the altar, and lighted up the lamps that were upon the candlestick, and they gave light in the temple.
- 52** And they set the loaves upon the table, and hung up the veils, and finished all the works that they had begun to make.
- 53** And they arose before the morning on the 25th and day of the ninth month (which is the month of Kislev) in the hundred and forty-eighth year.
- 54** And they offered sacrifice according to the law upon the new altar of holocausts which they had made.
- 55** According to the time, and according to the day wherein the heathens had defiled it, in the same was it dedicated anew with canticles, and harps, and lutes, and cymbals.
- 56** And all the people fell upon their faces, and adored, and blessed up to heaven, him that had prospered them.
- 57** And they kept the dedication of the altar eight days, and they offered holocausts with joy, and sacrifices of salvation, and of praise.
- 58** And they adorned the front of the temple with crowns of gold, and escutcheons, and they renewed the gates, and the chambers, and hanged doors upon them.
- 59** And there was exceeding great joy among the people, and the reproach of the Gentiles was turned away.
- 60** And Judas, and his brethren, and all the children of Israel decreed, that the day of the dedication of the altar should be kept in its season from year to year for eight days, from the five and twentieth day of the month of Casleu, with joy and gladness.
- 61** They built up also at that time mount Zion, with high walls, and strong towers round about, lest the Gentiles should at any time come, and tread it down as they did before.
- 62** And he placed a garrison there to keep it, and he fortified it to secure Bethsura, that the people might have a defense against Idumea.



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It's that time of the year where we're getting together with friends and family and celebrating to Christmas and Hanukkah!

Those that follow me on social media know how much I love to decorate for Christmas! My family feels the Christmas cheer throughout the season, and I like to start decorating for Christmas early! I love the season where my Savior was born! We celebrate His birth, and we give to remember how our Abba Father in Heaven gave His Son to save us! It truly is the most magical time of the year! It is also the busiest!

Whether your guests plan to spend the night or they're just calling in for a catch up, you want to make sure everything in your home is nice and presentable. It's important that your guests feel welcomed in your home, and can be as comfortable while feeling the love and warmth of our Messiah! Here are a few things you can do to help your holiday season be a little more enjoyable:

Have a clean home

It sounds obvious, but in the hustle it can be hard. Your home doesn't need to be spotless, Sweet Friend! You are who folks are coming to see, not your home! But if you're like me, you probably want it nice and tidy for your guests. If your guests are spending the night, make sure your guest room is fully cleaned up with some fresh bedding. Maybe add some extra amenities like water bottles, beverages, snacks, care kits, and the coveted Wi-Fi password.



Stock up

Whether it's Christmas, Hanukkah, or any time of the year, you should absolutely stock up on items that your guests enjoy. Try looking into buying their favorite food, making one of their favorite dishes, or even some drinks that they like. Ask them before their visit what their dietary requirements are so there won't be any awkward situations around that. The fact you've considered them truly goes a long way and makes them feel welcome.

Kid Friendly

It's the Christmas, Hanukkah season! Make sure that if the kiddos are visiting, they have plenty of things to keep them occupied! Your china cabinet with thank you later... and Memaws crystal vase or other precious family heirloom! Kid friendly placemats at the table are nice, but often kids will need more to keep them entertained than watching us adults make conversation! Games are always a hit... Like the Dreidel game, cards, boardgames, coloring, or maybe some football outside (weather permitting).

Rules To Play Dreidel

1. Any number of people can take part.
2. Each player begins the game with an equal number of game pieces (about 10-15) such as pennies, nuts, chocolate chips, raisins, matchsticks, etc.
3. At the beginning of each round, every participant puts one game piece into the center "pot." In addition, every time the pot is empty or has only one game piece left, every player should put one in the pot.
4. Every time it's your turn, spin the dreidel once. Depending on the side it lands on, you give or get game pieces from the pot. For those who don't read Hebrew, some dreidels also feature a transliteration of each letter. If yours doesn't, use the photo below as a cheat sheet:

a) Nun means "nisht" or "nothing." The player does nothing.

b) Gimel means "gantz" or "everything." The player gets everything in the pot.

c) Hey means "halb" or "half." The player gets half of the pot. (If there is an odd number of pieces in the pot, the player takes half of the total plus one).

d) Shin (outside of Israel) means "shtel" or "put in." The player adds a game piece to the pot.

5. If you find that you have no game pieces left, you are either "out" or may ask a fellow player for a "loan." When one person has won everything, that round of the game is over!



shin - put one in



hey - take half



gimmel - take everything



nun - take nothing



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