

THE FIRST BOOK OF THE MACCABEES

¹ And it came to pass, after that Alexander the Macedonian, the son of Philip, who came out of the land of Kittim, and smote Darius king of the Persians and Medes, *it came to pass*, after he had smitten him, that he reigned in his stead, in former time, over Greece. ² And he fought many battles, and won many strongholds, and slew the kings of the earth, ³ and went through to the ends of the earth, and took spoils of a multitude of nations. And the earth was quiet before him, and he was exalted, and his heart was lifted up, ⁴ and he gathered together an exceeding strong host, and ruled over countries and nations and principalities, and they became tributary unto him. ⁵ And after these things he fell sick, and perceived that he should die. ⁶ And he called his servants, who were honorable, who had been brought up with him from his youth, and he divided unto them his kingdom, while he was yet alive. ⁷ And Alexander reigned twelve years, and he died. ⁸ And his servants bare rule, each one in his place. ⁹ And they did all put diadems upon themselves after that he was dead, and so did their sons after them many years: and they multiplied evils in the earth.

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

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

have befallen us. ¹² And the saying was good in their eyes. ¹³ And certain of the people were forward *herein* and went to the king, and he gave them license to do after the ordinances of the Gentiles. ¹⁴ And they built a place of exercise in Jerusalem according to the laws of the Gentiles; ¹⁵ and they made themselves uncircumcised, and forsook the holy covenant, and joined themselves to the Gentiles, and sold themselves to do evil.

¹⁶ And the kingdom was well ordered in the sight of Antiochus, and he thought to reign over Egypt, that he might reign over the two kingdoms. ¹⁷ And he entered into Egypt with a great multitude, with chariots, and with elephants, and with horsemen, and with a great navy; ¹⁸ and he made war against Ptolemy king of Egypt; and Ptolemy was put to shame before him, and fled; and many fell wounded to death. ¹⁹ And they gat possession of the strong cities in the land of Egypt; and he took the spoils of Egypt.

²⁰ And Antiochus, after that he had smitten Egypt, returned in the hundred and forty and third year, and went up against Israel and Jerusalem with a great multitude, ²¹ and entered presumptuously into the sanctuary, and took the golden altar, and the candlestick of the light, and all that pertained thereto, ²² and the table of the showbread, and the cups to pour withal, and the bowls, and the golden censers, and the veil, and the crowns, and the adorning of gold which was on the face of the temple, and he scaled it all off. ²³ And he took the silver and the gold and the precious vessels; and he took the hidden treasures which he found. ²⁴ And when he had taken all, he went away into his own land, and he made a great slaughter, and spake very presumptuously. ²⁵ And there came great mourning upon Israel, in every place

where they were; ²⁶ and the rulers and elders groaned, the virgins and young men were made feeble, and the beauty of the women was changed. ²⁷ Every bridegroom took up lamentation, she that sat in the marriage chamber was in heaviness. ²⁸ And the land was moved for the inhabitants thereof, and all the house of Jacob was clothed with shame.

²⁹ And after two full years the king sent a chief collector of tribute unto the cities of Judah, and he came unto Jerusalem with a great multitude. ³⁰ And he spake words of peace unto them in subtlety, and they gave him credence: and he fell upon the city suddenly, and smote it very sore, and destroyed much people out of Israel. ³¹ And he took the spoils of the city, and set it on fire, and pulled down the houses thereof and the walls thereof on every side. ³² And they led captive the women and the children, and the cattle they took in possession. ³³ And they built the city of David with a great and strong wall, with strong towers, and it became unto them a citadel. ³⁴ And they put there a sinful nation, transgressors of the law, and they strengthened themselves therein. ³⁵ And they stored up arms and victuals, and gathering together the spoils of Jerusalem, they laid them up there, and they became a sore snare: ³⁶ and it became a place to lie in wait in against the sanctuary, and an evil adversary to Israel continually. ³⁷ And they shed innocent blood on every side of the sanctuary, and defiled the sanctuary. ³⁸ And the inhabitants of Jerusalem fled because of them; and she became a habitation of strangers, and she became strange to them that were born in her, and her children forsook her. ³⁹ Her sanctuary was laid waste like a wilderness, her feasts were turned into mourning, her Sabbaths into reproach, her honor into contempt. ⁴⁰ According to her

glory, so was her dishonor multiplied, and her high estate was turned into mourning.

⁴¹ And king Antiochus wrote to his whole kingdom, that all should be one people, ⁴² and that each should forsake his own laws. And all the nations agreed according to the word of the king; ⁴³ and many of Israel consented to his worship, and sacrificed to the idols, and profaned the Sabbath. ⁴⁴ And the king sent letters by the hand of messengers unto Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, that they should follow laws strange to the land, ⁴⁵ and should forbid whole burnt offerings and sacrifice and drink offerings in the sanctuary; and should profane the Sabbaths and feasts, ⁴⁶ and pollute the sanctuary and them that were holy; ⁴⁷ that they should build altars, and temples, and shrines for idols, and should sacrifice swine's flesh and unclean beasts: ⁴⁸ and that they should leave their sons uncircumcised, that they should make their souls abominable with all manner of uncleanness and profanation; ⁴⁹ so that they might forget the law, and change all the ordinances. ⁵⁰ And whosoever shall not do according to the word of the king, he shall die. ⁵¹ According to all these words wrote he to his whole kingdom; and he appointed overseers over all the people, and he commanded the cities of Judah to sacrifice, city by city. ⁵² And from the people were gathered together unto them many, everyone that had forsaken the law; and they did evil things in the land; ⁵³ and they made Israel to hide themselves in every place of refuge which they had.

⁵⁴ And on the fifteenth day of Chislev, in the hundred and forty and fifth year, they built an abomination of desolation upon the altar, and in the cities of Judah on every side they built *idol* altars. ⁵⁵ And at the doors of the houses and in the streets they burnt incense. ⁵⁶ And

they rent in pieces the books of the law which they found, and set them on fire. ⁵⁷ And wheresoever was found with any a book of the covenant, and if any consented to the law, the king's sentence delivered him to death. ⁵⁸ Thus did they in their might unto Israel, to those that were found month by month in the cities. ⁵⁹ And on the five and twentieth day of the month they sacrificed upon the *idol altar of God*. ⁶⁰ And the women that had circumcised their children they put to death according to the commandment. ⁶¹ And they hung their babes about their necks, and *destroyed* their houses, and them that had circumcised them. ⁶² And many in Israel were fully resolved and confirmed in themselves not to eat unclean things. ⁶³ And they chose to die, that they might not be defiled with the meats, and that they might not profane the holy covenant: and they died. ⁶⁴ And there came exceeding great wrath upon Israel.

2

¹ In those days rose up Mattathias the son of John, the son of Simeon, a priest of the sons of Joarib, from Jerusalem; and he dwelt at Modein. ² And he had five sons, John, who was surnamed Gaddi; ³ Simon, who was called Thassi; ⁴ Judas, who was called Maccabeus; ⁵ Eleazar, who was called Avaran; Jonathan, who was called Apphus.

⁶ And he saw the blasphemies that were committed in Judah and in Jerusalem, ⁷ and he said,

Woe is me! wherefore was I born to see the destruction of my people, and the destruction of the holy city, and to dwell there, when it was given into the hand of the enemy, the sanctuary into the hand of aliens? ⁸ Her temple is become as a man that was glorious: ⁹ her vessels of glory are carried away into captivity, her infants are slain in her streets, her young men with the sword of the enemy.

¹⁰ What nation hath not inherited her palaces, and gotten possession of her spoils? ¹¹ her adorning is all taken away; instead of a free woman she is become a bond woman: ¹² and, behold, our holy things and our beauty and our glory are laid waste, and the Gentiles have profaned them. ¹³ Wherefore should we live any longer?

¹⁴ And Mattathias and his sons rent their clothes, and put on sackcloth, and mourned exceedingly.

¹⁵ And the king's officers, that were enforcing the apostasy, came into the city Modein to sacrifice. ¹⁶ And many of Israel came unto them, and Mattathias and his sons were gathered together. ¹⁷ And the king's officers answered and spake to Mattathias, saying, Thou art a ruler and an honorable and great man in this city, and strengthened with sons and brethren: ¹⁸ now therefore come thou first and do the commandment of the king, as all the nations have done, and the men of Judah, and they that remain in Jerusalem: and thou and thy house shall be in the number of the king's Friends, and thou and thy sons shall be honored with silver and gold and many gifts. ¹⁹ And Mattathias answered and said with a loud voice, If all the nations that are in the house of the king's dominion hearken unto him, to fall away each one from the worship of his fathers, and have made choice to follow his commandments, ²⁰ yet will I and my sons and my brethren walk in the covenant of our fathers. ²¹ Heaven forbid that we should forsake the law and the ordinances. ²² We will not hearken to the king's words, to go aside from our worship, on the right hand, or on the left. ²³ And when he had left speaking these words, there came a Jew in the sight of all to sacrifice on the altar which was at Modein, according to the king's commandment. ²⁴ And Mattathias saw it, and his zeal was kindled, and his heart was stirred, and he showed forth his wrath according to

judgment, and ran, and slew him upon the altar. ²⁵ And the king's officer, who compelled men to sacrifice, he killed at that time, and pulled down the altar. ²⁶ And he was zealous for the law, even as Phinehas did unto Zimri the son of Salu. ²⁷ And Mattathias cried out in the city with a loud voice, saying, Whosoever is zealous for the law, and maintaineth the covenant, let him come forth after me. ²⁸ And he and his sons fled into the mountains, and forsook all that they had in the city.

²⁹ Then many that sought after justice and judgment went down into the wilderness, to dwell there, ³⁰ they, and their sons, and their wives, and their cattle; because evils were multiplied upon them. ³¹ And it was told the king's officers, and the forces that were in Jerusalem, the city of David, that certain men, who had broken the king's commandment, were gone down into the secret places in the wilderness; ³² and many pursued after them, and having overtaken them, they encamped against them, and set the battle in array against them on the Sabbath day. ³³ And they said unto them, Thus far. Come forth, and do according to the word of the king, and ye shall live. ³⁴ And they said, We will not come forth, neither will we do the word of the king, to profane the Sabbath day. ³⁵ And they hastened to give them battle. ³⁶ And they answered them not, neither cast they a stone at them, nor stopped up the secret places, ³⁷ saying, Let us die all in our innocency: heaven and earth witness over us, that ye put us to death without trial. ³⁸ And they rose up against them in battle on the Sabbath, and they died, they and their wives and their children, and their cattle, to the number of a thousand souls.

³⁹ And Mattathias and his friends knew it, and they mourned over them exceedingly. ⁴⁰ And one said to another, If we all do as our brethren have done, and fight

not against the Gentiles for our lives and our ordinances, they will now quickly destroy us from off the earth. ⁴¹ And they took counsel on that day, saying, whosoever shall come against us to battle on the Sabbath day, let us fight against him, and we shall in no wise all die, as our brethren died in the secret places. ⁴² Then were gathered together unto them a company of Hasideans, mighty men of Israel, every one that offered himself willingly for the law. ⁴³ And all they that fled from the evils were added to them, and became a stay unto them. ⁴⁴ And they mustered a host, and smote sinners in their anger, and lawless men in their wrath: and the rest fled to the Gentiles for safety. ⁴⁵ And Mattathias and his friends went round about, and pulled down the altars; ⁴⁶ and they circumcised by force the children that were uncircumcised, as many as they found in the borders of Israel. ⁴⁷ And they pursued after the sons of pride, and the work prospered in their hand. ⁴⁸ And they rescued the law out of the hand of the Gentiles, and out of the hand of the kings, neither suffered they the sinner to triumph.

⁴⁹ And the days of Mattathias drew near that he should die, and he said unto his sons,

Now have pride and rebuke gotten strength, and a season of overthrow, and wrath of indignation. ⁵⁰ And now, my children, be ye zealous for the law, and give your lives for the covenant of your fathers. ⁵¹ And call to remembrance the deeds of our fathers which they did in their generations; and receive great glory and an everlasting name. ⁵² Was not Abraham found faithful in temptation, and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness? ⁵³ Joseph in the time of his distress kept the commandment, and became lord of Egypt. ⁵⁴ Phinehas our father, for that he was zealous exceedingly, obtained

the covenant of an everlasting priesthood. ⁵⁵ Joshua for fulfilling the word became a judge in Israel. ⁵⁶ Caleb for bearing witness in the congregation obtained a heritage in the land. ⁵⁷ David for being merciful inherited the throne of a kingdom forever and ever. ⁵⁸ Elijah, for that he was exceeding zealous for the law, was taken up into heaven. ⁵⁹ Hananiah, Azariah, Mishael, believed, and were saved out of the flame. ⁶⁰ Daniel for his innocency was delivered from the mouth of lions. ⁶¹ And thus consider ye from generation to generation, that none that put their trust in him shall want for strength. ⁶² And be not afraid of the words of a sinful man; for his glory shall be dung and worms. ⁶³ Today he shall be lifted up, and tomorrow he shall in no wise be found, because he is returned unto his dust, and his thought is perished. ⁶⁴ And ye, my children, be strong, and show yourselves men in behalf of the law; for therein shall ye obtain glory. ⁶⁵ And, behold, Simon your brother, I know that he is a man of counsel; give ear unto him always: he shall be a father unto you. ⁶⁶ And Judas Maccabeus, he hath been strong and mighty from his youth: he shall be your captain, and shall fight the battle of the people. ⁶⁷ And take ye unto you all the doers of the law, and avenge the wrong of your people. ⁶⁸ Render a recompense to the Gentiles, and take heed to the commandments of the law. ⁶⁹ And he blessed them, and was gathered to his fathers. ⁷⁰ And he died in the hundred and forty and sixth year, and his sons buried him in the sepulchers of his fathers at Modein, and all Israel made great lamentation for him.

3

¹ And his son Judas, who was called Maccabeus, rose up in his stead. ² And all his brethren helped him, and so did all they that clave unto his father, and they fought

with gladness the battle of Israel. ³ And he gat his people great glory, and put on a breastplate as a giant, and girded his warlike harness about him, and set battles in array, protecting the army with his sword. ⁴ And he was like a lion in his deeds, and as a lion's whelp roaring for prey. ⁵ And he pursued the lawless, seeking them out, and he burnt up those that troubled his people. ⁶ And the lawless shrunk for fear of him, and all the workers of lawlessness were sore troubled, and salvation prospered in his hand. ⁷ And he angered many kings, and made Jacob glad with his acts, and his memorial is blessed forever. ⁸ And he went about among the cities of Judah, and destroyed the ungodly out of the land, and turned away wrath from Israel: ⁹ and he was renowned unto the utmost part of the earth, and he gathered together such as were ready to perish.

¹⁰ And Apollonius gathered the Gentiles together, and a great host from Samaria, to fight against Israel. ¹¹ And Judas perceived it, and he went forth to meet him, and smote him, and slew him: and many fell wounded to death, and the rest fled. ¹² And they took their spoils, and Judas took the sword of Apollonius, and therewith he fought all his days.

¹³ And Seron, the commander of the host of Syria, heard say that Judas had gathered a gathering and a congregation of faithful men with him, and of such as went out to war; ¹⁴ And he said, I will make myself a name and get me glory in the kingdom; and I will fight against Judas and them that are with him, that set at nought the word of the king. ¹⁵ And there went up with him also a mighty army of the ungodly to help him, to take vengeance on the children of Israel.

¹⁶ And he came near unto the going up of Beth-horon,

and Judas went forth to meet him with a small company. ¹⁷ But when they saw the army coming to meet them, they said unto Judas, What? shall we be able, being a small company, to fight against so great and strong a multitude? and we for our part are faint, having tasted no food this day. ¹⁸ And Judas said, It is an easy thing for many to be shut up in the hands of a few; and with heaven it is all one, to save by many or by few: ¹⁹ for victory in battle standeth not in the multitude of a host; but strength is from heaven. ²⁰ They come unto us in fullness of insolence and lawlessness, to destroy us and our wives and our children, to spoil us: ²¹ but we fight for our lives and our laws. ²² And he himself will discomfit them before our face: but as for you, be ye not afraid of them.

²³ Now when he had left off speaking, he leaped suddenly upon them, and Seron and his army were discomfited before him. ²⁴ And they pursued them in the going down of Beth-horon unto the plain, and there fell of them about eight hundred men; but the residue fled into the land of the Philistines.

²⁵ And the fear of Judas and his brethren, and the dread of them, began to fall upon the nations round about them: ²⁶ and his name came near even unto the king, and every nation told of the battles of Judas.

²⁷ But when king Antiochus heard these words, he was full of indignation: and he sent and gathered together all the forces of his realm, an exceeding strong army. ²⁸ And he opened his treasury, and gave his forces pay for a year, and commanded them to be ready for every need. ²⁹ And he saw that the money failed from his treasures, and that the tributes of the country were small, because of the dissension and plague which he had brought upon the

land, to the end that he might take away the laws which had been from the first days; ³⁰ and he feared that he should not have enough as at other times for the charges and the gifts which he gave aforetime with a liberal hand, and he abounded above the kings that were before him. ³¹ And he was exceedingly perplexed in his mind, and he determined to go into Persia, and to take the tributes of the countries, and to gather much money. ³² And he left Lysias, an honorable man, and one of the seed royal, to be over the affairs of the king from the river Euphrates unto the borders of Egypt, ³³ and to bring up his son Antiochus, until he came again. ³⁴ And he delivered unto him the half of his forces, and the elephants, and gave him charge of all the things that he would have done, and concerning them that dwelt in Judea and in Jerusalem, ³⁵ that he should send a host against them, to root out and destroy the strength of Israel, and the remnant of Jerusalem, and to take away their memorial from the place; ³⁶ And that he should make strangers to dwell on all their borders, and should divide their land to them by lot. ³⁷ And the king took the half that remained of the forces, and removed from Antioch, from his royal city, the hundred and forty and seventh year; and he passed over the river Euphrates, and went through the upper countries.

³⁸ And Lysias chose Ptolemy the son of Dorymenes, and Nicanor, and Gorgias, mighty men of the king's Friends; ³⁹ and with them he sent forty thousand footmen, and seven thousand horse, to go into the land of Judah, and to destroy it, according to the word of the king. ⁴⁰ And they removed with all their host, and came and pitched near unto Emmaus in the plain country. ⁴¹ And the merchants of the country heard the fame of them, and took silver and gold exceeding much, with fetters, and came into the

camp to take the children of Israel for servants: and there were added unto them the forces of Syria and of the land of the Philistines.

⁴² And Judas and his brethren saw that evils were multiplied, and that the forces were encamping in their borders; and they took knowledge of the king's words which he had commanded, to destroy the people and make an end of them; ⁴³ and they said each man to his neighbor, Let us raise up the ruin of our people, and let us fight for our people and the holy place. ⁴⁴ And the congregation was gathered together, that they might be ready for battle, and that they might pray, and ask for mercy and compassion. ⁴⁵ And Jerusalem was without inhabitant as a wilderness, there was none of her offspring that went in or went out; and the sanctuary was trodden down, and the sons of strangers were in the citadel, the Gentiles lodged therein; and joy was taken away from Jacob, and the pipe and the harp ceased. ⁴⁶ And they gathered themselves together, and came to Mizpeh, over against Jerusalem; for in Mizpeh was there a place of prayer aforetime for Israel. ⁴⁷ And they fasted that day, and put on sackcloth, and put ashes upon their heads, and rent their clothes, ⁴⁸ and laid open the book of the law, concerning which the Gentiles were wont to inquire, seeking the likenesses of their idols. ⁴⁹ And they brought the priests' garments, and the firstfruits, and the tithes: and they stirred up the Nazirites, who had accomplished their days. ⁵⁰ And they cried aloud toward heaven, saying, What shall we do with these men, and whither shall we carry them away? ⁵¹ And thy holy place is trodden down and profaned, and thy priests are in heaviness and brought low. ⁵² And, behold, the Gentiles are assembled together against us to destroy us: thou knowest what

things they imagine against us. ⁵³ How shall we be able to stand before them, except thou be our help? ⁵⁴ And they sounded with the trumpets, and cried with a loud voice.

⁵⁵ And after this Judas appointed leaders of the people, captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds, and captains of fifties, and captains of tens. ⁵⁶ And he said to them that were building houses, and were betrothing wives, and were planting vineyards, and were fearful, that they should return, each man to his own house, according to the law. ⁵⁷ And the army removed, and encamped upon the south side of Emmaus. ⁵⁸ And Judas said, Gird yourselves, and be valiant men, and be in readiness against the morning, that ye may fight with these Gentiles, that are assembled together against us to destroy us, and our holy place: ⁵⁹ for it is better for us to die in battle, than to look upon the evils of our nation and the holy place. ⁶⁰ Nevertheless, as may be the will in heaven, so shall he do.

4

¹ And Gorgias took five thousand footmen, and a thousand chosen horse, and the army removed by night, ² that it might fall upon the army of the Jews and smite them suddenly: and the men of the citadel were his guides. ³ And Judas heard thereof, and removed, he and the valiant men, that he might smite the king's host which was at Emmaus, ⁴ while as yet the forces were dispersed from the camp. ⁵ And Gorgias came into the camp of Judas by night, and found no man; and he sought them in the mountains; for he said, These men flee from us. ⁶ And as soon as it was day, Judas appeared in the plain with three thousand men: howbeit they had not armor nor swords as they desired. ⁷ And they saw the camp of the Gentiles

strong *and* fortified, and horsemen compassing it round about; and these were expert in war. ⁸ And Judas said to the men that were with him, Fear ye not their multitude, neither be ye afraid of their onset. ⁹ Remember how our fathers were saved in the Red Sea, when Pharaoh pursued them with a host. ¹⁰ And now let us cry unto heaven, if he will have us, and will remember the covenant of our fathers, and destroy this army before our face today: ¹¹ and all the Gentiles shall know that there is one who redeemeth and saveth Israel. ¹² And the strangers lifted up their eyes, and saw them coming over against them: ¹³ and they went out of the camp to battle. And they that were with Judas sounded their trumpets, ¹⁴ and joined battle, and the Gentiles were discomfited, and fled into the plain. ¹⁵ But all the hindmost fell by the sword: and they pursued them unto Gazara, and unto the plains of Idumea and Azotus and Jamnia, and there fell of them about three thousand men. ¹⁶ And Judas and his host returned from pursuing after them, ¹⁷ and he said unto the people, Be not greedy of the spoils, inasmuch as there is a battle before us; ¹⁸ and Gorgias and his host are nigh unto us in the mountain. But stand ye now against our enemies, and fight against them, and afterwards take the spoils with boldness. ¹⁹ While Judas was yet making an end of these words, there appeared a part of them looking out from the mountain: ²⁰ and they saw that their host had been put to flight, and that the Jews were burning the camp; for the smoke that was seen declared what was done. ²¹ But when they perceived these things, they were sore afraid; and perceiving also the army of Judas in the plain ready for battle, ²² they fled all of them into the land of the Philistines. ²³ And Judas returned to spoil the camp, and they gat much gold, and silver, and blue, and sea

purple, and great riches. ²⁴ And they returned home, and sang a song of thanksgiving, and gave praise unto heaven; because *his mercy* is good, because his mercy endureth forever. ²⁵ And Israel had a great deliverance that day.

²⁶ But the strangers, as many as had escaped, came and told Lysias all the things that had happened: ²⁷ but when he heard thereof, he was confounded and discouraged, because neither had such things as he would been done unto Israel, nor had such things as the king commanded him come to pass.

²⁸ And in the next year he gathered together threescore thousand chosen footmen, and five thousand horse, that he might subdue them. ²⁹ And they came into Idumea, and encamped at Beth-zur; and Judas met them with ten thousand men. ³⁰ And he saw that the army was strong, and he prayed and said,

Blessed art thou, O Savior of Israel, who didst quell the onset of the mighty man by the hand of thy servant David, and didst deliver the army of the Philistines into the hands of Jonathan the son of Saul, and of his armor-bearer: ³¹ shut up this army in the hand of thy people Israel, and let them be ashamed for their host and their horsemen: ³² give them faintness of heart, and cause the boldness of their strength to melt away, and let them quake at their destruction: ³³ cast them down with the sword of them that love thee, and let all that know thy name praise thee with thanksgiving.

³⁴ And they joined battle; and there fell of the army of Lysias about five thousand men, and they fell down over against them. ³⁵ But when Lysias saw that his array was put to flight, and the boldness that had come upon them that were with Judas, and how they were ready either to live or to die nobly, he removed to Antioch, and gathered

together hired soldiers, that he might come again into Judea with even a greater company.

³⁶ But Judas and his brethren said, Behold, our enemies are discomfited: let us go up to cleanse the holy place, and to dedicate it afresh. ³⁷ And all the army was gathered together, and they went up unto mount Zion. ³⁸ And they saw the sanctuary laid desolate, and the altar profaned, and the gates burned up, and shrubs growing in the courts as in a forest or as on one of the mountains, and the priests' chambers pulled down; ³⁹ and they rent their clothes, and made great lamentation, and put ashes upon their heads, ⁴⁰ and fell on their faces to the ground, and blew with the solemn trumpets, and cried toward heaven. ⁴¹ Then Judas appointed certain men to fight against those that were in the citadel, until he should have cleansed the holy place.

⁴² And he chose blameless priests, such as had pleasure in the law: ⁴³ and they cleansed the holy place, and bare out the stones of defilement into an unclean place. ⁴⁴ And they took counsel concerning the altar of burnt offerings, which had been profaned, what they should do with it: ⁴⁵ and there came into their mind a good counsel, that they should pull it down, lest it should be a reproach to them, because the Gentiles had defiled it: and they pulled down the altar, ⁴⁶ and laid up the stones in the mountain of the house in a convenient place, until there should come a prophet to give an answer concerning them. ⁴⁷ And they took whole stones according to the law, and built a new altar after the fashion of the former; ⁴⁸ and they built the holy place, and the inner parts of the house; and they hallowed the courts. ⁴⁹ And they made the holy vessels new, and they brought the candlestick, and the altar of burnt offerings and of incense, and the

table, into the temple. ⁵⁰ And they burned incense upon the altar, and they lighted the lamps that were upon the candlestick, and they gave light in the temple. ⁵¹ And they set loaves upon the table, and spread out the veils, and finished all the works which they made.

⁵² And they rose up early in the morning, on the five and twentieth day of the ninth month, which is the month Chislew, in the hundred and forty and eighth year, ⁵³ and offered sacrifice according to the law upon the new altar of burnt offerings which they had made. ⁵⁴ At what time and on what day the Gentiles had profaned it, even on that *day* was it dedicated afresh, with songs and harps and lutes, and with cymbals. ⁵⁵ And all the people fell upon their faces, and worshiped, and gave praise unto heaven, which had given them good success. ⁵⁶ And they kept the dedication of the altar eight days, and offered burnt offerings with gladness, and sacrificed a sacrifice of deliverance and praise. ⁵⁷ And they decked the forefront of the temple with crowns of gold and small shields, and dedicated afresh the gates and the priests' chambers, and made doors for them. ⁵⁸ And there was exceeding great gladness among the people, and the reproach of the Gentiles was turned away. ⁵⁹ And Judas and his brethren and the whole congregation of Israel ordained, that the days of the dedication of the altar should be kept in their seasons from year to year by the space of eight days, from the five and twentieth day of the month Chislew, with gladness and joy. ⁶⁰ And at that season they built up the mount Zion with high walls and strong towers round about, lest haply the Gentiles should come and tread them down, as they had done aforetime. ⁶¹ And he set there a force to keep it, and they fortified Beth-zur to keep it; that the people might have a stronghold over against Idumea.

5

¹ And it came to pass, when the Gentiles round about heard that the altar was built, and the sanctuary dedicated as aforetime, they were exceeding wroth. ² And they took counsel to destroy the race of Jacob that was in the midst of them, and they began to slay and destroy among the people. ³ And Judas fought against the children of Esau in Idumea at Akrabattene, because they besieged Israel: and he smote them with a great slaughter, and brought down their pride, and took their spoils. ⁴ And he remembered the wickedness of the children of Baean, who were unto the people a snare and a stumbling block, lying in wait for them in the ways. ⁵ And they were shut up by him in the towers; and he encamped against them, and destroyed them utterly, and burned with fire the towers of the place, with all that were therein. ⁶ And he passed over to the children of Ammon, and found a mighty band, and much people, with Timothy for their leader. ⁷ And he fought many battles with them, and they were discomfited before his face; and he smote them, ⁸ and gat possession of Jazer, and the villages thereof, and returned again into Judea.

⁹ And the Gentiles that were in Gilead gathered themselves together against the Israelites that were on their borders, to destroy them. And they fled to the stronghold of Dathema, ¹⁰ and sent letters unto Judas and his brethren, saying, The Gentiles that are round about us are gathered together against us to destroy us: ¹¹ and they are preparing to come and get possession of the stronghold whereunto we are fled for refuge, and Timothy is the leader of their host. ¹² Now therefore come and deliver us from their hand, for many of us are fallen. ¹³ And all our brethren that were in the land of Tob have been put

to death; and they have carried into captivity their wives and their children and their stuff; and they destroyed there about a thousand men. ¹⁴ While the letters were yet reading, behold, there came other messengers from Galilee with their clothes rent, bringing a report after this wise, ¹⁵ saying, That there were gathered together against them those of Ptolemais, and of Tyre, and of Sidon, and all Galilee of the Gentiles to consume them. ¹⁶ Now when Judas and the people heard these words, there assembled together a great congregation, to consult what they should do for their brethren, that were in tribulation, and were assaulted of them. ¹⁷ And Judas said unto Simon his brother, Choose thee out men, and go and deliver thy brethren that are in Galilee, but I and Jonathan my brother will go into the land of Gilead. ¹⁸ And he left Joseph the son of Zechariah, and Azariah, as leaders of the people, with the remnant of the host, in Judea, to keep it. ¹⁹ And he gave commandment unto them, saying, Take ye the charge of this people, and fight no battle with the Gentiles until that we come again. ²⁰ And unto Simon were divided three thousand men to go into Galilee, but unto Judas eight thousand men to go into the land of Gilead.

²¹ And Simon went into Galilee, and fought many battles with the Gentiles, and the Gentiles were discomfited before him. ²² And he pursued them unto the gate of Ptolemais; and there fell of the Gentiles about three thousand men, and he took their spoils. ²³ And they took to them those that were in Galilee, and in Arbatta, with their wives and their children, and all that they had, and brought them into Judea with great gladness. ²⁴ And Judas Maccabeus and his brother Jonathan passed over Jordan, and went three days' journey in the wilderness; ²⁵ and they met with the Nabateans, and these met them in

a peaceable manner, and told them all things that had befallen their brethren in the land of Gilead: ²⁶ and how that many of them were shut up in Bozrah, and Bosor, and Alema, Chaspho, Maked, and Carnaim; all these cities are strong and great: ²⁷ and how that they were shut up in the rest of the cities of the land of Gilead, and that tomorrow they have appointed to encamp against the strongholds, and to take them, and to destroy all these men in one day. ²⁸ And Judas and his army turned suddenly by the way of the wilderness unto Bozrah; and he took the city, and slew all the males with the edge of the sword, and took all their spoils, and burned the city with fire. ²⁹ And he removed from thence by night, and went till he came to the stronghold. ³⁰ And the morning came, and they lifted up their eyes, and, behold, much people which could not be numbered, bearing ladders and engines of war, to take the stronghold; and they were fighting against them. ³¹ And Judas saw that the battle was begun, and that the cry of the city went up to heaven, with trumpets and a great sound, ³² and he said unto the men of his host, Fight this day for your brethren. ³³ And he went forth behind them in three companies, and they sounded with their trumpets, and cried out in prayer. ³⁴ And the army of Timothy perceived that it was Maccabeus, and they fled from before him: and he smote them with a great slaughter; and there fell of them on that day about eight thousand men. ³⁵ And he turned aside to Alema and fought against it, and took it, and slew all the males thereof, and took the spoils thereof, and burned it with fire. ³⁶ From thence he removed, and took Chaspho, Maked, Bosor, and the other cities of the land of Gilead.

³⁷ Now after these things Timothy gathered another army, and encamped over against Raphon beyond the

brook. ³⁸ And Judas sent men to spy the army; and they brought him word, saying, All the Gentiles that are round about us are gathered together unto them, an exceeding great host. ³⁹ And they have hired Arabians to help them, and are encamping beyond the brook, ready to come against thee to battle. And Judas went to meet them. ⁴⁰ And Timothy said unto the captains of his host, when Judas and his army drew nigh unto the brook of water, If he pass over first unto us, we shall not be able to withstand him; for he will mightily prevail against us: ⁴¹ but if he be afraid, and encamp beyond the river, we will cross over unto him, and prevail against him. ⁴² Now when Judas came nigh unto the brook of water, he caused the scribes of the people to remain by the brook, and gave commandment unto them, saying, Suffer no man to encamp, but let all come to the battle. ⁴³ And he crossed over the first against them, and all the people after him: and all the Gentiles were discomfited before his face, and cast away their arms, and fled unto the temple at Carnaim. ⁴⁴ And they took the city, and burned the temple with fire, together with all that were therein. And Carnaim was subdued, neither could they stand any longer before the face of Judas.

⁴⁵ And Judas gathered together all Israel, them that were in the land of Gilead, from the least unto the greatest, and their wives, and their children, and their stuff, an exceeding great army, that they might come into the land of Judah. ⁴⁶ And they came as far as Ephron, and this same city was great, *and it was in the way as they should go, exceeding strong: they could not turn aside from it on the right hand or on the left, but must needs pass through the midst of it.* ⁴⁷ And they of the city shut them out, and stopped up the gates with stones.

⁴⁸ And Judas sent unto them with words of peace, saying, We will pass through thy land to go into our own land, and none shall do you any hurt, we will only pass by on our feet. And they would not open unto him. ⁴⁹ And Judas commanded proclamation to be made in the army, that each man should encamp in the place where he was. ⁵⁰ And the men of the host encamped, and fought against the city all that day and all that night, and the city was delivered into his hands; ⁵¹ and he destroyed all the males with the edge of the sword, and razed the city, and took the spoils thereof, and passed through the city over them that were slain. ⁵² And they went over Jordan into the great plain over against Beth-shan. ⁵³ And Judas gathered together those that lagged behind, and encouraged the people all the way through, until he came into the land of Judah. ⁵⁴ And they went up to mount Zion with gladness and joy, and offered whole burnt offerings, because not so much as one of them was slain until they returned in peace.

⁵⁵ And in the days when Judas and Jonathan were in the land of Gilead, and Simon his brother in Galilee before Ptolemais, ⁵⁶ Joseph the son of Zechariah, and Azariah, rulers of the host, heard of their exploits and of the war, what things they had done; ⁵⁷ and they said, Let us also get us a name, and let us go fight against the Gentiles that are round about us. ⁵⁸ And they gave charge unto the men of the host that was with them, and went toward Jamnia. ⁵⁹ And Gorgias and his men came out of the city to meet them in battle. ⁶⁰ And Joseph and Azariah were put to flight, and were pursued unto the borders of Judea; and there fell on that day of the people of Israel about two thousand men. ⁶¹ And there was a great overthrow among the people, because they hearkened

not unto Judas and his brethren, thinking to do some exploit. ⁶² But they were not of the seed of those men, by whose hand deliverance was given unto Israel.

⁶³ And the man Judas and his brethren were glorified exceedingly in the sight of all Israel, and of all the Gentiles, wheresoever their name was heard of; ⁶⁴ and men gathered together unto them, acclaiming them.

⁶⁵ And Judas and his brethren went forth, and fought against the children of Esau in the land toward the south; and he smote Hebron and the villages thereof, and pulled down the strongholds thereof, and burned the towers thereof round about. ⁶⁶ And he removed to go into the land of the Philistines, and he went through Samaria. ⁶⁷ In that day certain priests, desiring to do exploits there, were slain in battle, when as he went out to battle unadvisedly. ⁶⁸ And Judas turned aside to Azotus, to the land of the Philistines, and pulled down their altars, and burned the carved images of their gods with fire, and took the spoil of their cities, and returned into the land of Judah.

6

¹ And king Antiochus was journeying through the upper countries; and he heard say, that in Elymais in Persia there was a city renowned for riches, for silver and gold; ² and that the temple which was in it was rich exceedingly, and that therein were golden shields, and breastplates, and arms, which Alexander, son of Philip, the Macedonian king, who reigned first among the Greeks, left behind there. ³ And he came and sought to take the city, and to pillage it; and he was not able, because the thing was known to them of the city, ⁴ and they rose up against him to battle: and he fled, and

removed thence with great heaviness, to return unto Babylon.

⁵ And there came one bringing him tidings into Persia, that the armies, which went against the land of Judah, had been put to flight; ⁶ and that Lysias went first with a strong host, and was put to shame before them; and that they had waxed strong by reason of arms and power, and with store of spoils, which they took from the armies that they had cut off; ⁷ and that they had pulled down the abomination which he had built upon the altar that was in Jerusalem; and that they had compassed about the sanctuary with high walls, as before, and Beth-zur, his city. ⁸ And it came to pass, when the king heard these words, he was astonished and moved exceedingly: and he laid him down upon his bed, and fell sick for grief, because it had not befallen him as he looked for. ⁹ And he was there many days, because great grief was renewed upon him, and he made account that he should die. ¹⁰ And he called for all his Friends, and said unto them, Sleep departeth from mine eyes, and my heart faileth for care. ¹¹ And I said in my heart, Unto what tribulation am I come, and how great a flood is it, wherein I now am! for I was gracious and beloved in my power. ¹² But now I remember the evils which I did at Jerusalem, and that I took all the vessels of silver and gold that were therein, and sent forth to destroy the inhabitants of Judah without a cause. ¹³ I perceive that on this account these evils are come upon me, and, behold, I perish through great grief in a strange land. ¹⁴ And he called for Philip, one of his Friends, and set him over all his kingdom, ¹⁵ and gave him his diadem, and his robe, and his signet ring, to the end he should bring Antiochus his son, and nourish him up that he might be king. ¹⁶ And king Antiochus died there in the hundred and

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

¹⁸ And they that were in the citadel shut up Israel round about the sanctuary, and sought always their hurt, and the strengthening of the Gentiles. ¹⁹ And Judas thought to destroy them, and called all the people together to besiege them. ²⁰ And they were gathered together, and besieged them in the hundred and fiftieth year, and he made mounds to shoot from, and engines of war. ²¹ And there came forth some of them that were shut up, and there were joined unto them certain ungodly men of Israel. ²² And they went unto the king, and said, How long wilt thou not execute judgment, and avenge our brethren? ²³ We were willing to serve thy father, and to walk after his words, and to follow his commandments; ²⁴ and for this cause the children of our people besieged the citadel, and were alienated from us; but as many of us as they could light on they slew, and plundered our inheritances. ²⁵ And not against us only did they stretch out their hand, but also against all their borders. ²⁶ And, behold, they are encamped this day against the citadel at Jerusalem, to take it: and the sanctuary and Beth-zur have they fortified. ²⁷ And if ye are not beforehand with them quickly, they will do greater things than these, and thou shalt not be able to control them.

²⁸ And when the king heard this, he was angry, and gathered together all his Friends, *even the rulers* of his host, and them that were over the horse. ²⁹ And there came unto him from other kingdoms, and from isles of the sea, bands of hired soldiers. ³⁰ And the number of his forces was a hundred thousand footmen, and twenty thousand horsemen, and two and thirty elephants

trained for war. ³¹ And they went through Idumea, and encamped against Beth-zur, and fought against it many days, and made engines of war; and they of *Beth-zur* came out, and burned them with fire, and fought valiantly. ³² And Judas removed from the citadel, and encamped at Beth-zechariah, over against the king's camp. ³³ And the king rose early in the morning, and removed his army at full speed along the road to Beth-zechariah, and his forces made them ready to battle, and sounded with the trumpets. ³⁴ And they showed the elephants the blood of grapes and mulberries, that they might prepare them for the battle. ³⁵ And they divided the beasts among the phalanxes, and they set by each elephant a thousand men armed with coats of mail, and helmets of brass on their heads; and for each beast were appointed five hundred chosen horsemen. ³⁶ These were ready beforehand, wheresoever the beast was; and whithersoever the beast went, they went with him; they departed not from him. ³⁷ And towers of wood were upon them, strong and covered, one upon each beast, girded fast upon him with cunning contrivances; and upon each *beast* were two and thirty valiant men that fought upon them, beside his Indian ³⁸ (and the residue of the horsemen he set on this side and that side at the two parts of the army), striking terror *into the enemy*, and protected by the phalanxes. ³⁹ Now when the sun shone upon the shields of gold and brass, the mountains shone therewith, and blazed like torches of fire. ⁴⁰ And a part of the king's army was spread upon the high mountains, and some on the low ground, and they went on firmly and in order. ⁴¹ And all that heard the noise of their multitude, and the marching of the multitude, and the rattling of the arms, did quake: for the army was exceeding great and strong. ⁴² And Judas

and his army drew near for battle, and there fell of the king's army six hundred men. ⁴³ And Eleazar, who was called Avaran, saw one of the beasts armed with royal breastplates, and he was higher than all the beasts, and the king seemed to be upon him; ⁴⁴ and he gave himself to deliver his people, and to get him an everlasting name; ⁴⁵ and he ran upon him courageously into the midst of the phalanx, and slew on the right hand and on the left, and they parted asunder from him on this side and on that. ⁴⁶ And he crept under the elephant, and thrust him from beneath, and slew him; and *the elephant* fell to the earth upon him, and he died there. ⁴⁷ And they saw the strength of the kingdom, and the fierce onset of the hosts, and turned away from them.

⁴⁸ But they of the king's army went up to Jerusalem to meet them, and the king encamped toward Judea, and toward mount Zion. ⁴⁹ And he made peace with them of Beth-zur; and he came out of the city, because they had no food there to endure the siege, because it was a Sabbath to the land. ⁵⁰ And the king took Beth-zur, and appointed a garrison there to keep it. ⁵¹ And he encamped against the sanctuary many days; and set there mounds to shoot from, and engines of war, and instruments for casting fire and stones, and pieces to cast darts, and slings. ⁵² And they also made engines against their engines, and fought for many days. ⁵³ But there were no victuals in the sanctuary, because it was the seventh year, and they that fled for safety into Judea from among the Gentiles had eaten up the residue of the store; ⁵⁴ and there were but a few left in the sanctuary, because the famine prevailed against them, and they were scattered, each man to his own place.

⁵⁵ And Lysias heard say, that Philip, whom Antiochus

the king, while he was yet alive, appointed to nourish up his son Antiochus, that he might be king, ⁵⁶ was returned from Persia and Media, and with him the forces that went with the king, and that he was seeking to take unto him the government. ⁵⁷ And he made haste, and gave consent to depart; and he said to the king and the leaders of the host and to the men, We decay daily, and our food is scant, and the place where we encamp is strong, and the affairs of the kingdom lie upon us: ⁵⁸ now therefore let us give the right hand to these men, and make peace with them and with all their nation, ⁵⁹ and covenant with them, that they shall walk after their own laws, as aforetime: for because of their laws which we abolished they were angered, and did all these things. ⁶⁰ And the saying pleased the king and the princes, and he sent unto them to make peace; and they accepted thereof. ⁶¹ And the king and the princes sware unto them: thereupon they came forth from the stronghold. ⁶² And the king entered into mount Zion; and he saw the strength of the place, and set at nought the oath which he had sworn, and gave commandment to pull down the wall round about. ⁶³ And he removed in haste, and returned unto Antioch, and found Philip master of the city; and he fought against him, and took the city by force.

7

¹ In the hundred and one and fiftieth year Demetrius the son of Seleucus came forth from Rome, and went up with a few men unto a city by the sea, and reigned there. ² And it came to pass, when he would go into the house of the kingdom of his fathers, that the army laid hands on Antiochus and Lysias, to bring them unto him. ³ And the thing was known to him, and he said, show me not their faces. ⁴ And the army slew them. And Demetrius sat upon

the throne of his kingdom. ⁵ And there came unto him all the lawless and ungodly men of Israel; and Alcimus was their leader, desiring to be high priest; ⁶ and they accused the people to the king, saying, Judas and his brethren have destroyed all thy friends, and have scattered us from our own land. ⁷ Now therefore send a man whom thou trustest, and let him go and see all the havoc which he hath made of us, and of the king's country, and *how* he hath punished them and all that helped them. ⁸ And the king chose Bacchides, one of the king's Friends, who was ruler in the country beyond the river, and was a great man in the kingdom, and faithful to the king. ⁹ And he sent him, and that ungodly Alcimus, and made sure to him the high priesthood, and he commanded him to take vengeance upon the children of Israel.

¹⁰ And they removed, and came with a great host into the land of Judah, and he sent messengers to Judas and his brethren with words of peace deceitfully. ¹¹ And they gave no heed to their words; for they saw that they were come with a great host. ¹² And there were gathered together unto Alcimus and Bacchides a company of scribes, to seek for justice. ¹³ And the Hasideans were the first among the children of Israel that sought peace of them; ¹⁴ for they said, One that is a priest of the seed of Aaron is come with the forces, and he will do us no wrong. ¹⁵ And he spake with them words of peace, and sware unto them, saying, We will seek the hurt neither of you nor your friends. ¹⁶ And they gave him credence: and he laid hands on threescore men of them, and slew them in one day, according to the word which *the psalmist* wrote,

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

¹⁸ And the fear and the dread of them fell upon all the people, for they said, There is neither truth nor judgment in them; for they have broken the covenant and the oath which they swear. ¹⁹ And Bacchides removed from Jerusalem, and encamped in Beth-zaith; and he sent and took away many of the deserters that were with him, and certain of the people, and he slew them, *and cast them* into the great pit. ²⁰ And he made sure the country to Alcimus, and left with him a force to aid him; and Bacchides went away unto the king.

²¹ And Alcimus strove for his high priesthood. ²² And there were gathered unto him all they that troubled their people, and they gat the mastery of the land of Judah, and did great hurt in Israel. ²³ And Judas saw all the mischief that Alcimus and his company had done among the children of Israel, *even* above the Gentiles, ²⁴ and he went out into all the borders of Judea round about, and took vengeance on the men that had deserted from him, and they were restrained from going forth into the country. ²⁵ But when Alcimus saw that Judas and his company waxed strong, and knew that he was not able to withstand them, he returned to the king, and brought evil accusations against them.

²⁶ And the king sent Nicanor, one of his honorable princes, a man that hated Israel and was their enemy, and commanded him to destroy the people. ²⁷ And Nicanor came to Jerusalem with a great host; and he sent unto Judas and his brethren deceitfully with words of peace, saying, ²⁸ Let there be no battle between me and you; I will come with a few men, that I may see your faces in peace. ²⁹ And he came to Judas, and they saluted one another peaceably. And the enemies were ready to take away Judas by violence. ³⁰ And the thing was known to

Judas, *to wit*, that he came unto him with deceit, and he was sore afraid of him, and would see his face no more. ³¹ And Nicanor knew that his counsel was discovered; and he went out to meet Judas in battle beside Capharsalama; ³² and there fell of Nicanor's side about five hundred men, and they fled into the city of David.

³³ And after these things Nicanor went up to mount Zion: and there came some of the priests out of the sanctuary, and some of the elders of the people, to salute him peaceably, and to show him the whole burnt sacrifice that was being offered for the king. ³⁴ And he mocked them, and laughed at them, and treated them shamefully, and spake haughtily, ³⁵ and sware in a rage, saying, Unless Judas and his army be now delivered into my hands, it shall be that, if I come again in peace, I will burn up this house: and he went out in a great rage. ³⁶ And the priests entered in, and stood before the altar and the temple; and they wept, and said, ³⁷ Thou didst choose this house to be called by thy name, to be a house of prayer and supplication for thy people: ³⁸ take vengeance on this man and his army, and let them fall by the sword: remember their blasphemies, and suffer them not to live any longer.

³⁹ And Nicanor went forth from Jerusalem, and encamped in Beth-horon, and there met him the host of Syria. ⁴⁰ And Judas encamped in Adasa with three thousand men: and Judas prayed and said, ⁴¹ When they that came from the king blasphemed, thine angel went out, and smote among them a hundred and fourscore and five thousand. ⁴² Even so discomfit thou this army before us today, and let all the rest know that he hath spoken wickedly against thy sanctuary, and judge thou him according to his wickedness. ⁴³ And on the thirteenth

day of the month Adar the armies joined battle: and Nicanor's army was discomfited, and he himself was the first to fall in the battle. ⁴⁴ Now when his army saw that Nicanor was fallen, they cast away their arms, and fled. ⁴⁵ And they pursued after them a day's journey from Adasa until thou comest to Gazara, and they sounded an alarm after them with the solemn trumpets. ⁴⁶ And they came forth out of all the villages of Judea round about, and closed them in; and these turned them back on those, and they all fell by the sword, and there was not one of them left. ⁴⁷ And they took the spoils, and the booty, and they smote off Nicanor's head, and his right hand, which he stretched out so haughtily, and brought them, and hung them up beside Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ And the people were exceeding glad, and they kept that day as a day of great gladness. ⁴⁹ And they ordained to keep this day year by year, to wit, the thirteenth day of Adar. ⁵⁰ And the land of Judah had rest a little while.

8

¹ And Judas heard of the fame of the Romans, that they are valiant men, and have pleasure in all that join themselves unto them, and make amity with all such as come unto them, ² and that they are valiant men. And they told him of their wars and exploits which they do among the Gauls, and how that they conquered them, and brought them under tribute; ³ and what things they did in the land of Spain, that they might become masters of the mines of silver and gold which were there; ⁴ and how that by their policy and persistence they conquered all the place (and the place was exceeding far from them), and the kings that came against them from the uttermost part of the earth, until they had discomfited them, and

smitten them very sore; and how the rest give them tribute year by year: ⁵ and Philip, and Perseus, king of Kittim, and them that lifted up themselves against them, did they discomfit in battle, and conquered them: ⁶ Antiochus also, the great king of Asia, who came against them to battle, having a hundred and twenty elephants, with horse, and chariots, and an exceeding great host, and he was discomfited by them, ⁷ and they took him alive, and appointed that both he and such as reigned after him should give them a great tribute, and should give hostages, and a parcel of *land*, to wit, ⁸ the country of India, and Media, and Lydia, and of the goodliest of their countries; and they took them from him, and gave them to king Eumenes: ⁹ and how they of Greece took counsel to come and destroy them; ¹⁰ and the thing was known to them, and they sent against them a captain, and fought against them, and many of them fell down wounded to death, and they made captive their wives and their children, and plundered them, and conquered their land, and pulled down their strongholds, and plundered them, and brought them into bondage unto this day: ¹¹ and the residue of the kingdoms and of the isles, as many as rose up against them at any time, they destroyed and made them to be their servants; ¹² but with their friends and such as relied upon them they kept amity; and they conquered the kingdoms that were nigh and those that were far off, and all that heard of their fame were afraid of them: ¹³ moreover, whomsoever they will to succor and to make kings, these do they make kings; and whomsoever they will, do they depose; and they are exalted exceedingly: ¹⁴ and for all this none of them did ever put on a diadem, neither did they clothe themselves with purple, to be magnified thereby: ¹⁵ and how they

had made for themselves a senate house, and day by day three hundred and twenty men sat in council, consulting always for the people, to the end they might be well ordered: ¹⁶ and how they commit their government to one man year by year, that he should rule over them, and be lord over all their country, and all are obedient to that one, and there is neither envy nor emulation among them.

¹⁷ And Judas chose Eupolemus the son of John, the son of Accos, and Jason the son of Eleazar, and sent them to Rome, to make a league of amity and confederacy with them, ¹⁸ and that they should take the yoke from them; for they saw that the kingdom of the Greeks did keep Israel in bondage. ¹⁹ And they went to Rome (and the way was exceeding long), and they entered into the senate house, and answered and said, ²⁰ Judas, who is also called Maccabeus, and his brethren, and the people of the Jews, have sent us unto you, to make a confederacy and peace with you, and that we might be registered your confederates and friends.

²¹ And the thing was well-pleasing in their sight. ²² And this is the copy of the writing which they wrote back again on tables of brass, and sent to Jerusalem, that it might be with them there for a memorial of peace and confederacy:

²³ Good success be to the Romans, and to the nation of the Jews, by sea and by land forever: the sword also and the enemy be far from them. ²⁴ But if war arise for Rome first, or any of their confederates in all their dominion, ²⁵ the nation of the Jews shall help them as confederates, as the occasion shall prescribe to them, with all their heart: ²⁶ and unto them that make war upon them they shall not give, neither supply, food, arms, money, or ships, as it hath seemed good unto Rome, and they shall

keep their ordinances without taking anything therefore. ²⁷ In the same manner, moreover, if war come first upon the nation of the Jews, the Romans shall help them as confederates with all their soul, as the occasion shall prescribe to them: ²⁸ and to them that are confederates *with their foes* there shall not be given food, arms, money, or ships, as it hath seemed good unto Rome; and they shall keep these ordinances, and that without deceit. ²⁹ According to these words have the Romans made a covenant thus with the people of the Jews. ³⁰ But if hereafter the one party and the other shall take counsel to add or diminish anything, they shall do it at their pleasure, and whatsoever they shall add or take away shall be established. ³¹ And as touching the evils which king Demetrius doeth unto them, we have written to him, saying, Wherefore hast thou made thy yoke heavy upon our friends and confederates the Jews? ³² If therefore they plead anymore against thee, we will do them justice, and fight with thee by sea and by land.

9

¹ And Demetrius heard that Nicanor was fallen with his forces in battle, and he sent Bacchides and Alcimus again into the land of Judah a second time, and the right wing *of his army* with them: ² and they went by the way that leadeth to Gilgal, and encamped against Mesaloth, which is in Arbela, and gat possession of it, and destroyed much people. ³ And the first month of the hundred and fifty and second year they encamped against Jerusalem: ⁴ and they removed, and went to Berea, with twenty thousand footmen and two thousand horse. ⁵ And Judas was encamped at Elasa, and three thousand chosen men with him: ⁶ and they saw the multitude of the forces, that they were many, and they feared exceedingly: and many

slipped away out of the army; there were not left of them more than eight hundred men. ⁷ And Judas saw that his army slipped away, and that the battle pressed upon him, and he was sore troubled in heart, for that he had no time to gather them together, and he waxed faint. ⁸ And he said to them that were left, Let us arise and go up against our adversaries, if peradventure we may be able to fight with them. ⁹ And they would have dissuaded him, saying, We shall in no wise be able: but let us rather save our lives now: let us return again, we and our brethren, and fight against them: but we are few. ¹⁰ And Judas said, let it not be so that I should do this thing, to flee from them: and if our time is come, let us die manfully for our brethren's sake, and not leave a cause of reproach against our glory. ¹¹ And the host removed from the camp, and stood to encounter them, and the horse was parted into two companies, and the slingers and the archers went before the host, and all the mighty men that fought in the front of the battle. ¹² But Bacchides was in the right wing; and the phalanx drew near on the two parts, and they blew with their trumpets. ¹³ And the men of Judas' side, even they sounded with their trumpets, and the earth shook with the shout of the armies, and the battle was joined, and continued from morning until evening. ¹⁴ And Judas saw that Bacchides and the strength of his army were on the right side, and there went with him all that were brave in heart, ¹⁵ and the right wing was discomfited by them, and he pursued after them unto the mount Azotus. ¹⁶ And they that were on the left wing saw that the right wing was discomfited, and they turned and followed upon the footsteps of Judas and of those that were with him: ¹⁷ and the battle waxed sore, and many on both parts fell wounded to death. ¹⁸ And Judas fell, and

the rest fled. ¹⁹ And Jonathan and Simon took Judas their brother, and buried him in the sepulcher of his fathers at Modein. ²⁰ And they bewailed him, and all Israel made great lamentation for him, and mourned many days, and said, ²¹ How is the mighty fallen, the savior of Israel! ²² And the rest of the acts of Judas, and his wars, and the valiant deeds which he did, and his greatness, they are not written; for they were exceeding many.

²³ And it came to pass after the death of Judas, that the lawless put forth their heads in all the borders of Israel, and all they that wrought iniquity rose up ²⁴ (in those days there was an exceeding great famine), and the country went over with them. ²⁵ And Bacchides chose out the ungodly men, and made them lords of the country. ²⁶ And they sought out and searched for the friends of Judas, and brought them unto Bacchides, and he took vengeance on them, and used them despitely. ²⁷ And there was great tribulation in Israel, such as was not since the time that no prophet appeared unto them. ²⁸ And all the friends of Judas were gathered together, and they said unto Jonathan, ²⁹ Since thy brother Judas hath died, we have no man like him to go forth against our enemies and Bacchides, and among them of our nation that hate us. ³⁰ Now therefore we have chosen thee this day to be our prince and leader in his stead, that thou mayest fight our battles. ³¹ And Jonathan took the governance upon him at that time, and rose up in the stead of his brother Judas.

³² And Bacchides knew it, and he sought to slay him. ³³ And Jonathan, and Simon his brother, and all that were with him, knew it; and they fled into the wilderness of Tekoa, and encamped by the water of the pool Asphar. ³⁴ And Bacchides knew it on the Sabbath day, and came, he and all his army, over Jordan. ³⁵ And *Jonathan* sent

his brother, a leader of the multitude, and besought his friends the Nabateans, that they might leave with them their baggage, which was much. ³⁶ And the children of Jambri came out of Medeba, and took John, and all that he had, and went their way with it.

³⁷ But after these things they brought word to Jonathan and Simon his brother, that the children of Jambri were making a great marriage, and were bringing the bride from Nadabath with a great train, a daughter of one of the great nobles of Canaan. ³⁸ And they remembered John their brother, and went up, and hid themselves under the covert of the mountain: ³⁹ and they lifted up their eyes, and saw, and, behold, a great ado and much baggage: and the bridegroom came forth, and his friends and his brethren, to meet them with timbrels, and minstrels, and many weapons. ⁴⁰ And they rose up against them from their ambush, and slew them, and many fell wounded to death, and the remnant fled into the mountain, and they took all their spoils. ⁴¹ And the marriage was turned into mourning, and the voice of their minstrels into lamentation. ⁴² And they avenged fully the blood of their brother, and turned back to the marsh of Jordan.

⁴³ And Bacchides heard it, and he came on the Sabbath day unto the banks of Jordan with a great host. ⁴⁴ And Jonathan said to his company, Let us stand up now and fight for our lives, for it is not *with us* today, as yesterday and the day before. ⁴⁵ For, behold, the battle is before us and behind us; moreover the water of the Jordan is on this side and on that side, and marsh and wood; and there is no place to turn aside. ⁴⁶ Now therefore cry unto heaven, that ye may be delivered out of the hand of your enemies. ⁴⁷ And the battle was joined, and Jonathan stretched forth his hand to smite Bacchides, and he turned away back from him. ⁴⁸ And Jonathan and they that were with

him leaped into the Jordan, and swam over to the other side: and they did not pass over Jordan against them. ⁴⁹ And there fell of Bacchides' company that day about a thousand men; ⁵⁰ and he returned to Jerusalem. And they built strong cities in Judea, the stronghold that was in Jericho, and Emmaus, and Beth-horon, and Bethel, and Timnath, Pharathon, and Tephon, with high walls and gates and bars. ⁵¹ And in them he set a garrison, to vex Israel. ⁵² And he fortified the city Beth-zur, and Gazara, and the citadel, and put forces in them, and store of victuals. ⁵³ And he took the sons of the chief men of the country for hostages, and put them in ward in the citadel at Jerusalem.

⁵⁴ And in the hundred and fifty and third year, in the second month, Alcimus commanded to pull down the wall of the inner court of the sanctuary; he pulled down also the works of the prophets; ⁵⁵ and he began to pull down. At that time was Alcimus stricken, and his works were hindered; and his mouth was stopped, and he was taken with a palsy, and he could no more speak anything and give order concerning his house. ⁵⁶ And Alcimus died at that time with great torment. ⁵⁷ And Bacchides saw that Alcimus was dead, and he returned to the king: and the land of Judah had rest two years.

⁵⁸ And all the lawless men took counsel, saying, Behold, Jonathan and they of his part are dwelling at ease, and in security: now therefore we will bring Bacchides, and he shall lay hands on them all in one night. ⁵⁹ And they went and consulted with him. ⁶⁰ And he removed, and came with a great host, and sent letters privily to all his confederates that were in Judea, that they should lay hands on Jonathan and those that were with him: and they could not, because their counsel was known

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unto them. ⁶¹ And *they that were of Jonathan's part* laid hands on about fifty of the men of the country, that were authors of the wickedness, and he slew them. ⁶² And Jonathan, and Simon, and they that were with him, gat them away to Bethbasi, which is in the wilderness, and he built up that which had been pulled down thereof, and they made it strong. ⁶³ And Bacchides knew it, and he gathered together all his multitude, and sent word to them that were of Judea. ⁶⁴ And he went and encamped against Bethbasi, and fought against it many days, and made engines of war. ⁶⁵ And Jonathan left his brother Simon in the city, and went forth into the country, and he went with a few men. ⁶⁶ And he smote Odomera and his brethren, and the children of Phasiron in their tent. ⁶⁷ And they began to smite them, and to go up with their forces. And Simon and they that were with him went out of the city, and set on fire the engines of war, ⁶⁸ and fought against Bacchides, and he was discomfited by them, and they afflicted him sore; for his counsel was in vain, and his inroad. ⁶⁹ And they were very wroth with the lawless men that gave him counsel to come into the country, and they slew many of them. And he took counsel to depart into his own land. ⁷⁰ And Jonathan had knowledge thereof, and sent ambassadors unto him, to the end that they should make peace with him, and that he should restore unto them the captives. ⁷¹ And he accepted the thing, and did according to his words, and sware unto him that he would not seek his hurt all the days of his life. ⁷² And he restored unto him the captives whom he had taken aforetime out of the land of Judah, and he returned and departed into his own land, and came not anymore into their borders. ⁷³ And the sword ceased from Israel. And Jonathan dwelt at Michmash; and Jonathan began to judge the people;

and he destroyed the ungodly out of Israel.

10

¹ And in the hundred and sixtieth year Alexander Epiphanes, the son of Antiochus, went up and took possession of Ptolemais: and they received him, and he reigned there. ² And king Demetrius heard thereof, and he gathered together exceeding great forces, and went forth to meet him in battle.

³ And Demetrius sent letters unto Jonathan with words of peace, so as to magnify him. ⁴ For he said, Let us be beforehand to make peace with them, ere he make peace with Alexander against us: ⁵ for he will remember all the evils that we have done against him, and unto his brethren and unto his nation. ⁶ And he gave him authority to gather together forces, and to provide arms, and that he should be his confederate: and he commanded that they should deliver up to him the hostages that were in the citadel.

⁷ And Jonathan came to Jerusalem, and read the letters in the audience of all the people, and of them that were in the citadel: ⁸ and they were sore afraid, when they heard that the king had given him authority to gather together a host. ⁹ And they of the citadel delivered up the hostages unto Jonathan, and he restored them unto their parents. ¹⁰ And Jonathan dwelt in Jerusalem, and began to build and renew the city. ¹¹ And he commanded them that did the work to build the walls and the mount Zion round about with square stones for defense; and they did so. ¹² And the strangers, that were in the strongholds which Bacchides had built, fled away; ¹³ and each man left his place, and departed into his own land. ¹⁴ Only at Beth-zur were there left certain of those that had forsaken the law

and the commandments; for it was a place of refuge unto them.

¹⁵ And king Alexander heard all the promises which Demetrius had sent unto Jonathan: and they told him of the battles and the valiant deeds which he and his brethren had done, and of the toils which they had endured; ¹⁶ And he said, Shall we find such another man? and now we will make him our Friend and confederate.

¹⁷ And he wrote letters, and sent them unto him, according to these words, saying, ¹⁸ King Alexander to his brother Jonathan, greeting: ¹⁹ We have heard of thee, that thou art a mighty man of valor, and meet to be our Friend.

²⁰ And now we have appointed thee this day to be high priest of thy nation, and to be called the king's Friend (and he sent unto him a purple robe and a crown of gold), and to take our part, and to keep friendship with us.

²¹ And Jonathan put on the holy garments in the seventh month of the hundred and sixtieth year, at the feast of tabernacles, and he gathered together forces, and provided arms in abundance.

²² And Demetrius heard these things, and he was grieved, and said, ²³ What is this that we have done, that Alexander hath been beforehand with us in establishing friendship with the Jews, to strengthen himself? ²⁴ I also will write unto them words of encouragement and of honor and of gifts, that they may be with me to aid me.

²⁵ And he sent unto them according to these words:

King Demetrius unto the nation of the Jews, greeting:

²⁶ Forasmuch as ye have kept your covenants with us, and continued in our friendship, and have not joined yourselves to our enemies, we have heard hereof, and are glad. ²⁷ And now continue ye still to keep faith with us, and we will recompense unto you good things in return for your dealings with us, ²⁸ and will grant you many

immunities, and give you gifts. ²⁹ And now do I free you, and release all the Jews, from the tributes, and from the customs of salt, and from the crowns. ³⁰ And instead of the third part of the seed, and instead of the half of the fruit of the trees, which falleth to me to receive, I release it from this day and henceforth, so that I will not take it from the land of Judah, and from the three governments which are added thereunto from the country of Samaria and Galilee, from this day forth and for all time. ³¹ And let Jerusalem be holy and free, and her borders; the tenths and the tolls *also*. ³² I yield up also my authority over the citadel which is at Jerusalem, and give it to the high priest, that he may appoint in it such men as he shall choose to keep it. ³³ And every soul of the Jews, that hath been carried captive from the land of Judah into any part of my kingdom, I set at liberty without price; and let all remit the tributes of their cattle *also*. ³⁴ And all the feasts, and the Sabbaths, and new moons, and appointed days, and three days before a feast, and three days after a feast, let them all be days of immunity and release for all the Jews that are in my kingdom. ³⁵ And no man shall have authority to exact from any of them, or to trouble them concerning any matter. ³⁶ And let there be enrolled among the king's forces about thirty thousand men of the Jews, and pay shall be given unto them, as belongeth to all the king's forces. ³⁷ And of them some shall be placed in the king's great strongholds, and some of them shall be placed over the affairs of the kingdom, which are of trust: and let those that are over them, and their rulers, be of themselves, and let them walk after their own laws, even as the king hath commanded in the land of Judah. ³⁸ And the three governments that have been added to Judea from the country of Samaria, let them be added to Judea, that they may be reckoned to be under one, that

they may not obey other authority than the high priest's. ³⁹ As for Ptolemais, and the land pertaining thereto, I have given it as a gift to the sanctuary that is at Jerusalem, for the expenses that befit the sanctuary. ⁴⁰ And I give every year fifteen thousand shekels of silver from the king's revenues from the places that are convenient. ⁴¹ And all the overplus, which they that manage the king's affairs paid not in as in the first years, they shall give from henceforth toward the works of the house. ⁴² And beside this, the five thousand shekels of silver, which they received from the uses of the sanctuary from the revenue year by year, this also is released, because it appertaineth to the priests that minister. ⁴³ And whosoever shall flee unto the temple that is at Jerusalem, and *be found* within all the borders thereof, whether one owe moneys to the king, or any other matter, let them go free, and all that they have in my kingdom. ⁴⁴ And for the building and renewing of the works of the sanctuary the expense shall be given also out of the king's revenue. ⁴⁵ And for the building of the walls of Jerusalem, and the fortifying thereof round about, shall the expense be given also out of the king's revenue, and for the building of the walls in Judea.

⁴⁶ Now when Jonathan and the people heard these words, they gave no credence unto them, nor received them, because they remembered the great evil which he had done in Israel, and that he had afflicted them very sore. ⁴⁷ And they were well pleased with Alexander, because he was the first that spake words of peace unto them, and they were confederate with him always. ⁴⁸ And king Alexander gathered together great forces, and encamped over against Demetrius. ⁴⁹ And the two kings joined battle, and the army of Alexander fled;

and Demetrius followed after him, and prevailed against them. ⁵⁰ And he strengthened the battle exceedingly until the sun went down: and Demetrius fell that day.

⁵¹ And Alexander sent ambassadors to Ptolemy king of Egypt according to these words, saying, ⁵² Forasmuch as I am returned to my kingdom, and am set on the throne of my fathers, and have gotten the dominion, and have overthrown Demetrius, and have gotten possession of our country; ⁵³ yea, I joined the battle with him, and he and his army were discomfited by us, and we sat upon the throne of his kingdom: ⁵⁴ now also let us establish amity one with the other, and give me now thy daughter to wife: and I will make affinity with thee, and will give both thee and her gifts worthy of thee. ⁵⁵ And Ptolemy the king answered, saying, Happy is the day wherein thou didst return into the land of thy fathers, and didst sit on the throne of their kingdom. ⁵⁶ And now will I do to thee, as thou hast written: but meet me at Ptolemais, that we may see one another; and I will make affinity with thee, even as thou hast said. ⁵⁷ And Ptolemy went out of Egypt, himself and Cleopatra his daughter, and came unto Ptolemais in the hundred and threescore and second year: ⁵⁸ and king Alexander met him, and he bestowed on him his daughter Cleopatra, and celebrated her marriage at Ptolemais with great pomp, as the manner of kings is.

⁵⁹ And king Alexander wrote unto Jonathan, that he should come to meet him. ⁶⁰ And he went with pomp to Ptolemais, and met the two kings, and gave them and their Friends silver and gold, and many gifts, and found favor in their sight. ⁶¹ And there were gathered together against him certain pestilent fellows out of Israel, men that were transgressors of the law, to complain against him: and the king gave no heed to them. ⁶² And the king

commanded, and they took off Jonathan's garments, and clothed him in purple: and thus they did. ⁶³ And the king made him sit with him, and said unto his princes, Go forth with him into the midst of the city, and make proclamation, that no man complain against him of any matter, and let no man trouble him for any manner of cause. ⁶⁴ And it came to pass, when they that complained against him saw his glory according as *the herald* made proclamation, and saw him clothed in purple, they all fled away. ⁶⁵ And the king gave him honor, and wrote him among his Chief Friends, and made him a captain, and governor of a province. ⁶⁶ And Jonathan returned to Jerusalem with peace and gladness.

⁶⁷ And in the hundred and threescore and fifth year came Demetrius, son of Demetrius, out of Crete into the land of his fathers: ⁶⁸ and king Alexander heard thereof, and he grieved exceedingly, and returned unto Antioch. ⁶⁹ And Demetrius appointed Apollonius, who was over Coelesyria, and he gathered together a great host, and encamped in Jamnia, and sent unto Jonathan the high priest, saying,

⁷⁰ Thou alone liftest up thyself against us, but I am had in derision and in reproach because of thee. And why dost thou vaunt thy power against us in the mountains? ⁷¹ Now therefore, if thou trustest in thy forces, come down to us into the plain, and there let us try the matter together; for with me is the power of the cities. ⁷² Ask and learn who I am, and the rest that help us; and they say, Your foot cannot stand before our face; for thy fathers have been twice put to flight in their own land. ⁷³ And now thou shalt not be able to abide the horse and such a host as this in the plain, where is neither stone nor flint, nor place to flee unto.

⁷⁴ Now when Jonathan heard the words of Apollonius, he was moved in his mind, and he chose out ten thousand men, and went forth from Jerusalem, and Simon his brother met him to help him. ⁷⁵ And he encamped against Joppa: and they of the city shut him out, because Apollonius had a garrison in Joppa: ⁷⁶ and they fought against it. And they of the city were afraid, and opened unto him: and Jonathan became master of Joppa. ⁷⁷ And Apollonius heard, and he gathered an army of three thousand horse, and a great host, and went to Azotus as though he were on a journey, and therewithal drew onward into the plain, because he had a multitude of horse, and trusted therein. ⁷⁸ And he pursued after him to Azotus, and the armies joined battle. ⁷⁹ And Apollonius had left a thousand horse behind them privily. ⁸⁰ And Jonathan knew that there was an ambushment behind him. And they compassed round his army, and cast their darts at the people, from morning until evening: ⁸¹ but the people stood still, as Jonathan commanded them: and their horses were wearied. ⁸² And Simon drew forth his host, and joined battle with the phalanx (for the horsemen were spent), and they were discomfited by him, and fled. ⁸³ And the horsemen were scattered in the plain, and they fled to Azotus, and entered into Beth-dagon, their idol's temple, to save themselves. ⁸⁴ And Jonathan burned Azotus, and the cities round about it, and took their spoils; and the temple of Dagon, and them that fled into it, he burned with fire. ⁸⁵ And they that had fallen by the sword, with them that were burned, were about eight thousand men. ⁸⁶ And from thence Jonathan removed, and encamped against Askalon, and they of the city came forth to meet him with great pomp. ⁸⁷ And Jonathan, with them that were on his side, returned unto Jerusalem,

having many spoils. ⁸⁸ And it came to pass, when king Alexander heard these things, he honored Jonathan yet more; ⁸⁹ and he sent unto him a buckle of gold, as the custom is to give to such as are of the kindred of the kings: and he gave him Ekron and all the borders thereof for a possession.

11

¹ And the king of Egypt gathered together great forces, as the sand which is by the sea shore, and many ships, and sought to make himself master of Alexander's kingdom by deceit, and to add it to his own kingdom. ² And he went forth into Syria with words of peace, and they of the cities opened unto him, and met him; for king Alexander's commandment was that they should meet him, because he was his father-in-law. ³ Now as he entered into the cities of Ptolemais, he set his forces for a garrison in each city. ⁴ But when he came near to Azotus, they showed him the temple of Dagon burned with fire, and Azotus and the suburbs thereof pulled down, and the bodies cast abroad, and them that had been burned, whom he burned in the war, for they had made heaps of them in his way. ⁵ And they told the king what things Jonathan had done, that they might cast blame on him: and the king held his peace. ⁶ And Jonathan met the king with pomp at Joppa, and they saluted one another, and they slept there. ⁷ And Jonathan went with the king as far as the river that is called Eleutherus, and returned to Jerusalem. ⁸ But king Ptolemy became master of the cities upon the seacoast, unto Seleucia which is by the sea, and he devised evil devices concerning Alexander. ⁹ And he sent ambassadors unto king Demetrius, saying, Come, let us make a covenant with one another, and I will give thee my daughter whom Alexander hath, and thou shalt

reign over thy father's kingdom; ¹⁰ for I have repented that I gave my daughter unto him, for he sought to slay me. ¹¹ And he cast blame on him, because he coveted his kingdom. ¹² And taking his daughter from him, he gave her to Demetrius, and was estranged from Alexander, and their enmity was openly seen. ¹³ And Ptolemy entered into Antioch, and put on himself the diadem of Asia; and he put two diadems upon his head, the diadem of Egypt and that of Asia. ¹⁴ But king Alexander was in Cilicia at that season, because they of those parts were in revolt. ¹⁵ And Alexander heard of it, and he came against him in war: and Ptolemy led forth *his host*, and met him with a strong force, and put him to flight. ¹⁶ And Alexander fled into Arabia, that he might be sheltered there; but king Ptolemy was exalted. ¹⁷ And Zabdiel the Arabian took off Alexander's head, and sent it to Ptolemy. ¹⁸ And king Ptolemy died the third day after, and they that were in his strongholds were slain by them that were in the strongholds. ¹⁹ And Demetrius reigned in the hundred and threescore and seventh year.

²⁰ In those days Jonathan gathered together them of Judea, to take the citadel that was at Jerusalem: and he made many engines of war against it. ²¹ And certain that hated their own nation, men that transgressed the law, went unto the king, and reported to him that Jonathan was besieging the citadel. ²² And he heard, and was angered; but when he heard it, he set forth immediately, and came to Ptolemais, and wrote unto Jonathan, that he should not besiege it, and that he should meet him and speak with him at Ptolemais with all speed. ²³ But when Jonathan heard this, he commanded to besiege it *still*: and he chose certain of the elders of Israel and of the priests, and put himself in peril, ²⁴ and taking silver

and gold and raiment and diverse presents besides, went to Ptolemais unto the king. And he found favor in his sight. ²⁵ And certain lawless men of them that were of the nation made complaints against him, ²⁶ and the king did unto him even as his predecessors had done unto him, and exalted him in the sight of all his Friends, ²⁷ and confirmed to him the high priesthood, and all the other honors that he had before, and gave him preeminence among his Chief Friends. ²⁸ And Jonathan requested of the king, that he would make Judea free from tribute, and the three provinces, and the country of Samaria; and promised him three hundred talents. ²⁹ And the king consented, and wrote letters unto Jonathan concerning all these things after this manner:

³⁰ King Demetrius unto his brother Jonathan, and unto the nation of the Jews, greeting: ³¹ The copy of the letter which we wrote unto Lasthenes our kinsman concerning you, we have written also unto you, that ye may see it.

³² King Demetrius unto Lasthenes his father, greeting:

³³ We have determined to do good to the nation of the Jews, who are our friends, and observe what is just toward us, because of their good will toward us. ³⁴ We have confirmed therefore unto them the borders of Judea, and

also the three governments of Aphairema and Lydda and Rathamin (*these* were added unto Judea from the country of Samaria), and all things appertaining unto them, for all such as do sacrifice in Jerusalem, instead of the king's dues which the king received of them yearly aforetime from the produce of the earth and the fruits of trees.

³⁵ And as for the other things that pertain unto us from henceforth, of the tenths and the tolls that pertain unto us, and the salt pits, and the crowns that pertain unto us, all these we will bestow upon them. ³⁶ And not one of

these things shall be annulled from this time forth and forever. ³⁷ Now therefore be careful to make a copy of these things, and let it be given unto Jonathan, and let it be set up on the holy mount in a meet and conspicuous place.

³⁸ And king Demetrius saw that the land was quiet before him, and that no resistance was made to him, and he sent away all his forces, each man to his own place, except the foreign forces, which he had raised from the isles of the Gentiles: and all the forces of his fathers hated him. ³⁹ Now Trypho was of those who aforetime had been of Alexander's part, and he saw that all the forces murmured against Demetrius, and he went to Imalkue the Arabian, who was nourishing up Antiochus the young child of Alexander, ⁴⁰ and pressed sore upon him that he should deliver him unto him, that he might reign in his father's stead: and he told him all that Demetrius had done, and the hatred wherewith his forces hated him; and he abode there many days.

⁴¹ And Jonathan sent unto king Demetrius, that he should cast out of Jerusalem them of the citadel, and them that were in the strongholds; for they fought against Israel continually. ⁴² And Demetrius sent unto Jonathan, saying, I will not only do this for thee and thy nation, but I will greatly honor thee and thy nation, if I find fair occasion. ⁴³ Now therefore thou shalt do well, if thou send me men who shall fight for me; for all my forces are revolted. ⁴⁴ And Jonathan sent him three thousand valiant men unto Antioch: and they came to the king, and the king was glad at their coming. ⁴⁵ And they of the city gathered themselves together into the midst of the city, to the number of a hundred and twenty thousand men, and they were minded to slay the king. ⁴⁶ And the king fled into the court of the palace, and they of the

city seized the passages of the city, and began to fight. ⁴⁷ And the king called the Jews to help him, and they were gathered together unto him all at once, and they dispersed themselves in the city, and slew that day to the number of a hundred thousand. ⁴⁸ And they set the city on fire, and gat many spoils that day, and saved the king. ⁴⁹ And they of the city saw that the Jews had made themselves masters of the city as they would, and they waxed faint in their hearts, and they cried out to the king with supplication, saying, ⁵⁰ Give us thy right hand, and let the Jews cease from fighting against us and the city. ⁵¹ And they cast away their arms, and made peace; and the Jews were glorified in the sight of the king, and before all that were in his kingdom; and they returned to Jerusalem, having many spoils. ⁵² And king Demetrius sat on the throne of his kingdom, and the land was quiet before him. ⁵³ And he lied in all that he spake, and estranged himself from Jonathan, and recompensed him not according to the benefits with which he had recompensed him, and afflicted him exceedingly.

⁵⁴ Now after this Trypho returned, and with him the young child Antiochus; and he reigned, and put on a diadem. ⁵⁵ And there were gathered unto him all the forces which Demetrius had sent away with disgrace, and they fought against him, and he fled and was put to the rout. ⁵⁶ And Trypho took the elephants, and became master of Antioch. ⁵⁷ And the young Antiochus wrote unto Jonathan, saying, I confirm unto thee the high priesthood, and appoint thee over the four governments, and to be one of the king's Friends. ⁵⁸ And he sent unto him golden vessels and furniture for the table, and gave him leave to drink in golden vessels, and to be clothed in purple, and to have a golden buckle. ⁵⁹ And his brother

Simon he made captain from the Ladder of Tyre unto the borders of Egypt. ⁶⁰ And Jonathan went forth, and took his journey beyond the river and through the cities; and all the forces of Syria gathered themselves unto him to be his confederates. And he came to Askalon, and they of the city met him honorably. ⁶¹ And he departed thence to Gaza, and they of Gaza shut him out; and he laid siege unto it, and burned the suburbs thereof with fire, and plundered them. ⁶² And they of Gaza made request unto Jonathan, and he gave them his right hand, and took the sons of their princes for hostages, and sent them away to Jerusalem; and he passed through the country as far as Damascus.

⁶³ And Jonathan heard that Demetrius' princes were come to Kedesh, which is in Galilee, with a great host, purposing to remove him from his office; ⁶⁴ and he went to meet them, but Simon his brother he left in the country. ⁶⁵ And Simon encamped against Beth-zur, and fought against it many days, and shut it up: ⁶⁶ and they made request to him that he would give them his right hand, and he gave it to them; and he put them out from thence, and took possession of the city, and set a garrison over it. ⁶⁷ And Jonathan and his army encamped at the water of Gennesaret, and early in the morning they gat them to the plain of Hazor. ⁶⁸ And, behold, an army of strangers met him in the plain, and they laid an ambush for him in the mountains, but themselves met him face to face. ⁶⁹ But they that lay in ambush rose out of their places, and joined battle; and all they that were of Jonathan's side fled: ⁷⁰ not one of them was left, except Mattathias the son of Absalom, and Judas the son of Chalphi, captains of the forces. ⁷¹ And Jonathan rent his clothes, and put earth upon his head, and prayed. ⁷² And he turned again

unto them in battle, and put them to the rout, and they fled. ⁷³ And they of his side that fled saw it, and returned unto him, and pursued with him unto Kedesh unto their camp, and they encamped there. ⁷⁴ And there fell of the strangers on that day about three thousand men: and Jonathan returned to Jerusalem.

12

¹ And Jonathan saw that the time served him, and he chose men, and sent them to Rome, to confirm and renew the friendship that they had with them. ² And to the Spartans, and to other places, he sent letters after the same manner. ³ And they went unto Rome, and entered into the senate house, and said, Jonathan the high priest, and the nation of the Jews, have sent us, to renew for them the friendship and the confederacy, as in former time. ⁴ And they gave them letters unto the men in every place, that they should bring them on their way to the land of Judah in peace. ⁵ And this is the copy of the letters which Jonathan wrote to the Spartans:

⁶ Jonathan the high priest, and the senate of the nation, and the priests, and the rest of the people of the Jews, unto their brethren the Spartans, greeting: ⁷ Even before this time were letters sent unto Onias the high priest from Arius, who was reigning among you, to signify that ye are our brethren, as the copy here underwritten showeth. ⁸ And Onias treated honorably the man that was sent, and received the letters, wherein declaration was made of confederacy and friendship. ⁹ Therefore we also, albeit we need none of these things, having for our encouragement the holy books which are in our hands, ¹⁰ have assayed to send that we might renew our brotherhood and friendship with you, to the end that we should not become estranged from you altogether: for

long time is passed since ye sent unto us. ¹¹ We therefore at all times without ceasing, both in our feasts, and on the other convenient days, do remember you in the sacrifices which we offer, and in our prayers, as it is right and meet to be mindful of brethren: ¹² and moreover are glad for your glory. ¹³ But as for ourselves, many afflictions and many wars have encompassed us, and the kings that are round about us have fought against us. ¹⁴ We were not minded therefore to be troublesome unto you, and to the rest of our confederates and friends, in these wars; ¹⁵ for we have the help which is from heaven to help us, and we have been delivered from our enemies, and our enemies have been brought low. ¹⁶ We chose therefore Numenius the son of Antiochus, and Antipater the son of Jason, and have sent them unto the Romans, to renew the friendship that we had with them, and the former confederacy. ¹⁷ We commanded them therefore to go also unto you, and to salute you, and to deliver you our letters concerning the renewing of *friendship* and our brotherhood. ¹⁸ And now ye shall do well if ye give us an answer thereto.

¹⁹ And this is the copy of the letters which they sent to Onias:

²⁰ Arius king of the Spartans to Onias the chief priest, greeting: ²¹ It hath been found in writing, concerning the Spartans and the Jews, that they are brethren, and that they are of the stock of Abraham: ²² and now, since this is come to our knowledge, ye shall do well to write unto us of your prosperity. ²³ And we moreover do write on our part to you, that your cattle and goods are ours, and ours are yours. We do command therefore that they make report unto you on this wise.

²⁴ And Jonathan heard that Demetrius' princes were returned to fight against him with a greater host than

afore, ²⁵ and he removed from Jerusalem, and met them in the country of Hamath; for he gave them no respite to set foot in his country. ²⁶ And he sent spies into his camp, and they came again, and reported to him that they were appointed in such and such a way to fall upon them in the night season. ²⁷ But as soon as the sun was down, Jonathan commanded his men to watch, and to be in arms, that all the night long they might be ready for battle: and he put forth sentinels round about the camp. ²⁸ And the adversaries heard that Jonathan and his men were ready for battle, and they feared, and trembled in their hearts, and they kindled fires in their camp. ²⁹ But Jonathan and his men knew it not till the morning; for they saw the lights burning. ³⁰ And Jonathan pursued after them, and overtook them not; for they were gone over the river Eleutherus. ³¹ And Jonathan turned aside to the Arabians, who are called Zabadeans, and smote them, and took their spoils. ³² And he came out from thence, and came to Damascus, and took his journey through all the country. ³³ And Simon went forth, and took his journey as far as Askalon, and the strongholds that were near unto it. And he turned aside to Joppa, and took possession of it; ³⁴ for he had heard that they were minded to deliver the stronghold unto the men of Demetrius; and he set a garrison there to keep it.

³⁵ And Jonathan returned, and called the elders of the people together; and he took counsel with them to build strongholds in Judea, ³⁶ and to make the walls of Jerusalem higher, and to raise a great mound between the citadel and the city, to separate it from the city, that so it might be all alone, that men might neither buy nor sell. ³⁷ And they were gathered together to build the city, and there fell down part of the wall of the brook that

is on the east side, and he repaired that which is called Chaphenatha. ³⁸ And Simon also built Adida in the plain country, and made it strong, and set up gates and bars.

³⁹ And Trypho sought to reign over Asia and to put on himself the diadem, and to stretch forth his hand against Antiochus the king. ⁴⁰ And he was afraid lest haply Jonathan should not suffer him, and lest he should fight against him; and he sought a way how to take him, that he might destroy him. And he removed, and came to Beth-shan. ⁴¹ And Jonathan came forth to meet him with forty thousand men chosen for battle, and came to Beth-shan. ⁴² And Trypho saw that he came with a great host, and he was afraid to stretch forth his hand against him: ⁴³ and he received him honorably, and commended him unto all his Friends, and gave him gifts, and commanded his forces to be obedient unto him, as unto himself. ⁴⁴ And he said unto Jonathan, Why hast thou put all this people to trouble, seeing there is no war between us? ⁴⁵ And now send them away to their homes, but choose for thyself a few men who shall be with thee, and come thou with me to Ptolemais, and I will give it up to thee, and the rest of the strongholds and the rest of the forces, and all the king's officers: and I will return and depart; for this is the cause of my coming. ⁴⁶ And he put his trust in him, and did even as he said, and sent away his forces, and they departed into the land of Judah. ⁴⁷ But he reserved to himself three thousand men, of whom he left two thousand in Galilee, but one thousand went with him. ⁴⁸ Now as soon as Jonathan entered into Ptolemais, they of Ptolemais shut the gates, and laid hands on him; and all them that came in with him they slew with the sword. ⁴⁹ And Trypho sent forces and horsemen into Galilee, and into the great plain, to destroy all Jonathan's men. ⁵⁰ And they perceived that he was taken and had perished, and they that were with

him; and they encouraged one another, and went on their way close together, prepared to fight. ⁵¹ And they that followed upon them saw that they were ready to fight for their lives, and turned back again. ⁵² And they all came in peace into the land of Judah, and they mourned for Jonathan, and them that were with him, and they were sore afraid; and all Israel mourned with a great mourning. ⁵³ And all the Gentiles that were round about them sought to destroy them utterly: for they said, They have no ruler, nor any to help them: now therefore let us fight against them, and take away their memorial from among men.

13

¹ And Simon heard that Trypho had gathered together a mighty host to come into the land of Judah, and destroy it utterly. ² And he saw that the people trembled and was in great fear; and he went up to Jerusalem, and gathered the people together; ³ and he encouraged them, and said unto them, Ye yourselves know all the things that I, and my brethren, and my father's house, have done for the laws and the sanctuary, and the battles and the distresses which we have seen: ⁴ by reason hereof all my brethren have perished for Israel's sake, and I am left alone. ⁵ And now be it far from me, that I should spare mine own life in any time of affliction; for I am not better than my brethren. ⁶ Howbeit I will take vengeance for my nation, and for the sanctuary, and for our wives and children; because all the Gentiles are gathered to destroy us of hatred. ⁷ And the spirit of the people revived, as soon as they heard these words. ⁸ And they answered with a loud voice, saying, Thou art our leader instead of Judas and Jonathan thy brother. ⁹ Fight thou our battles, and all that thou shalt say unto us, that will we do. ¹⁰ And

he gathered together all the men of war, and made haste to finish the walls of Jerusalem, and he fortified it round about. ¹¹ And he sent Jonathan the son of Absalom, and with him a great host, to Joppa: and he cast out them that were therein, and abode there in it.

¹² And Trypho removed from Ptolemais with a mighty host to enter into the land of Judah, and Jonathan was with him in ward. ¹³ But Simon encamped at Adida, over against the plain. ¹⁴ And Trypho knew that Simon was risen up instead of his brother Jonathan, and meant to join battle with him, and he sent ambassadors unto him, saying, ¹⁵ It is for money which Jonathan thy brother owed unto the king's treasure, by reason of the offices which he had, that we hold him fast. ¹⁶ And now send a hundred talents of silver, and two of his sons for hostages, that when he is set at liberty he may not revolt from us, and we will set him at liberty. ¹⁷ And Simon knew that they spake unto him deceitfully; and he sendeth the money and the children, lest peradventure he should procure to himself great hatred of the people, ¹⁸ and they should say, Because I sent him not the money and the children, he perished. ¹⁹ And he sent the children and the hundred talents. And he dealt falsely, and did not set Jonathan at liberty. ²⁰ And after this Trypho came to invade the land, and destroy it, and he went round about by the way that leadeth unto Adora: and Simon and his army marched over against him to every place, wheresoever he went. ²¹ Now they of the citadel sent unto Trypho ambassadors, hastening him to come unto them through the wilderness, and to send them victuals. ²² And Trypho made ready all his horse to come: and on that night there fell a very great snow, and he came not by reason of the snow. And he removed, and came into the

country of Gilead. ²³ But when he came near to Baskama, he slew Jonathan, and he was buried there. ²⁴ And Trypho returned, and went away into his own land.

²⁵ And Simon sent, and took the bones of Jonathan his brother, and buried him at Modein, the city of his fathers. ²⁶ And all Israel made great lamentation over him, and mourned for him many days. ²⁷ And Simon built *a monument* upon the sepulcher of his father and his brethren, and raised it aloft to the sight, with polished stone behind and before. ²⁸ And he set up seven pyramids, one over against another, for his father, and his mother, and his four brethren. ²⁹ And for these he made cunning devices, setting about them great pillars, and upon the pillars he fashioned all manner of arms for a perpetual memory, and beside the arms ships carved, that they should be seen of all that sail on the sea. ³⁰ This is the sepulcher which he made at Modein, *and it is there* unto this day.

³¹ Now Trypho dealt deceitfully with the young king Antiochus, and slew him, ³² and reigned in his stead, and put on himself the diadem of Asia, and brought a great calamity upon the land. ³³ And Simon built the strongholds of Judea, and fenced them about with high towers, and great walls, and gates, and bars; and he laid up victuals in the strongholds. ³⁴ And Simon chose men, and sent to king Demetrius, to the end he should give the country an immunity, because all that Trypho did was to plunder. ³⁵ And king Demetrius sent unto him according to these words, and answered him, and wrote a letter unto him, after this manner:

³⁶ King Demetrius unto Simon the high priest and Friend of kings, and unto the elders and nation of the Jews, greeting: ³⁷ The golden crown, and the palm branch,

which ye sent, we have received: and we are ready to make a steadfast peace with you, yea, and to write unto our officers, to grant immunities unto you. ³⁸ And whatsoever things we confirmed unto you, they are confirmed; and the strongholds, which ye have built, let them be your own. ³⁹ As for any oversights and faults committed unto this day, we forgive them, and the crown which ye owed us: and if there were any other toll exacted in Jerusalem, let it be exacted no longer. ⁴⁰ And if there be any among you meet to be enrolled in our court, let them be enrolled, and let there be peace between us.

⁴¹ In the hundred and seventieth year was the yoke of the heathen taken away from Israel. ⁴² And the people began to write in their instruments and contracts, In the first year of Simon, the great high priest and captain and leader of the Jews.

⁴³ In those days he encamped against Gazara, and compassed it round about with armies; and he made an engine of siege, and brought it up to the city, and smote a tower, and took it. ⁴⁴ And they that were in the engine leaped forth into the city; and there was a great uproar in the city: ⁴⁵ and they of the city rent their clothes, and went up on the walls with their wives and children, and cried with a loud voice, making request to Simon to give them his right hand. ⁴⁶ And they said, Deal not with us according to our wickednesses, but according to thy mercy. ⁴⁷ And Simon was reconciled unto them, and did not fight against them: and he put them out of the city, and cleansed the houses wherein the idols were, and so entered into it with singing and giving praise. ⁴⁸ And he put all uncleanness out of it, and placed in it such men as would keep the law, and made it stronger than it was before, and built therein a dwelling place for himself.

⁴⁹ But they of the citadel in Jerusalem were hindered from going forth, and from going into the country, and from buying and selling; and they hungered exceedingly, and a great number of them perished through famine. ⁵⁰ And they cried out to Simon, that he should give them his right hand; and he gave it to them: and he put them out from thence, and he cleansed the citadel from its pollutions. ⁵¹ And he entered into it on the three and twentieth day of the second month, in the hundred and seventy and first year, with praise and palm branches, and with harps, and with cymbals, and with viols, and with hymns, and with songs: because a great enemy was destroyed out of Israel. ⁵² And he ordained that they should keep that day every year with gladness. And the hill of the temple that was by the citadel he made stronger than before, and there he dwelt, himself and his men. ⁵³ And Simon saw that John his son was a *valiant* man, and he made him leader of all his forces: and he dwelt in Gazara.

14

¹ And in the hundred and seventy and second year king Demetrius gathered his forces together, and went into Media, to get him help, that he might fight against Trypho. ² And Arsaces, the king of Persia and Media, heard that Demetrius was come into his borders, and he sent one of his princes to take him alive: ³ and he went and smote the army of Demetrius, and took him, and brought him to Arsaces; and he put him in ward.

⁴ And the land had rest all the days of Simon: and he sought the good of his nation; and his authority and his glory was well-pleasing to them all his days. ⁵ And amid all his glory he took Joppa for a haven, and made it an entrance for the isles of the sea; ⁶ and he enlarged the

borders of his nation, and gat possession of the country; ⁷ and he gathered together a great number of captives, and gat the dominion of Gazara, and Beth-zur, and the citadel, and he took away from it its uncleannesses; and there was none that resisted him. ⁸ And they tilled their land in peace, and the land gave her increase, and the trees of the plains their fruit. ⁹ The ancient men sat in the streets, they communed all of them together of good things, and the young men put on glorious and warlike apparel. ¹⁰ He provided victuals for the cities, and furnished them with all manner of munition, until the name of his glory was named unto the end of the earth. ¹¹ He made peace in the land, and Israel rejoiced with great joy: ¹² and they sat each man under his vine and his fig tree, and there was none to make them afraid: ¹³ and there ceased in the land any that fought against them: and the kings were discomfited in those days. ¹⁴ And he strengthened all those of his people that were brought low: the law he searched out, and every lawless and wicked person he took away. ¹⁵ He glorified the sanctuary, and the vessels of the temple he multiplied.

¹⁶ And it was heard at Rome that Jonathan was dead, and even unto Sparta, and they were exceeding sorry. ¹⁷ But as soon as they heard that his brother Simon was made high priest in his stead, and ruled the country, and the cities therein, ¹⁸ they wrote unto him on tables of brass, to renew with him the friendship and the confederacy which they had confirmed with Judas and Jonathan his brethren; ¹⁹ and they were read before the congregation at Jerusalem. ²⁰ And this is the copy of the letters which the Spartans sent:

The rulers of the Spartans, and the city, unto Simon the high priest, and unto the elders, and the priests, and the

residue of the people of the Jews, our brethren, greeting:
²¹ The ambassadors that were sent unto our people made report to us of your glory and honor: and we were glad for their coming, ²² and we did register the things that were spoken by them in the public records after this manner: Numenius son of Antiochus, and Antipater son of Jason, the Jews' ambassadors, came unto us to renew the friendship they had with us. ²³ And it pleased the people to entertain the men honorably, and to put the copy of their words in the public records, to the end that the people of the Spartans might have a memorial thereof: moreover they wrote a copy of these things unto Simon the high priest.

²⁴ After this Simon sent Numenius to Rome with a great shield of gold of a thousand pound weight, in order to confirm the confederacy with them.

²⁵ But when the people heard these things, they said, What thanks shall we give to Simon and his sons? ²⁶ for he and his brethren and the house of his father have made themselves strong, and have chased away in fight the enemies of Israel from them, and confirmed liberty to Israel. ²⁷ And they wrote on tables of brass, and set them upon pillars in mount Zion: and this is the copy of the writing:

On the eighteenth day of Elul, in the hundred and seventy and second year, and this is the third year of Simon the high priest, ²⁸ in Asaramel, in a great congregation of priests and people and princes of the nation, and of the elders of the country, was it notified unto us: ²⁹ Forasmuch as oftentimes there have been wars in the country, but Simon the son of Mattathias, the son of the sons of Joarib, and his brethren, put themselves in jeopardy, and withstood the enemies of

their nation, that their sanctuary and the law might be established, and glorified their nation with great glory: ³⁰ and Jonathan assembled their nation together, and became their high priest, and was gathered to his people: ³¹ and their enemies purposed to invade their country, that they might destroy their country utterly, and stretch forth their hands against their sanctuary: ³² then rose up Simon, and fought for his nation, and spent much of his own substance, and armed the valiant men of his nation, and gave them wages: ³³ and he fortified the cities of Judea, and Beth-zur that lieth upon the borders of Judea, where the arms of the enemies were aforetime, and set there a garrison of Jews: ³⁴ and he fortified Joppa which is upon the sea, and Gazara which is upon the borders of Azotus, wherein the enemies dwelt aforetime, and placed Jews there, and set therein all things convenient for the reparation thereof: ³⁵ and the people saw the faith of Simon, and the glory which he thought to bring unto his nation, and they made him their leader and high priest, because he had done all these things, and for the justice and the faith which he kept to his nation, and for that he sought by all means to exalt his people: ³⁶ and in his days things prospered in his hands, so that the Gentiles were taken away out of their country, and they also that were in the city of David, they that were in Jerusalem, who had made themselves a citadel, out of which they issued, and polluted all things round about the sanctuary, and did great hurt unto its purity; ³⁷ and he placed Jews therein, and fortified it for the safety of the country and the city, and made high the walls of Jerusalem: ³⁸ and king Demetrius confirmed to him the high priesthood according to these things, ³⁹ and made him one of his Friends, and honored him with great honor; ⁴⁰ for he had

heard say, that the Jews had been called by the Romans friends and confederates and brethren, and that they had met the ambassadors of Simon honorably; ⁴¹ and that the Jews and the priests were well pleased that Simon should be their leader and high priest forever, until there should arise a faithful prophet; ⁴² and that he should be captain over them, and should take charge of the sanctuary, to set them over their works, and over the country, and over the arms, and over the strongholds; and that he should take charge of the sanctuary, ⁴³ and that he should be obeyed by all, and that all instruments in the country should be written in his name, and that he should be clothed in purple, and wear gold; ⁴⁴ and that it should not be lawful for any of the people or of the priests to set at nought any of these things, or to gainsay the words that he should speak, or to gather an assembly in the country without him, or to be clothed in purple, or wear a buckle of gold; ⁴⁵ but whosoever should do otherwise, or set at nought any of these things, he should be liable to punishment. ⁴⁶ All the people consented to ordain for Simon that he should do according to these words; ⁴⁷ and Simon accepted hereof, and consented to be high priest, and to be captain and governor of the Jews and of the priests, and to be protector of all.

⁴⁸ And they commanded to put this writing on tables of brass, and to set them up within the precinct of the sanctuary in a conspicuous place; ⁴⁹ and moreover to put the copies thereof in the treasury, to the end that Simon and his sons might have them.

15

¹ And Antiochus son of Demetrius the king sent letters from the isles of the sea unto Simon the priest and

governor of the Jews, and to all the nation; ² and the contents thereof were after this manner:

King Antiochus to Simon the chief priest and governor, and to the nation of the Jews, greeting: ³ Forasmuch as certain pestilent fellows have made themselves masters of the kingdom of our fathers, but my purpose is to claim the kingdom, that I may restore it as it was before; and moreover I have raised a multitude of foreign soldiers, and have prepared ships of war; ⁴ moreover I am minded to land in the country, that I may punish them that have destroyed our country, and them that have made many cities in the kingdom desolate: ⁵ Now therefore I confirm unto thee all the exactions which the kings that were before me remitted unto thee, and whatsoever gifts besides they remitted unto thee: ⁶ and I give thee leave to coin money for thy country with thine own stamp, ⁷ but that Jerusalem and the sanctuary should be free: and all the arms that thou hast prepared, and the strongholds that thou hast built, which thou hast in thy possession, let them remain unto thee: ⁸ and everything owing to the king, and the things that shall be owing to the king from henceforth and forevermore, let them be remitted unto thee: ⁹ moreover, when we shall have established our kingdom, we will glorify thee and thy nation and the temple with great glory, so that your glory shall be made manifest in all the earth.

¹⁰ In the hundred and seventy and fourth year went Antiochus forth into the land of his fathers; and all the forces came together unto him, so that there were few men with Trypho. ¹¹ And king Antiochus pursued him, and he came, as he fled, unto Dor, which is by the sea: ¹² for he knew that troubles were come upon him all at once, and that his forces had forsaken him. ¹³ And Antiochus encamped against Dor, and with him

a hundred and twenty thousand men of war, and eight thousand horse. ¹⁴ And he compassed the city round about, and the ships joined in the attack from the sea; and he vexed the city by land and sea, and suffered no man to go out or in.

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

¹⁶ Lucius, consul of the Romans, unto king Ptolemy, greeting: ¹⁷ The Jews' ambassadors came unto us as our friends and confederates, to renew the old friendship and confederacy, being sent from Simon the high priest, and from the people of the Jews: ¹⁸ moreover they brought a shield of gold of a thousand pound. ¹⁹ It pleased us therefore to write unto the kings and unto the countries, that they should not seek their hurt, nor fight against them, and their cities, and their country, nor be confederates with such as fight against them. ²⁰ Moreover it seemed good to us to receive the shield of them. ²¹ If therefore any pestilent fellows have fled from their country unto you, deliver them unto Simon the high priest, that he may take vengeance on them according to their law.

²² And the same things wrote he to Demetrius the king, and to Attalus, and to Ariarathes, and to Arsaces, ²³ and unto all the countries, and to Sampsames, and to the Spartans, and unto Delos, and unto Myndos, and unto Sicyon, and unto Caria, and unto Samos, and unto Pamphylia, and unto Lycia, and unto Halicarnassus, and unto Rhodes, and unto Phaselis, and unto Cos, and unto Side, and unto Aradus, and Gortyna, and Cnidus, and Cyprus, and Cyrene. ²⁴ But the copy hereof they wrote to Simon the high priest.

²⁵ But Antiochus the king encamped against Dor the second day, bringing his forces up to it continually, and making engines of war, and he shut up Trypho from going in or out. ²⁶ And Simon sent him two thousand chosen men to fight on his side; and silver, and gold, and instruments of war in abundance. ²⁷ And he would not receive them, but set at nought all the covenants which he had made with him aforetime, and was estranged from him. ²⁸ And he sent unto him Athenobius, one of his Friends, to commune with him, saying,

Ye hold possession of Joppa and Gazara, and the citadel that is in Jerusalem, cities of my kingdom. ²⁹ The borders thereof ye have wasted, and done great hurt in the land, and gat the dominion of many places in my kingdom. ³⁰ Now therefore deliver up the cities which ye have taken, and the tributes of the places whereof ye have gotten dominion without the borders of Judea: ³¹ or else give me for them five hundred talents of silver; and for the harm that ye have done, and the tributes of the cities, other five hundred talents: or else we will come and subdue you.

³² And Athenobius the king's Friend came to Jerusalem; and he saw the glory of Simon, and the cupboard of gold and silver vessels, and his great attendance, and he was amazed; and he reported to him the king's words. ³³ And Simon answered, and said unto him,

We have neither taken other men's land, nor have we possession of that which appertaineth to others, but of the inheritance of our fathers; howbeit, it was had in possession of our enemies wrongfully for a certain time. ³⁴ But we, having opportunity, hold fast the inheritance of our fathers. ³⁵ But as touching Joppa and Gazara, which thou demandest, they did great harm among the people throughout our country, we will give a hundred talents for them.

And he answered him not a word, ³⁶ but returned in a rage to the king, and reported unto him these words, and the glory of Simon, and all that he had seen: and the king was exceeding wroth. ³⁷ But Trypho embarked on board a ship, and fled to Orthosia.

³⁸ And the king appointed Cendebeus chief captain of the seacoast, and gave him forces of foot and horse: ³⁹ and he commanded him to encamp before Judea, and he commanded him to build up Kedron, and to fortify the gates, and that he should fight against the people: but the king pursued Trypho. ⁴⁰ And Cendebeus came to Jamnia, and began to provoke the people, and to invade Judea, and to take the people captive, and to slay them. ⁴¹ And he built Kedron, and set horsemen there, and forces of foot, to the end that issuing out they might make outroads upon the ways of Judea, according as the king commanded him.

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¹ And John went up from Gazara, and told Simon his father what Cendebeus was doing. ² And Simon called his two oldest sons, Judas and John, and said unto them, I and my brethren and my father's house have fought the battles of Israel from our youth, even unto this day; and things have prospered in our hands, that we should deliver Israel oftentimes. ³ But now I am old, and ye moreover, by *his* mercy, are of a sufficient age: be ye instead of me and my brother, and go forth and fight for our nation; but let the help which is from heaven be with you. ⁴ And he chose out of the country twenty thousand men of war and horsemen, and they went against Cendebeus, and slept at Modein. ⁵ And rising up in the morning, they went into the plain, and, behold, a great host came to meet them, of footmen and horsemen:

and there was a brook between them. ⁶ And he encamped over against them, he and his people: and he saw that the people were afraid to pass over the brook, and he passed over first, and the men saw him, and passed over after him. ⁷ And he divided the people, and set the horsemen in the midst of the footmen: but the enemies' horsemen were exceeding many. ⁸ And they sounded with the trumpets; and Cendebeus and his army were put to the rout, and there fell of them many wounded to death, but they that were left fled to the stronghold: ⁹ at that time was Judas John's brother wounded: but John pursued after them, till he came unto Kedron, which *Cendebeus* had built; ¹⁰ and they fled unto the towers that are in the fields of Azotus; and he burned it with fire; and there fell of them about two thousand men. And he returned into Judea in peace.

¹¹ And Ptolemy the son of Abubus had been appointed captain for the plain of Jericho, and he had much silver and gold; ¹² for he was the high priest's son-in-law. ¹³ And his heart was lifted up, and he was minded to make himself master of the country, and he took counsel deceitfully against Simon and his sons, to make away with them. ¹⁴ Now Simon was visiting the cities that were in the country, and taking care for the good ordering of them; and he went down to Jericho, himself and Mattathias and Judas his sons, in the hundred and seventh year, in the eleventh month, the same is the month Shebat: ¹⁵ and the son of Abubus received them deceitfully into the little stronghold that is called Dok, which he had built, and made them a great banquet, and hid men there. ¹⁶ And when Simon and his sons had drunk freely, Ptolemy and his men rose up, and took their arms, and came in upon Simon into the banqueting place, and slew him, and his two sons, and certain of his servants.

¹⁷ And he committed a great iniquity, and recompensed evil for good. ¹⁸ And Ptolemy wrote these things, and sent to the king, that he should send him forces to aid him, and should deliver him their country and the cities. ¹⁹ And he sent others to Gazara to make away with John: and unto the captains of thousands he sent letters to come unto him, that he might give them silver and gold and gifts. ²⁰ And others he sent to take possession of Jerusalem, and the mount of the temple. ²¹ And one ran before to Gazara, and told John that his father and brethren were perished, and he hath sent to slay thee also. ²² And when he heard, he was sore amazed; and he laid hands on the men that came to destroy him, and slew them; for he perceived that they were seeking to destroy him.

²³ And the rest of the acts of John, and of his wars, and of his valiant deeds which he did, and of the building of the walls which he built, and of his doings, ²⁴ behold, they are written in the chronicles of his high priesthood, from the time that he was made high priest after his father.

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