

# The Book of First and Second Maccabees

*1 and 2 Maccabees are set during the reign of the Seleucid Greek empire (the part of the Greek empire that found its roots in Syria). It tells the story of how the Greek ruler Antiochus IV Epiphanes attempted to suppress Temple worship and to destroy the practice of Jewish law. This caused the Maccabean revolt, led by Mattathias and his sons. As a part of the revolt, the Temple was freed from the control of the Greek empire and rededicated (an act that is still commemorated yearly in the festival of Hanukkah). The Maccabees then ruled over Israel, first as High Priests and then as High Priests and Princes of Israel.*

# 1 Maccabees

*1 Maccabees follows this story until the death of Simon (the third son of Mattathias to rule over Israel) at the hands of the Egyptian Greeks (from about 175-134 B.C.).*

## **1 Maccabees 1**

(1) It came to pass, after that Alexander the Macedonian, the son of Philip, who came out of the land of Chittim, and struck Darius king of the Persians and Medes, it came to pass, after he had struck him, that he reigned in his stead, in former time, over Greece.

(2) And he fought many battles, and won many strongholds, and killed the kings of the earth,

(3) and went through to the ends of the earth, and took spoils of a multitude of nations. And the earth was quiet before him, and he was exalted, and his heart was lifted up,

(4) and he gathered together an exceeding strong army, and ruled over countries and nations and principalities, and they became tributary to him.

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

(6) And he called his servants, which were honorable, which had been brought up with him from his youth, and he divided to them his kingdom, while he was yet alive.

(7) And Alexander reigned twelve years, and he died.

(8) And his servants bare rule, each one in his place.

(9) And they did all put diadems upon themselves after that he was dead, and so did their sons after them many years: and they multiplied evils in the earth.

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

(11) In those days came there forth out of Israel transgressors of the law, and persuaded many, saying, let's go and make a covenant with the Gentiles that are round about us; for since we were parted from them many evils have befallen us.

(12) And the saying was good in their eyes.

(13) And certain of the people were forward herein and went to the king, and he gave them licence to do after the ordinances of the Gentiles.

(14) And they built a place of exercise in Jerusalem according to the laws of the Gentiles;

(15) and they made themselves uncircumcised, and forsook the holy covenant, and joined themselves to the Gentiles, and sold themselves to do evil.

(16) And the kingdom was well ordered in the sight of Antiochus, and he thought to reign over Egypt, that he might reign over the two kingdoms.

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(17) And he entered into Egypt with a great multitude, with chariots, and with elephants, and with horsemen, and with a great navy;

(18) and he made war against Ptolemy king of Egypt; and Ptolemy was put to shame before him, and fled; and many fell wounded to death.

(19) And they got possession of the strong cities in the land of Egypt; and he took the spoils of Egypt.

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

(21) and entered presumptuously into the sanctuary, and took the golden altar, and the candlestick of the light, and all that pertained thereto,

(22) and the table of the show bread, and the cups to pour withal, and the bowls, and the golden censers, and the veil, and the crowns, and the adorning of gold which was on the face of the temple, and he scaled it all off.

(23) And he took the silver and the gold and the precious vessels; and he took the hidden treasures which he found.

(24) And when he had taken all, he went away into his own land, and he made a great slaughter, and spoke very presumptuously.

(25) And there came great mourning upon Israel, in every place where they were;

(26) and the rulers and elders groaned, the virgins and young men were made feeble, and the beauty of the women was changed.

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

(28) And the land was moved for the inhabitants thereof, and all the house of Jacob was clothed with shame.

(29) And after two full years the king sent a chief collector of tribute to the cities of Judah, and he came to Jerusalem with a great multitude.

(30) And he spoke words of peace to them in subtlety, and they gave him credence: and he fell upon the city suddenly, and struck it very sore, and destroyed much people out of Israel.

(31) And he took the spoils of the city, and set it on fire, and pulled down the houses thereof and the walls thereof on every side.

(32) And they led captive the women and the children, and the cattle they took in possession.

(33) And they built the city of David with a great and strong wall, with strong towers, and it became to them a citadel.

(34) And they put there a sinful nation, transgressors of the law, and they strengthened themselves therein.

(35) And they stored up arms and food, and gathering together the spoils of Jerusalem, they laid them up there, and they became a sore snare:

(36) and it became a place to lie in wait in against the sanctuary, and an evil adversary to Israel continually.

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- (37) And they shed innocent blood on every side of the sanctuary, and defiled the sanctuary.
- (38) And the inhabitants of Jerusalem fled because of them; and she became a habitation of strangers, and she became strange to those who were born in her, and her children forsook her.
- (39) Her sanctuary was laid waste like a wilderness, her feasts were turned into mourning, her Sabbaths into reproach, her honor into contempt.
- (40) According to her glory, so was her dishonor multiplied, and her high estate was turned into mourning.
- (41) And king Antiochus wrote to his whole kingdom, that all should be one people,
- (42) and that each should forsake his own laws. And all the nations agreed according to the word of the king;
- (43) and many of Israel consented to his worship, and sacrificed to the idols, and profaned the Sabbath.
- (44) And the king sent letters by the hand of messengers to Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, that they should follow laws strange to the land,
- (45) and should forbid whole burnt offerings and sacrifice and drink offerings in the sanctuary; and should profane the Sabbaths and feasts,
- (46) and pollute the sanctuary and those who were holy;
- (47) that they should build altars, and temples, and shrines for idols, and should sacrifice swine's flesh and unclean beasts:
- (48) and that they should leave their sons uncircumcised, that they should make their souls abominable with all manner of uncleanness and profanation;
- (49) so that they might forget the law, and change all the ordinances.
- (50) And whoever shall not do according to the word of the king, he shall die.
- (51) According to all these words wrote he to his whole kingdom; and he appointed overseers over all the people, and he commanded the cities of Judah to sacrifice, city by city.
- (52) And from the people were gathered together to them many, every one that had forsaken the law; and they did evil things in the land;
- (53) and they made Israel to hide themselves in every place of refuge which they had.
- (54) And on the fifteenth day of Kislev, in the hundred and forty and fifth year, they built an abomination of desolation upon the altar, and in the cities of Judah on every side they built idol altars.
- (55) And at the doors of the houses and in the streets they burned incense.
- (56) And they tore in pieces the books of the law which they found, and set them on fire.
- (57) And wherever was found with any a book of the covenant, and if any consented to the law, the king's sentence delivered him to death.
- (58) Thus did they in their might to Israel, to those that were found month by month in the cities.

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- (59) And on the five and twentieth day of the month they sacrificed upon the idol altar of God.
- (60) And the women that had circumcised their children they put to death according to the commandment.
- (61) And they hanged their babes about their necks, and destroyed their houses, and those who had circumcised them.
- (62) And many in Israel were fully resolved and confirmed in themselves not to eat unclean things.
- (63) And they chose to die, that they might not be defiled with the meats, and that they might not profane the holy covenant: and they died.
- (64) And there came exceeding great wrath upon Israel.

### **1 Maccabees 2**

- (1) In those days rose up Mattathias the son of John, the son of Simeon, a priest of the sons of Joarib, from Jerusalem; and he lived at Modin.
- (2) And he had five sons, John, who was surnamed Gaddis;
- (3) Simon, who was called Thassi;
- (4) Judas, who was called Maccabaeus;
- (5) Eleazar, who was called Avaran; Jonathan, who was called Apphus.
- (6) And he saw the blasphemies that were committed in Judah and in Jerusalem,
- (7) and he said, Woe is me! wherefore was I born to see the destruction of my people, and the destruction of the holy city, and to dwell there, when it was given into the hand of the enemy, the sanctuary into the hand of aliens?
- (8) Her temple is become as a man that was glorious:
- (9) her vessels of glory are carried away into captivity, her infants are slain in her streets, her young men with the sword of the enemy.
- (10) What nation has not inherited her palaces, and gotten possession of her spoils?
- (11) her adorning is all taken away; instead of a free woman she is become a bond woman:
- (12) and, behold, our holy things and our beauty and our glory are laid waste, and the Gentiles have profaned them.
- (13) Wherefore should we live any longer?
- (14) And Mattathias and his sons tore their clothes, and put on sackcloth, and mourned exceedingly.
- (15) And the king's officers, that were enforcing the apostasy, came into the city Modin to sacrifice.
- (16) And many of Israel came to them, and Mattathias and his sons were gathered together.
- (17) And the king's officers answered and spoke to Mattathias, saying, You are a ruler and an honorable and great man in this city, and strengthened with sons and kindred:

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(18) now therefore come you first and do the commandment of the king, as all the nations have done, and the men of Judah, and those who remain in Jerusalem: and you and your house shall be in the number of the king's Friends, and you and your sons shall be honored with silver and gold and many gifts.

(19) And Mattathias answered and said with a loud voice, If all the nations that are in the house of the king's dominion listen to him, to fall away each one from the worship of his fathers, and have made choice to follow his commandments,

(20) yet I and my sons and my kindred will walk in the covenant of our fathers.

(21) Heaven forbid that we should forsake the law and the ordinances.

(22) We will not listen to the king's words, to go aside from our worship, on the right hand, or on the left.

(23) And when he had left speaking these words, there came a Jew in the sight of all to sacrifice on the altar which was at Modin, according to the king's commandment.

(24) And Mattathias saw it, and his zeal was kindled, and his reins trembled, and he showed forth his wrath according to judgement, and ran, and killed him upon the altar.

(25) And the king's officer, who compelled men to sacrifice, he killed at that time, and pulled down the altar.

(26) And he was zealous for the law, even as Phinehas did to Zimri the son of Salu.

(27) And Mattathias cried out in the city with a loud voice, saying, Whosoever is zealous for the law, and maintains the covenant, let him come forth after me.

(28) And he and his sons fled into the mountains, and forsook all that they had in the city.

(29) Then many that sought after justice and judgement went down into the wilderness, to dwell there,

(30) they, and their sons, and their wives, and their cattle; because evils were multiplied upon them.

(31) And it was told the king's officers, and the forces that were in Jerusalem, the city of David, that certain men, who had broken the king's commandment, were gone down into the secret places in the wilderness;

(32) and many pursued after them, and having overtaken them, they encamped against them, and set the battle in array against them on the Sabbath day.

(33) And they said to them, Thus far. Come forth, and do according to the word of the king, and you shall live.

(34) And they said, We will not come forth, neither will we do the word of the king, to profane the Sabbath day.

(35) And they hurried to give them battle.

(36) And they answered them not, neither cast they a stone at them, nor stopped up the secret places,

(37) saying, Let us die all in our innocency: heaven and earth witness over us, that you put us to death without trial.

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(38) And they rose up against them in battle on the Sabbath, and they died, they and their wives and their children, and their cattle, to the number of a thousand souls.

(39) And Mattathias and his friends knew it, and they mourned over them exceedingly.

(40) And one said to another, If we all do as our kindred have done, and fight not against the Gentiles for our lives and our ordinances, they will now quickly destroy us from off the earth.

(41) And they took counsel on that day, saying, whoever shall come against us to battle on the Sabbath day, let's fight against him, and we shall in no wise all die, as our kindred died in the secret places.

(42) Then were gathered together to them a company of Hasidaeans, mighty men of Israel, every one that offered himself willingly for the law.

(43) And all those who fled from the evils were added to them, and became a stay to them.

(44) And they mustered an army, and struck sinners in their anger, and lawless men in their wrath: and the rest fled to the Gentiles for safety.

(45) And Mattathias and his friends went round about, and pulled down the altars;

(46) and they circumcised by force the children that were uncircumcised, as many as they found in the coasts of Israel.

(47) And they pursued after the sons of pride, and the work prospered in their hand.

(48) And they rescued the law out of the hand of the Gentiles, and out of the hand of the kings, neither suffered they the sinner to triumph.

(49) And the days of Mattathias drew near that he should die, and he said to his sons, Now have pride and rebuke gotten strength, and a season of overthrow, and wrath of indignation.

(50) And now, my children, be you zealous for the law, and give your lives for the covenant of your fathers.

(51) And call to remembrance the deeds of our fathers which they did in their generations; and receive great glory and an everlasting name.

(52) Was not Abraham found faithful in temptation, and it was reckoned to him for righteousness?

(53) Joseph in the time of his distress kept the commandment, and became lord of Egypt.

(54) Phinehas our father, for that he was zealous exceedingly, obtained the covenant of an everlasting priesthood.

(55) Joshua for fulfilling the word became a judge in Israel.

(56) Caleb for bearing witness in the congregation obtained a heritage in the land.

(57) David for being merciful inherited the throne of a kingdom forever and ever.

(58) Elijah, for that he was exceeding zealous for the law, was taken up into heaven.

(59) Hananiah, Azariah, Mishael, believed, and were saved out of the flame.

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

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(61) And thus consider you from generation to generation, that none that put their trust in him shall lack for strength.

(62) And be not afraid of the words of a sinful man; for his glory shall be dung and worms.

(63) To-day he shall be lifted up, and tomorrow he shall in no wise be found, because he is returned to his dust, and his thought is perished.

(64) And you, my children, be strong, and show yourselves men in behalf of the law; for therein shall you obtain glory.

(65) And, behold, Simon your brother, I know that he is a man of counsel; give ear to him always: he shall be a father to you.

(66) And Judas Maccabaeus, he has been strong and mighty from his youth: he shall be your captain, and shall fight the battle of the people.

(67) And take you to you all the doers of the law, and avenge the wrong of your people.

(68) Render a recompense to the Gentiles, and take heed to the commandments of the law.

(69) And he blessed them, and was gathered to his fathers.

(70) And he died in the hundred and 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**

(1) And his son Judas, who was called Maccabaeus, rose up in his stead.

(2) And all his kindred helped him, and so did all those who clave to his father, and they fought with gladness the battle of Israel.

(3) And he got his people great glory, and put on a breastplate as a giant, and girded his warlike harness about him, and set battles in array, protecting the army with his sword.

(4) And he was like a lion in his deeds, and as a lion's whelp roaring for prey.

(5) And he pursued the lawless, seeking them out, and he burned up those that troubled his people.

(6) And the lawless shrunk for fear of him, and all the workers of lawlessness were sore troubled, and salvation prospered in his hand.

(7) And he angered many kings, and made Jacob glad with his acts, and his memorial is blessed forever.

(8) And he went about among the cities of Judah, and destroyed the ungodly out of the land, and turned away wrath from Israel:

(9) and he was renowned to the utmost part of the earth, and he gathered together such as were ready to perish.

(10) And Apollonius gathered the Gentiles together, and a great army from Samaria, to fight against Israel.

(11) And Judas perceived it, and he went forth to meet him, and struck him, and killed him: and many fell wounded to death, and the rest fled.



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(12) And they took their spoils, and Judas took the sword of Apollonius, and therewith he fought all his days.

(13) And Seron, the commander of the army of Syria, heard say that Judas had gathered a gathering and a congregation of faithful men with him, and of such as went out to war;

(14) And he said, I will make myself a name and get me glory in the kingdom; and I will fight against Judas and those who are with him, that set at nothing the word of the king.

(15) And there went up with him also a mighty army of the ungodly to help him, to take vengeance on the children of Israel.

(16) And he came near to the going up of Bethhoron, 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, What? shall we be able, being a small company, to fight against so great and strong a multitude? and we for our part are faint, having tasted no food this day.

(18) And Judas said, It is an easy thing for many to be shut up in the hands of a few; and with heaven it is all one, to save by many or by few:

(19) for victory in battle stands not in the multitude of an army; but strength is from heaven.

(20) They come to us in fulness of insolence and lawlessness, to destroy us and our wives and our children, for to plunder us:

(21) but we fight for our lives and our laws.

(22) And he himself will discomfit them before our face: but as for you, be you not afraid of them.

(23) Now when he had left off speaking, he leapt suddenly upon them, and Seron and his army were discomfited before him.

(24) And they pursued them in the going down of Bethhoron to the plain, and there fell of them about eight hundred men; but the residue fled into the land of the Philistines.

(25) And the fear of Judas and his kindred, and the dread of them, began to fall upon the nations round about them:

(26) and his name came near even to the king, and every nation told of the battles of Judas.

(27) But when king Antiochus heard these words, he was full of indignation: and he sent and gathered together all the forces of his realm, an exceeding strong army.

(28) And he opened his treasury, and gave his forces pay for a year, and commanded them to be ready for every need.

(29) And he saw that the money failed from his treasures, and that the tributes of the country were small, because of the dissension and plague which he had brought upon the land, to the end that he might take away the laws which had been from the first days;

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(30) and he feared that he should not have enough as at other times for the charges and the gifts which he gave aforetime with a liberal hand, and he abounded above the kings that were before him.

(31) And he was exceedingly perplexed in his mind, and he determined to go into Persia, and to take the tributes of the countries, and to gather much money.

(32) And he left Lysias, an honorable man, and one of the seed royal, to be over the affairs of the king from the river Euphrates to the borders of Egypt,

(33) and to bring up his son Antiochus, until he came again.

(34) And he delivered to him the half of his forces, and the elephants, and gave him charge of all the things that he would have done, and concerning those who lived in Judea and in Jerusalem,

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

(36) And that he should make strangers to dwell on all their coasts, and should divide their land to them by lot.

(37) And the king took the half that remained of the forces, and removed from Antioch, from his royal city, the hundred and forty and seventh year; and he passed over the river Euphrates, and went through the upper countries.

(38) And Lysias chose Ptolemy the son of Dorymenes, and Nicanor, and Gorgias, mighty men of the king's Friends;

(39) and with them he sent forty thousand footmen, and seven thousand horse, to go into the land of Judah, and to destroy it, according to the word of the king.

(40) And they removed with all their army, and came and pitched near to Emmaus in the plain country.

(41) And the merchants of the country heard the fame of them, and took silver and gold exceeding much, with fetters, and came into the camp to take the children of Israel for servants: and there were added to them the forces of Syria and of the land of the Philistines.

(42) And Judas and his kindred saw that evils were multiplied, and that the forces were encamping in their borders; and they took knowledge of the king's words which he had commanded, to destroy the people and make an end of them;

(43) and they said each man to his neighbor, Let's raise up the ruin of our people, and let's fight for our people and the holy place.

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

(45) And Jerusalem was without inhabitant as a wilderness, there was none of her offspring that went in or went out; and the sanctuary was trodden down, and the sons of strangers were in the citadel, the Gentiles lodged therein; and joy was taken away from Jacob, and the pipe and the harp ceased.

(46) And they gathered themselves together, and came to Mizpeh, near Jerusalem; for in Mizpeh was there a place of prayer aforetime for Israel.

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(47) And they fasted that day, and put on sackcloth, and put ashes upon their heads, and tore their clothes,

(48) and laid open the book of the law, concerning which the Gentiles were wont to inquire, seeking the likenesses of their idols.

(49) And they brought the priests' garments, and the first fruits, and the tithes: and they stirred up the Nazarites, who had accomplished their days.

(50) And they cried aloud toward heaven, saying, What shall we do with these men, and whither shall we carry them away?

(51) And your holy place is trodden down and profaned, and your priests are in heaviness and brought low.

(52) And, behold, the Gentiles are assembled together against us to destroy us: you know what things they imagine against us.

(53) How shall we be able to stand before them, except you be our help?

(54) And they sounded with the trumpets, and cried with a loud voice.

(55) And after this Judas appointed leaders of the people, captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds, and captains of fifties, and captains of tens.

(56) And he said to those who were building houses, and were betrothing wives, and were planting vineyards, and were fearful, that they should return, each man to his own house, according to the law.

(57) And the army removed, and encamped upon the south side of Emmaus.

(58) And Judas said, Gird yourselves, and be valiant men, and be in readiness against the morning, that you may fight with these Gentiles, that are assembled together against us to destroy us, and our holy place:

(59) for it is better for us to die in battle, than to look upon the evils of our nation and the holy place.

(60) Nevertheless, as may be the will in heaven, so shall he do.

### **1 Maccabees 4**

(1) And Gorgias took five thousand footmen, and a thousand chosen horse, and the army removed by night,

(2) that it might fall upon the army of the Jews and strike them suddenly: and the men of the citadel were his guides.

(3) And Judas heard thereof, and removed, he and the valiant men, that he might strike the king's army which was at Emmaus,

(4) while as yet the forces were dispersed from the camp.

(5) And Gorgias came into the camp of Judas by night, and found no man; and he sought them in the mountains; for he said, These men flee from us.

(6) And as soon as it was day, Judas appeared in the plain with three thousand men: howbeit they had not armor and swords such as they desired.

(7) And they saw the camp of the Gentiles strong and fortified, and horsemen compassing it round about; and these were expert in war.

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(8) And Judas said to the men that were with him, Fear you not their multitude, neither be you afraid of their onset.

(9) Remember how our fathers were saved in the Sea of Reeds, when Pharaoh pursued them with an army.

(10) And now let's cry to heaven, if he will have us, and will remember the covenant of our fathers, and destroy this army before our face today:

(11) and all the Gentiles shall know that there is one who redeems and saves Israel.

(12) And the strangers lifted up their eyes, and saw them coming near them:

(13) and they went out of the camp to battle. And those who were with Judas sounded their trumpets,

(14) and joined battle, and the Gentiles were discomfited, and fled into the plain.

(15) But all the hindmost fell by the sword: and they pursued them to Gazara, and to the plains of Idumaea and Azotus and Jamnia, and there fell of them about three thousand men.

(16) And Judas and his army returned from pursuing after them,

(17) and he said to the people, Be not greedy of the spoils, inasmuch as there is a battle before us;

(18) and Gorgias and his army are near to us in the mountain. But stand you now against our enemies, and fight against them, and afterwards take the spoils with boldness.

(19) While Judas was yet making an end of these words, there appeared a part of them looking out from the mountain:

(20) and they saw that their army had been put to flight, and that the Jews were burning the camp; for the smoke that was seen declared what was done.

(21) But when they perceived these things, they were sore afraid; and perceiving also the army of Judas in the plain ready for battle,

(22) they fled all of them into the land of the Philistines.

(23) And Judas returned to plunder the camp, and they got much gold, and silver, and blue, and sea purple, and great riches.

(24) And they returned home, and sang a song of thanksgiving, and gave praise to heaven; because his mercy is good, because his mercy endures forever.

(25) And Israel had a great deliverance that day.

(26) But the strangers, as many as had escaped, came and told Lysias all the things that had happened:

(27) but when he heard thereof, he was confounded and discouraged, because neither had such things as he would be done to Israel, nor had such things as the king commanded him come to pass.

(28) And in the next year he gathered together threescore thousand chosen footmen, and five thousand horsemen, that he might subdue them.

(29) And they came into Idumaea, and encamped at Bethsura; and Judas met them with ten thousand men.

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(30) And he saw that the army was strong, and he prayed and said, Blessed are you, O Saviour of Israel, who did quell the onset of the mighty man by the hand of your servant David, and did deliver the army of the Philistines into the hands of Jonathan the son of Saul, and of his armor bearer:

(31) shut up this army in the hand of your people Israel, and let them be ashamed for their army and their horsemen:

(32) give them faintness of heart, and cause the boldness of their strength to melt away, and let them quake at their destruction:

(33) cast them down with the sword of those who love you, and let all that know your name praise you with thanksgiving.

(34) And they joined battle; and there fell of the army of Lysias about five thousand men, and they fell down near them.

(35) But when Lysias saw that his array was put to flight, and the boldness that had come upon those who were with Judas, and how they were ready either to live or to die nobly, he removed to Antioch, and gathered together hired soldiers, that he might come again into Judea with even a greater company.

(36) But Judas and his kindred said, Behold, our enemies are discomfited: let's go up to cleanse the holy place, and to dedicate it afresh.

(37) And all the army was gathered together, and they went up to mount Sion.

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

(39) and they tore their clothes, and made great lamentation, and put ashes upon their heads,

(40) and fell on their faces to the ground, and blew with the solemn trumpets, and cried toward heaven.

(41) Then Judas appointed certain men to fight against those that were in the citadel, until he should have cleansed the holy place.

(42) And he chose blameless priests, such as had pleasure in the law:

(43) and they cleansed the holy place, and bare out the stones of defilement into an unclean place.

(44) And they took counsel concerning the altar of burnt offerings, which had been profaned, what they should do with it:

(45) and there came into their mind a good counsel, that they should pull it down, lest it should be a reproach to them, because the Gentiles had defiled it: and they pulled down the altar,

(46) and laid up the stones in the mountain of the house in a convenient place, until there should come a prophet to give an answer concerning them.

(47) And they took whole stones according to the law, and built a new altar after the fashion of the former;

(48) and they built the holy place, and the inner parts of the house; and they hallowed the courts.

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

(50) And they burned incense upon the altar, and they lighted the lamps that were upon the candlestick, and they gave light in the temple.

(51) And they set loaves upon the table, and spread out the veils, and finished all the works which they made.

(52) And they rose up early in the morning, on the five and twentieth day of the ninth month, which is the month Kislev, in the hundred and forty and eighth year,

(53) and offered sacrifice according to the law upon the new altar of burned offerings which they had made.

(54) At what time and on what day the Gentiles had profaned it, even on that day was it dedicated afresh, with songs and harps and lutes, and with cymbals.

(55) And all the people fell upon their faces, and worshipped, and gave praise to heaven, which had given them good success.

(56) And they kept the dedication of the altar eight days, and offered burned offerings with gladness, and sacrificed a sacrifice of deliverance and praise.

(57) And they decked the forefront of the temple with crowns of gold and small shields, and dedicated afresh the gates and the priests' chambers, and made doors for them.

(58) And there was exceeding great gladness among the people, and the reproach of the Gentiles was turned away.

(59) And Judas and his kindred and the whole congregation of Israel ordained, that the days of the dedication of the altar should be kept in their seasons from year to year by the space of eight days, from the five and twentieth day of the month Kislev, with gladness and joy.

(60) And at that season they built up the mount Sion with high walls and strong towers round about, lest haply the Gentiles should come and tread them down, as they had done aforetime.

(61) And he set there a force to keep it, and they fortified Bethsura to keep it; that the people might have a stronghold near Idumaea.

### **1 Maccabees 5**

(1) And it came to pass, when the Gentiles round about heard that the altar was built, and the sanctuary dedicated as aforetime, they were exceeding angry.

(2) And they took counsel to destroy the race of Jacob that was in the midst of them, and they began to kill and destroy among the people.

(3) And Judas fought against the children of Esau in Idumaea at Akrabattine, because they besieged Israel: and he struck them with a great slaughter, and brought down their pride, and took their spoils.

(4) And he remembered the wickedness of the children of Baean, who were to the people a snare and a stumbling block, lying in wait for them in the ways.

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(5) And they were shut up by him in the towers; and he encamped against them, and destroyed them utterly, and burned with fire the towers of the place, with all that were therein.

(6) And he passed over to the children of Ammon, and found a mighty band, and much people, with Timotheus for their leader.

(7) And he fought many battles with them, and they were discomfited before his face; and he struck them,

(8) and got possession of Jazer, and the villages thereof, and returned again into Judea.

(9) And the Gentiles that were in Gilead gathered themselves together against the Israelites that were on their borders, to destroy them. And they fled to the stronghold of Dathema,

(10) and sent letters to Judas and his kindred, saying, The Gentiles that are round about us are gathered together against us to destroy us:

(11) and they are preparing to come and get possession of the stronghold whereunto we are fled for refuge, and Timotheus is the leader of their army.

(12) Now therefore come and deliver us from their hand, for many of us are fallen.

(13) And all our kindred that were in the land of Tubias have been put to death; and they have carried into captivity their wives and their children and their stuff; and they destroyed there about a thousand men.

(14) While the letters were yet reading, behold, there came other messengers from Galilee with their clothes tore, bringing a report after this wise,

(15) saying, That there were gathered together against them those of Ptolemais, and of Tyre, and of Sidon, and all Galilee of the Gentiles to consume them.

(16) Now when Judas and the people heard these words, there assembled together a great congregation, to consult what they should do for their kindred, that were in tribulation, and were assaulted of them.

(17) And Judas said to Simon his brother, Choose you out men, and go and deliver your kindred that are in Galilee, but I and Jonathan my brother will go into the land of Gilead.

(18) And he left Joseph the son of Zacharias, and Azarias, as leaders of the people, with the remnant of the army, in Judea, for to keep it.

(19) And he gave commandment to them, saying, Take you the charge of this people, and fight no battle with the Gentiles until that we come again.

(20) And to Simon were divided three thousand men to go into Galilee, but to Judas eight thousand men to go into the land of Gilead.

(21) And Simon went into Galilee, and fought many battles with the Gentiles, and the Gentiles were discomfited before him.

(22) And he pursued them to the gate of Ptolemais; and there fell of the Gentiles about three thousand men, and he took their spoils.

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(23) And they took to them those that were in Galilee, and in Arbatta, with their wives and their children, and all that they had, and brought them into Judea with great gladness.

(24) And Judas Maccabaeus and his brother Jonathan passed over Jordan, and went three days' journey in the wilderness;

(25) and they met with the Nabathaeans, and these met them in a peaceful manner, and told them all things that had befallen their kindred in the land of Gilead:

(26) and how that many of them were shut up in Bosora, and Bosor, and Alema, Casphor, Maked, and Carnaim; all these cities are strong and great:

(27) and how that they were shut up in the rest of the cities of the land of Gilead, and that tomorrow they have appointed to encamp against the strongholds, and to take them, and to destroy all these men in one day.

(28) And Judas and his army turned suddenly by the way of the wilderness to Bosora; and he took the city, and killed all the males with the edge of the sword, and took all their spoils, and burned the city with fire.

(29) And he removed from thence by night, and went till he came to the stronghold.

(30) And the morning came, and they lifted up their eyes, and, behold, much people which could not be counted, bearing ladders and engines of war, to take the stronghold; and they were fighting against them.

(31) And Judas saw that the battle was begun, and that the cry of the city went up to heaven, with trumpets and a great sound,

(32) and he said to the men of his army, Fight this day for your kindred.

(33) And he went forth behind them in three companies, and they sounded with their trumpets, and cried out in prayer.

(34) And the army of Timotheus perceived that it was Maccabaeus, and they fled from before him: and he struck them with a great slaughter; and there fell of them on that day about eight thousand men.

(35) And he turned away to Mizpeh and fought against it, and took it, and killed all the males thereof, and took the spoils thereof, and burned it with fire.

(36) From thence he removed, and took Casphor, Maked, Bosor, and the other cities of the land of Gilead.

(37) Now after these things Timotheus gathered another army, and encamped near Raphon beyond the brook.

(38) And Judas sent men to espy the army; and they brought him word, saying, All the Gentiles that be round about us are gathered together to them, an exceeding great army.

(39) And they have hired Arabians to help them, and are encamping beyond the brook, ready to come against you to battle. And Judas went to meet them.

(40) And Timotheus said to the captains of his army, when Judas and his army drew near to the brook of water, If he pass over first to us, we shall not be able to withstand him; for he will mightily prevail against us:



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(41) but if he be afraid, and encamp beyond the river, we will cross over to him, and prevail against him.

(42) Now when Judas came near to the brook of water, he caused the scribes of the people to remain by the brook, and gave commandment to them, saying, Suffer no man to encamp, but let all come to the battle.

(43) And he crossed over the first against them, and all the people after him: and all the Gentiles were discomfited before his face, and cast away their arms, and fled to the temple at Carnaim.

(44) And they took the city, and burned the temple with fire, together with all that were therein. And Carnaim was subdued, neither could they stand any longer before the face of Judas.

(45) And Judas gathered together all Israel, those who were in the land of Gilead, from the least to the greatest, and their wives, and their children, and their stuff, an exceeding great army, that they might come into the land of Judah.

(46) And they came as far as Ephron, and this same city was great, and it was in the way as they should go, exceeding strong: they could not turn away from it on the right hand or on the left, but must needs pass through the midst of it.

(47) And they of the city shut them out, and stopped up the gates with stones.

(48) And Judas sent to them with words of peace, saying, We will pass through your land to go into our own land, and none shall do you any hurt, we will only pass by on our feet. And they would not open to him.

(49) And Judas commanded proclamation to be made in the army, that each man should encamp in the place where he was.

(50) And the men of the army encamped, and fought against the city all that day and all that night, and the city was delivered into his hands;

(51) and he destroyed all the males with the edge of the sword, and rased the city, and took the spoils thereof, and passed through the city over those who were slain.

(52) And they went over Jordan into the great plain near Bethshan.

(53) And Judas gathered together those that lagged behind, and encouraged the people all the way through, until he came into the land of Judah.

(54) And they went up to mount Sion with gladness and joy, and offered whole burnt offerings, because not so much as one of them was slain until they returned in peace.

(55) And in the days when Judas and Jonathan were in the land of Gilead, and Simon his brother in Galilee before Ptolemais,

(56) Joseph the son of Zacharias, and Azarias, rulers of the army, heard of their exploits and of the war, what things they had done;

(57) and they said, Let's also get us a name, and let's go fight against the Gentiles that are around us.

(58) And they gave charge to the men of the army that was with them, and went toward Jamnia.

(59) And Gorgias and his men came out of the city to meet them in battle.

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- (60) And Joseph and Azarias were put to flight, and were pursued to the borders of Judea; and there fell on that day of the people of Israel about two thousand men.
- (61) And there was a great overthrow among the people, because they didn't listen to Judas and his kindred, thinking to do some exploit.
- (62) But they were not of the seed of those men, by whose hand deliverance was given to Israel.
- (63) And the man Judas and his kindred were glorified exceedingly in the sight of all Israel, and of all the Gentiles, wherever their name was heard of;
- (64) and men gathered together to them, acclaiming them.
- (65) And Judas and his kindred went forth, and fought against the children of Esau in the land toward the south; and he struck Hebron and the villages thereof, and pulled down the strongholds thereof, and burned the towers thereof round about.
- (66) And he removed to go into the land of the Philistines, and he went through Samaria.
- (67) In that day certain priests, desiring to do exploits there, were slain in battle, when as he went out to battle unadvisedly.
- (68) And Judas turned toward Azotus, to the land of the Philistines, and pulled down their altars, and burned the carved images of their gods with fire, and took the plunder of their cities, and returned into the land of Judah.

### **1 Maccabees 6**

- (1) And king Antiochus was journeying through the upper countries; and he heard say, that in Elymais in Persia there was a city renowned for riches, for silver and gold;
- (2) and that the temple which was in it was rich exceedingly, and that therein were golden shields, and breastplates, and arms, which Alexander, son of Philip, the Macedonian king, who reigned first among the Greeks, left behind there.
- (3) And he came and sought to take the city, and to pillage it; and he was not able, because the thing was known to them of the city,
- (4) and they rose up against him to battle: and he fled, and removed thence with great heaviness, to return to Babylon.
- (5) And there came one bringing him tidings into Persia, that the armies, which went against the land of Judah, had been put to flight;
- (6) and that Lysias went first with a strong army, and was put to shame before them; and that they had waxed strong by reason of arms and power, and with store of spoils, which they took from the armies that they had cut off;
- (7) and that they had pulled down the abomination which he had built upon the altar that was in Jerusalem; and that they had compassed about the sanctuary with high walls, as before, and Bethsura, his city.
- (8) And it came to pass, when the king heard these words, he was astonished and moved exceedingly: and he laid him down upon his bed, and fell sick for grief, because it had not befallen him as he looked for.

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(9) And he was there many days, because great grief was renewed upon him, and he made account that he should die.

(10) And he called for all his Friends, and said to them, Sleep departs from my eyes, and my heart fails for care.

(11) And I said in my heart, To what tribulation am I come, and how great a flood is it, wherein I now am! for I was gracious and beloved in my power.

(12) But now I remember the evils which I did at Jerusalem, and that I took all the vessels of silver and gold that were therein, and sent forth to destroy the inhabitants of Judah without a cause.

(13) I perceive that on this account these evils are come upon me, and, behold, I perish through great grief in a strange land.

(14) And he called for Philip, one of his Friends, and set him over all his kingdom,

(15) and gave him his diadem, and his robe, and his signet ring, to the end he should bring Antiochus his son, and nourish him up that he might be king.

(16) And king Antiochus died there in the hundred and forty and ninth year.

(17) And Lysias knew that the king was dead, and he set up Antiochus his son to reign, whom he had nourished up being young, and he called his name Eupator.

(18) And those who were in the citadel shut up Israel round about the sanctuary, and sought always their hurt, and the strengthening of the Gentiles.

(19) And Judas thought to destroy them, and called all the people together to besiege them.

(20) And they were gathered together, and besieged them in the hundred and fifties year, and he made mounds to shoot from, and engines of war.

(21) And there came forth some of those who were shut up, and there were joined to them certain ungodly men of Israel.

(22) And they went to the king, and said, How long will you not execute judgement, and avenge our kindred?

(23) We were willing to serve your father, and to walk after his words, and to follow his commandments;

(24) and for this cause the children of our people besieged the citadel, and were alienated from us; but as many of us as they could light on they killed, and plundered our inheritances.

(25) And not against us only did they stretch out their hand, but also against all their borders.

(26) And, behold, they are encamped this day against the citadel at Jerusalem, to take it: and the sanctuary and Bethsura have they fortified.

(27) And if you are not beforehand with them quickly, they will do greater things than these, and you shall not be able to control them.

(28) And when the king heard this, he was angry, and gathered together all his Friends, even the rulers of his army, and those who were over the horse.

(29) And there came to him from other kingdoms, and from isles of the sea, bands of hired soldiers.

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- (30) And the number of his forces was a hundred thousand footmen, and twenty thousand horsemen, and two and thirty elephants trained for war.
- (31) And they went through Idumaea, and encamped against Bethsura, and fought against it many days, and made engines of war; and they of Bethsura came out, and burned them with fire, and fought valiantly.
- (32) And Judas removed from the citadel, and encamped at Bethzacharias, near the king's camp.
- (33) And the king rose early in the morning, and removed his army at full speed along the road to Bethzacharias, and his forces made them ready to battle, and sounded with the trumpets.
- (34) And they showed the elephants the blood of grapes and mulberries, that they might prepare them for the battle.
- (35) And they divided the beasts among the phalanxes, and they set by each elephant a thousand men armed with coats of mail, and helmets of brass on their heads; and for each beast were appointed five hundred chosen horsemen.
- (36) These were ready beforehand, wherever the beast was; and wherever the beast went, they went with him; they departed not from him.
- (37) And towers of wood were upon them, strong and covered, one upon each beast, girded fast upon him with cunning contrivances; and upon each beast were two and thirty valiant men that fought upon them, beside his Indian
- (38) (and the residue of the horsemen he set on this side and that side at the two parts of the army), striking terror into the enemy, and protected by the phalanxes.
- (39) Now when the sun shone upon the shields of gold and brass, the mountains shone therewith, and blazed like torches of fire.
- (40) And a part of the king's army was spread upon the high mountains, and some on the low ground, and they went on firmly and in order.
- (41) And all that heard the noise of their multitude, and the marching of the multitude, and the rattling of the arms, did quake: for the army was exceeding great and strong.
- (42) And Judas and his army drew near for battle, and there fell of the king's army six hundred men.
- (43) And Eleazar, who was called Avaran, saw one of the beasts armed with royal breastplates, and he was higher than all the beasts, and the king seemed to be upon him;
- (44) and he gave himself to deliver his people, and to get him an everlasting name;
- (45) and he ran upon him courageously into the midst of the phalanx, and killed on the right hand and on the left, and they parted asunder from him on this side and on that.
- (46) And he crept under the elephant, and thrust him from beneath, and killed him; and the elephant fell to the earth upon him, and he died there.
- (47) And they saw the strength of the kingdom, and the fierce onset of the army, and turned away from them.

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(48) But they of the king's army went up to Jerusalem to meet them, and the king encamped toward Judea, and toward mount Sion.

(49) And he made peace with them of Bethsura; and he came out of the city, because they had no food there to endure the siege, because it was a Sabbath to the land.

(50) And the king took Bethsura, and appointed a garrison there to keep it.

(51) And he encamped against the sanctuary many days; and set there mounds to shoot from, and engines of war, and instruments for casting fire and stones, and pieces to cast darts, and slings.

(52) And they also made engines against their engines, and fought for many days.

(53) But there were no food in the sanctuary, because it was the seventh year, and those who fled for safety into Judea from among the Gentiles had eaten up the residue of the store;

(54) and there were but a few left in the sanctuary, because the famine prevailed against them, and they were scattered, each man to his own place.

(55) And Lysias heard say, that Philip, whom Antiochus the king, whiles he was yet alive, appointed to nourish up his son Antiochus, that he might be king,

(56) was returned from Persia and Media, and with him the forces that went with the king, and that he was seeking to take to him the government.

(57) And he made haste, and gave consent to depart; and he said to the king and the leaders of the army and to the men, We decay daily, and our food is scant, and the place where we encamp is strong, and the affairs of the kingdom lie upon us:

(58) now therefore let's give the right hand to these men, and make peace with them and with all their nation,

(59) and covenant with them, that they shall walk after their own laws, as aforetime: for because of their laws which we abolished they were angered, and did all these things.

(60) And the saying pleased the king and the princes, and he sent to them to make peace; and they accepted thereof.

(61) And the king and the princes sware to them: thereupon they came forth from the stronghold.

(62) And the king entered into mount Sion; and he saw the strength of the place, and set at nothing the oath which he had sworn, and gave commandment to pull down the wall round about.

(63) And he removed in haste, and returned to Antioch, and found Philip master of the city; and he fought against him, and took the city by force.

### **1 Maccabees 7**

(1) In the hundred and one and fifties year Demetrius the son of Seleucus came forth from Rome, and went up with a few men to a city by the sea, and reigned there.

(2) And it came to pass, when he would go into the house of the kingdom of his fathers, that the army laid hands on Antiochus and Lysias, to bring them to him.

(3) And the thing was known to him, and he said, show me not their faces.

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(4) And the army killed them. And Demetrius sat upon the throne of his kingdom.

(5) And there came to him all the lawless and ungodly men of Israel; and Alcimus was their leader, desiring to be high priest;

(6) and they accused the people to the king, saying, Judas and his kindred have destroyed all your friends, and have scattered us from our own land.

(7) Now therefore send a man whom you trust, and let him go and see all the havock which he has made of us, and of the king's country, and how he has punished them and all that helped them.

(8) And the king chose Bacchides, one of the king's Friends, who was ruler in the country beyond the river, and was a great man in the kingdom, and faithful to the king.

(9) And he sent him, and that ungodly Alcimus, and made sure to him the high priesthood, and he commanded him to take vengeance upon the children of Israel.

(10) And they removed, and came with a great army into the land of Judah, and he sent messengers to Judas and his kindred with words of peace deceitfully.

(11) And they gave no heed to their words; for they saw that they were come with a great army.

(12) And there were gathered together to Alcimus and Bacchides a company of scribes, to seek for justice.

(13) And the Hasidaeans were the first among the children of Israel that sought peace of them;

(14) for they said, One that is a priest of the seed of Aaron is come with the forces, and he will do us no wrong.

(15) And he spoke with them words of peace, and sware to them, saying, We will seek the hurt neither of you nor your friends.

(16) And they gave him credence: and he laid hands on threescore men of them, and killed them in one day, according to the word which the psalmist wrote,

(17) The flesh of your saints did they cast out, And their blood did they shed round about Jerusalem; And there was no man to bury them.

(18) And the fear and the dread of them fell upon all the people, for they said, There is neither truth nor judgement in them; for they have broken the covenant and the oath which they sware.

(19) And Bacchides removed from Jerusalem, and encamped in Bezeth; and he sent and took away many of the deserters that were with him, and certain of the people, and he killed them, and cast them into the great pit.

(20) And he made sure the country to Alcimus, and left with him a force to aid him; and Bacchides went away to the king.

(21) And Alcimus strove for his high priesthood.

(22) And there were gathered to him all those who troubled their people, and they got the mastery of the land of Judah, and did great hurt in Israel.

(23) And Judas saw all the mischief that Alcimus and his company had done among the children of Israel, even above the Gentiles,

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(24) and he went out into all the coasts of Judea round about, and took vengeance on the men that had deserted from him, and they were restrained from going forth into the country.

(25) But when Alcimus saw that Judas and his company waxed strong, and knew that he was not able to withstand them, he returned to the king, and brought evil accusations against them.

(26) And the king sent Nicanor, one of his honorable princes, a man that hated Israel and was their enemy, and commanded him to destroy the people.

(27) And Nicanor came to Jerusalem with a great army; and he sent to Judas and his kindred deceitfully with words of peace, saying,

(28) Let there be no battle between me and you; I will come with a few men, that I may see your faces in peace.

(29) And he came to Judas, and they saluted one another peaceably. And the enemies were ready to take away Judas by violence.

(30) And the thing was known to Judas, to wit, that he came to him with deceit, and he was sore afraid of him, and would see his face no more.

(31) And Nicanor knew that his counsel was discovered; and he went out to meet Judas in battle beside Capharsalama;

(32) and there fell of Nicanor's side about five hundred men, and they fled into the city of David.

(33) And after these things Nicanor went up to mount Sion: and there came some of the priests out of the sanctuary, and some of the elders of the people, to salute him peaceably, and to show him the whole burned sacrifice that was being offered for the king.

(34) And he mocked them, and laughed at them, and entreated them shamefully, and spoke haughtily,

(35) and swore in a rage, saying, Unless Judas and his army be now delivered into my hands, it shall be that, if I come again in peace, I will burn up this house: and he went out in a great rage.

(36) And the priests entered in, and stood before the altar and the temple; and they wept, and said,

(37) You did choose this house to be called by your name, to be a house of prayer and supplication for your people:

(38) take vengeance on this man and his army, and let them fall by the sword: remember their blasphemies, and suffer them not to live any longer.

(39) And Nicanor went forth from Jerusalem, and encamped in Bethhoron, and there met him the army of Syria.

(40) And Judas encamped in Adasa with three thousand men: and Judas prayed and said,

(41) When those who came from the king blasphemed, your angel went out, and struck among them a hundred and fourscore and five thousand.

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(42) Even so discomfit you this army before us today, and let all the rest know that he has spoken wickedly against your sanctuary, and judge you him according to his wickedness.

(43) And on the thirteenth day of the month Adar the armies joined battle: and Nicanor's army was discomfited, and he himself was the first to fall in the battle.

(44) Now when his army saw that Nicanor was fallen, they cast away their arms, and fled.

(45) And they pursued after them a day's journey from Adasa until you come to Gazara, and they sounded an alarm after them with the solemn trumpets.

(46) And they came forth out of all the villages of Judea round about, and closed them in; and these turned them back on those, and they all fell by the sword, and there was not one of them left.

(47) And they took the spoils, and the booty, and they struck off Nicanor's head, and his right hand, which he stretched out so haughtily, and brought them, and hanged them up beside Jerusalem.

(48) And the people were exceeding glad, and they kept that day as a day of great gladness.

(49) And they ordained to keep this day year by year, to wit, the thirteenth day of Adar.

(50) And the land of Judah had rest a little while.

### **1 Maccabees 8**

(1) And Judas heard of the fame of the Romans, that they are valiant men, and have pleasure in all that join themselves to them, and make friends with all such as come to them,

(2) and that they are valiant men. And they told him of their wars and exploits which they do among the Gauls, and how that they conquered them, and brought them under tribute;

(3) and what things they did in the land of Spain, that they might become masters of the mines of silver and gold which were there;

(4) and how that by their policy and persistence they conquered all the place (and the place was exceeding far from them), and the kings that came against them from the uttermost part of the earth, until they had discomfited them, and struck them very sore; and how the rest give them tribute year by year:

(5) and Philip, and Perseus, king of Chittim, and those who lifted up themselves against them, did they discomfit in battle, and conquered them:

(6) Antiochus also, the great king of Asia, who came against them to battle, having a hundred and twenty elephants, with horse, and chariots, and an exceeding great army, and he was discomfited by them,

(7) and they took him alive, and appointed that both he and such as reigned after him should give them a great tribute, and should give hostages, and a parcel of land, to wit,



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(8) the country of India, and Media, and Lydia, and of the goodliest of their countries; and they took them from him, and gave them to king Eumenes:

(9) and how they of Greece took counsel to come and destroy them;

(10) and the thing was known to them, and they sent against them a captain, and fought against them, and many of them fell down wounded to death, and they made captive their wives and their children, and plundered them, and conquered their land, and pulled down their strongholds, and plundered them, and brought them into bondage to this day:

(11) and the residue of the kingdoms and of the isles, as many as rose up against them at any time, they destroyed and made them to be their servants;

(12) but with their friends and such as relied upon them they stayed friends; and they conquered the kingdoms that were near and those that were far off, and all that heard of their fame were afraid of them:

(13) moreover, whoever they will to succour and to make kings, these do they make kings; and whoever they will, do they depose; and they are exalted exceedingly:

(14) and for all this none of them did ever put on a diadem, neither did they clothe themselves with purple, to be magnified thereby:

(15) and how they had made for themselves a senate house, and day by day three hundred and twenty men sat in council, consulting always for the people, to the end they might be well ordered:

(16) and how they commit their government to one man year by year, that he should rule over them, and be lord over all their country, and all are obedient to that one, and there is neither envy nor emulation among them.

(17) And Judas chose Eupolemus the son of John, the son of Accos, and Jason the son of Eleazar, and sent them to Rome, to establish friendship and alliance with them,

(18) and that they should take the yoke from them; for they saw that the kingdom of the Greeks did keep Israel in bondage.

(19) And they went to Rome (and the way was exceeding long), and they entered into the senate house, and answered and said,

(20) Judas, who is also called Maccabaeus, and his kindred, and the people of the Jews, have sent us to you, to make a confederacy and peace with you, and that we might be registered your confederates and friends.

(21) And the thing was well-pleasing in their sight.

(22) And this is the copy of the writing which they wrote back again on tables of brass, and sent to Jerusalem, that it might be with them there for a memorial of peace and confederacy:

(23) Good success be to the Romans, and to the nation of the Jews, by sea and by land forever: the sword also and the enemy be far from them.

(24) But if war arise for Rome first, or any of their confederates in all their dominion,

(25) the nation of the Jews shall help them as confederates, as the occasion shall prescribe to them, with all their heart:

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(26) and to those who make war upon them they shall not give, neither supply, food, arms, money, or ships, as it has seemed good to Rome, and they shall keep their ordinances without taking anything therefore.

(27) In the same manner, moreover, if war come first upon the nation of the Jews, the Romans shall help them as confederates with all their soul, as the occasion shall prescribe to them:

(28) and to those who are confederates with their foes there shall not be given food, arms, money, or ships, as it has seemed good to Rome; and they shall keep these ordinances, and that without deceit.

(29) According to these words have the Romans made a covenant thus with the people of the Jews.

(30) But if hereafter the one party and the other shall take counsel to add or diminish anything, they shall do it at their pleasure, and whatever they shall add or take away shall be established.

(31) And as touching the evils which king Demetrius does to them, we have written to him, saying, Wherefore have you made your yoke heavy upon our friends and confederates the Jews?

(32) If therefore they plead any more against you, we will do them justice, and fight with you by sea and by land.

### **1 Maccabees 9**

(1) And Demetrius heard that Nicanor was fallen with his forces in battle, and he sent Bacchides and Alcimus again into the land of Judah a second time, and the right wing of his army with them:

(2) and they went by the way that leads to Gilgal, and encamped against Mesaloth, which is in Arbela, and got possession of it, and destroyed much people.

(3) And the first month of the hundred and fifty and second year they encamped against Jerusalem:

(4) and they removed, and went to Berea, with twenty thousand footmen and two thousand horse.

(5) And Judas was encamped at Elasa, and three thousand chosen men with him:

(6) and they saw the multitude of the forces, that they were many, and they feared exceedingly: and many slipped away out of the army; there were not left of them more than eight hundred men.

(7) And Judas saw that his army slipped away, and that the battle pressed upon him, and he was sore troubled in heart, for that he had no time to gather them together, and he waxed faint.

(8) And he said to those who were left, Let's arise and go up against our adversaries, if perhaps we may be able to fight with them.

(9) And they would have dissuaded him, saying, We shall in no wise be able: but let's rather save our lives now: let's return again, we and our kindred, and fight against them: but we are few.

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(10) And Judas said, let it not be so that I should do this thing, to flee from them: and if our time is come, let's die in a manly way for our kindred's sake, and not leave a cause of reproach against our glory.

(11) And the army removed from the camp, and stood to encounter them, and the horse was parted into two companies, and the slingers and the archers went before the army, and all the mighty men that fought in the front of the battle.

(12) But Bacchides was in the right wing; and the phalanx drew near on the two parts, and they blew with their trumpets.

(13) And the men of Judas' side, even they sounded with their trumpets, and the earth shook with the shout of the armies, and the battle was joined, and continued from morning until evening.

(14) And Judas saw that Bacchides and the strength of his army were on the right side, and there went with him all that were brave in heart,

(15) and the right wing was discomfited by them, and he pursued after them to the mount Azotus.

(16) And those who were on the left wing saw that the right wing was discomfited, and they turned and followed upon the footsteps of Judas and of those that were with him:

(17) and the battle waxed sore, and many on both parts fell wounded to death.

(18) And Judas fell, and the rest fled.

(19) And Jonathan and Simon took Judas their brother, and buried him in the sepulchre of his fathers at Modin.

(20) And they bewailed him, and all Israel made great lamentation for him, and mourned many days, and said,

(21) How is the mighty fallen, the savior of Israel!

(22) And the rest of the acts of Judas, and his wars, and the valiant deeds which he did, and his greatness, they are not written; for they were exceeding many.

(23) And it came to pass after the death of Judas, that the lawless put forth their heads in all the coasts of Israel, and all those who wrought iniquity rose up

(24) (in those days there was an exceeding great famine), and the country went over with them.

(25) And Bacchides chose out the ungodly men, and made them lords of the country.

(26) And they sought out and searched for the friends of Judas, and brought them to Bacchides, and he took vengeance on them, and used them despitefully.

(27) And there was great tribulation in Israel, such as was not since the time that no prophet appeared to them.

(28) And all the friends of Judas were gathered together, and they said to Jonathan,

(29) Since your brother Judas has died, we have no man like him to go forth against our enemies and Bacchides, and among them of our nation that hate us.

(30) Now therefore we have chosen you this day to be our prince and leader in his stead, that you may fight our battles.

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(31) And Jonathan took the governance upon him at that time, and rose up in the stead of his brother Judas.

(32) And Bacchides knew it, and he sought to kill him.

(33) And Jonathan, and Simon his brother, and all that were with him, knew it; and they fled into the wilderness of Tekoah, and encamped by the water of the pool Asphar.

(34) And Bacchides knew it on the Sabbath day, and came, he and all his army, over Jordan.

(35) And Jonathan sent his brother, a leader of the multitude, and implored his friends the Nabathaeans, that they might leave with them their baggage, which was much.

(36) And the children of Jambri came out of Medaba, and took John, and all that he had, and went their way with it.

(37) But after these things they brought word to Jonathan and Simon his brother, that the children of Jambri were making a great marriage, and were bringing the bride from Nadabath with a great train, a daughter of one of the great nobles of Canaan.

(38) And they remembered John their brother, and went up, and hid themselves under the covert of the mountain:

(39) and they lifted up their eyes, and saw, and, behold, a great ado and much baggage: and the bridegroom came forth, and his friends and his kindred, to meet them with timbrels, and minstrels, and many weapons.

(40) And they rose up against them from their ambush, and killed them, and many fell wounded to death, and the remnant fled into the mountain, and they took all their spoils.

(41) And the marriage was turned into mourning, and the voice of their minstrels into lamentation.

(42) And they avenged fully the blood of their brother, and turned back to the marsh of Jordan

(43) And Bacchides heard it, and he came on the Sabbath day to the banks of Jordan with a great army.

(44) And Jonathan said to his company, Let's stand up now and fight for our lives, for it is not with us today, as yesterday and the day before.

(45) For, behold, the battle is before us and behind us; moreover the water of the Jordan is on this side and on that side, and marsh and wood; and there is no place to escape.

(46) Now therefore cry to heaven, that you may be delivered out of the hand of your enemies.

(47) And the battle was joined, and Jonathan stretched forth his hand to strike Bacchides, and he turned away back from him.

(48) And Jonathan and those who were with him leapt into the Jordan, and swam over to the other side: and they didn't pass over Jordan against them.

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- (49) And there fell of Bacchides' company that day about a thousand men;  
(50) and he returned to Jerusalem. And they built strong cities in Judea, the stronghold that was in Jericho, and Emmaus, and Bethhoron, and Bethel, and Timnath, Pharathon, and Tephon, with high walls and gates and bars.  
(51) And in them he set a garrison, to vex Israel.  
(52) And he fortified the city Bethsura, and Gazara, and the citadel, and put forces in them, and store of food.  
(53) And he took the sons of the chief men of the country for hostages, and put them in ward in the citadel at Jerusalem.  
(54) And in the hundred and fifty and third year, in the second month, Alcimus commanded to pull down the wall of the inner court of the sanctuary; he pulled down also the works of the prophets;  
(55) and he began to pull down. At that time was Alcimus stricken, and his works were hindered; and his mouth was stopped, and he was taken with a palsy, and he could no more speak anything and give order concerning his house.  
(56) And Alcimus died at that time with great torment.  
(57) And Bacchides saw that Alcimus was dead, and he returned to the king: and the land of Judah had rest two years.  
(58) And all the lawless men took counsel, saying, Behold, Jonathan and they of his part are dwelling at ease, and in security: now therefore we will bring Bacchides, and he shall lay hands on them all in one night.  
(59) And they went and consulted with him.  
(60) And he removed, and came with a great army, and sent letters privily to all his confederates that were in Judea, that they should lay hands on Jonathan and those that were with him: and they could not, because their counsel was known to them.  
(61) And those who were of Jonathan's part laid hands on about fifty of the men of the country, that were authors of the wickedness, and he killed them.  
(62) And Jonathan, and Simon, and those who were with him, got them away to Bethbasi, which is in the wilderness, and he built up that which had been pulled down thereof, and they made it strong.  
(63) And Bacchides knew it, and he gathered together all his multitude, and sent word to those who were of Judea.  
(64) And he went and encamped against Bethbasi, and fought against it many days, and made engines of war.  
(65) And Jonathan left his brother Simon in the city, and went forth into the country, and he went with a few men.  
(66) And he struck Odomera and his kindred, and the children of Phasiron in their tent.  
(67) And they began to strike them, and to go up with their forces. And Simon and those who were with him went out of the city, and set on fire the engines of war,  
(68) and fought against Bacchides, and he was discomfited by them, and they afflicted him sore; for his counsel was in vain, and his inroad.

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(69) And they were very angry with the lawless men that gave him counsel to come into the country, and they killed many of them. And he took counsel to depart into his own land.

(70) And Jonathan had knowledge thereof, and sent ambassadors to him, to the end that they should make peace with him, and that he should restore to them the captives.

(71) And he accepted the thing, and did according to his words, and sware to him that he would not seek his hurt all the days of his life.

(72) And he restored to him the captives which he had taken aforetime out of the land of Judah, and he returned and departed into his own land, and came not any more into their borders.

(73) And the sword ceased from Israel. And Jonathan lived at Michmash; and Jonathan began to judge the people; and he destroyed the ungodly out of Israel.

### **1 Maccabees 10**

(1) And in the hundred and sixties year Alexander Epiphanes, the son of Antiochus, went up and took possession of Ptolemais: and they received him, and he reigned there.

(2) And king Demetrius heard thereof, and he gathered together exceeding great forces, and went forth to meet him in battle.

(3) And Demetrius sent letters to Jonathan with words of peace, so as to magnify him.

(4) For he said, let's go beforehand to make peace with them, before he makes peace with Alexander against us:

(5) for he will remember all the evils that we have done against him, and to his kindred and to his nation.

(6) And he gave him authority to gather together forces, and to provide arms, and that he should be his confederate: and he commanded that they should deliver up to him the hostages that were in the citadel.

(7) And Jonathan came to Jerusalem, and read the letters in the audience of all the people, and of those who were in the citadel:

(8) and they were sore afraid, when they heard that the king had given him authority to gather together an army.

(9) And they of the citadel delivered up the hostages to Jonathan, and he restored them to their parents.

(10) And Jonathan lived in Jerusalem, and began to build and renew the city.

(11) And he commanded those who did the work to build the walls and the mount Sion round about with square stones for defence; and they did so.

(12) And the strangers, that were in the strongholds which Bacchides had built, fled away;

(13) and each man left his place, and departed into his own land.

(14) Only at Bethsura were there left certain of those that had forsaken the law and the commandments; for it was a place of refuge to them.

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- (15) And king Alexander heard all the promises which Demetrius had sent to Jonathan: and they told him of the battles and the valiant deeds which he and his kindred had done, and of the toils which they had endured;
- (16) And he said, Shall we find such another man? and now we will make him our Friend and confederate.
- (17) And he wrote letters, and sent them to him, according to these words, saying,
- (18) King Alexander to his brother Jonathan, greeting:
- (19) We have heard of you, that you are a mighty man of valour, and meet to be our Friend.
- (20) And now we have appointed you this day to be high priest of your nation, and to be called the king's Friend (and he sent to him a purple robe and a crown of gold), and to take our part, and to keep friendship with us.
- (21) And Jonathan put on the holy garments in the seventh month of the hundred and sixties year, at the feast of tabernacles, and he gathered together forces, and provided arms in abundance.
- (22) And Demetrius heard these things, and he was grieved, and said,
- (23) What is this that we have done, that Alexander has been beforehand with us in establishing friendship with the Jews, to strengthen himself?
- (24) I also will write to them words of encouragement and of honor and of gifts, that they may be with me to aid me.
- (25) And he sent to them according to these words: King Demetrius to the nation of the Jews, greeting:
- (26) Forasmuch as you have kept your covenants with us, and continued in our friendship, and have not joined yourselves to our enemies, we have heard hereof, and are glad.
- (27) And now continue you still to keep faith with us, and we will recompense to you good things in return for your dealings with us,
- (28) and will grant you many immunities, and give you gifts.
- (29) And now do I free you, and release all the Jews, from the tributes, and from the customs of salt, and from the crowns.
- (30) And instead of the third part of the seed, and instead of the half of the fruit of the trees, which falls to me to receive, I release it from this day and henceforth, so that I will not take it from the land of Judah, and from the three governments which are added thereto from the country of Samaria and Galilee, from this day forth and for all time.
- (31) And let Jerusalem be holy and free, and her borders; the tenths and the tolls also.
- (32) I yield up also my authority over the citadel which is at Jerusalem, and give it to the high priest, that he may appoint in it such men as he shall choose to keep it.
- (33) And every soul of the Jews, that has been carried captive from the land of Judah into any part of my kingdom, I set at liberty without price; and let all remit the tributes of their cattle also.

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(34) And all the feasts, and the Sabbaths, and new moons, and appointed days, and three days before a feast, and three days after a feast, let them all be days of immunity and release for all the Jews that are in my kingdom.

(35) And no man shall have authority to exact from any of them, or to trouble them concerning any matter.

(36) And let there be enrolled among the king's forces about thirty thousand men of the Jews, and pay shall be given to them, as belongs to all the king's forces.

(37) And of them some shall be placed in the king's great strongholds, and some of them shall be placed over the affairs of the kingdom, which are of trust: and let those that are over them, and their rulers, be of themselves, and let them walk after their own laws, even as the king has commanded in the land of Judah.

(38) And the three governments that have been added to Judea from the country of Samaria, let them be added to Judea, that they may be reckoned to be under one, that they may not obey other authority than the high priest's.

(39) As for Ptolemais, and the land pertaining thereto, I have given it as a gift to the sanctuary that is at Jerusalem, for the expenses that befit the sanctuary.

(40) And I give every year fifteen thousand shekels of silver from the king's revenues from the places that are convenient.

(41) And all the overplus, which those who manage the king's affairs paid not in as in the first years, they shall give from henceforth toward the works of the house.

(42) And beside this, the five thousand shekels of silver, which they received from the uses of the sanctuary from the revenue year by year, this also is released, because it appertains to the priests that minister.

(43) And whoever shall flee to the temple that is at Jerusalem, and be found within all the borders thereof, whether one owe moneys to the king, or any other matter, let them go free, and all that they have in my kingdom.

(44) And for the building and renewing of the works of the sanctuary the expense shall be given also out of the king's revenue.

(45) And for the building of the walls of Jerusalem, and the fortifying thereof round about, shall the expense be given also out of the king's revenue, and for the building of the walls in Judea.

(46) Now when Jonathan and the people heard these words, they gave no credence to them, nor received them, because they remembered the great evil which he had done in Israel, and that he had afflicted them very sore.

(47) And they were well pleased with Alexander, because he was the first that spoke words of peace to them, and they were confederate with him always.

(48) And king Alexander gathered together great forces, and encamped near Demetrius.

(49) And the two kings joined battle, and the army of Alexander fled; and Demetrius followed after him, and prevailed against them.

(50) And he strengthened the battle exceedingly until the sun went down: and Demetrius fell that day.



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(51) And Alexander sent ambassadors to Ptolemy king of Egypt according to these words, saying,

(52) Forasmuch as I am returned to my kingdom, and am set on the throne of my fathers, and have gotten the dominion, and have overthrown Demetrius, and have gotten possession of our country;

(53) yes, I joined the battle with him, and he and his army were discomfited by us, and we sat upon the throne of his kingdom:

(54) now also let's make friends with one another, and give me now your daughter to wife: and I will be joined with you, and will give both you and her gifts worthy of you.

(55) And Ptolemy the king answered, saying, Happy is the day wherein you did return into the land of your fathers, and did sit on the throne of their kingdom.

(56) And now I will do to you, as you have written: but meet me at Ptolemais, that we may see one another; and I will join with you, even as you have said.

(57) And Ptolemy went out of Egypt, himself and Cleopatra his daughter, and came to Ptolemais in the hundred and threescore and second year:

(58) and king Alexander met him, and he bestowed on him his daughter Cleopatra, and celebrated her marriage at Ptolemais with great pomp, as the manner of kings is.

(59) And king Alexander wrote to Jonathan, that he should come to meet him.

(60) And he went with pomp to Ptolemais, and met the two kings, and gave them and their Friends silver and gold, and many gifts, and found favor in their sight.

(61) And there were gathered together against him certain pestilent fellows out of Israel, men that were transgressors of the law, to complain against him: and the king gave no heed to them.

(62) And the king commanded, and they took off Jonathan's garments, and clothed him in purple: and thus they did.

(63) And the king made him sit with him, and said to his princes, Go forth with him into the midst of the city, and make proclamation, that no man complain against him of any matter, and let no man trouble him for any manner of cause.

(64) And it came to pass, when those who complained against him saw his glory according as the herald made proclamation, and saw him clothed in purple, they all fled away.

(65) And the king gave him honor, and wrote him among his Chief Friends, and made him a captain, and governor of a province.

(66) And Jonathan returned to Jerusalem with peace and gladness.

(67) And in the hundred and threescore and fifth year came Demetrius, son of Demetrius, out of Crete into the land of his fathers:

(68) and king Alexander heard thereof, and he grieved exceedingly, and returned to Antioch.

(69) And Demetrius appointed Apollonius, who was over Coelesyria, and he gathered together a great army, and encamped in Jamnia, and sent to Jonathan the high priest, saying,

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(70) You alone lift up yourself against us, but I am had in derision and in reproach because of you. And why do you vaunt your power against us in the mountains?

(71) Now therefore, if you trust in your forces, come down to us into the plain, and there let's try the matter together; for with me is the power of the cities.

(72) Ask and learn who I am, and the rest that help us; and they say, Your foot can't stand before our face; for your fathers have been twice put to flight in their own land.

(73) And now you shall not be able to abide the horse and such an army as this in the plain, where is neither stone nor flint, nor place to flee to.

(74) Now when Jonathan heard the words of Apollonius, he was moved in his mind, and he chose out ten thousand men, and went forth from Jerusalem, and Simon his brother met him for to help him.

(75) And he encamped against Joppa: and they of the city shut him out, because Apollonius had a garrison in Joppa:

(76) and they fought against it. And they of the city were afraid, and opened to him: and Jonathan became master of Joppa.

(77) And Apollonius heard, and he gathered an army of three thousand horse, and a great army, and went to Azotus as though he were on a journey, and therewithal drew onward into the plain, because he had a multitude of horse, and trusted therein.

(78) And he pursued after him to Azotus, and the armies joined battle .

(79) And Apollonius had left a thousand horse behind them privily.

(80) And Jonathan knew that there was an ambushment behind him. And they compassed round his army, and cast their darts at the people, from morning until evening:

(81) but the people stood still, as Jonathan commanded them: and their horses were wearied.

(82) And Simon drew forth his army, and joined battle with the phalanx (for the horsemen were spent), and they were discomfited by him, and fled.

(83) And the horsemen were scattered in the plain, and they fled to Azotus, and entered into Beth-dagon, their idol's temple, to save themselves.

(84) And Jonathan burned Azotus, and the cities round about it, and took their spoils; and the temple of Dagon, and those who fled into it, he burned with fire.

(85) And those who had fallen by the sword, with those who were burned, were about eight thousand men.

(86) And from thence Jonathan removed, and encamped against Ascalon, and they of the city came forth to meet him with great pomp.

(87) And Jonathan, with those who were on his side, returned to Jerusalem, having many spoils.

(88) And it came to pass, when king Alexander heard these things, he honored Jonathan yet more;

(89) and he sent to him a buckle of gold, as the use is to give to such as are of the kindred of the kings: and he gave him Ekron and all the coasts thereof for a possession.

**1 Maccabees 11**

(1) And the king of Egypt gathered together great forces, as the sand which is by the sea shore, and many ships, and sought to make himself master of Alexander's kingdom by deceit, and to add it to his own kingdom.

(2) And he went forth into Syria with words of peace, and they of the cities opened to him, and met him; For king Alexander's commandment was that they should meet him, because he was his father-in-law.

(3) Now as he entered into the cities of Ptolemais, he set his forces for a garrison in each city.

(4) But when he came near to Azotus, they showed him the temple of Dagon burned with fire, and Azotus and the pasture lands thereof pulled down, and the bodies cast abroad, and those who had been burned, whom he burned in the war, for they had made heaps of them in his way.

(5) And they told the king what things Jonathan had done, that they might cast blame on him: and the king held his peace.

(6) And Jonathan met the king with pomp at Joppa, and they saluted one another, and they slept there.

(7) And Jonathan went with the king as far as the river that is called Eleutherus, and returned to Jerusalem.

(8) But king Ptolemy became master of the cities upon the sea coast, to Selucia which is by the sea, and he devised evil plans concerning Alexander.

(9) And he sent ambassadors to king Demetrius, saying, Come! Let's make a covenant with one another, and I will give you my daughter whom Alexander has, and you shall reign over your father's kingdom;

(10) for I have repented that I gave my daughter to him, for he sought to kill me.

(11) And he cast blame on him, because he coveted his kingdom.

(12) And taking his daughter from him, he gave her to Demetrius, and was estranged from Alexander, and their enmity was openly seen.

(13) And Ptolemy entered into Antioch, and put on himself the diadem of Asia; and he put two diadems upon his head, the diadem of Egypt and that of Asia.

(14) But king Alexander was in Cilicia at that season, because they of those parts were in revolt.

(15) And Alexander heard of it, and he came against him in war: and Ptolemy led forth his army, and met him with a strong force, and put him to flight.

(16) And Alexander fled into Arabia, that he might be sheltered there; but king Ptolemy was exalted.

(17) And Zabdiel the Arabian took off Alexander's head, and sent it to Ptolemy.

(18) And king Ptolemy died the third day after, and those who were in his strongholds were slain by those who were in the strongholds.

(19) And Demetrius reigned in the hundred and threescore and seventh year.

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(20) In those days Jonathan gathered together them of Judea, to take the citadel that was at Jerusalem: and he made many engines of war against it.

(21) And certain that hated their own nation, men that transgressed the law, went to the king, and reported to him that Jonathan was besieging the citadel.

(22) And he heard, and was angered; but when he heard it, he set forth immediately, and came to Ptolemais, and wrote to Jonathan, that he should not besiege it, and that he should meet him and speak with him at Ptolemais with all speed.

(23) But when Jonathan heard this, he commanded to besiege it still: and he chose certain of the elders of Israel and of the priests, and put himself in peril,

(24) and taking silver and gold and raiment and various presents besides, went to Ptolemais to the king. And he found favor in his sight.

(25) And certain lawless men of those who were of the nation made complaints against him,

(26) and the king did to him even as his predecessors had done to him, and exalted him in the sight of all his Friends,

(27) and confirmed to him the high priesthood, and all the other honors that he had before, and gave him preeminence among his Chief Friends.

(28) And Jonathan requested of the king, that he would make Judea free from tribute, and the three provinces, and the country of Samaria; and promised him three hundred talents.

(29) And the king consented, and wrote letters to Jonathan concerning all these things after this manner:

(30) King Demetrius to his brother Jonathan, and to the nation of the Jews, greeting:

(31) The copy of the letter which we wrote to Lasthenes our kinsman concerning you, we have written also to you, that you may see it.

(32) King Demetrius to Lasthenes his father, greeting:

(33) We have determined to do good to the nation of the Jews, who are our friends, and observe what is just toward us, because of their good will toward us.

(34) We have confirmed therefore to them the borders of Judea, and also the three governments of Aphaerema and Lydda and Ramathaim (these were added to Judea from the country of Samaria), and all things appertaining to them, for all such as do sacrifice in Jerusalem, instead of the king's dues which the king received of them yearly aforetime from the produce of the earth and the fruits of trees.

(35) And as for the other things that pertain to us from henceforth, of the tenths and the tolls that pertain to us, and the saltpits, and the crowns that pertain to us, all these we will bestow upon them.

(36) And not one of these things shall be annulled from this time forth and forever.

(37) Now therefore be careful to make a copy of these things, and let it be given to Jonathan, and let it be set up on the holy mount in a meet and conspicuous place.

(38) And king Demetrius saw that the land was quiet before him, and that no resistance was made to him, and he sent away all his forces, each man to his own

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place, except the foreign forces, which he had raised from the isles of the Gentiles: and all the forces of his fathers hated him.

(39) Now Tryphon was of those who aforetime had been of Alexander's part, and he saw that all the forces murmured against Demetrius, and he went to Imalcue the Arabian, who was nourishing up Antiochus the young child of Alexander,

(40) and pressed sore upon him that he should deliver him to him, that he might reign in his father's stead: and he told him all that Demetrius had done, and the hatred wherewith his forces hated him; and he abode there many days.

(41) And Jonathan sent to king Demetrius, that he should cast out of Jerusalem them of the citadel, and those who were in the strongholds; for they fought against Israel continually.

(42) And Demetrius sent to Jonathan, saying, I will not only do this for you and your nation, but I will greatly honor you and your nation, if I find fair occasion.

(43) Now therefore you shall do well, if you send me men who shall fight for me; for all my forces are revolted.

(44) And Jonathan sent him three thousand valiant men to Antioch: and they came to the king, and the king was glad at their coming.

(45) And they of the city gathered themselves together into the midst of the city, to the number of a hundred and twenty thousand men, and they were minded to kill the king.

(46) And the king fled into the court of the palace, and they of the city seized the passages of the city, and began to fight.

(47) And the king called the Jews to help him, and they were gathered together to him all at once, and they dispersed themselves in the city, and killed that day to the number of a hundred thousand.

(48) And they set the city on fire, and got many spoils that day, and saved the king.

(49) And they of the city saw that the Jews had made themselves masters of the city as they would, and they waxed faint in their hearts, and they cried out to the king with supplication, saying,

(50) Give us your right hand, and let the Jews cease from fighting against us and the city.

(51) And they cast away their arms, and made peace; and the Jews were glorified in the sight of the king, and before all that were in his kingdom; and they returned to Jerusalem, having many spoils.

(52) And king Demetrius sat on the throne of his kingdom, and the land was quiet before him.

(53) And he lied in all that he spoke, and estranged himself from Jonathan, and recompensed him not according to the benefits with which he had recompensed him, and afflicted him exceedingly.

(54) Now after this Tryphon returned, and with him the young child Antiochus; and he reigned, and put on a diadem.

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(55) And there were gathered to him all the forces which Demetrius had sent away with disgrace, and they fought against him, and he fled and was put to the rout.

(56) And Tryphon took the elephants, and became master of Antioch.

(57) And the young Antiochus wrote to Jonathan, saying, I confirm to you the high priesthood, and appoint you over the four governments, and to be one of the king's Friends.

(58) And he sent to him golden vessels and furniture for the table, and gave him leave to drink in golden vessels, and to be clothed in purple, and to have a golden buckle.

(59) And his brother Simon he made captain from the Ladder of Tyre to the borders of Egypt.

(60) And Jonathan went forth, and took his journey beyond the river and through the cities; and all the forces of Syria gathered themselves to him for to be his confederates. And he came to Ascalon, and they of the city met him honorably.

(61) And he departed thence to Gaza, and they of Gaza shut him out; and he laid siege to it, and burned the pasture lands thereof with fire, and plundered them.

(62) And they of Gaza made request to Jonathan, and he gave them his right hand, and took the sons of their princes for hostages, and sent them away to Jerusalem; and he passed through the country as far as Damascus.

(63) And Jonathan heard that Demetrius' princes were come to Kedesh, which is in Galilee, with a great army, purposing to remove him from his office;

(64) and he went to meet them, but Simon his brother he left in the country.

(65) And Simon encamped against Bethsura, and fought against it many days, and shut it up:

(66) and they made request to him that he would give them his right hand, and he gave it to them; and he put them out from thence, and took possession of the city, and set a garrison over it.

(67) And Jonathan and his army encamped at the water of Gennesareth, and early in the morning they got them to the plain of Hazor.

(68) And, behold, an army of strangers met him in the plain, and they laid an ambush for him in the mountains, but themselves met him face to face.

(69) But those who lay in ambush rose out of their places, and joined battle; and all those who were of Jonathan's side fled:

(70) not one of them was left, except Mattathias the son of Absalom, and Judas the son of Chalphi, captains of the forces.

(71) And Jonathan tore his clothes, and put earth upon his head, and prayed.

(72) And he turned again to them in battle, and put them to the rout, and they fled.

(73) And they of his side that fled saw it, and returned to him, and pursued with him to Kedesh to their camp, and they encamped there.

(74) And there fell of the strangers on that day about three thousand men: and Jonathan returned to Jerusalem.

### **1 Maccabees 12**

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- (1) And Jonathan saw that the time served him, and he chose men, and sent them to Rome, to confirm and renew the friendship that they had with them.
- (2) And to the Spartans, and to other places, he sent letters after the same manner.
- (3) And they went to Rome, and entered into the senate house, and said, Jonathan the high priest, and the nation of the Jews, have sent us, to renew for them the friendship and the confederacy, as in former time.
- (4) And they gave them letters to the men in every place, that they should bring them on their way to the land of Judah in peace.
- (5) And this is the copy of the letters which Jonathan wrote to the Spartans:
- (6) Jonathan the high priest, and the senate of the nation, and the priests, and the rest of the people of the Jews, to their kindred the Spartans, greeting:
- (7) Even before this time were letters sent to Onias the high priest from Arius, who was reigning among you, to signify that you are our kindred, as the copy here underwritten shows.
- (8) And Onias entreated honorably the man that was sent, and received the letters, wherein declaration was made of confederacy and friendship.
- (9) Therefore we also, albeit we need none of these things, having for our encouragement the holy books which are in our hands,
- (10) have assayed to send that we might renew our brotherhood and friendship with you, to the end that we should not become estranged from you altogether: for long time is passed since you sent to us.
- (11) We therefore at all times without ceasing, both in our feasts, and on the other convenient days, do remember you in the sacrifices which we offer, and in our prayers, as it is right and meet to be mindful of kindred:
- (12) and moreover are glad for your glory.
- (13) But as for ourselves, many afflictions and many wars have encompassed us, and the kings that are round about us have fought against us.
- (14) We were not minded therefore to be troublesome to you, and to the rest of our confederates and friends, in these wars;
- (15) for we have the help which is from heaven to help us, and we have been delivered from our enemies, and our enemies have been brought low.
- (16) We chose therefore Numenius the son of Antiochus, and Antipater the son of Jason, and have sent them to the Romans, to renew the friendship that we had with them, and the former confederacy.
- (17) We commanded them therefore to go also to you, and to salute you, and to deliver you our letters concerning the renewing of friendship and our brotherhood.
- (18) And now you shall do well if you give us an answer thereto.
- (19) And this is the copy of the letters which they sent to Onias:
- (20) Arius king of the Spartans to Onias the chief priest, greeting:
- (21) It has been found in writing, concerning the Spartans and the Jews, that they are kindred, and that they are of the stock of Abraham:

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(22) and now, since this is come to our knowledge, you shall do well to write to us of your prosperity.

(23) And we moreover do write on our part to you, that your cattle and goods are ours, and ours are yours. We do command therefore that they make report to you on this wise.

(24) And Jonathan heard that Demetrius' princes were returned to fight against him with a greater army than before,

(25) and he removed from Jerusalem, and met them in the country of Hamath; for he gave them no respite to set foot in his country.

(26) And he sent spies into his camp, and they came again, and reported to him that they were appointed in such and such a way to fall upon them in the night season.

(27) But as soon as the sun was down, Jonathan commanded his men to watch, and to be in arms, that all the night long they might be ready for battle: and he put forth sentinels round about the camp.

(28) And the adversaries heard that Jonathan and his men were ready for battle, and they feared, and trembled in their hearts, and they kindled fires in their camp

(29) But Jonathan and his men knew it not till the morning; for they saw the lights burning.

(30) And Jonathan pursued after them, and overtook them not; for they were gone over the river Eleutherus.

(31) And Jonathan turned toward the Arabians, who are called Zabadaeans, and struck them, and took their spoils.

(32) And he came out from thence, and came to Damascus, and took his journey through all the country.

(33) And Simon went forth, and took his journey as far as Ascalon, and the strongholds that were near to it. And he turned toward Joppa, and took possession of it;

(34) for he had heard that they were minded to deliver the stronghold to the men of Demetrius; and he set a garrison there to keep it.

(35) And Jonathan returned, and called the elders of the people together; and he took counsel with them to build strongholds in Judea,

(36) and to make the walls of Jerusalem higher, and to raise a great mound between the citadel and the city, for to separate it from the city, that so it might be all alone, that men might neither buy nor sell.

(37) And they were gathered together to build the city, and there fell down part of the wall of the brook that is on the east side, and he repaired that which is called Chaphenatha.

(38) And Simon also built Adida in the plain country, and made it strong, and set up gates and bars.

(39) And Tryphon sought to reign over Asia and to put on himself the diadem, and to stretch forth his hand against Antiochus the king.



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(40) And he was afraid lest haply Jonathan should not suffer him, and lest he should fight against him; and he sought a way how to take him, that he might destroy him. And he removed, and came to Bethshan.

(41) And Jonathan came forth to meet him with forty thousand men chosen for battle, and came to Bethshan.

(42) And Tryphon saw that he came with a great army, and he was afraid to stretch forth his hand against him:

(43) and he received him honorably, and commended him to all his Friends, and gave him gifts, and commanded his forces to be obedient to him, as to himself.

(44) And he said to Jonathan, Why have you put all this people to trouble, seeing there is no war between us?

(45) And now send them away to their homes, but choose for yourself a few men who shall be with you, and come you with me to Ptolemais, and I will give it up to you, and the rest of the strongholds and the rest of the forces, and all the king's officers: and I will return and depart; for this is the cause of my coming.

(46) And he put his trust in him, and did even as he said, and sent away his forces, and they departed into the land of Judah.

(47) But he reserved to himself three thousand men, of whom he left two thousand in Galilee, but one thousand went with him.

(48) Now as soon as Jonathan entered into Ptolemais, they of Ptolemais shut the gates, and laid hands on him; and all those who came in with him they killed with the sword.

(49) And Tryphon sent forces and horsemen into Galilee, and into the great plain, to destroy all Jonathan's men.

(50) And they perceived that he was taken and had perished, and those who were with him; and they encouraged one another, and went on their way close together, prepared to fight.

(51) And those who followed upon them saw that they were ready to fight for their lives, and turned back again.

(52) And they all came in peace into the land of Judah, and they mourned for Jonathan, and those who were with him, and they were sore afraid; and all Israel mourned with a great mourning.

(53) And all the Gentiles that were round about them sought to destroy them utterly: for they said, They have no ruler, nor any to help them: now therefore let's fight against them, and take away their memorial from among men.

### **1 Maccabees 13**

(1) And Simon heard that Tryphon had gathered together a mighty army to come into the land of Judah, and destroy it utterly.

(2) And he saw that the people trembled and was in great fear; and he went up to Jerusalem, and gathered the people together;

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- (3) and he encouraged them, and said to them, You yourselves know all the things that I, and my kindred, and my father's house, have done for the laws and the sanctuary, and the battles and the distresses which we have seen:
- (4) by reason hereof all my kindred have perished for Israel's sake, and I am left alone.
- (5) And now be it far from me, that I should spare my own life in any time of affliction; for I am not better than my kindred.
- (6) Howbeit I will take vengeance for my nation, and for the sanctuary, and for our wives and children; because all the Gentiles are gathered to destroy us of very hatred.
- (7) And the spirit of the people revived, as soon as they heard these words.
- (8) And they answered with a loud voice, saying, You are our leader instead of Judas and Jonathan your brother.
- (9) Fight you our battles, and all that you shall say to us, that will we do.
- (10) And he gathered together all the men of war, and made haste to finish the walls of Jerusalem, and he fortified it round about.
- (11) And he sent Jonathan the son of Absalom, and with him a great army, to Joppa: and he cast out those who were therein, and abode there in it
- (12) And Tryphon removed from Ptolemais with a mighty army to enter into the land of Judah, and Jonathan was with him in ward.
- (13) But Simon encamped at Adida, near the plain.
- (14) And Tryphon knew that Simon was risen up instead of his brother Jonathan, and meant to join battle with him, and he sent ambassadors to him, saying,
- (15) It is for money which Jonathan your brother owed to the king's treasure, by reason of the offices which he had, that we hold him fast.
- (16) And now send a hundred talents of silver, and two of his sons for hostages, that when he is set at liberty he may not revolt from us, and we will set him at liberty.
- (17) And Simon knew that they spoke to him deceitfully; and he sends the money and the children, lest perhaps he should procure to himself great hatred of the people,
- (18) and they should say, Because I sent him not the money and the children, he perished.
- (19) And he sent the children and the hundred talents. And he dealt falsely, and didn't set Jonathan at liberty.
- (20) And after this Tryphon came to invade the land, and destroy it, and he went round about by the way that leads to Adora: and Simon and his army marched near him to every place, wherever he went.
- (21) Now they of the citadel sent to Tryphon ambassadors, hastening him to come to them through the wilderness, and to send them food.
- (22) And Tryphon made ready all his horse to come: and on that night there fell a very great snow, and he came not by reason of the snow. And he removed, and came into the country of Gilead.
- (23) But when he came near to Bascama, he killed Jonathan, and he was buried there.
- (24) And Tryphon returned, and went away into his own land.

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(25) And Simon sent, and took the bones of Jonathan his brother, and buried him at Modin, the city of his fathers.

(26) And all Israel made great lamentation over him, and mourned for him many days.

(27) And Simon built a monument upon the sepulchre of his father and his kindred, and raised it aloft to the sight, with polished stone behind and before.

(28) And he set up seven pyramids, one near another, for his father, and his mother, and his four kindred.

(29) And for these he made cunning devices, setting about them great pillars, and upon the pillars he fashioned all manner of arms for a perpetual memory, and beside the arms ships carved, that they should be seen of all that sail on the sea.

(30) This is the sepulchre which he made at Modin, and it is there to this day.

(31) Now Tryphon dealt deceitfully with the young king Antiochus, and killed him,

(32) and reigned in his stead, and put on himself the diadem of Asia, and brought a great calamity upon the land.

(33) And Simon built the strongholds of Judea, and fenced them about with high towers, and great walls, and gates, and bars; and he laid up food in the strongholds.

(34) And Simon chose men, and sent to king Demetrius, to the end he should give the country an immunity, because all that Tryphon did was to plunder.

(35) And king Demetrius sent to him according to these words, and answered him, and wrote a letter to him, after this manner:

(36) King Demetrius to Simon the high priest and Friend of kings, and to the elders and nation of the Jews, greeting:

(37) The golden crown, and the palm branch, which you sent, we have received: and we are ready to make a stedfast peace with you, yes, and to write to our officers, to grant immunities to you.

(38) And whatever things we confirmed to you, they are confirmed; and the strongholds, which you have built, let them be your own.

(39) As for any oversights and faults committed to this day, we forgive them, and the crown which you owed us: and if there were any other toll exacted in Jerusalem, let it be exacted no longer.

(40) And if there be any among you meet to be enrolled in our court, let them be enrolled, and let there be peace between us.

(41) In the hundred and seventies year was the yoke of the heathen taken away from Israel.

(42) And the people began to write in their instruments and contracts, In the first year of Simon, the great high priest and captain and leader of the Jews.

(43) In those days he encamped against Gazara, and compassed it round about with armies; and he made an engine of siege, and brought it up to the city, and struck a tower, and took it.

(44) And those who were in the engine leaped forth into the city; and there was a great uproar in the city:

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(45) and they of the city tore their clothes, and went up on the walls with their wives and children, and cried with a loud voice, making request to Simon to give them his right hand.

(46) And they said, Deal not with us according to our wickednesses, but according to your mercy.

(47) And Simon was reconciled to them, and didn't fight against them: and he put them out of the city, and cleansed the houses wherein the idols were, and so entered into it with singing and giving praise.

(48) And he put all uncleanness out of it, and placed in it such men as would keep the law, and made it stronger than it was before, and built therein a dwelling place for himself.

(49) But they of the citadel in Jerusalem were hindered from going forth, and from going into the country, and from buying and selling; and they hungered exceedingly, and a great number of them perished through famine.

(50) And they cried out to Simon, that he should give them his right hand; and he gave it to them: and he put them out from thence, and he cleansed the citadel from its pollutions.

(51) And he entered into it on the three and twentieth day of the second month, in the hundred and seventy and first year, with praise and palm branches, and with harps, and with cymbals, and with viols, and with hymns, and with songs: because a great enemy was destroyed out of Israel.

(52) And he ordained that they should keep that day every year with gladness. And the hill of the temple that was by the citadel he made stronger than before, and there he lived, himself and his men.

(53) And Simon saw that John his son was a valiant man, and he made him leader of all his forces: and he lived in Gazara.

### **1 Maccabees 14**

(1) And in the hundred and seventy and second year king Demetrius gathered his forces together, and went into Media, to get him help, that he might fight against Tryphon.

(2) And Arsaces, the king of Persia and Media, heard that Demetrius was come into his borders, and he sent one of his princes to take him alive:

(3) and he went and struck the army of Demetrius, and took him, and brought him to Arsaces; and he put him in ward.

(4) And the land had rest all the days of Simon: and he sought the good of his nation; and his authority and his glory was well-pleasing to them all his days.

(5) And amid all his glory he took Joppa for a haven, and made it an entrance for the isles of the sea;

(6) and he enlarged the borders of his nation, and got possession of the country;

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- (7) and he gathered together a great number of captives, and got the dominion of Gazara, and Bethsura, and the citadel, and he took away from it its uncleannesses; and there was none that resisted him.
- (8) And they tilled their land in peace, and the land gave her increase, and the trees of the plains their fruit.
- (9) The ancient men sat in the streets, they communed all of them together of good things, and the young men put on glorious and warlike apparel.
- (10) He provided food for the cities, and furnished them with all manner of munition, until the name of his glory was named to the end of the earth.
- (11) He made peace in the land, and Israel rejoiced with great joy:
- (12) and they sat each man under his vine and his fig tree, and there was none to make them afraid:
- (13) and there ceased in the land any that fought against them: and the kings were discomfited in those days.
- (14) And he strengthened all those of his people that were brought low: the law he searched out, and every lawless and wicked person he took away.
- (15) He glorified the sanctuary, and the vessels of the temple he multiplied.
- (16) And it was heard at Rome that Jonathan was dead, and even to Sparta, and they were exceeding sorry.
- (17) But as soon as they heard that his brother Simon was made high priest in his stead, and ruled the country, and the cities therein,
- (18) they wrote to him on tables of brass, to renew with him the friendship and the confederacy which they had confirmed with Judas and Jonathan his kindred;
- (19) and they were read before the congregation at Jerusalem.
- (20) And this is the copy of the letters which the Spartans sent: The rulers of the Spartans, and the city, to Simon the high priest, and to the elders, and the priests, and the residue of the people of the Jews, our kindred, greeting:
- (21) The ambassadors that were sent to our people made report to us of your glory and honor: and we were glad for their coming,
- (22) and we did register the things that were spoken by them in the public records after this manner: Numenius son of Antiochus, and Antipater son of Jason, the Jews' ambassadors, came to us to renew the friendship they had with us.
- (23) And it pleased the people to entertain the men honorably, and to put the copy of their words in the public records, to the end that the people of the Spartans might have a memorial thereof: moreover they wrote a copy of these things to Simon the high priest.
- (24) After this Simon sent Numenius to Rome with a great shield of gold of a thousand pound weight, in order to confirm the confederacy with them.
- (25) But when the people heard these things, they said, What thanks shall we give to Simon and his sons?

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(26) for he and his kindred and the house of his father have made themselves strong, and have chased away in fight the enemies of Israel from them, and confirmed liberty to Israel.

(27) And they wrote on tables of brass, and set them upon pillars in mount Sion: and this is the copy of the writing: On the eighteenth day of Elul, in the hundred and seventy and second year, and this is the third year of Simon the high priest,

(28) in Asaramel, in a great congregation of priests and people and princes of the nation, and of the elders of the country, was it notified to us:

(29) Forasmuch as oftentimes there have been wars in the country, but Simon the son of Mattathias, the son of the sons of Joarib, and his kindred, put themselves in jeopardy, and withstood the enemies of their nation, that their sanctuary and the law might be established, and glorified their nation with great glory:

(30) and Jonathan assembled their nation together, and became their high priest, and was gathered to his people:

(31) and their enemies purposed to invade their country, that they might destroy their country utterly, and stretch forth their hands against their sanctuary:

(32) then rose up Simon, and fought for his nation, and spent much of his own substance, and armed the valiant men of his nation, and gave them wages:

(33) and he fortified the cities of Judea, and Bethsura that lies upon the borders of Judea, where the arms of the enemies were aforetime, and set there a garrison of Jews:

(34) and he fortified Joppa which is upon the sea, and Gazara which is upon the borders of Azotus, wherein the enemies lived aforetime, and placed Jews there, and set therein all things convenient for the reparation thereof:

(35) and the people saw the faith of Simon, and the glory which he thought to bring to his nation, and they made him their leader and high priest, because he had done all these things, and for the justice and the faith which he kept to his nation, and for that he sought by all means to exalt his people:

(36) and in his days things prospered in his hands, so that the Gentiles were taken away out of their country, and they also that were in the city of David, those who were in Jerusalem, who had made themselves a citadel, out of which they issued, and polluted all things round about the sanctuary, and did great hurt to its purity;

(37) and he placed Jews therein, and fortified it for the safety of the country and the city, and made high the walls of Jerusalem:

(38) and king Demetrius confirmed to him the high priesthood according to these things,

(39) and made him one of his Friends, and honored him with great honor;

(40) for he had heard say, that the Jews had been called by the Romans friends and confederates and kindred, and that they had met the ambassadors of Simon honorably;

(41) and that the Jews and the priests were well pleased that Simon should be their leader and high priest forever, until there should arise a faithful prophet;

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(42) and that he should be captain over them, and should take charge of the sanctuary, to set them over their works, and over the country, and over the arms, and over the strongholds; and that he should take charge of the sanctuary,

(43) and that he should be obeyed by all, and that all instruments in the country should be written in his name, and that he should be clothed in purple, and wear gold;

(44) and that it should not be lawful for any of the people or of the priests to set at nothing any of these things, or to gainsay the words that he should speak, or to gather an assembly in the country without him, or to be clothed in purple, or wear a buckle of gold;

(45) but whoever should do otherwise, or set at nothing any of these things, he should be liable to punishment.

(46) All the people consented to ordain for Simon that he should do according to these words;

(47) and Simon accepted hereof, and consented to be high priest, and to be captain and governor of the Jews and of the priests, and to be protector of all.

(48) And they commanded to put this writing on tables of brass, and to set them up within the precinct of the sanctuary in a conspicuous place;

(49) and moreover to put the copies thereof in the treasury, to the end that Simon and his sons might have them.

### **1 Maccabees 15**

(1) And Antiochus son of Demetrius the king sent letters from the isles of the sea to Simon the priest and governor of the Jews, and to all the nation;

(2) and the contents thereof were after this manner: King Antiochus to Simon the chief priest and governor, and to the nation of the Jews, greeting:

(3) Forasmuch as certain pestilent fellows have made themselves masters of the kingdom of our fathers, but my purpose is to claim the kingdom, that I may restore it as it was before; and moreover I have raised a multitude of foreign soldiers, and have prepared ships of war;

(4) moreover I am minded to land in the country, that I may punish those who have destroyed our country, and those who have made many cities in the kingdom desolate:

(5) Now therefore I confirm to you all the exactions which the kings that were before me remitted to you, and whatever gifts besides they remitted to you:

(6) and I give you leave to coin money for your country with your own stamp,

(7) but that Jerusalem and the sanctuary should be free: and all the arms that you have prepared, and the strongholds that you have built, which you have in your possession, let them remain to you:

(8) and everything owing to the king, and the things that shall be owing to the king from henceforth and for evermore, let them be remitted to you:

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(9) moreover, when we shall have established our kingdom, we will glorify you and your nation and the temple with great glory, so that your glory shall be made manifest in all the earth.

(10) In the hundred and seventy and fourth year went Antiochus forth into the land of his fathers; and all the forces came together to him, so that there were few men with Tryphon.

(11) And king Antiochus pursued him, and he came, as he fled, to Dor, which is by the sea:

(12) for he knew that troubles were come upon him all at once, and that his forces had forsaken him.

(13) And Antiochus encamped against Dor, and with him a hundred and twenty thousand men of war, and eight thousand horse.

(14) And he compassed the city round about, and the ships joined in the attack from the sea; and he vexed the city by land and sea, and suffered no man to go out or in.

(15) And Numenius and his company came from Rome, having letters to the kings and to the countries, wherein were written these things:

(16) Lucius, consul of the Romans, to king Ptolemy, greeting:

(17) The Jews' ambassadors came to us as our friends and confederates, to renew the old friendship and confederacy, being sent from Simon the high priest, and from the people of the Jews:

(18) moreover they brought a shield of gold of a thousand pound.

(19) It pleased us therefore to write to the kings and to the countries, that they should not seek their hurt, nor fight against them, and their cities, and their country, nor be confederates with such as fight against them.

(20) Moreover it seemed good to us to receive the shield of them.

(21) If therefore any pestilent fellows have fled from their country to you, deliver them to Simon the high priest, that he may take vengeance on them according to their law.

(22) And the same things wrote he to Demetrius the king, and to Attalus, and to Arathes, and to Arsaces,

(23) and to all the countries, and to Sampsames, and to the Spartans, and to Delos, and to Myndos, and to Sicyon, and to Caria, and to Samos, and to Pamphylia, and to Lycia, and to Halicarnassus, and to Rhodes, and to Phaselis, and to Cos, and to Side, and to Aradus, and Gortyna, and Cnidus, and Cyprus, and Cyrene.

(24) But the copy hereof they wrote to Simon the high priest.

(25) But Antiochus the king encamped against Dor the second day, bringing his forces up to it continually, and making engines of war, and he shut up Tryphon from going in or out.

(26) And Simon sent him two thousand chosen men to fight on his side; and silver, and gold, and instruments of war in abundance.

(27) And he would not receive them, but set at nothing all the covenants which he had made with him aforetime, and was estranged from him.



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(28) And he sent to him Athenobius, one of his Friends, to commune with him, saying, You hold possession of Joppa and Gazara, and the citadel that is in Jerusalem, cities of my kingdom.

(29) The borders thereof you have wasted, and done great hurt in the land, and got the dominion of many places in my kingdom.

(30) Now therefore deliver up the cities which you have taken, and the tributes of the places whereof you have gotten dominion without the borders of Judea:

(31) or else give me for them five hundred talents of silver; and for the harm that you have done, and the tributes of the cities, other five hundred talents: or else we will come and subdue you.

(32) And Athenobius the king's Friend came to Jerusalem; and he saw the glory of Simon, and the cupboard of gold and silver vessels, and his great attendance, and he was amazed; and he reported to him the king's words.

(33) And Simon answered, and said to him, We have neither taken other men's land, nor have we possession of that which appertains to others, but of the inheritance of our fathers; howbeit, it was had in possession of our enemies wrongfully for a certain time.

(34) But we, having opportunity, hold fast the inheritance of our fathers.

(35) But as touching Joppa and Gazara, which you demand, they did great harm among the people throughout our country, we will give a hundred talents for them. And he answered him not a word,

(36) but returned in a rage to the king, and reported to him these words, and the glory of Simon, and all that he had seen: and the king was exceeding angry.

(37) But Tryphon embarked on board a ship, and fled to Orthosia.

(38) And the king appointed Cendebaeus chief captain of the sea coast, and gave him forces of foot and horse:

(39) and he commanded him to encamp before Judea, and he commanded him to build up Kidron, and to fortify the gates, and that he should fight against the people: but the king pursued Tryphon.

(40) And Cendebaeus came to Jamnia, and began to provoke the people, and to invade Judea, and to take the people captive, and to kill them.

(41) And he built Kidron, and set horsemen there, and forces of foot, to the end that issuing out they might make outroads upon the ways of Judea, according as the king commanded him.

### **1 Maccabees 16**

(1) And John went up from Gazara, and told Simon his father what Cendebaeus was doing.

(2) And Simon called his two oldest sons, Judas and John, and said to them, I and my kindred and my father's house have fought the battles of Israel from our youth, even to this day; and things have prospered in our hands, that we should deliver Israel oftentimes.

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(3) But now I am old, and you moreover, by his mercy, are of a sufficient age: be you instead of me and my brother, and go forth and fight for our nation; but let the help which is from heaven be with you.

(4) And he chose out of the country twenty thousand men of war and horsemen, and they went against Cendebaeus, and slept at Modin.

(5) And rising up in the morning, they went into the plain, and, behold, a great army came to meet them, of footmen and horsemen: and there was a brook between them.

(6) And he encamped near them, he and his people: and he saw that the people were afraid to pass over the brook, and he passed over first, and the men saw him, and passed over after him.

(7) And he divided the people, and set the horsemen in the midst of the footmen: but the enemies' horsemen were exceeding many.

(8) And they sounded with the trumpets; and Cendebaeus and his army were put to the rout, and there fell of them many wounded to death, but those who were left fled to the stronghold:

(9) at that time was Judas John's brother wounded: but John pursued after them, till he came to Kidron, which Cendebaeus had built;

(10) and they fled to the towers that are in the fields of Azotus; and he burned it with fire; and there fell of them about two thousand men. And he returned into Judea in peace.

(11) And Ptolemy the son of Abubus had been appointed captain for the plain of Jericho, and he had much silver and gold;

(12) for he was the high priest's son in law.

(13) And his heart was lifted up, and he was minded to make himself master of the country, and he took counsel deceitfully against Simon and his sons, to make away with them.

(14) Now Simon was visiting the cities that were in the country, and taking care for the good ordering of them; and he went down to Jericho, himself and Mattathias and Judas his sons, in the hundred and seventy and seventh year, in the eleventh month, the same is the month Sebat:

(15) and the son of Abubus received them deceitfully into the little stronghold that is called Dok, which he had built, and made them a great banquet, and hid men there.

(16) And when Simon and his sons had drunk freely, Ptolemy and his men rose up, and took their arms, and came in upon Simon into the banqueting place, and killed him, and his two sons, and certain of his servants.

(17) And he committed a great iniquity, and recompensed evil for good.

(18) And Ptolemy wrote these things, and sent to the king, that he should send him forces to aid him, and should deliver him their country and the cities.

(19) And he sent others to Gazara to make away with John: and to the captains of thousands he sent letters to come to him, that he might give them silver and gold and gifts.

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(20) And others he sent to take possession of Jerusalem, and the mount of the temple.

(21) And one ran before to Gazara, and told John that his father and kindred were perished, and he has sent to kill you also.

(22) And when he heard, he was sore amazed; and he laid hands on the men that came to destroy him, and killed them; for he perceived that they were seeking to destroy him.

(23) And the rest of the acts of John, and of his wars, and of his valiant deeds which he did, and of the building of the walls which he built, and of his doings,

(24) behold, they are written in the chronicles of his high priesthood, from the time that he was made high priest after his father.

## 2 Maccabees

*2 Maccabees recaps some of the story (until the events of 161 B.C.) and adds in details about God's intervention into the events reports. 2 Maccabees, the first work to pose an opposition between Judaism and Hellenism, sees Hellenism as a new kind of threat in Jewish history. Previously, foreign cultures were perceived as dangerous because of the temptation posed by their gods. But for 2 Maccabees, Hellenism involves a system of values distinct from idolatry, the values associated with the gymnasium. 2 Maccabees condemns Jews who adopt these values even as they remain loyal to the God of Israel.*

### 2 Maccabees 1

- (1) The kindred, the Jews that are in Jerusalem and those who are in the country of Judea, send greeting to the kindred, the Jews that are throughout Egypt, and wish them good peace:
- (2) and may God do good to you, and remember his covenant with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, his faithful servants;
- (3) and give you all a heart to worship him and do his pleasure with a great heart and a willing soul;
- (4) and open your heart in his law and in his statutes, and make peace,
- (5) and listen to your supplications, and be reconciled with you, and not forsake you in an evil time.
- (6) And now we here are praying for you.
- (7) In the reign of Demetrius, in the hundred threescore and ninth year, we the Jews have already written to you in the tribulation and in the extremity that has come upon us in these years, from the time that Jason and his company revolted from the holy land and the kingdom,
- (8) and set the gate on fire, and shed innocent blood: and we implored the Lord, and were heard; and we offered sacrifice and meal offering, and we lighted the lamps, and we set forth the show bread.
- (9) And now see that you keep the days of the feast of tabernacles of the month Kislev.
- (10) Written in the hundred fourscore and eighth year. THEY that are in Jerusalem and those who are in Judea and the senate and Judas, to Aristobulus, king Ptolemy's teacher, who is also of the stock of the anointed priests, and to the Jews that are in Egypt, send greeting and health.
- (11) Having been saved by God out of great perils, as men arrayed against a king, we thank him greatly.
- (12) For himself cast forth into Persia those who arrayed themselves against us in the holy city.

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(13) For when the prince was come there, and the army with him that seemed irresistible, they were cut to pieces in the temple of Nanaea by the treachery of Nanaea's priests.

(14) For Antiochus, on the pretense that he would marry her, came into the place, he and his Friends that were with him, that they might take a great part of the treasures in name of a dowry.

(15) And when the priests of Nanaea's temple had set the treasures forth, and he was come there with a small company within the wall of the precincts, they shut to the temple when Antiochus was come in:

(16) and opening the secret door of the panelled ceiling, they threw stones and struck down the prince, and they hewed him and his company in pieces, and struck off their heads, and cast them to those that were without.

(17) Blessed be our God in all things, who gave for a prey those who had committed impiety.

(18) Whereas we are now about to keep the purification of the temple in the month Kislev, on the five and twentieth day, we thought it necessary to certify you thereof, that you also may keep a feast of tabernacles, and a memorial of the fire which was given when Nehemiah offered sacrifices, after that he had built both the temple and the altar.

(19) For indeed when our fathers were about to be led into the land of Persia, the godly priests of that time took of the fire of the altar, and hid it privily in the hollow of a well that was without water, wherein they made it sure, so that the place was unknown to all men.

(20) Now after many years, when it pleased God, Nehemiah, having received a charge from the king of Persia, sent in quest of the fire the descendants of the priests that hid it. When they declared to us that they had found no fire, but thick water,

(21) he commanded them to draw out thereof and bring to him: and when the sacrifices had been offered on the altar, Nehemiah commanded the priests to sprinkle with the water both the wood and the things laid thereupon.

(22) And when it was done, and some time had passed, and the sun shone out, which before was hid with clouds, there was kindled a great blaze, so that all men marveled.

(23) And the priests made a prayer while the sacrifice was consuming, both the priests and all others, Jonathan leading and the rest answering, as Nehemiah did.

(24) And the prayer was after this manner: O Lord, Lord God, the Creator of all things, who are terrible and strong and righteous and merciful, who alone are King and gracious,

(25) who alone suppliest every need, who alone are righteous and almighty and eternal, you that save Israel out of all evil, who made the fathers your chosen, and did sanctify them:

(26) accept the sacrifice for all your people Israel, and guard your own portion, and consecrate it.

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(27) Gather together our Dispersion, set at liberty those who are in bondage among the heathen, look upon those who are despised and abhorred, and let the heathen know that you are our God.

(28) Torment those who oppress us and in arrogancy shamefully entreat us.

(29) Plant your people in your holy place, even as Moses said.

(30) And thereupon the priests sang the hymns.

(31) And as soon as the sacrifice was consumed, then Nehemiah commanded to pour on great stones the water that was left.

(32) And when this was done, a flame was kindled; but when the light from the altar shone near it, all was consumed.

(33) And when the matter became known, and it was told the king of the Persians, that, in the place where the priests that were led away had hid the fire, there appeared the water, wherewith also Nehemiah and those who were with him purified the sacrifice,

(34) then the king, enclosing the place, made it sacred, after he had proved the matter.

(35) And when the king would show favor to any, he would take from them many presents and give them some of this water.

(36) And Nehemiah and those who were with him called this thing Nephthar, which is by interpretation, Cleansing; but most men call it Nephthai.

### **2 Maccabees 2**

(1) It is also found in the records, that Jeremiah the prophet commanded those who were carried away to take of the fire, as has been signified above:

(2) and how that the prophet charged those who were carried away, having given them the law, that they should not forget the statutes of the Lord, neither be led astray in their minds, when they saw images of gold and silver, and the adornment thereof.

(3) And with other such words exhorted he them, that the law should not depart from their heart.

(4) And it was contained in the writing, that the prophet, being warned of God, commanded that the tabernacle and the ark should follow with him, when he went forth into the mountain where Moses went up and saw the heritage of God.

(5) And Jeremiah came and found a chamber in the rock, and there he brought in the tabernacle, and the ark, and the altar of incense; and he made fast the door.

(6) And some of those that followed with him came there that they might mark the way, and could not find it.

(7) But when Jeremiah perceived it, he blamed them, saying, Yes and the place shall be unknown until God gather the people again together, and mercy come:

(8) and then shall the Lord disclose these things, and the glory of the Lord shall be seen, and the cloud. As also it was showed with Moses; as also Solomon implored that the place might be consecrated greatly,

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(9) and it was also declared that he, having wisdom, offered a sacrifice of dedication, and of the finishing of the temple; so we would have it now.

(10) As Moses prayed to the Lord, and fire came down out of heaven and consumed the sacrifice, even so prayed Solomon also, and the fire came down and consumed the burnt offerings;

(11) (and Moses said, Because the sin offering had not been eaten, it was consumed in like manner with the rest;)

(12) and Solomon kept the eight days.

(13) And the same things were related both in the public archives and in the records that concern Nehemiah; and how he, founding a library, gathered together the books about the kings and prophets, and the books of David, and letters of kings about sacred gifts.

(14) And in like manner Judas also gathered together for us all those writings that had been scattered by reason of the war that befell, and they are still with us.

(15) If therefore you have need thereof, send some to fetch them to you.

(16) Seeing then that we are about to keep the purification, we write to you; you will therefore do well if you keep the days.

(17) Now God, who saved all his people, and restored the heritage to all, and the kingdom, and the priesthood, and the hallowing,

(18) even as he promised through the law,— in God have we hope, that he will quickly have mercy upon us, and gather us together out of all the earth to the holy place: for he delivered us out of great evils, and purified the place.

(19) Now the things concerning Judas Maccabaeus and his kindred, and the purification of the great temple, and the dedication of the altar,

(20) and further the wars against Antiochus Epiphanes, and Eupator his son,

(21) and the manifestations that came from heaven to those that vied with one another in manful deeds for the religion of the Jews; so that, being but a few, they rescued the whole country, and chased the barbarous multitudes,

(22) and recovered again the temple renowned all the world over, and freed the city, and restored the laws which were like to be overthrown, seeing the Lord became gracious to them with all forbearance:

(23) these things, I say, which have been declared by Jason of Cyrene in five books, we will assay to abridge in one work.

(24) For having in view the confused mass of the numbers, and the difficulty which awaits those who would enter into the narratives of the history, by reason of the abundance of the matter,

(25) we were careful that they who choose to read may be attracted, and that they who wish well to our cause may find it easy to recall what we have written, and that all readers may have profit.

(26) And although to us, who have taken upon us the painful labor of the abridgement, the task is not easy, but a matter of sweat and watching

(27) (even as it is no light thing to him that prepares a banquet, and seeks the benefit of others); yet for the sake of the gratitude of the many we will gladly endure the painful labor,

(28) leaving to the historian the exact handling of every particular, and again having no strength to fill in the outlines of our abridgement.

(29) For as the masterbuilder of a new house must care for the whole structure, and again he that undertakes to decorate and paint it must seek out the things fit for the adorning thereof; even so I think it is also with us.

(30) To occupy the ground, and to indulge in long discussions, and to be curious in particulars, becomes the first author of the history:

(31) but to strive after brevity of expression, and to avoid a laboured fulness in the treatment, is to be granted to him that would bring a writing into a new form.

(32) Here then let's begin the narration, only adding thus much to that which has been already said; for it is a foolish thing to make a long prologue to the history, and to abridge the history itself.

## **2 Maccabees 3**

(1) WHEN the holy city was inhabited with all peace, and the laws were kept very well, because of the godliness of Onias the high priest, and his hatred of wickedness,

(2) it came to pass that even the kings themselves did honor the place, and glorify the temple with the noblest presents;

(3) insomuch that even Seleucus the king of Asia of his own revenues bare all the costs belonging to the services of the sacrifices.

(4) But one Simon of the tribe of Benjamin, having been made guardian of the temple, fell out with the high priest about the ruling of the market in the city.

(5) And when he could not overcome Onias, he got him to Apollonius the son of Thrasaeus, who at that time was governor of Coelesyria and Phoenicia:

(6) and he brought him word how that the treasury in Jerusalem was full of untold sums of money, so that the multitude of the funds was innumerable, and that they didn't pertain to the account of the sacrifices, but that it was possible that these should fall under the king's power.

(7) And when Apollonius met the king, he informed him of the money whereof he had been told; and the king appointed Heliodorus, who was his chancellor, and sent him with a commandment to accomplish the removal of the aforesaid money.

(8) So forthwith Heliodorus took his journey, under a color of visiting the cities of Coelesyria and Phoenicia, but in fact to execute the king's purpose.

(9) And when he was come to Jerusalem, and had been courteously received by the high priest of the city, he laid before them an account of the information which had been given him, and declared wherefore he was come; and he inquired if in truth these things were so.

(10) And the high priest explained to him that there were in the treasury deposits of widows and orphans,



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- (11) and moreover some money belonging to Hyrcanus the son of Tobias, a man in very high place, and that the case was not as that impious Simon falsely alleged; and that in all there were four hundred talents of silver and two hundred of gold;
- (12) and that it was altogether impossible that wrong should be done to them that had put trust in the holiness of the place, and in the majesty and inviolable sanctity of the temple, honored over all the world.
- (13) But Heliodorus, because of the king's commandments given him, said that in any case this money must be confiscated for the king's treasury.
- (14) So having appointed a day, he entered in to direct the inquiry concerning these matters; and there was no small distress throughout the whole city.
- (15) And the priests, prostrating themselves before the altar in their priestly garments, and looking toward heaven, called upon him that gave the law concerning deposits, that he should preserve these treasures safe for those that had deposited them.
- (16) And whoever saw the mien of the high priest was wounded in mind; for his countenance and the change of his color betrayed the distress of his soul.
- (17) For a terror and a shuddering of the body had come over the man, whereby the pain that was in his heart was plainly shewn to those who looked upon him.
- (18) And those who were in the houses rushed flocking out to make a universal supplication, because the place was like to come into contempt.
- (19) And the women, girded with sackcloth under their breasts, thronged the streets, and the virgins that were kept in ward ran together, some to the gates, others to the walls, and some looked out through the windows.
- (20) And all, stretching forth their hands toward heaven, made their solemn supplication.
- (21) Then it would have pitied a man to see the multitude prostrating themselves all mingled together, and the expectation of the high priest in his sore distress.
- (22) While therefore they called upon the Almighty Lord to keep the things intrusted to them safe and sure for those that had intrusted them,
- (23) Heliodorus went on to execute that which had been decreed.
- (24) But when he was already present there with his guards near the treasury, the Sovereign of spirits and of all authority caused a great apparition, so that all that had presumed to come in with him, stricken with dismay at the power of God, fainted and were sore afraid.
- (25) For there was seen by them a horse with a terrible rider upon him, and adorned with beautiful trappings, and he rushed fiercely and struck at Heliodorus with his forefeet, and it seemed that he that sat upon the horse had complete armor of gold.
- (26) Two other also appeared to him, young men notable in their strength, and beautiful in their glory, and splendid in their apparel, who stood by him on either side, and scourged him unceasingly, inflicting on him many sore stripes.
- (27) And when he had fallen suddenly to the ground, and great darkness had come over him, his guards caught him up and put him into a litter,

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(28) and carried him, him that had just now entered with a great train and all his guard into the aforesaid treasury, himself now brought to utter helplessness, manifestly made to recognize the sovereignty of God.

(29) And so, while he, through the working of God, speechless and bereft of all hope and deliverance, lay prostrate,

(30) they blessed the Lord, that made marvelous his own place; and the temple, which a little before was full of terror and alarm, was filled with joy and gladness after the Almighty Lord appeared.

(31) But quickly certain of Heliodorus's familiar friends implored Onias to call upon the Most High, and grant life to him who lay quite at the last gasp.

(32) And the high priest, secretly fearing lest the king might come to think that some treachery toward Heliodorus had been perpetrated by the Jews, brought a sacrifice for the deliverance of the man.

(33) But as the high priest was making the atoning sacrifice, the same young men appeared again to Heliodorus, arrayed in the same garments; and they stood and said, Give Onias the high priest great thanks, for for his sake the Lord has granted you life;

(34) and do you, since you have been scourged from heaven, publish to all men the sovereign majesty of God. And when they had spoken these words, they vanished out of sight.

(35) So Heliodorus, having offered a sacrifice to the Lord and vowed great vows to him that had saved his life, and having graciously received Onias, returned with his army to the king.

(36) And he testified to all men the works of the great God which he had seen with his eyes.

(37) And when the king asked Heliodorus, what manner of man was fit to be sent yet once again to Jerusalem, he said,

(38) If you have any enemy or conspirator against the state, send him there, and you shall receive him back well scourged, if he even escape with his life; because of a truth there is about the place a power of God.

(39) For he that has his dwelling in heaven himself has his eyes upon that place, and helps it; and those who come to hurt it he strikes and destroys.

(40) And such was the history of Heliodorus and the keeping of the treasury.

### **2 Maccabees 4**

(1) But the aforesaid Simon, he who had given information of the money, and had betrayed his country, slandered Onias, saying that it was he who had incited Heliodorus, and made himself the author of these evils.

(2) And him that was the benefactor of the city, and the guardian of his fellow countrymen, and a zealot for the laws, he dared to call a conspirator against the state.

(3) But when the growing enmity between them waxed so great, that even murders were perpetrated through one of Simon's trusted followers,

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- (4) Onias, seeing the danger of the contention, and that Apollonius the son of Menestheus, the governor of Coelesyria and Phoenicia, was increasing Simon's malice,
- (5) betook himself to the king, not to be an accuser of his fellow-citizens, but looking to the good of all the people, both public and private;
- (6) for he saw that without the king's providence it was impossible for the state to obtain peace any more, and that Simon would not cease from his madness.
- (7) But when Seleucus was deceased, and Antiochus, who was called Epiphanes, succeeded to the kingdom, Jason the brother of Onias supplanted his brother in the high priesthood,
- (8) having promised to the king at an audience three hundred and threescore talents of silver, and out of another fund eighty talents;
- (9) and beside this, he undertook to assign a hundred and fifty more, if it might be allowed him through the king's authority to set him up a Greek place of exercise and form a body of youths to be trained therein, and to register the inhabitants of Jerusalem as citizens of Antioch.
- (10) And when the king had given assent, and he had gotten possession of the office, he forthwith brought over them of his own race to the Greek fashion.
- (11) And setting aside the royal ordinances of special favor to the Jews, granted by the means of John the father of Eupolemus, who went on the embassy to the Romans for friendship and alliance, and seeking to overthrow the lawful modes of life, he brought in new customs forbidden by the law:
- (12) for he eagerly established a Greek place of exercise under the citadel itself; and caused the noblest of the young men to wear the Greek cap.
- (13) And thus there was an extreme of Greek fashions, and an advance of an alien religion, by reason of the exceeding profaneness of Jason, that ungodly man and no high priest;
- (14) so that the priests had no more any zeal for the services of the altar: but despising the sanctuary, and neglecting the sacrifices, they hastened to enjoy that which was unlawfully provided in the palaestra, after the summons of the discus;
- (15) making of no account the honors of their fathers, and thinking the glories of the Greeks best of all.
- (16) By reason whereof sore calamity beset them; and the men whose ways of living they earnestly followed, and to whom they desired to be made like in all things, these they had to be their enemies and to punish them.
- (17) For it is not a light thing to do impiously against the laws of God: but these things the time following shall declare.
- (18) Now when certain games that came every fifth year were kept at Tyre, and the king was present,
- (19) the vile Jason sent sacred envoys, as being Antiochians of Jerusalem, bearing three hundred drachmas of silver to the sacrifice of Hercules, which even the bearers

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thereof thought not right to use for any sacrifice, because it was not fit, but to expend on another charge.

(20) And though in the purpose of the sender this money was for the sacrifice of Hercules, yet on account of present circumstances it went to the equipment of the galleys.

(21) Now when Apollonius the son of Menestheus was sent into Egypt for the enthronement of Ptolemy Philometor as king, Antiochus, learning that Ptolemy had shewn himself ill affected toward the state, took thought for the security of his realm; wherefore, going by sea to Joppa, he travelled on to Jerusalem.

(22) And being magnificently received by Jason and the city, he was brought in with torches and shoutings. This done, he afterward led his army down into Phoenicia.

(23) Now after a space of three years Jason sent Menelaus, the aforesaid Simon's brother, to bear the money to the king, and to make reports concerning some necessary matters.

(24) But he being commended to the king, and having glorified himself by the display of his authority, got the high priesthood for himself, outbidding Jason by three hundred talents of silver.

(25) And having received the royal mandates he came to Jerusalem, bringing nothing worthy the high priesthood, but having the passion of a cruel tyrant, and the rage of a savage beast.

(26) And whereas Jason, who had supplanted his own brother, was supplanted by another and driven as a fugitive into the country of the Ammonites,

(27) Menelaus had possession of the office: but of the money that had been promised to the king nothing was duly paid, and that though Sostratus the governor of the citadel demanded it

(28) (for to him appertained the gathering of the revenues); for which cause they were both called by the king to his presence.

(29) And Menelaus left his own brother Lysimachus for his deputy in the high priesthood; and Sostratus left Crates, who was over the Cyprians.

(30) Now while such was the state of things, it came to pass that they of Tarsus and Mallus made insurrection, because they were to be given as a present to Antiochis, the king's concubine.

(31) The king therefore came to Cilicia in all haste to settle matters, leaving for his deputy Andronicus, a man of high rank.

(32) And Menelaus, supposing that he had gotten a favourable opportunity, presented to Andronicus certain vessels of gold belonging to the temple, which he had stolen: other vessels also he had already sold into Tyre and the cities round about.

(33) And when Onias had sure knowledge of this, he sharply reprov'd him, having withdrawn himself into a sanctuary at Daphne, that lies by Antioch.

(34) Wherefore Menelaus, taking Andronicus apart, prayed him to kill Onias. And coming to Onias, and being persuaded to use treachery, and being received as a friend, Andronicus gave him his right hand with oaths of fidelity, and, though he was

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suspected by him, so persuaded him to come forth of the sanctuary; and forthwith he despatched him without regard of justice.

(35) For the which cause not only Jews, but many also of the other nations, had indignation and displeasure at the unjust murder of the man.

(36) And when the king was come back again from the places in Cilicia, the Jews that were in the city pleaded before him against Andronicus (the Greeks also joining with them in hatred of the wickedness), urging that Onias had been wrongfully slain.

(37) Antiochus therefore was heartily sorry, and was moved to pity, and wept, because of the sober and well ordered life of him that was dead;

(38) and being inflamed with passion, forthwith he stripped off Andronicus's purple robe, and tore off his under garments, and when he had led him round through the whole city to that very place where he had committed impiety against Onias, there he put the murderer out of the way, the Lord rendering to him the punishment he had deserved.

(39) Now when many sacrileges had been committed in the city by Lysimachus with the consent of Menelaus, and when the bruit thereof was spread abroad outside, the people gathered themselves together against Lysimachus, after many vessels of gold had been already dispersed.

(40) And when the multitudes were rising against him, and were filled with anger, Lysimachus armed about three thousand men, and with unrighteous violence began the conflict, one Hauran, a man far gone in years and no less also in madness, leading the attack.

(41) But when they perceived the assault of Lysimachus, some caught up stones, others logs of wood, and some took handfuls of the ashes that lay near, and they flung them all pell-mell upon Lysimachus and those who were with him;

(42) by reason of which they wounded many of them, and some they struck to the ground, and all of them they forced to flee, but the author of the sacrilege himself they killed beside the treasury.

(43) But touching these matters there was an accusation laid against Menelaus.

(44) And when the king was come to Tyre, the three men that were sent by the senate pleaded the cause before him.

(45) But Menelaus, seeing himself now defeated, promised much money to Ptolemy the son of Dorymenes, that he might win over the king.

(46) Whereupon Ptolemy taking the king aside into a cloister, as it were to take the air, brought him to be of another mind:

(47) and him that was the cause of all the evil, Menelaus, he discharged from the accusations; but these hapless men, who, if they had pleaded even before Scythians, would have been discharged uncondemned, them he sentenced to death.

(48) Soon then did those who were spokesmen for the city and the families of Israel and the holy vessels suffer that unrighteous penalty.

(49) For which cause even certain Tyrians, moved with hatred of the wickedness, provided magnificently for their burial.

(50) But Menelaus through the covetous dealings of those who were in power remained still in his office, cleaving to wickedness, as a great conspirator against his fellow-citizens.

## **2 Maccabees 5**

(1) Now about this time Antiochus made his second inroad into Egypt.

(2) And it so befell that throughout all the city, for the space of almost forty days, there appeared in the midst of the sky horsemen in swift motion, wearing robes inwrought with gold and carrying spears, equipped in troops for battle;

(3) and drawing of swords; and on the other side squadrons of horse in array; and encounters and pursuits of both armies; and shaking of shields, and multitudes of lances, and casting of darts, and flashing of golden trappings, and girding on of all sorts of armor.

(4) Wherefore all men implored that the vision might have been given for good.

(5) But when a false rumour had arisen that Antiochus was deceased, Jason took not less than a thousand men, and suddenly made an assault upon the city; and those who were upon the wall being routed, and the city being now at length well near taken, Menelaus took refuge in the citadel.

(6) But Jason slaughtered his own citizens without mercy, not considering that good success against kinsmen is the greatest ill success, but supposing himself to be setting up trophies over enemies, and not over fellow-countrymen.

(7) The office however he didn't get, but, receiving shame as the end of his conspiracy, he passed again a fugitive into the country of the Ammonites.

(8) At the last therefore he met with a miserable end: having been shut up at the court of Aretas the prince of the Arabians, fleeing from city to city, pursued of all men, hated as an apostate from the laws, and held in abomination as the butcher of his country and his fellow-citizens, he was cast forth into Egypt;

(9) and he that had driven many from their own country into strange lands perished himself in a strange land, having crossed the sea to the Lacedaemonians, as thinking to find shelter there because they were near of kin;

(10) and he that had cast out a multitude unburied had none to mourn for him, nor had he any funeral at all, or place in the sepulchre of his fathers.

(11) Now when tidings came to the king concerning that which was done, he thought that Judea was in revolt; whereupon setting out from Egypt in a furious mind, he took the city by force of arms,

(12) and commanded his soldiers to cut down without mercy such as came in their way, and to kill such as went up upon the houses;

(13) and there was killing of young and old, making away of boys, women, and children, slaying of virgins and infants.

(14) And in all the three days of the slaughter there were destroyed fourscore thousand, whereof forty thousand were slain in close combat, and no fewer were sold than slain.

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(15) But not content with this he presumed to enter into the most holy temple of all the earth, having Menelaus for his guide (him that had proved himself a traitor both to the laws and to his country),

(16) even taking the sacred vessels with his polluted hands, and dragging down with his profane hands the offerings that had been dedicated by other kings to the augmentation and glory and honor of the place.

(17) And Antiochus was lifted up in mind, not seeing that because of the sins of those who lived in the city the Sovereign Lord had been provoked to anger a little while, and therefore his eye was then turned away from the place.

(18) But had it not so been that they were already holden by many sins, this man, even as Heliodorus who was sent by Seleucus the king to view the treasury, would, so soon as he pressed forward, have been scourged and turned back from his daring deed.

(19) Howbeit the Lord didn't choose the nation for the place's sake, but the place for the nation's sake.

(20) Wherefore also the place itself, having partaken in the calamities that befell the nation, did afterward share in its benefits; and the place which was forsaken in the wrath of the Almighty was, at the reconciliation of the great Sovereign, restored again with all glory.

(21) As for Antiochus, when he had carried away out of the temple a thousand and eight hundred talents, he departed in all haste to Antioch, weening in his arrogance to make the land navigable and the sea passable by foot, because his heart was lifted up.

(22) And moreover he left governors to afflict the race: at Jerusalem, Philip, by race a Phrygian, and in character more barbarous than him that set him there;

(23) and at Gerizim, Andronicus; and besides these, Menelaus, who worse than all the rest exalted himself against his fellow-citizens. And having a malicious mind toward the Jews whom he had made his citizens,

(24) he sent that lord of pollutions Apollonius with an army of two and twenty thousand, commanding him to kill all those that were of full age, and to sell the women and the younger men.

(25) And he coming to Jerusalem, and playing the man of peace, waited till the holy day of the Sabbath, and finding the Jews at rest from work, he commanded his men to parade in arms.

(26) And he put to the sword all those who came forth to the spectacle; and running into the city with the armed men he killed great multitudes.

(27) But Judas, who is also called Maccabaeus, with nine others or thereabout, withdrew himself, and with his company kept himself alive in the mountains after the manner of wild beasts; and they continued feeding on such poor herbs as grew there, that they might not be partakers of the threatened pollution.

## **2 Maccabees 6**

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- (1) And not long after this the king sent forth 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;
- (2) and also to pollute the sanctuary in Jerusalem, and to call it by the name of Jupiter Olympius, and to call the sanctuary in Gerizim by the name of Jupiter the Protector of strangers, even as they were that lived in the place.
- (3) But sore and utterly grievous was the visitation of this evil.
- (4) For the temple was filled with riot and revellings by the heathen, who dallied with harlots, and had to do with women within the sacred precincts, and moreover brought inside things that were not befitting;
- (5) and the place of sacrifice was filled with those abominable things which had been prohibited by the laws.
- (6) And a man could neither keep the Sabbath, nor observe the feasts of the fathers, nor so much as confess himself to be a Jew.
- (7) And on the day of the king's birth every month they were led along with bitter constraint to eat of the sacrifices; and when the feast of Bacchus came, they were compelled to go in procession in honor of Bacchus, wearing wreaths of ivy.
- (8) And there went out a decree to the neighbouring Greek cities, by the suggestion of Ptolemy, that they should observe the same conduct against the Jews, and should make them eat of the sacrifices;
- (9) and that they should kill such as didn't choose to go over to the Greek rites. So the present misery was for all to see:
- (10) for two women were brought up for having circumcised their children; and these, when they had led them publicly round about the city, with the babes hung from their breasts, they cast down headlong from the wall.
- (11) And others, that had run together into the caves near by to keep the seventh day secretly, being betrayed to Philip were all burned together, because they scrupled to defend themselves, from regard to the honor of that most solemn day.
- (12) I beseech therefore those that read this book, that they be not discouraged because of the calamities, but account that these punishments were not for the destruction, but for the chastening of our race.
- (13) For indeed that those who act impiously be not let alone any long time, but straightway meet with retribution, is a sign of great beneficence.
- (14) For in the case of the other nations the Sovereign Lord does with longsuffering forbear, until that he punish them when they have attained to the full measure of their sins; but not so judged he as touching us,
- (15) that he may not take vengeance on us afterward, when we be come to the height of our sins.
- (16) Wherefore he never withdraws his mercy from us; but though he chastens with calamity, yet does he not forsake his own people.
- (17) Howbeit let this that we have spoken suffice to put you in remembrance; but after these few words we must come to the narrative.



## *The Book of Maccabees*

(18) Eleazar, one of the principal scribes, a man already well stricken in years, and of a noble countenance, was compelled to open his mouth to eat swine's flesh.

(19) But he, welcoming death with renown rather than life with pollution, advanced of his own accord to the instrument of torture, but first spat forth the flesh,

(20) coming forward as men ought to come that are resolute to repel such things as not even for the natural love of life is it lawful to taste.

(21) But those who had the charge of that forbidden sacrificial feast took the man aside, for the acquaintance which of old times they had with him, and privately implored him to bring flesh of his own providing, such as was befitting for him to use, and to make as if he did eat of the flesh from the sacrifice, as had been commanded by the king;

(22) that by so doing he might be delivered from death, and for his ancient friendship with them might be treated kindly.

(23) But he, having formed a high resolve, and one that became his years, and the dignity of old age, and the gray hairs which he had reached with honor, and his excellent education from a child, or rather that became the holy laws of God's ordaining, declared his mind accordingly, bidding them quickly send him to Hades.

(24) For it becomes not our years to dissemble, said he, that through this many of the young should suppose that Eleazar, the man of fourscore years and ten, had gone over to an alien religion;

(25) and so they, by reason of my dissimulation, and for the sake of this brief and momentary life, should be led astray because of me, and thus I get to myself a pollution and a stain of my old age.

(26) For even if for the present time I shall remove from me the punishment of men, yet shall I not escape the hands of the Almighty, either living or dead.

(27) Wherefore, by manfully parting with my life now, I will show myself worthy of my old age,

(28) and leave behind a noble ensample to the young to die willingly and nobly a glorious death for the reverend and holy laws. And when he had said these words, he went straightway to the instrument of torture.

(29) And when they changed the good they will bare him a little before into ill will, because these words of his were, as they thought, sheer madness,

(30) and when he was at the point to die with the stripes, he groaned aloud and said, To the Lord, that has the holy knowledge, it is manifest that, whereas I might have been delivered from death, I endure sore pains in my body by being scourged; but in soul I gladly suffer these things for my fear of him.

(31) So this man also died after this manner, leaving his death for an ensample of nobleness and a memorial of virtue, not only to the young but also to the great body of his nation.

### **2 Maccabees 7**

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- (1) And it came to pass that seven kindred also with their mother were at the king's command taken and shamefully handled with scourges and cords, to compel them to taste of the abominable swine's flesh.
- (2) But one of them made himself the spokesman and said, What would you ask and learn of us? for we are ready to die rather than transgress the laws of our fathers.
- (3) And the king fell into a rage, and commanded to heat pans and caldrons:
- (4) and when these forthwith were heated, he commanded to cut out the tongue of him that had been their spokesman, and to scalp him, and to cut off his extremities, the rest of his kindred and his mother looking on.
- (5) And when he was utterly maimed, the king commanded to bring him to the fire, being yet alive, and to fry him in the pan. And as the vapor of the pan spread far, they and their mother also exhorted one another to die nobly, saying thus:
- (6) The Lord God sees, and in truth is entreated for us, as Moses declared in his song, which witnesses against the people to their faces, saying, And he shall be entreated for his servants.
- (7) And when the first had died after this manner, they brought the second to the mocking; and they pulled off the skin of his head with the hair and asked him, Wilt you eat, before your body be punished in every limb?
- (8) But he answered in the language of his fathers and said to them, No. Wherefore he also underwent the next torture in succession, as the first had done.
- (9) And when he was at the last gasp, he said, You, miscreant, do release us out of this present life, but the King of the world shall raise up us, who have died for his laws, to an eternal renewal of life.
- (10) And after him was the third made a mocking-stock. And when he was required, he quickly put out his tongue, and stretched forth his hands courageously,
- (11) and nobly said, From heaven I possess these; and for his laws' sake I contemn these; and from him I hope to receive these back again:
- (12) insomuch that the king himself and those who were with him were astonished at the young man's soul, for that he nothing regarded the pains.
- (13) And when he too was dead, they shamefully handled and tortured the fourth in like manner.
- (14) And being come near to death he said thus: It is good to die at the hands of men and look for the hopes which are given by God, that we shall be raised up again by him; for as for you, you shall have no resurrection to life.
- (15) And next after him they brought the fifth, and shamefully handled him.
- (16) But he looked toward the king and said, Because you have authority among men, though you are yourself corruptible, you do what you will; yet think not that our race has been forsaken of God;
- (17) but hold you on your way, and behold his sovereign majesty, how it will torture you and your seed.

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(18) And after him they brought the sixth. And when he was at the point to die he said, Be not vainly deceived, for we suffer these things for our own doings, as sinning against our own God: marvelous things are come to pass;

(19) but think not you that you shall be unpunished, having assayed to fight against God.

(20) But above all was the mother marvelous and worthy of honorable memory; for when she looked on seven sons perishing within the space of one day, she bare the sight with a good courage for the hopes that she had set on the Lord.

(21) And she exhorted each one of them in the language of their fathers, filled with a noble temper and stirring up her womanish thought with manly passion, saying to them,

(22) I know not how you came into my womb, neither was it I that bestowed on you your spirit and your life, and it was not I that brought into order the first elements of each one of you.

(23) Therefore the Creator of the world, who fashioned the generation of man and devised the generation of all things, in mercy gives back to you again both your spirit and your life, as you now contemn your own selves for his laws' sake.

(24) But Antiochus, thinking himself to be despised, and suspecting the reproachful voice, while the youngest was yet alive didn't only make his appeal to him by words, but also at the same time promised with oaths that he would enrich him and raise him to high estate, if he would turn from the customs of his fathers, and that he would take him for his Friend and intrust him with affairs.

(25) But when the young man would in no wise give heed, the king called to him his mother, and exhorted her that she would counsel the lad to save himself.

(26) And when he had exhorted her with many words, she undertook to persuade her son.

(27) But bending toward him, laughing the cruel tyrant to scorn, she spoke thus in the language of her fathers: My son, have pity upon me that carried you nine months in my womb, and gave you suck three years, and nourished and brought you up to this age, and sustained you.

(28) I beseech you, my child, to lift your eyes to the heaven and the earth, and to see all things that are therein, and thus to recognize that God made them not of things that were, and that the race of men in this wise comes into being.

(29) Don't be afraid of this butcher, but, proving yourself worthy of your kindred, accept your death, that in the mercy of God I may receive you again with your kindred.

(30) But before she had yet ended speaking, the young man said, Whom wait you for? I obey not the commandment of the king, but I listen to the commandment of the law that was given to our fathers through Moses.

(31) But you, that have devised all manner of evil against the Hebrews, shall in no wise escape the hands of God.

(32) For we are suffering because of our own sins;

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(33) and if for rebuke and chastening our living Lord has been angered a little while, yet shall he again be reconciled with his own servants.

(34) But you, O unholy man and of all most vile, be not vainly lifted up in your wild pride with uncertain hopes, raising your hand against the heavenly children;

(35) For not yet have you escaped the judgement of the Almighty God that sees all things.

(36) For these our kindred, having endured a short pain that brings everlasting life, have now died under God's covenant; But you, through the judgement of God, shall receive in just measure the penalties of your arrogance.

(37) But I, as my kindred, give up both body and soul for the laws of our fathers, calling upon God that he may speedily become gracious to the nation; and that you amidst trials and plagues may confess that he alone is God;

(38) and that in me and my kindred you may stay the wrath of the Almighty, which has been justly brought upon our whole race.

(39) But the king, falling into a rage, handled him worse than all the rest, being exasperated at his mocking.

(40) So he also died pure from pollution, putting his whole trust in the Lord.

(41) And last of all after her sons the mother died.

(42) Let it then suffice to have said thus much concerning the enforcement of sacrificial feasts and the king's exceeding barbarities.

### **2 Maccabees 8**

(1) But Judas, who is also called Maccabaeus, and those who were with him, making their way privily into the villages, called to them their kinsfolk; and taking to them such as had continued in the Jews' religion, gathered together as many as six thousand.

(2) And they called upon the Lord, beseeching him to look upon the people that was oppressed by all; and to have compassion on the sanctuary also that had been profaned by the ungodly men;

(3) and to have pity on the city also that was suffering ruin and ready to be made even even with the ground; and to listen to the blood that cried to him;

(4) and to remember also the lawless slaughter of the innocent infants, and the blasphemies that had been committed against his name; and to show his hatred of wickedness.

(5) And when Maccabaeus had trained his men for service, the heathen at once found him irresistible, for that the wrath of the Lord was turned into pity.

(6) And coming unawares he set fire to cities and villages. And in winning back the most important positions, putting to flight no small number of the enemies,

(7) he specially took advantage of the nights for such assaults. And his courage was loudly talked of everywhere.

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(8) But when Philip saw the man gaining ground by little and little, and increasing more and more in his prosperity, he wrote to Ptolemy, the governor of Coelesyria and Phoenicia, that he should support the king's cause.

(9) And Ptolemy quickly appointed Nicanor the son of Patroclus, one of the king's Chief Friends, and sent him, in command of no fewer than twenty thousand of all nations, to destroy the whole race of Judea; and with him he joined Gorgias also, a captain and one that had experience in matters of war.

(10) And Nicanor undertook by the sale of the captive Jews to make up for the king the tribute of two thousand talents which he was to pay to the Romans.

(11) And immediately he sent to the cities upon the sea coast, inviting them to buy Jewish slaves, promising to allow fourscore and ten slaves for a talent, not expecting the judgement that was to follow upon him from the Almighty.

(12) But tidings came to Judas concerning the inroad of Nicanor; and when he communicated to those who were with him the presence of the army,

(13) those who were cowardly and distrustful of the judgement of God ran away and left the country.

(14) And others sold all that was left over to them, and withal implored the Lord to deliver those who had been sold as slaves by the impious Nicanor or ever he met them;

(15) and this, if not for their own sakes, yet for the covenants made with their fathers, and because he had called them by his reverend and glorious name.

(16) And Maccabaeus gathered his men together, six thousand in number, and exhorted them not to be stricken with dismay at the enemy, nor to fear the great multitude of the heathen who came wrongfully against them; but to contend nobly,

(17) setting before their eyes the outrage that had been lawlessly perpetrated upon the holy place, and the shameful handling of the city that had been turned to mockery, and further the overthrow of the mode of life received from their ancestors.

(18) For they, said he, trust to arms, and withal to deeds of daring; but we trust on the almighty God, since he is able at a beck to cast down those who are coming against us, and even the whole world.

(19) And moreover he recounted to them the help given from time to time in the days of their ancestors, both the help given in the days of Sennacherib, how that a hundred fourscore and five thousand perished,

(20) and the help given in the land of Babylon, even the battle that was fought against the Gauls, how that they came to the engagement eight thousand in all, with four thousand Macedonians, and how that, the Macedonians being hard pressed, the six thousand destroyed the hundred and twenty thousand, because of the succour which they had from heaven, and took great booty.

(21) And when he had with these words made them of good courage, and ready to die for the laws and their country, he divided his army into four parts;

(22) appointing his kindred to be with himself leaders of the several bands, to wit, Simon and Joseph and Jonathan, giving each the command of fifteen hundred men,

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(23) and moreover Eleazer also: then, having read aloud the sacred book, and having given as watchword, THE HELP OF GOD, leading the first band himself, he joined battle with Nicanor.

(24) And, since the Almighty fought on their side, they killed of the enemy above nine thousand, and wounded and disabled the more part of Nicanor's army, and compelled all to flee:

(25) and they took the money of those that had come there to buy them. And after they had pursued them for some distance, they returned, being constrained by the time of the day;

(26) for it was the day before the Sabbath, and for this cause they made no effort to chase them far.

(27) And when they had gathered the arms of the enemy together, and had stripped off their spoils, they occupied themselves about the Sabbath, blessing and thanking the Lord exceedingly, who had saved them to this day, for that he had caused a beginning of mercy to distil upon them.

(28) And after the Sabbath, when they had given of the spoils to the maimed, and to the widows and orphans, the residue they distributed among themselves and their children.

(29) And when they had accomplished these things, and had made a common supplication, they implored the merciful Lord to be wholly reconciled with his servants.

(30) And having had an encounter with the forces of Timotheus and Bacchides, they killed above twenty thousand of them, and made themselves masters of strongholds exceeding high, and divided very much plunder, giving the maimed and orphans and widows, and moreover the aged also, an equal share with themselves.

(31) And when they had gathered the arms of the enemy together, they stored them all up carefully in the most important positions, and the residue of the spoils they carried to Jerusalem.

(32) And they killed the phylarch of Timotheus's forces, a most unholy man, and one who had done the Jews much hurt.

(33) And as they kept the feast of victory in the city of their fathers, they burned those that had set the sacred gates on fire, and among them Callisthenes, who had fled into an outhouse; and so they received the meet reward of their impiety.

(34) And the thrice-accursed Nicanor, who had brought the thousand merchants to buy the Jews for slaves,

(35) being through the help of the Lord humbled by them who in his eyes were held to be of least account, put off his glorious apparel, and passing through the midland, shunning all company like a fugitive slave, arrived at Antioch, having, as he thought, had the greatest possible good fortune, though his army was destroyed.

(36) And he that had taken upon him to make tribute sure for the Romans by the captivity of the men of Jerusalem published abroad that the Jews had One who

fought for them, and that because this was so the Jews were invulnerable, because they followed the laws ordained by him.

## **2 Maccabees 9**

(1) Now about that time it befell that Antiochus had returned in disorder from the region of Persia.

(2) For he had entered into the city called Persepolis, and he assayed to rob a temple and to hold down the city. Whereupon there was an onset of the multitudes, and Antiochus and his men turned to make defence with arms; and it came to pass that Antiochus was put to flight by the people of the country and broke up his camp with disgrace.

(3) And while he was at Ecbatana, news was brought him what had happened to Nicanor and the forces of Timotheus.

(4) And being lifted up by his passion he thought to make the Jews suffer even for the evil-doing of those that had put him to rout. Wherefore, the judgement from heaven even now accompanying him, he gave order to his charioteer to drive without ceasing and despatch the journey; for thus he arrogantly spoke: I will make Jerusalem a common graveyard of Jews, when I come there.

(5) But the All-seeing Lord, the God of Israel, struck him with a fatal and invisible stroke; and as soon as he had ceased speaking this word, an incurable pain of the bowels seized him, and bitter torments of the inner parts;

(6) and that most justly, for he had tormented other men's bowels with many and strange sufferings.

(7) But he in no wise ceased from his rude insolence; nay, still more was he filled with arrogancy, breathing fire in his passion against the Jews, and commanding to haste the journey. But it came to pass moreover that he fell from his chariot as it rushed along, and having a grievous fall was racked in all the members of his body.

(8) And he that but now supposed himself to have the waves of the sea at his bidding, so vainglorious was he beyond the condition of a man, and that thought to weigh the heights of the mountains in a balance, was now brought to the ground and carried in a litter, showing to all that the power was manifestly God's;

(9) so that out of the body of the impious man worms swarmed, and while he was still living in anguish and pains, his flesh fell off, and by reason of the stench all the army turned with loathing from his corruption.

(10) And the man that a little before supposed himself to touch the stars of heaven, no one could endure to carry for his intolerable stench.

(11) Hereupon therefore he began in great part to cease from his arrogancy, being broken in spirit, and to come to knowledge under the scourge of God, his pains increasing every moment.

(12) And when he himself could not abide his own smell, he said these words: It is right to be subject to God, and that one who is mortal should not be minded arrogantly.

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(13) And the vile man vowed to the sovereign Lord, who now no more would have pity upon him, saying on this wise:

(14) that the holy city, to the which he was going in haste, to lay it even with the ground and to make it a common graveyard, he would declare free;

(15) and as touching the Jews, whom he had decided not even to count worthy of burial, but to cast them out to the beasts with their infants, for the birds to devour, he would make them all equal to citizens of Athens;

(16) and the holy sanctuary, which before he had plundered, he would adorn with goodliest offerings, and would restore all the sacred vessels many times multiplied, and out of his own revenues would defray the charges that were required for the sacrifices;

(17) and, beside all this, that he would become a Jew, and would visit every inhabited place, publishing abroad the might of God.

(18) But when his sufferings did in no wise cease, for the judgement of God had come upon him in righteousness, having given up all hope of himself, he wrote to the Jews the letter written below, having the nature of a supplication, to this effect:

(19) To the worthy Jews, his fellow-citizens, Antiochus, king and general, wishes much joy and health and prosperity.

(20) May you and your children fare well; and your affairs shall be to your mind. Having my hope in heaven,

(21) I remembered with affection your honor and good will toward me. Returning out of the region of Persia, and being taken with a noisome sickness, I deemed it necessary to take thought for the common safety of all,

(22) not despairing of myself, but having great hope to escape from the sickness.

(23) But considering that my father also, at what time he led an army into the upper country, appointed his successor,

(24) to the end that, if anything fell out contrary to expectation, or if any unwelcome tidings were brought, they that remained in the country, knowing to whom the state had been left, might not be troubled;

(25) and, beside all this, observing how that the princes that are borderers and neighbors to my kingdom watch opportunities, and look for the future event, I have appointed my son Antiochus to be king, whom I often committed and commended to most of you, when I was hastening to the upper provinces; and I have written to him what is written below.

(26) I exhort you therefore and beseech you, having in your remembrance the benefits done to you in common and severally, to preserve each of you your present good will toward me and my son.

(27) For I am persuaded that he in gentleness and kindness will follow my purpose and treat you with indulgence.

(28) So the murderer and blasphemer, having endured the sorest sufferings, even as he had dealt with other men, ended his life among the mountains by a most piteous fate in a strange land.



(29) And Philip his foster-brother conveyed the body home; and then, fearing the son of Antiochus, he betook himself to Ptolemy Philometor in Egypt.

## **2 Maccabees 10**

(1) And Maccabaeus and those who were with him, the Lord leading them on, recovered the temple and the city;

(2) and they pulled down the altars that had been built in the marketplace by the aliens, and also the walls of sacred enclosures.

(3) And having cleansed the sanctuary they made another altar of sacrifice; and striking stones and taking fire out of them, they offered sacrifices, after they had ceased for two years, and burned incense, and lighted lamps, and set forth the show bread.

(4) And when they had done these things, they fell prostrate and implored the Lord that they might fall no more into such evils; but that, if ever they should sin, they might be chastened by him with forbearance, and not be delivered to blaspheming and barbarous heathen.

(5) Now on the same day that the sanctuary was profaned by aliens, upon that very day did it come to pass that the cleansing of the sanctuary was made, even on the five and twentieth day of the same month, which is Kislev.

(6) And they kept eight days with gladness in the manner of the feast of tabernacles, remembering how that not long before, during the feast of tabernacles, they were wandering in the mountains and in the caves after the manner of wild beasts.

(7) Wherefore bearing wands wreathed with leaves, and fair boughs, and palms also, they offered up hymns of thanksgiving to him that had prosperously brought to pass the cleansing of his own place.

(8) They ordained also with a common statute and decree, for all the nation of the Jews, that they should keep these days every year.

(9) And such was the end of Antiochus, who was called Epiphanes.

(10) But now will we declare what came to pass under Antiochus named Eupator, who proved himself a true son of that ungodly man, and will gather up briefly the successive evils of the wars.

(11) For this man, when he succeeded to the kingdom, appointed one Lysias to be chancellor, and supreme governor of Coelesyria and Phoenicia.

(12) For Ptolemy that was called Macron, setting an example of observing justice toward the Jews because of the wrong that had been done to them, endeavoured to conduct his dealings with them on peaceful terms.

(13) Whereupon being accused by the king's Friends before Eupator, and hearing himself called traitor at every turn, because he had abandoned Cyprus which Philometor had intrusted to him, and had withdrawn himself to Antiochus called Epiphanes, and failing to uphold the honor of his office, he took poison and made away with himself.

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(14) But Gorgias, when he was made governor of the district, maintained a force of mercenaries, and at every turn kept up war with the Jews.

(15) And together with him the Idumaeans also, being masters of important strongholds, harassed the Jews; and receiving to them those that had taken refuge there from Jerusalem, they assayed to keep up war.

(16) But Maccabaeus and his men, having made solemn supplication and implored God to fight on their side, rushed upon the strongholds of the Idumaeans;

(17) and assaulting them vigorously they made themselves masters of the positions, and kept off all that fought upon the wall, and killed those that fell in their way, and killed no fewer than twenty thousand.

(18) And because no less than nine thousand were fled into two towers exceeding strong and having all things needed for a siege,

(19) Maccabaeus, having left Simon and Joseph, and Zacchaeus besides and those who were with him, a force sufficient to besiege them, departed himself to places where he was most needed.

(20) But Simon and those who were with him, yielding to covetousness, were bribed by certain of those that were in the towers, and receiving seventy thousand drachmas let some of them slip away.

(21) But when word was brought to Maccabaeus of what was done, he gathered the leaders of the people together, and accused those men of having sold their kindred for money, by setting their enemies free to fight against them.

(22) So he killed these men for having turned traitors, and forthwith took possession of the two towers.

(23) And prospering with his arms in all things he took in hand, he destroyed in the two strongholds more than twenty thousand.

(24) Now Timotheus, who had been before defeated by the Jews, having gathered together foreign forces in great multitudes, and having collected the horsemen which belonged to Asia, not a few, came as though he would take Judea by force of arms.

(25) But as he drew near, Maccabaeus and his men sprinkled earth upon their heads and girded their loins with sackcloth, in supplication to God,

(26) and falling down upon the step in front of the altar, implored him to become gracious to them, and be an enemy to their enemies and an adversary to their adversaries, as the law declares.

(27) And rising from their prayer they took up their arms, and advanced some distance from the city; and when they had come near to their enemies they halted.

(28) And when the dawn was now spreading, the two armies joined battle; the one part having this, beside their virtue, for a pledge of success and victory, that they had fled to the Lord for refuge, the others making their passion their leader in the strife.

(29) But when the battle waxed strong, there appeared out of heaven to their adversaries five men on horses with bridles of gold, in splendid array; and two of them, leading on the Jews,

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(30) and taking Maccabaeus in the midst of them, and covering him with their own armor, guarded him from wounds, while on the adversaries they shot forth arrows and thunderbolts; by reason whereof they were blinded and thrown into confusion, and were cut to pieces, filled with bewilderment.

(31) And there were slain twenty thousand and five hundred, beside six hundred horsemen.

(32) But Timotheus himself fled into a stronghold called Gazara, a fortress of exceeding strength, Chaereas being in command there.

(33) But Maccabaeus and his men were glad and laid siege to the fortress four and twenty days.

(34) And those who were within, trusting to the strength of the place, blasphemed exceedingly, and hurled forth impious words.

(35) But at dawn of the five and twentieth day certain young men of the company of Maccabaeus, inflamed with passion because of the blasphemies, assaulted the wall with masculine force and with furious passion, and cut down whoever came in their way.

(36) And others climbing up in like manner, while the besieged were distracted with them that had made their way within, set fire to the towers, and kindling fires burned the blasphemers alive; while others broke open the gates, and, having given entrance to the rest of the band, occupied the city.

(37) And they killed Timotheus, who was hidden in a cistern, and his brother Chaereas, and Apollophanes.

(38) And when they had accomplished these things, they blessed the Lord with hymns and thanksgivings, him who does great benefits to Israel, and gives them the victory.