

THE SECOND BOOK OF THE MACCABEES

¹ The brethren, the Jews that are in Jerusalem and they that are in the country of Judea, send greeting to the brethren, the Jews that are throughout Egypt, *and wish them* good peace: ² and may God do good unto 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 hearken 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 unto you in the tribulation and in the extremity that hath 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 besought the Lord, and were heard; and we offered sacrifice and meal *offering*, and we lighted the lamps, and we set forth the showbread. ⁹ And now *see* that ye keep the days of the feast of tabernacles of the month Chislev. ¹⁰ *Written* in the hundred fourscore and eighth year.

They that are in Jerusalem and they that are in Judea and the senate and Judas, unto Aristobulus, king Ptolemy's teacher, who is also of the stock of the anointed priests, and unto 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 them that arrayed themselves *against us* in the holy city. 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 Nanea by the treachery of Nanea'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 Nanea's temple had set the treasures forth, and he was come there with a small company within the wall of the precincts, they shut the temple when Antiochus was come in: ¹⁶ and opening the secret door of the paneled ceiling, they threw stones and struck down the prince, and they hewed *him and his company* in pieces, and smote off their heads, and cast them to those that were without. ¹⁷ Blessed *be* our God in all things, who gave *for a prey* them that had committed impiety.

¹⁸ Whereas we are now about to keep the purification of the temple in the *month* Chislev, on the five and twentieth day, we thought it necessary to certify you thereof, that ye 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 hidden 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 art terrible and strong and righteous and merciful, who alone art King and gracious, ²⁵ who alone suppliest *every need*, who alone art righteous and almighty and eternal, thou that savest Israel out of all evil, who madest

the fathers *thy* chosen, and didst sanctify them: ²⁶ accept the sacrifice for all thy people Israel, and guard thine own portion, and consecrate it. ²⁷ Gather together our Dispersion, set at liberty them that are in bondage among the heathen, look upon them that are despised and abhorred, and let the heathen know that thou art our God. ²⁸ Torment them that oppress us and in arrogancy shamefully treat us. ²⁹ Plant thy people in thy 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 over against 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 hidden the fire, there appeared the water; wherewith also Nehemiah and they that 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 they that were with him called this thing Nephthar, which is by interpretation, Cleansing; but most men call it Naphtha.

2

¹ It is also found in the records, that Jeremiah

the prophet commanded them that were carried away to take of the fire, as hath been signified *above*: ² and how that the prophet charged them that 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 beheld 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, Yea 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 shown with Moses; as also Solomon besought that the place might be consecrated greatly, 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 unto 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 ye have need thereof, send some to fetch them unto you.

¹⁶ Seeing then that we are about to keep the purification, we write unto you; ye will therefore do well if ye 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 unto the holy place: for he delivered us out of great evils, and purified the place.

¹⁹ Now the things concerning Judas Maccabeus and his brethren, 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 unto 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 unto 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 awaiteth them that 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 unto him that prepareth a banquet, and seeketh 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 master builder of a new house must care for the whole structure, and again he that undertaketh 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, becometh the first author of the history: ³¹ but to strive after brevity of expression, and to avoid a labored fullness in the treatment, is to be granted to him that would bring a writing into a new form. ³² Here then let us begin the narration, only adding thus much to that which hath been already said; for it is a foolish thing to make a long prologue to the history, and to abridge the history *itself*.

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 gat him to Apollonius *the son* of Thraseus, 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 did not 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, 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 unto 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 whosoever 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 shown to them that looked upon him. ¹⁸ And they that 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 entrusted *to them* safe and sure for those that had entrusted them, ²³ Heliodorus went on to execute that

which had been decreed. ²⁴ But when he was already present there with his guards over against 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 smote 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 unto 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 unto the ground, and great darkness had come over him, *his guards* caught him up and put him into a litter, 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 afore was full of terror and alarm, was filled with joy and gladness after the Almighty Lord appeared.

³¹ But quickly certain of Heliodorus' familiar friends besought 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 propitiation, 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 hath granted thee life; ³⁴ and do thou, since thou hast been scourged from heaven, publish unto 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 unto the Lord and vowed great vows unto him that had saved his life, and having graciously received Onias, returned with his host to the king. ³⁶ And he testified to all men the works of the great God which he had beheld 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 thou hast any enemy or conspirator against the state, send him thither, and thou shalt 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 hath his dwelling in heaven himself hath his eyes upon that place, and helpeth it; and them that come to hurt it he smiteth and destroyeth.

⁴⁰ And such was the history of Heliodorus and the keeping of the treasury.

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, 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 anymore, 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 unto 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 unto 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 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 shown himself ill affected toward the state, took thought for the security of his realm; wherefore, going *by sea* to Joppa, he traveled 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 unto 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, gat 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 unto 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 favorable 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 reproved him, having withdrawn himself into a sanctuary at Daphne, that lieth 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 suspected *by him*, so persuaded him to come forth of the sanctuary; and forthwith he despatched him without regard of justice. ³⁵ For 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'* purple robe, and rent off his under garments, and when he had led him round through the whole city unto 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 report 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 Auranus, 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 in wild confusion upon Lysimachus and them that 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 they that 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 them that were in power remained still in his office, cleaving to wickedness, as a great conspirator against his fellow citizens.

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 besought that the vision might have been given for good.

⁵ But when a false rumor had arisen that Antiochus was deceased, Jason took not less than a thousand men, and suddenly made an assault upon the city; and they that were upon the wall being routed, and the city being now at length well nigh 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 did not 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 sepulcher 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 slay 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. 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 them that dwelt 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 held 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 did not 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 unto Antioch, thinking in his arrogancy 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 slay 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 them that came forth to the spectacle; and running into the city with the armed men he slew great multitudes. ²⁷ But Judas, who is also *called* Maccabeus, 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.

6

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 Zeus Olympius, and *to call* the *sanctuary* in Gerizim by the name of Zeus the Protector of strangers, even as they were that dwelt in the place. ³ But sore and utterly grievous was the visitation of this evil. ⁴ For

the temple was filled with riot and revelings 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 neighboring 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 slay such as did not 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 burnt 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 straightaway meet with retribution, is a sign of great beneficence. ¹⁴ For in the case of the other nations the Sovereign Lord doth with long-suffering forbear, until that he punish them when they have attained unto 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 unto the height of our sins. ¹⁶ Wherefore he never withdraweth his mercy from us; but though he chasteneth with calamity, yet doth 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.

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 they that 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 besought 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 unto Hades. ²⁴ For it becometh 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 unto 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 mine 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 mine old age, ²⁸ and leave behind a noble example 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 straightaway to the instrument of torture. ²⁹ And when they changed the good will they 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 hath 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 example of nobleness and a memorial of virtue, not only to the young but also to the great body of his nation.

7

¹ And it came to pass that seven brethren 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 wouldest thou 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 brethren 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 beholdeth, and in truth is entreated for us, as Moses declared in

his song, which witnesseth 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 thou eat, before thy 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, Thou, miscreant, dost release us out of this present life, but the King of the world shall raise up us, who have died for his laws, unto 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 they that 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 unto 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 thee, thou shalt have no resurrection unto life.

¹⁵ And next after him they brought the fifth, and shamefully handled him. ¹⁶ But he looked toward the king and said, Because thou hast authority among men, though thou art *thyself* corruptible, thou doest what thou wilt; yet think not that our race hath been forsaken of God; ¹⁷ but hold thou on thy way, and behold his sovereign majesty, how it will torture thee and thy seed.

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 thou that thou shalt 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 unto them, ²² I know not how ye 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 giveth back to you again both your spirit and your life, as ye 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 did not 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 entrust him with affairs. ²⁵ But when the young man would in no wise give heed, the king called unto 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 spake thus in the language of her fathers: My son, have pity upon me that carried thee nine months in my womb, and gave thee suck three years, and nourished and brought thee up unto this age, and sustained thee. ²⁸ I beseech thee, my child, to lift thine eyes unto 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 cometh into being. ²⁹ Fear not this butcher, but, proving thyself worthy of thy brethren, accept thy death, that in the mercy *of God* I may receive thee again with thy brethren.

³⁰ But before she had yet ended speaking, the young man said, Whom wait ye for? I obey not the commandment of the king, but I hearken to the commandment of the law that was given to

our fathers through Moses. ³¹ But thou, that hast devised all manner of evil against the Hebrews, shalt in no wise escape the hands of God. ³² For we are suffering because of our own sins; ³³ and if for rebuke and chastening our living Lord hath been angered a little while, yet shall he again be reconciled with his own servants. ³⁴ But thou, O unholy man and of all most vile, be not vainly lifted up in thy wild pride with uncertain hopes, raising thy hand against the heavenly children; ³⁵ For not yet hast thou escaped the judgment of the Almighty God that seeth *all things*. ³⁶ For these our brethren, having endured a short pain that bringeth everlasting life, have now died under God's covenant; but thou, through the judgment of God, shalt receive in just measure the penalties of thine arrogancy. ³⁷ But I, as my brethren, 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 thou amid trials and plagues mayest confess that he alone is God; ³⁸ and that in me and my brethren thou mayest stay the wrath of the Almighty, which hath 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.

8

¹ But Judas, who is also *called* Maccabeus, and they that were with him, making their way privily into the villages, called unto them their kinsfolk; and taking unto them such as had continued in the Jews' religion, gathered together as many as six thousand. ² And they called upon the Lord, *beseeking 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 with the ground; and to hearken to the blood that cried unto 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 Maccabeus 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 especially took advantage of the nights for such assaults. And his courage was loudly talked of everywhere.

⁸ But when Philip saw the man gaining ground by little and little, and increasing more and more in his prosperity, he wrote unto 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 unto the cities upon the seacoast, inviting them to buy Jewish slaves, promising to allow fourscore and ten slaves for a talent, not expecting the judgment 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 them that were with him the presence of the army, ¹³ they that were cowardly and distrustful of the judgment of God ran away and left the country. ¹⁴ And others sold all that was left over to them, and withal besought the Lord to deliver them that 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 Maccabeus 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 them that are coming against us, and even the whole world. ¹⁹ And moreover he recounted unto 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 eight thousand destroyed the hundred and twenty thousand, because of the succor 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 brethren to be with himself leaders of the several bands, *to wit*, Simon and Joseph and Jonathan, giving each the command of fifteen hundred men, 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 slew 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 unto this day, for that he had caused a beginning of mercy to distill 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 besought the merciful Lord to be wholly reconciled with his servants.

³⁰ And having had an encounter with the forces of Timothy 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 Timothy'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 host 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.

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 defense 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 unto Nicanor and the forces of Timothy. ⁴ And being lifted up by his passion he thought to make the Jews suffer even for the evildoing of those that had put him to rout. Wherefore, the judgment from heaven even now accompanying him, he gave order to his charioteer to drive without ceasing and despatch the journey; for thus he arrogantly spake: I will make Jerusalem a common graveyard of Jews, when I come there. ⁵ But the All-seeing Lord, the God of Israel, smote 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 hasten 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 unto 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 afore 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 arrogance, 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 unto God, and that one who is mortal should not be minded arrogantly. ¹³ And the vile man vowed unto the sovereign Lord, who now no more would have pity upon him, saying on this wise: ¹⁴ that the holy city, to 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 judgment of God had come upon him in righteousness, having given up all hope of himself, he wrote unto 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, wisheth much joy and health and prosperity. ²⁰ May ye 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 unto 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 unto 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.

10

¹ And Maccabeus and they that 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 showbread. ⁴ And when they had done these things, they fell prostrate and besought 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 unto 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 Chisleu. ⁶ And they kept eight days with gladness in the manner *of the feast* of tabernacles, remembering how that not long afore, 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 unto them, endeavored 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 entrusted to him, and had withdrawn himself unto Antiochus *called* Epiphanes, and failing to uphold the honor of his office, he took poison and made away with himself.

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 Idumeans also, being masters of important strongholds, harassed the Jews; and receiving unto them those that had taken refuge *there* from Jerusalem, they assayed to keep up war. ¹⁶ But Maccabeus and his men, having made solemn supplication and besought God to fight on their side, rushed upon the strongholds of the Idumeans; ¹⁷ and assaulting them vigorously they made themselves masters of the positions, and kept off all that fought upon the wall, and slew 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 Maccabeus, having left Simon and Joseph, and Zacchaeus besides and them that were with him, a force sufficient to besiege them, departed himself unto places where he was most needed. ²⁰ But Simon and they that 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 Maccabeus of what was done, he gathered the

leaders of the people together, and accused *those men* of having sold their brethren for money, by setting their enemies free *to fight* against them. ²² So he slew 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 Timothy, who had been before defeated by the Jews, having gathered together foreign forces in great multitudes, and having collected the horsemen who belonged to Asia, not a few, came as though he would take Judea by force of arms. ²⁵ But as he drew near, Maccabeus 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, besought him to become gracious to them, and be an enemy to their enemies and an adversary to their adversaries, as the law declareth. 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 unto 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 unto their adversaries five men on horses with bridles of gold, *in splendid array*; and two of them, leading on the Jews, ³⁰ and

taking Maccabeus 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 Timothy himself fled into a stronghold called Gazara, a fortress of exceeding strength, Chaereas being in command there. ³³ But Maccabeus and his men were glad and laid siege to the fortress four and twenty days. ³⁴ And they that 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 Maccabeus, inflamed with passion because of the blasphemies, assaulted the wall with masculine force and with furious passion, and cut down whosoever 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 slew Timothy, 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 doeth

great benefits unto Israel, and giveth them the victory.

11

¹ Now after a very little time Lysias, the king's guardian and kinsman and chancellor, being sore displeased for the things that had come to pass, ² collected about fourscore thousand *footmen* and all his horsemen and came against the Jews, thinking to make the city a place for Greeks to dwell in, ³ and to levy tribute on the temple, as on the other sacred places of the nations, and to put up the high priesthood to sale every year; ⁴ holding in no account the might of God, but puffed up with his ten thousands of footmen, and his thousands of horsemen, and his fourscore elephants. ⁵ And coming into Judea and drawing near to Beth-zur, which was a strong place and distant from Jerusalem about five leagues, he pressed it hard. ⁶ But when Maccabeus and his men learned that he was besieging the strongholds, they and all the people with lamentations and tears made supplication unto the Lord to send a good angel to save Israel. ⁷ And Maccabeus himself took up arms first, and exhorted the others to jeopard themselves together with him and succor their brethren; and they sallied forth with him right willingly. ⁸ And as they were there, close to Jerusalem, there appeared at their head one on horseback in white apparel, brandishing weapons of gold. ⁹ And they all together praised the merciful God, and were yet more strengthened in heart: being

ready to assail not men only but the wildest beasts, and walls of iron, ¹⁰ they advanced in array, having him that is in heaven to fight on their side, for the Lord had mercy on them. ¹¹ And hurling *themselves* like lions upon the enemy, they slew of them eleven thousand *footmen* and sixteen hundred horsemen, and forced all *the rest* to flee. ¹² But the more part of them escaped wounded *and* naked; and Lysias also himself escaped by shameful flight. ¹³ But as he was a man not void of understanding, weighing with himself the defeat which had befallen him, and considering that the Hebrews could not be overcome, because the Almighty God fought on their side, he sent again *unto them*, ¹⁴ and persuaded them to come to terms on condition that all their rights were acknowledged, and *promised* that he would also persuade the king to become their friend. ¹⁵ And Maccabeus gave consent upon all the conditions which Lysias proposed to him, being careful of the *common* good; for whatsoever *requests* Maccabeus delivered in writing unto Lysias concerning the Jews the king allowed. ¹⁶ For the letters written unto the Jews from Lysias were to this effect:

Lysias unto the people of the Jews, greeting. ¹⁷ John and Absalom, who were sent from you, having delivered the petition written below, made request concerning the things signified therein. ¹⁸ What things soever therefore had need to be brought before the king I declared *to him*, and what things were possible he allowed.

¹⁹ If then ye will preserve your good will toward the state, henceforward also will I endeavor to contribute to *your* good. ²⁰ And on this behalf I have given order in detail, both to these men and to those *that are sent* from me, to confer with you. ²¹ Fare ye well. *Written* in the hundred forty and eighth year, on the four and twentieth day of *the month* Dioscorinthius.

²² And the king's letter was in these words:

King Antiochus unto his brother Lysias, greeting. ²³ Seeing that our father passed unto the gods having the wish that the subjects of his kingdom should be undisturbed and give themselves to the care of their own affairs, ²⁴ we, having heard that the Jews do not consent to our father's purpose to turn them unto the *customs* of the Greeks, but choose rather their own manner of living, and make request that the *customs* of their law be allowed unto them—²⁵ choosing therefore that this nation also should be free from disturbance, we determine that their temple be restored to them, and that they live according to the customs that were in the days of their ancestors. ²⁶ Thou wilt therefore do well to send *messengers* unto them and give them the right hand of *friendship*, that they, knowing our mind, may be of good heart, and gladly occupy themselves with the conduct of their own affairs.

²⁷ And unto the nation the king's letter was after this manner:

King Antiochus to the senate of the Jews and to the other Jews, greeting. ²⁸ If ye fare well,

we have our desire: we ourselves also are in good health. ²⁹ Menelaus informed us that your desire was to return home and follow your own business. ³⁰ They therefore that depart home up to the thirtieth day of Xanthicus shall have *our* friendship, with full permission ³¹ that the Jews use their own *proper* meats and *observe their own* laws, even as heretofore; and none of them shall be in any way molested for the things that have been ignorantly done. ³² Moreover I have sent Menelaus also, that he may encourage you. ³³ Fare ye well. *Written* in the hundred forty and eighth year, on the fifteenth day of Xanthicus. ³⁴ And the Romans also sent unto them a letter in these words:

Quintus Memmius *and* Titus Manius, ambassadors of the Romans, unto the people of the Jews, greeting. ³⁵ In regard to the things which Lysias the king's kinsman granted you, we also give consent. ³⁶ But as for the things which he judged should be referred to the king, send one forthwith, after ye have advised thereof, that we may publish such *decrees* as befit your case; for we are on our way to Antioch. ³⁷ Wherefore send some with speed, that we also may learn what is your mind. ³⁸ Farewell. *Written* in the hundred forty and eighth year, on the fifteenth day of Xanthicus.

12

¹ So when these covenants had been made, Lysias departed unto the king, and the Jews went about their husbandry. ² But *certain* of the

governors of districts, Timothy and Apollonius the son of Gennaesus, and Hieronymus also and Demophon, and beside them Nicanor the governor of Cyprus, would not suffer them to enjoy tranquility and live in peace. ³ And men of Joppa perpetrated this great impiety: they invited the Jews that dwelt among them to go with their wives and children into the boats which they had provided, as though they had no ill will toward them; ⁴ and when the Jews, relying on the common decree of the city, accepted *the invitation*, as men desiring to live in peace and suspecting nothing, they took them out to sea and drowned them, *in number* not less than two hundred. ⁵ But when Judas heard of the cruelty done unto his fellow countrymen, giving command to the men that were with him ⁶ and calling upon God the righteous Judge, he came against the murderers of his brethren, and set the haven on fire by night, and burned the boats, and put to the sword those that had fled thither. ⁷ But when the town was closed *against him*, he withdrew, intending to come again to root out the whole community of the men of Joppa. ⁸ But learning that the men of Jamnia were minded to do in like manner unto the Jews that sojourned among them, ⁹ he fell upon the Jamnites also by night, and set fire to the haven together with the fleet, so that the glare of the light was seen at Jerusalem, two hundred and forty furlongs distant.

¹⁰ Now when they had drawn off nine furlongs from thence, as they marched against Timothy, a

host of Arabians attacked him, no fewer than five thousand *footmen* and five hundred horsemen. ¹¹ And when a sore battle had been fought, and Judas and his company by the help of God had good success, the nomads being overcome besought Judas to grant them friendship, promising to give *him* cattle, and to help his people in all other ways. ¹² So Judas, thinking that they would indeed be profitable in many things, agreed to live in peace with them; and receiving pledges of friendship they departed to their tents. ¹³ And he also fell upon a certain city Gephyrun, strong and fenced about with walls, and inhabited by a mixed multitude of diverse nations; and it was named Caspin. ¹⁴ But they that were within, trusting to the strength of the walls and to their store of provisions, behaved themselves rudely toward Judas and them that were with him, railing, and furthermore blaspheming and speaking impious words. ¹⁵ But Judas and his company, calling upon the great sovereign of the world, who without rams and cunning engines of war hurled down Jericho in the times of Joshua, rushed wildly against the wall; ¹⁶ and having taken the city by the will of God, they made unspeakable slaughter, insomuch that the adjoining lake, which was two furlongs broad, appeared to be filled with the deluge of blood.

¹⁷ And when they had drawn off seven hundred and fifty furlongs from thence, they made their way to Charax, unto the Jews that are called Toubiani. ¹⁸ And Timothy they found not

in occupation of that district, for he had then departed from the district without accomplishing anything, but had left behind a garrison, and that a very strong one, in a certain post. ¹⁹ But Dositheus and Sosipater, who were of Maccabeus' captains, sallied forth and destroyed those that had been left by Timothy in the stronghold, above ten thousand men. ²⁰ And Maccabeus, ranging his own army by bands, set these two over the bands, and marched in haste against Timothy, who had with him a hundred and twenty thousand footmen and two thousand and five hundred horsemen. ²¹ But when Timothy heard of the inroad of Judas, he at once sent away the women and the children and also the baggage into the *fortress* called Carnaim; for the place was hard to besiege and difficult of access by reason of the narrowness of the approaches on all sides. ²² But when the band of Judas, who led the van, appeared in sight, and when terror came upon the enemy and fear, because the manifestation of him who beholdeth all things came upon them, they fled in great haste, carried this way and that, so that they were often hurt of their own men, and pierced with the points of their swords. ²³ And Judas continued the pursuit the more hotly, putting the wicked wretches to the sword, and he destroyed as many as thirty thousand men. ²⁴ But Timothy himself, falling in with the company of Dositheus and Sosipater, besought them with much crafty guile to let him go with his life, because he had *in his power* the parents of many of *them* and

the brethren of some: otherwise, *said he*, little regard will be shown to these. ²⁵ So when he had with many words confirmed the agreement to restore them without hurt, they let him go that they might save their brethren.

²⁶ And *Judas*, marching against Carnaim and the temple of Atargatis, slew five and twenty thousand persons. ²⁷ And after he had put these to flight and destroyed them, he marched against Ephron also, a strong city, wherein were multitudes of people of all nations; and stalwart young men placed on the walls made a vigorous defense; and there were great stores of engines and darts there. ²⁸ But calling upon the Sovereign who with might breaketh in pieces the strength of the enemy, they gat the city into their hands, and slew as many as twenty and five thousand of them that were within. ²⁹ And setting out from thence they marched in haste against Scythopolis, which is distant from Jerusalem six hundred furlongs. ³⁰ But when the Jews that were settled there testified of the good will that the Scythopolitans had shown toward them, and of their kindly bearing *toward them* in the times of their misfortune, ³¹ they gave thanks, and further exhorted them to remain well affected toward the race for the future; and they went up to Jerusalem, the feast of weeks being close to hand.

³² But after the *feast* called Pentecost they marched in haste against Gorgias the governor of Idumea: ³³ and he came out with three thousand footmen and four hundred horsemen. ³⁴ And

when they had set themselves in array, it came to pass that a few of the Jews fell. ³⁵ And a certain Dositheus, one of Bacenor's company, who was on horseback and a strong man, pressed hard on Gorgias, and taking hold of his cloak drew him along by main force; and while he was minded to take the accursed man alive, one of the Thracian horsemen bare down upon him and disabled his shoulder, and so Gorgias escaped unto Marisa. ³⁶ And when they that were with Esdris had been fighting long and were wearied out, Judas called upon the Lord to show himself, fighting on their side and leading the van of the battle; ³⁷ and *then* in the language of his fathers he raised the battle cry joined with hymns, and rushing unawares upon the troops of Gorgias put them to flight.

³⁸ And Judas gathering his army came unto the city of Adullam; and as the seventh day was coming on, they purified themselves according to the custom, and kept the Sabbath there. ³⁹ And on the day following, at which time it had become necessary, Judas and his company came to take up the bodies of them that had fallen, and in company with their kinsmen to bring them back unto the sepulchers of their fathers. ⁴⁰ But under the garments of each one of the dead they found consecrated tokens of the idols of Jamnia, which the law forbiddeth the Jews to have aught to do with; and it became clear to all that it was for this cause that they had fallen. ⁴¹ All therefore, blessing the *works* of the Lord, the righteous Judge, who maketh manifest the

things that are hidden, ⁴² betook themselves unto supplication, beseeching that the sin committed might be wholly blotted out. And the noble Judas exhorted the multitude to keep themselves from sin, forasmuch as they had seen before their eyes what things had come to pass because of the sin of them that had fallen. ⁴³ And when he had made a collection man by man to the sum of two thousand drachmas of silver, he sent unto Jerusalem to offer a sacrifice for sin, doing therein right well and honorably, in that he took thought for a resurrection. ⁴⁴ For if he were not expecting that they that had fallen would rise again, it were superfluous and idle to pray for the dead. ⁴⁵ (And if *he did it* looking unto an honorable memorial of gratitude laid up for them that die in godliness, holy and godly was the thought.) Wherefore he made the propitiation for them that had died, that they might be released from their sin.

13

¹ In the hundred forty and ninth year tidings were brought to Judas and his company that Antiochus Eupator was coming with *great* multitudes against Judea, ² and with him Lysias his guardian and chancellor, each having a Greek force, a hundred and ten thousand footmen, and five thousand and three hundred horsemen, and two and twenty elephants, and three hundred chariots armed with scythes.

³ And Menelaus also joined himself with them, and with great dissimulation encouraged Anti-

ochus, not for the saving of his country, but because he thought that he would be set over the government. ⁴ But the King of kings stirred up the passion of Antiochus against the wicked wretch; and when Lysias informed him that this man was the cause of all the evils, *the king* commanded to bring him unto Berea, and to put him to death after the manner of that place. ⁵ Now there is in that place a tower of fifty cubits high, full of ashes, and it had all round it a gallery descending sheer on every side into the ashes. ⁶ Here him that is guilty of sacrilege, or hath attained a preeminence in any other evil deeds, they all push forward into destruction. ⁷ By such a fate it befell the breaker of the law, Menelaus, to die, without obtaining so much as *a grave in the earth*, and that right justly; ⁸ for inasmuch as he had perpetrated many sins against the altar, whose fire and whose ashes were holy, in ashes did he receive his death.

⁹ Now the king, infuriated in spirit, was coming with intent to inflict on the Jews the very worst of the sufferings that had befallen *them* in his father's time. ¹⁰ But when Judas heard of these things, he gave charge to the multitude to call upon the Lord day and night, *beseeking him*, if ever at any other time, so now to succor them that were at the point to be deprived of the law and their country and the holy temple, ¹¹ and not to suffer the people that had been but now a little while revived to fall into the hands of those profane heathen. ¹² So when they had all done the same thing together, *beseeking the merciful*

Lord with weeping and fastings and prostration for three days without ceasing, Judas exhorted them and commanded they should join him *for service*. ¹³ And having gone apart with the elders he resolved that, before the king's army should enter into Judea and make themselves masters of the city, they should go forth and try the matter *in fight* by the help of God. ¹⁴ And committing the decision to the Lord of the world, and exhorting them that were with him to contend nobly even unto death for laws, temple, city, country, commonwealth, he pitched his camp by Modein. ¹⁵ And given out to his men the watchword, VICTORY IS GOD'S, with a chosen body of the bravest young men he fell upon *the camp* by night and *penetrated* to the king's tent, and slew *of* the army as many as two thousand men, and brought down the chiefest elephant with him that was in the tower upon him. ¹⁶ And at last they filled the army with terror and alarm, and departed with good success. ¹⁷ And this had been accomplished when the day was but now dawning, because of the Lord's protection that gave Judas help.

¹⁸ But the king, having had a taste of the exceeding boldness of the Jews, made attempts by stratagem upon their positions, ¹⁹ and *upon* a strong fortress of the Jews at Beth-zur; he advanced, was turned back, failed, was defeated, ²⁰ And Judas conveyed such things as were necessary unto them that were within. ²¹ But Rhodocus, from the Jewish ranks, made known to the enemy the secrets *of his countrymen*.

He was sought out, and taken, and shut up in prison. ²² The king treated with them in Beth-zur the second time, gave his hand, took theirs, departed, attacked the forces of Judas, was put to the worse, ²³ heard that Philip who had been left as chancellor in Antioch had become reckless, was confounded, made to the Jews an overture of *peace*, submitted himself and swore to acknowledge all their rights, came to terms with them and offered sacrifice, honored the sanctuary and the place, ²⁴ showed kindness and graciously received Maccabeus, left Hege-monides governor from Ptolemais even unto the Gerrenians, ²⁵ came to Ptolemais. The men of Ptolemais were displeased at the treaty, for they had exceeding great indignation *against the Jews*: they desired to annul the articles of the agreement. ²⁶ Lysias came forward to speak, made the best defense that was possible, persuaded, pacified, made them well affected, departed unto Antioch. This was the issue of the inroad and departure of the king.

14

¹ Now after a space of three years tidings were brought to Judas and his company that Demetrius the *son* of Seleucus, having sailed into the haven of Tripolis with a mighty host and a fleet, ² had gotten possession of the country, having made away with Antiochus and Lysias his guardian.

³ But one Alcimus, who had formerly been high priest, and had willfully polluted himself in

the times when there was no mingling *with the Gentiles*, considering that there was no deliverance for him in any way, nor any more access unto the holy altar, ⁴ came to king Demetrius in about the hundred and one and fiftieth year, presenting to him a chaplet of gold and a palm, and beside these *some* of the festal olive boughs of the temple. And for that day he held his peace; ⁵ but having gotten opportunity to further his own madness, being called by Demetrius into a meeting of his council, and asked how the Jews stood affected and what they purposed, he answered thereunto. ⁶ Those of the Jews that he called Hasideans, whose leader is Judas Maccabeus, keep up war, and are seditious, not suffering the kingdom to find tranquility. ⁷ Wherefore, having laid aside mine ancestral glory, I mean the high priesthood, I am now come hither; ⁸ first for the unfeigned care I have for the things that concern the king, and secondly because I have regard also to mine own fellow citizens: for, through the unadvised dealing of those of whom I spake before, our whole race is in no small misfortune. ⁹ But do thou, O king, having informed thyself of these things severally, take thought both for our country and for our race, which is surrounded *by foes*, according to the gracious kindness with which thou receivest all. ¹⁰ For as long as Judas remaineth alive, it is impossible that the state should find peace. ¹¹ And when he had spoken such words as these, at once the rest of the *king's* Friends, having ill

will against Judas, inflamed Demetrius yet more. ¹² And forthwith appointing Nicanor, who had been master of the elephants, and making him governor of Judea, he sent him forth, ¹³ giving him written instructions to make away with Judas himself and to scatter them that were with him, and to set up Alcimus as high priest of the great temple. ¹⁴ And those in Judea that had *before* driven Judas into exile thronged to Nicanor in flocks, supposing that the misfortunes and calamities of the Jews would be successes to themselves.

¹⁵ But when *the Jews* heard of Nicanor's inroad and the assault of the heathen, they sprinkled earth *upon their heads* and made solemn supplication to him who had established his own people forevermore, and who always, making manifest his presence, upholdeth *them that are* his own portion. ¹⁶ And when the leader had given *his* commands, he straightaway setteth out from thence, and joineth battle with them at a village *called* Dessau. ¹⁷ But Simon, the brother of Judas, had encountered Nicanor, yet not till late, having received a check by reason of the sudden consternation caused by his adversaries.

¹⁸ Nevertheless Nicanor, hearing of the manliness of them that were with Judas, and their courage in fighting for their country, shrank from bringing the matter to the decision of the sword. ¹⁹ Wherefore he sent Posidonius and Theodotus and Mattathias to give and receive pledges of friendship. ²⁰ So when these proposals had been long considered, and the leader had

made the troops acquainted therewith, and it appeared that they were all of like mind, they consented to the covenants. ²¹ And they appointed a day on which to meet together by themselves. And a litter was borne forward from each *army*; they set chairs of state; ²² Judas stationed armed men ready in convenient places, lest haply there should suddenly be treachery on the part of the enemy; they held such conference as was meet. ²³ Nicanor tarried in Jerusalem, and did nothing to cause disturbance, but dismissed the flocks of people that had gathered together. ²⁴ And he kept Judas always in his presence; he had gained a hearty affection for the man; ²⁵ he urged him to marry and beget children; he married, settled quietly, took part in common life.

²⁶ But Alcimus, perceiving the good will that was between them, and having gat possession of the covenants that had been made, came unto Demetrius and told him that Nicanor was ill affected toward the state, for he had appointed that conspirator against his kingdom, Judas, to be his successor. ²⁷ And the king, falling into a rage, and being exasperated by the calumnies of that most wicked man, wrote to Nicanor, signifying that he was displeased at the covenants, and commanding him to send Maccabeus prisoner unto Antioch in all haste. ²⁸ And when this message came to Nicanor, he was confounded, and was sore troubled at the thought of annulling the articles that had been agreed upon, the man having done no wrong; ²⁹ but because there was

no dealing against the king, he watched his time to execute this purpose by stratagem. ³⁰ But Maccabeus, when he perceived that Nicanor was behaving more harshly in his dealings with him, and that he had become ruler in his customary bearing, understanding that this harshness came not of good, gathered together not a few of his men, and concealed himself from Nicanor.

³¹ But the other, when he became aware that he had been bravely defeated by the stratagem of Judas, came to the great and holy temple, while the priests were offering the usual sacrifices, and commanded them to deliver up the man. ³² And when they declared with oaths that they had no knowledge where the man was whom he sought, ³³ he stretched forth his right hand toward the sanctuary, and swore this oath: If ye will not deliver up to me Judas as a prisoner, I will lay this temple of God even with the ground, and will break down the altar, and I will erect here a temple unto Bacchus for all to see. ³⁴ And having said this, he departed. But the priests, stretching forth their hands toward heaven, called upon him that ever fighteth for our nation, in these words: ³⁵ Thou, O Lord of the universe, who in thyself hast need of nothing, wast well pleased that a sanctuary of thy habitation should be set among us; ³⁶ so now, O holy Lord of all hallowing, keep undefiled forever this house that hath been lately cleansed.

³⁷ Now information was given to Nicanor against one Razis, an elder of Jerusalem, as being a lover of his countrymen and a man of very

good report, and one called Father of the Jews for his good will *toward them*. ³⁸ For in the former times when there was no mingling *with the Gentiles* he had been accused of *cleaving to the Jews' religion*, and had jeoparded body and life with all earnestness for the religion of the Jews. ³⁹ And Nicanor, wishing to make evident the ill will that he bare unto the Jews, sent above five hundred soldiers to take him; ⁴⁰ for he thought by taking him to inflict a calamity upon them. ⁴¹ But when the troops were on the point of taking the tower, and were forcing the door of the court, and bade bring fire and burn the doors, he being surrounded on every side fell upon his sword, ⁴² choosing rather to die nobly than to fall into the hands of the wicked wretches, and suffer outrage unworthy of his own nobleness: ⁴³ but since he missed his stroke through the excitement of the struggle, and the crowds were now rushing within the door, he ran bravely up to the wall and cast himself down manfully among the crowds. ⁴⁴ But as they quickly gave back, a space was made, and he fell on the middle of his side. ⁴⁵ And having yet breath within him, and being inflamed with passion, he rose up, and though his blood gushed out in streams and his wounds were grievous, he ran through the crowds, and standing upon a steep rock, ⁴⁶ when as his blood was now well nigh spent, he drew forth his bowels *through the wound*, and taking them in both his hands he shook them at the crowds; and calling upon him who is Lord of the life and the spirit to restore

him these again, he thus died.

15

¹ But Nicanor, hearing that Judas and his company were in the region of Samaria, resolved to set upon them with all security on the day of rest. ² And when the Jews that were compelled to follow him said, O destroy not so savagely and barbarously, but give due glory to the day which he that beholdeth all things hath honored and hallowed above *other days*; ³ then the thrice-accursed wretch asked if there were a Sovereign in heaven that had commanded to keep the Sabbath day. ⁴ And when they declared, There is the Lord, living himself a Sovereign in heaven, who bade *us* observe the seventh day; ⁵ then saith the other, I also am a sovereign upon the earth, who *now* command to take up arms and execute the king's business. Nevertheless he prevailed not to execute his cruel purpose.

⁶ And Nicanor, bearing himself haughtily in all vaingloriousness, had determined to set up a monument of complete victory over Judas and all them that were with him: ⁷ but Maccabeus still trusted unceasingly, with all hope that he should obtain help from the Lord. ⁸ And he exhorted his company not to be fearful at the inroad of the heathen, but, keeping in mind the help which of old they had oftentimes received from heaven, so now also to look for the victory which would come unto them from the Almighty; ⁹ and comforting them out of the law and the prophets, and withal putting them in mind of the conflicts

that they had maintained, he made them more eager *for the battle*. ¹⁰ And when he had roused their spirit, he gave them *his* commands, at the same time pointing out the perfidiousness of the heathen and their breach of their oaths. ¹¹ And arming each one of them, not so much with the sure defense of shields and spears as with the encouragement *that lieth* in good words, and moreover relating to them a dream worthy to be believed, he made them all exceeding glad. ¹² And the vision of that *dream* was this: *He saw* Onias, him that was high priest, a noble and good man, reverend in bearing, yet gentle in manner and well-spoken, and exercised from a child in all points of virtue, with outstretched hands invoking *blessings* on the whole body of the Jews: ¹³ thereupon *he saw* a man appear, of venerable age and exceeding glory, and wonderful and most majestic was the dignity around him: ¹⁴ and Onias answered and said, This is the lover of the brethren, he who prayeth much for the people and the holy city, Jeremiah the prophet of God: ¹⁵ and Jeremiah stretching forth his right hand delivered to Judas a sword of gold, and in giving it addressed *him* thus, ¹⁶ Take the holy sword, a gift from God, wherewith thou shalt smite down the adversaries.

¹⁷ And being encouraged by the words of Judas, which were of a lofty strain, and able to incite unto virtue and to stir the souls of the young unto manly courage, they determined not to carry on a campaign, but nobly to bear down upon *the enemy*, and fighting hand to hand with all

courage bring the matter to an issue, because the city and the sanctuary and the temple were in danger. ¹⁸ For their fear for wives and children, and furthermore for brethren and kinsfolk, was in less account with them; but greatest and first was their fear for the consecrated sanctuary. ¹⁹ And they also that were shut up in the city were in no light distress, being troubled because of the encounter in the open ground.

²⁰ And when all were now waiting for the decision of the issue, and the enemy had already joined battle, and the army had been set in array, and the elephants brought back to a convenient post, and the horsemen drawn up on the flank, ²¹ Maccabeus, perceiving the presence of the troops, and the various arms with which they were equipped, and the savageness of the elephants, holding up his hands unto heaven called upon the Lord that worketh wonders, recognizing that *success* cometh not by arms, but that, according as *the Lord* shall judge, he gaineth the victory for them that are worthy. ²² And calling upon *God* he said after this manner: Thou, O Sovereign Lord, didst send thine angel in the time of Hezekiah king of Judea, and he slew of the host of Sennacherib as many as a hundred fourscore and five thousand; ²³ so now also, O Sovereign of the heavens, send a good angel before us to bring terror and trembling: ²⁴ through the greatness of thine arm let them be stricken with dismay that with blasphemy are come hither against thy holy people. And as he ended with these words, ²⁵ Nicanor and

his company advanced with trumpets and battle songs; ²⁶ but Judas and his company joined battle with the enemy with invocation and prayers. ²⁷ And contending with their hands, and praying unto God with their hearts, they slew no less than thirty and five thousand men, being made exceeding glad by the manifestation of God.

²⁸ And when the engagement was over, and they were returning again with joy, they recognized Nicanor lying dead in full armor; ²⁹ and there arose a shout and tumult, and *then* they blessed the Sovereign *Lord* in the language of their fathers. ³⁰ And he that in all things was in body and soul the foremost champion of his fellow citizens, he that kept through life the good will of his youth toward his countrymen, commanded to cut off Nicanor's head, and his hand with the shoulder, and bring them to Jerusalem. ³¹ And when he had arrived there, and had called his countrymen together and set the priests before the altar, he sent for them that were in the citadel; ³² and showing the head of the vile Nicanor, and the hand of that profane man, which with proud brags he had stretched out against the holy house of the Almighty, ³³ and cutting out the tongue of the impious Nicanor, he said that he would give it by pieces to the birds, and hang up the rewards of his madness over against the sanctuary. ³⁴ And they all *looking up* unto heaven blessed the Lord who had manifested himself, saying, Blessed be he that hath preserved his own place undefiled.

³⁵ And he hung Nicanor's head and shoulder from the citadel, a sign, evident unto all and manifest, of the help of the Lord. ³⁶ And they all ordained with a common decree in no wise to let this day pass undistinguished, but to mark with honor the thirteenth day of the twelfth month (it is called Adar in the Syrian tongue), the day before the day of Mordecai.

³⁷ This then having been the issue of the attempt of Nicanor, and the city having from those times been held by the Hebrews, I also will here make an end of my book. ³⁸ And if *I have written* well and to the point in my story, this is what I myself desired; but if meanly and indifferently, this is all I could attain unto. ³⁹ For as it is distasteful to drink wine alone and in like manner again *to drink* water *alone*, while the mingling of wine with water at once giveth full pleasantness to the flavor; so also the fashioning of the language delighteth the ears of them that read the story.

And here shall be the end.

**American Standard Version Byzantine Text
The Holy Bible with Apocrypha, American Standard
Version conformed to the Byzantine Text New
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