

The Maccabees

The Maccabees

“But the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.”

Daniel 11:32

Some people know God and live for Him.

God blesses them with powerful success.

Exploit. An act or deed; a feat; in modern use, an achievement displaying a brilliant degree of bravery or skill.

**Do you know the
LORD God Jehovah?**

**Do you live for Him
in all your decisions?**

**How have you shown
unusual strength
for Him?**

**What exploit will you
be known for by
Sunday?**

**What exploits will we
recount for you at
your funeral?**

And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

Daniel 11:32

The Maccabees

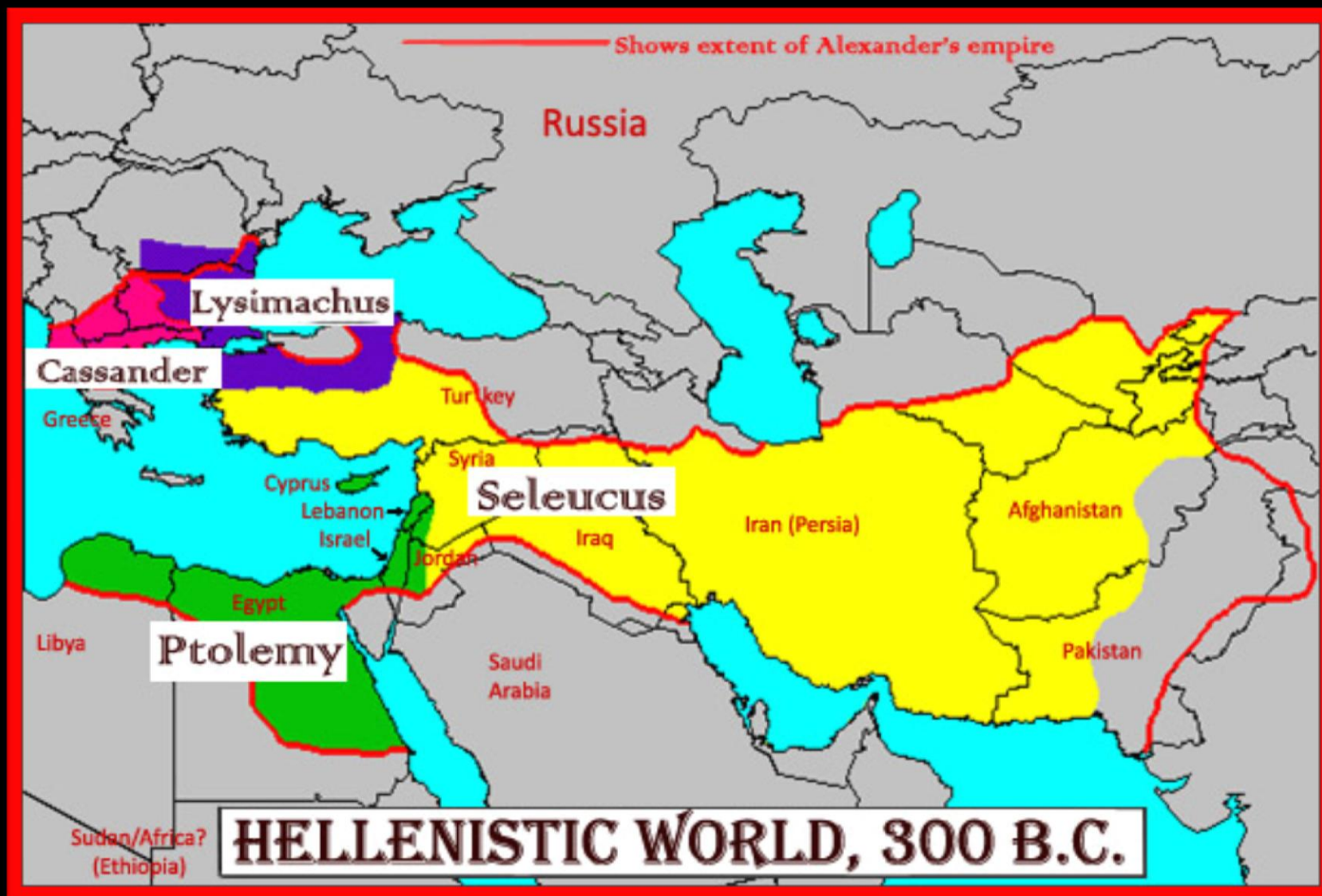
The name Maccabee was a personal epithet of Judah son of Mattathias a priest of Israel, meaning “the hammer,” in recognition of his ferocity in battle, though also applied to his four brothers and often incorrectly to the entire Hasmonean dynasty.

Judas Maccabee

Judah the Hammer!

A Simple Timeline (B.C. dates)

- 526 Nebuchadnezzar took Israel captive to Babylon.
- 456 Cyrus sent the Jews back to Jerusalem.
- 323 Alexander the Great died – four generals ruled.
- 175 Antiochus IV began reign over Seleucid Empire.
- 165 Judah Maccabees drives Seleucids out of Judea.
- 63 The Romans take Judea and make it a province.



Antiochus the IV (Epiphanes)

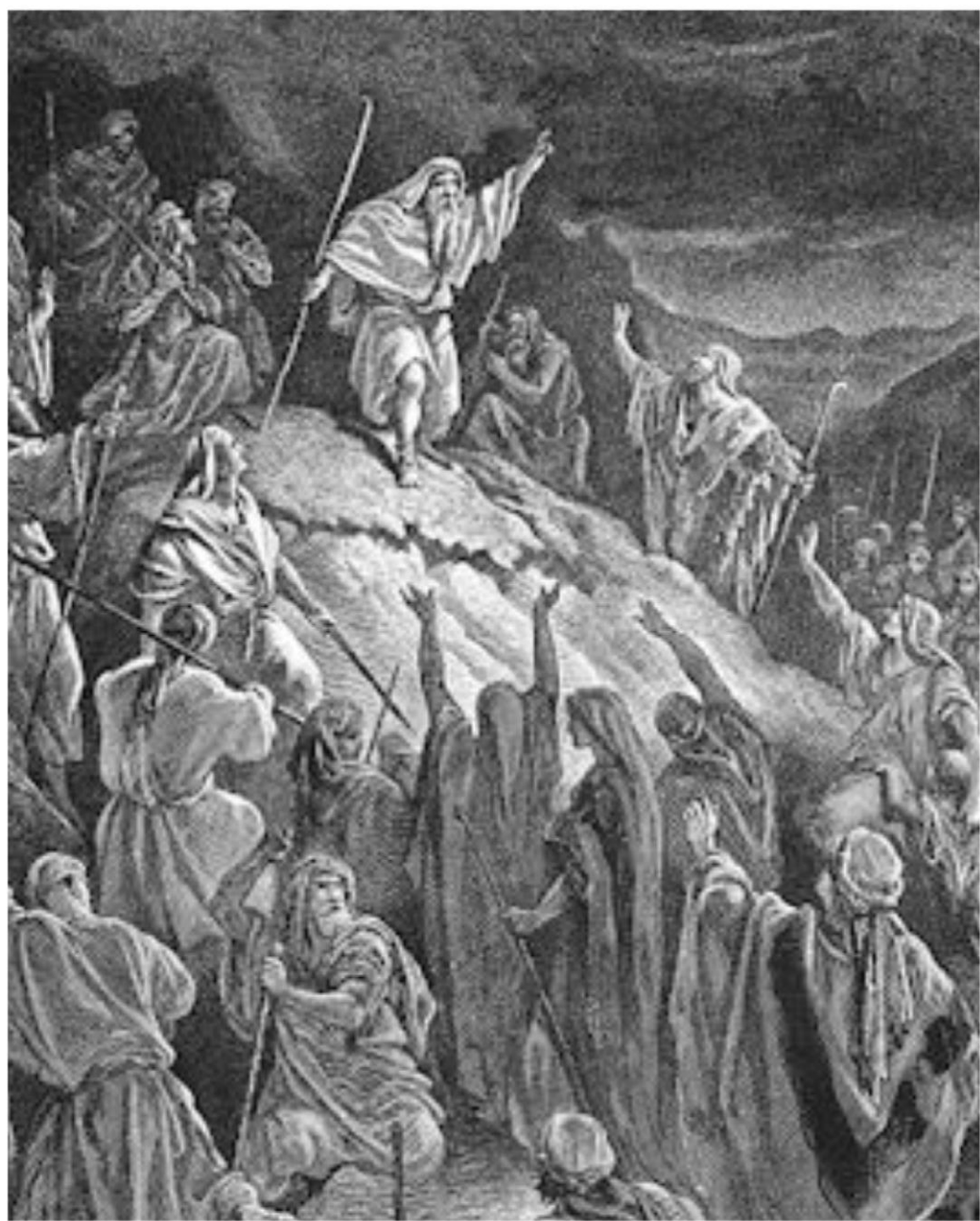
- Antiochus IV began reign over Seleucia in 175 B.C.
- Epiphanes = *the Illustrious ... or worse, God Manifest.*
- Epimanes = *the Madman ...* for eccentric behavior.
- He sold Jewish office of high priest as political office.
- He systematically tried to Hellenize (Greekify) Jews.
- He viewed the Jewish religion as a threat to Seleucia.
- His embarrassment by Rome in Egypt enraged him.
- On his way home he savagely attacked Jerusalem.
- He died suddenly by illness at age 51 in year 164 B.C.





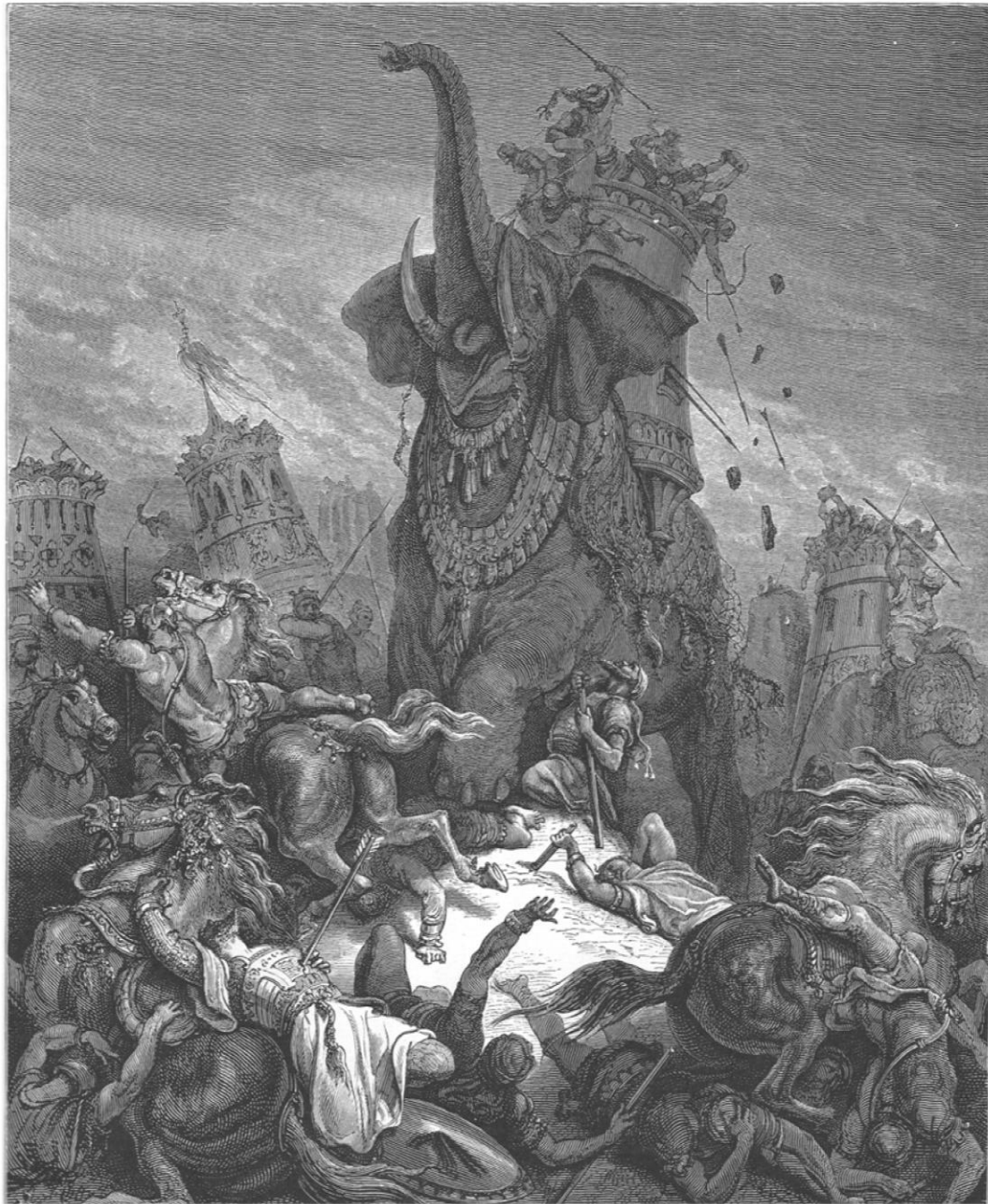
Who Are the Maccabees?

- Mattathias was a faithful priest in the village Modi'in.
- He said in I Maccabees he descended from Phinehas.
- His lineage was from Hashman of Joarib (I Chron 24:7).
- His five sons – Judah, Eleazar, Simon, John, Jonathan.
- The name was given to Judah ... likely ... *the Hammer*.
- Mattathias killed a compromiser and Seleucid officer.
- Judah led guerilla warfare very well to defeat them.
- Judah drove them out and rededicated the temple.
- John Hyrcanus of Simon; Hasmoneans until Herod.







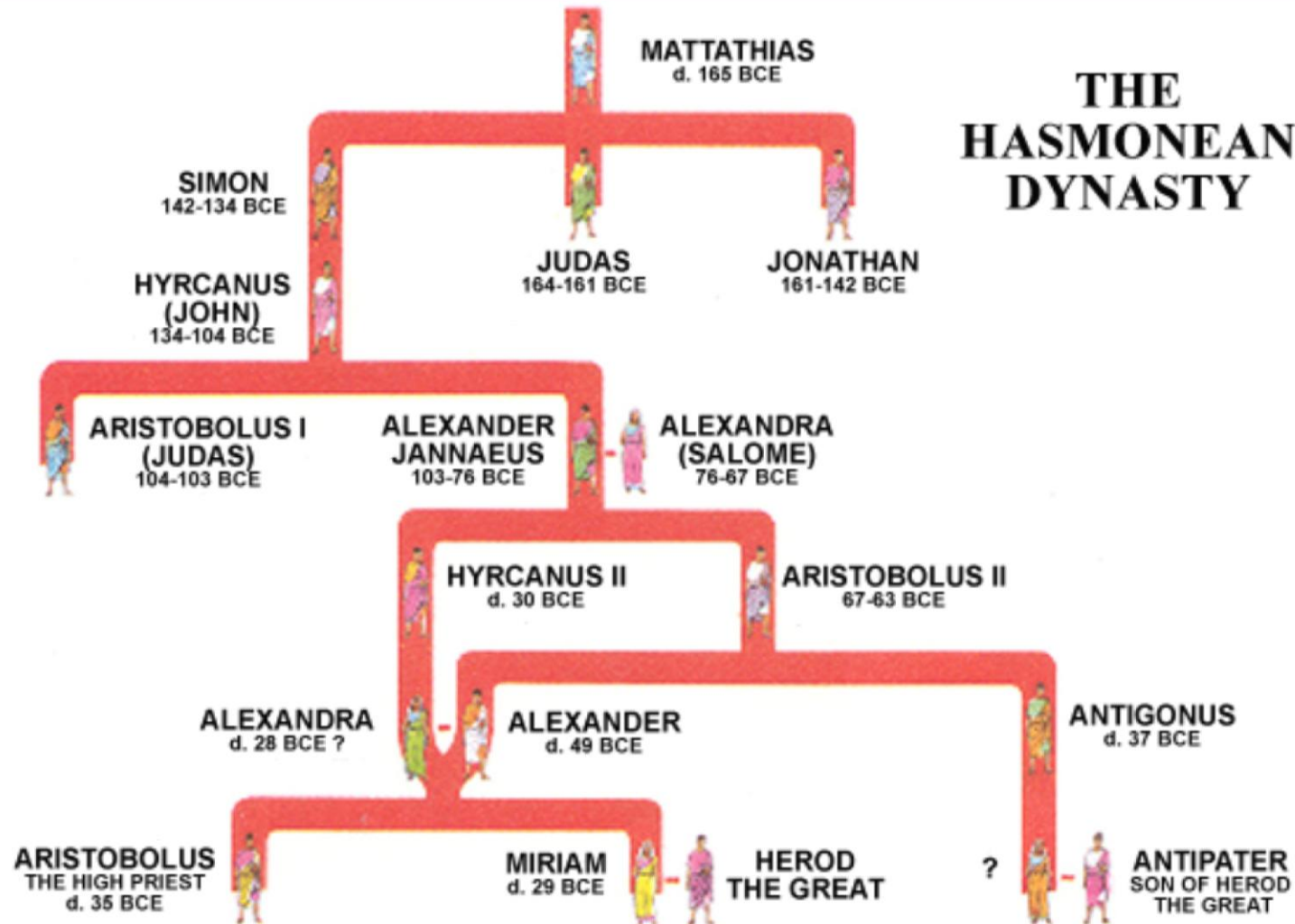




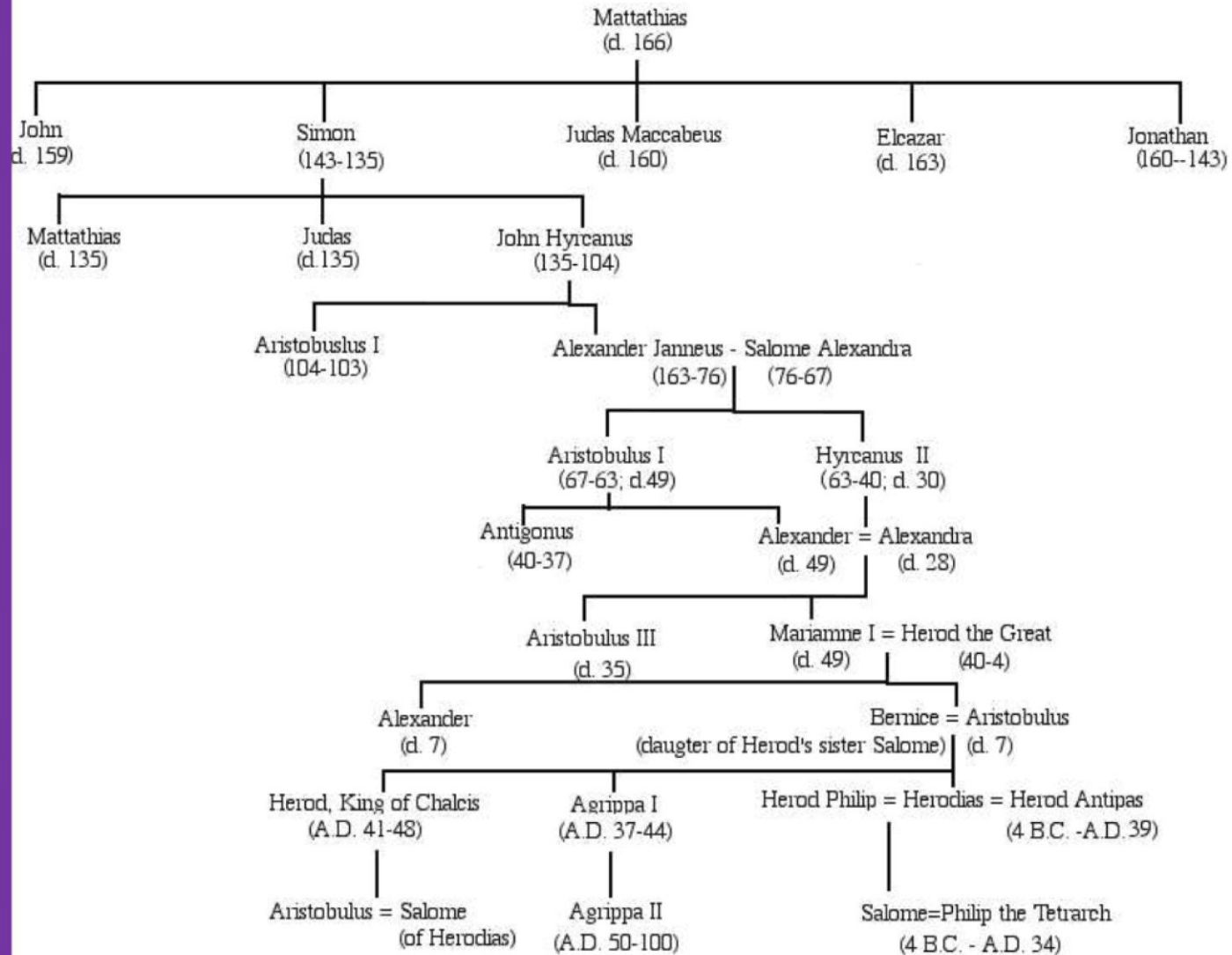




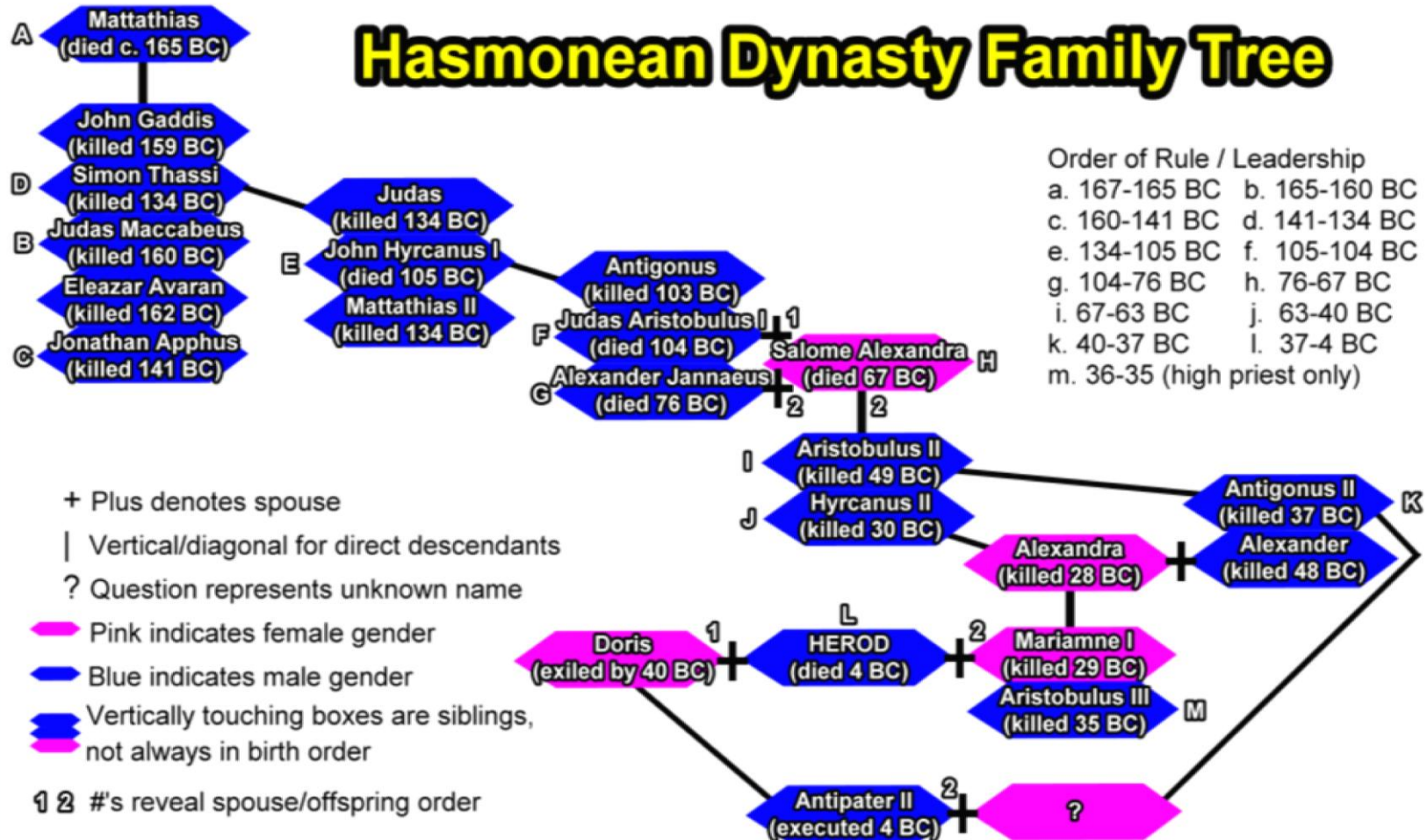
THE HASMONEAN DYNASTY



The Maccabees and the Hasmoneans (166 B.C. - A.D. 100)



Hasmonean Dynasty Family Tree

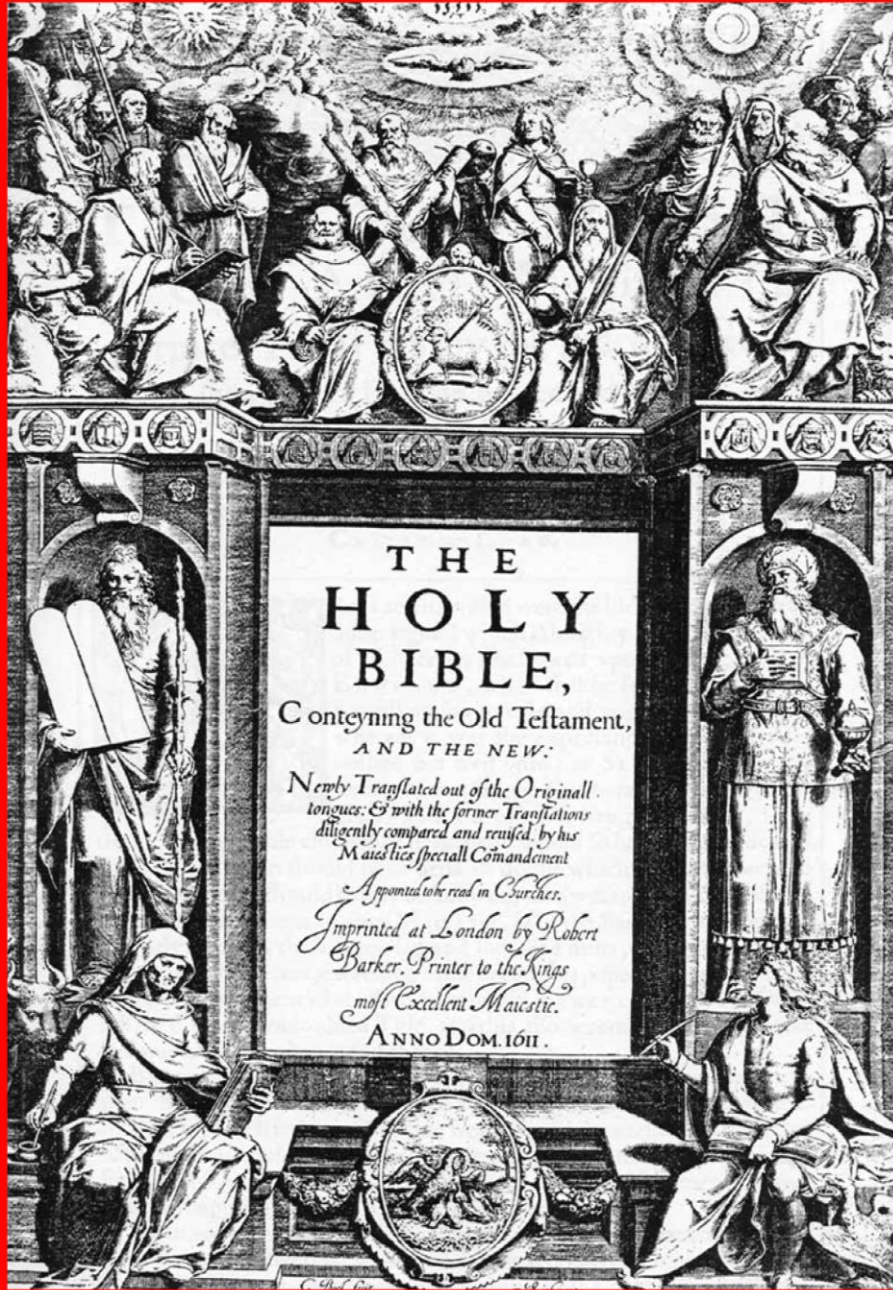


Note: Most wives are omitted from the chart as no names are known

By Brent MacDonald, (c) 2012
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What About I and II Maccabees?

- They are two books in the Apocrypha of some Bibles.
- Apocrypha = Uninspired
- Apocrypha = Historical Reference
- Apocrypha = Works of Josephus
- These two books are included in the Catholic canon.
- They are in the King James as help, not as scripture.
- The KJV limits scripture to two testaments ... period!
- They are a history of the Hasmoneans ... up to Herod.
- A history of the Maccabean Revolt against Seleucia.
- Fools say the Hebrew Bible ignores the Maccabees.



THE
HOLY
BIBLE,

Conteyning the Old Testament,
AND THE NEW.

*Newly Translated out of the Originall
tongues: & with the former Translations
diligently compared and reuised, by his
Majessties speciall Comandement*

Appointed to be read in Churches.

*Imprinted at London by Robert
Barker, Printer to the Kings
most Excellent Majestie.*

ANNO DOM. 1611.



The names and order of all the Bookes of
the Olde and New Testament, with the
Number of their Chapters.

G enesi hath Chapters	50	Ecclesiastes hath Chapters	12
Exodus	40	The song of Solomon	8
Leuiticus	27	Isaiah	66
Numbers	36	Ieremiah	52
Deuteronomie	34	Lamentations	5
Ioshua	24	Ezekiel	48
Iudges	21	Daniel	12
Ruth	4	Hofea	14
1. Samuel	31	Ioel	3
2. Samuel	24	Amos	9
1. Kings	22	Obadiah	1
2. Kings	25	Ionah	4
1. Chronicles	29	Micah	7
2. Chronicles	36	Nahum	5
Ezrah	10	Habakkuk	3
Nehemiah	13	Zephaniah	3
Ester	10	Haggai	2
Iob	42	Zechariah	14
Pfalms	150	Malachi	4
Proverbs	31		

The Bookes called Apocrypha.

E sdra hath Chapters	9	Baruch with the Epistle of Ieremiah	6
2. Esdras	16	The song of the three children.	
Tobit	14	The story of Susanna.	
Iudeth	16	The idole Bel and the Dragon.	
The rest of Esther	6	The prayer of Manasseh.	
Wisedome	19	1. Maccabees	16
Ecclesiasticus	51	2. Maccabees	15

The Bookes of the New Testament.

M atthew hath Chap.	28	2. Theſſalonians hath Chapters	3
Marke	16	1. Timotheus	6
Luke	24	2. Timotheus	4
Iohn	21	Titus	3
The Actes	26	Philemon	1
The Epistle to the Ro- manes	16	To the Hebrewes	13
1. Corinthians	16	The Epistle of Iames	5
2. Corinthians	13	1. Peter	5
Galatians	6	2. Peter	3
Ephesians	6	1. Iohn	5
Philippians	4	2. Iohn	1
Colofians	4	3. Iohn	1
1. Theſſalonians	5	Iude	1
		Revelation	22

18 Then shall ye returne and deli-
uer be the righteous and the
wicked, berideme him that feareth
God, and him that feareth him not.

CHAP. III.

1 Gods iudgement on the wicked, 2 and his
blessing on the good, 3 He exhorteth to
the studie of the Law, 4 and telleth of Eli-
shas coming, and Office.

BE beholde, the day com-
meth, that shall burne as
an oven, and all the proud,
yea and all that doe wic-
kedly shall be dubble: and
the day that commeth, shall burne them
vp, saith the LORD of hostes, that
it shall leaue them neither roote, nor
branch.

2 ¶ But vnto you that feare my

name, shall the LORD of hostes
arise with dealing in his iudge-
ment, and shall goe fourth and geaue by the
carnes of the floure.

3 And ye shall tremble before the
wicked: for they shall be aduer-
saries to you, as they were in the
day that I spake thus, saith the LORD of hostes.

4 ¶ Remember ye the LORD of
hostes, my seruant, which I haue
sent vnto you in his word, saying
that I would geaue you a
signe, and I will geaue you
a signe, saith the LORD of hostes,
the LORD.

5 ¶ Behold, I will send you
Elishas the prophet, before the
comming of the great and dreadfull day of the
LORD.

6 And he shall turne the hearts
of the fathers to the children, and
the hearts of the children to their
fathers, saith the LORD of hostes,
lest I come and take away
the curse.

The end of the Prophets.



APO



APOCRYPHA.

I. ESDRAS.

CHAP. I.

1 Iudas his charge to the Priests and Leuites.
2 A great Passouer is kept, 3 His death
is much lamented: 4 His resurrection, 5
The Temple, City, and people are destroyed.
6 The ark is carried vnto Babylon.



And Iudas helde
the Feast of the
Passouer in Je-
rusalem vnto his
LORD, and offered
the Passouer the
fourteenth day of
the first moneth:

2 hauing set
the Priests according to their dayly
courses, being arrayed in long gar-
ments, in the Temple of the LORD.

3 And he spake vnto the Leuites
the holy ministers of Israel, that they
should halloie themselves vnto the
LORD, to set the holy Arke of the LORD,
in the house that King Solomon the
sonne of Dauid had built:

4 And said, Ye shall no more beare
the Arke vpon your shoulders: noth-
withstanding for the LORD your God, and
prepare you after your families and
kindreds.

5 According as Dauid the King of Is-
rael prescribed, according to the man-
ner of Solomon his sonne: 6 hauing
in the Temple according to the se-
uerall dignities of the families of you the
Leuites, who minister in the presence of
your brethren the children of Israel.

7 Offer the Passouer in order, and
make ready the sacrifices for your be-
nefices, and keepe the Passouer ac-
cording to the commandment of the

LORD, which was giuen vnto Moyses.
7 And vnto the people that had
found there, Iudas gaue thirty thou-
sand lambes, and kids, and three thou-
sand calves: these things were giuen of
the Kings of the Persians, according as he
promised to the people, to the Priests,
and to the Leuites.

8 And Helias, Zacharias, and
Sietus the gouernours of the Tem-
ple, gaue to the Priests for the Passou-
er, two thousand and six hundred
sheepe, and three hundred calves.

9 And Jeronias, and Samaias,
and Nathanael his brother, and Alla-
bias, and Sietus, and Jozan captaines
ouer thousands gaue to the Leuites for
the Passouer five thousand sheepe, and
seuen hundred calves.

10 And when these things were
done, the Priests and Leuites hauing
the vnicorned bread, stood in very
conuerty order according to the kindreds.

11 And according to the leuerall dig-
nities of the fathers, before the people,
to offer to the LORD, as it is written in
the booke of Moyses: 12 And thus did
they in the morning.

13 And they roasted the Passouer
with fire as appertineth: as for the sac-
rifices, they sodde them in brasse pots,
and paines | with a good sauer.

14 And set them before all the people,
and after that they prepared for them-
selves, and for the Priests their brethren
the sonnes of Aaron.

15 For the Priests offered the fat
vntill night: and the Leuites prepared for
themselves, and the Priests their bre-
thren the sonnes of Aaron.

16 The holy songes also, the sonnes
of Alaph, were in their order, according
to

9 At that time was Judas Johns brother wounded: But John still followed after them, vntill he came to Cedron which Cendebeus had built.

10 So they fled euen vnto the toylers in the fields of Azotus, wherefore hee burnt it with fire: So that there were flaine of them about two thousand men. Afterward hee returned into the land of Iudea in peace.

11 Moreover in the plaine of Jericho was Ptolomeus the sonne of Abubus made captaine, and hee had abundance of siluer and golde.

12 For he was the hie Priestes sonne in lawe.

13 Wherefore his heart being lifted vp, hee thought to get the countrey to himselfe, and thereupon consulted deceitfully against Simon and his sons, to destroy them.

14 Now Simon was visiting the cities that were in the countrey, and taking care for the good ordering of them, at which time hee came downe himselfe to Jericho with his sons, Mattathias and Judas, in the hundredth threescore and seuenth yeere, in the eleuenth moneth called Sabat.

15 Where the sonne of Abubus receiuing them deceitfully into a little holde called Docus, which he had built, made them a great banquet: howbeit he had hidde men there.

16 So when Simon and his sonnes

had drunke largely, Ptolome and his men rose vp, and tooke their weapons, and came vpon Simon into the banketing place, and slew him and his two sonnes, and certaine of his seruants.

17 In which doing, he committed a great treachery, and recompensed euill for good.

18 Then Ptolome wrote these things, and sent to the king, that he should send him an hoste to aide him, and he would deliuer him the countrey and cities.

19 He sent others also to Gazara to kill John, & vnto the Teribunes he sent letters to come vnto him, that he might giue them siluer, and golde, & rewards.

20 And others he sent to take Jerusalem, and the mountaine of the temple.

21 Now one had runne afoze to Gazara, and tolde John that his father and brethren were slaine, and [quoth he] Ptolome hath sent to slay thee also.

22 Hereof when he heard, hee was sore astonished: So he laide hands on them that were come to destroy him, and slew them, for hee knew that they sought to make him away.

23 As concerning the rest of the actes of John, and his wars & worthy deeds which hee did, and the building of the walles which he made, and his doings,

24 Behold, these are written in the Chronicles of his Priesthood, from the time he was made hie Priest after his father.

*10. which
is for they
had vnto the
sonnes in the
field of Azotus,
and
there were
slaine.*

*17. cap
of the
second.*

The second booke of the Maccabees.

CHAP. I.

1 A letter of the Iewes from Ierusalem to them of Egypt, to thanke God for the death of Antiochus. 19 Of the fire that was hidde in the pit. 24 The prayer of Nehemias.

He brethren the Iewes that bee at Ierusalem, and in the lande of Iudea, wish vnto the brethren the Iewes that are throughout Egypt, health and peace.

2 God be gracious vnto you, and remember his Couenant that hee made with Abraham, Isaac, and Iacob, his faithfull seruants:

3 And giue you all an heart to serue him, and to doe his Will, with a good courage, and a willing minde:

4 And open your hearts in his lawe and commandements, & send you peace:

5 And heare your prayers, and be at one with you, and neuer forsake you in time of trouble.

6 And now wee be here praying for you.

7 What time as Demetrius reigned, in the hundred threescore and ninth yeere, wee the Iewes wrote vnto you, in the extremitie of trouble, that came vpon vs in those yeeres, from the time that Jason and his company reuoluted from the holy land, and kingdome,

8 And burnt the porch, and shed innocent blood. Then we prayed vnto the Lord, and were heard: We offered also sacrifices, and fine florwe, and lighted the lampes, and set forth the loaves.

9 And now see that ye keepe the feast

A Simple Timeline (B.C. dates)

- 175 Antiochus IV took the throne of Seleucid Empire.
- 175- Hellenization pressed on the Jews (gymnasium).
- 170 Priesthood sold and/or forced to do his bidding.
- 168 Temple profaned by Antiochus (angry after Rome).
- 167 Mattathias revolted - killed and called to arms.
- 166 Judah replaced his father as leader of the revolt.
- 165 Temple cleansed and dedicated – holiday started.
- 164 Antiochus IV dead at 51 while fighting Parthians.

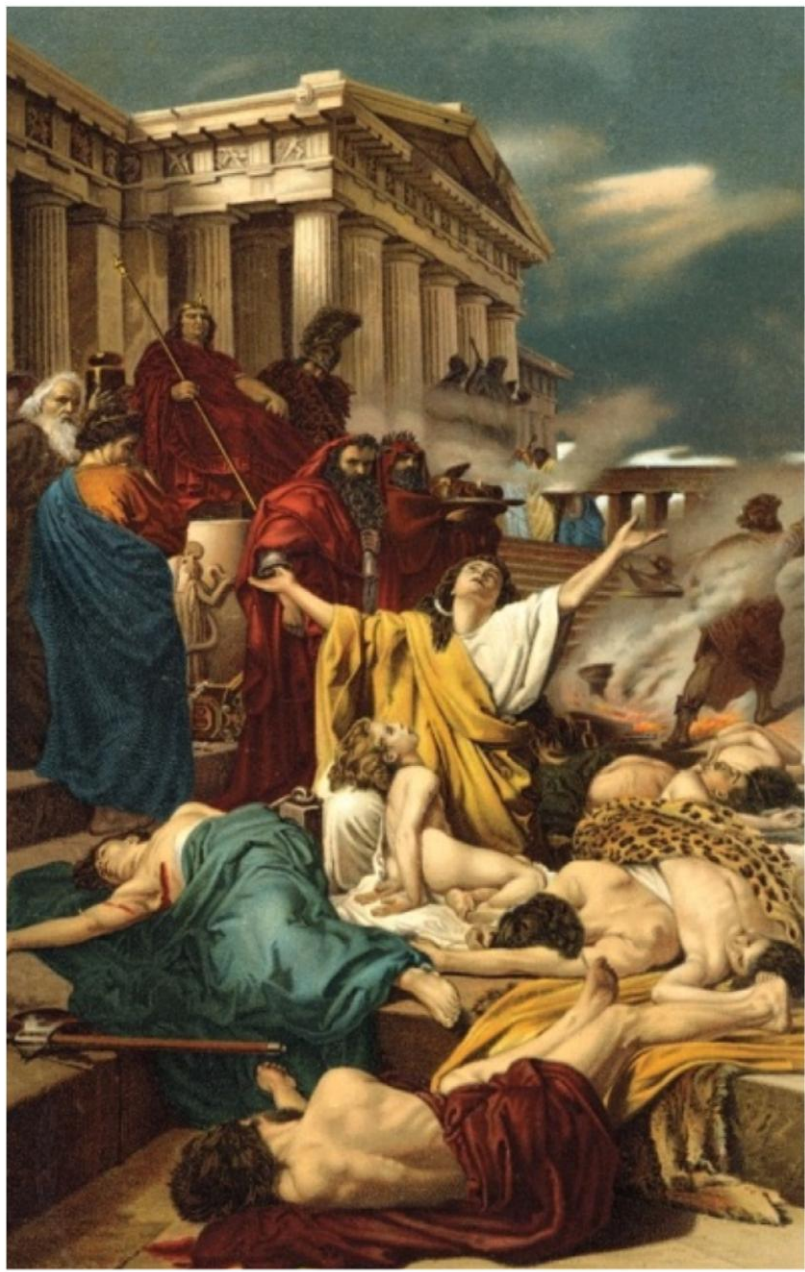




Example Atrocities by Antiochus IV

- He was humiliated by a Roman ambassador in 168.
- On his return to Syria, he severely punished the Jews.
- Tore down the wall of Jerusalem.
- Slaughtered many of the Jews.
- Destroyed the sacred scriptures.
- Turned temple into brothel with prostitutes.
- Death for circumcision, etc.
- Flogged Eleazar for refusal.
- Killed mother and seven children.
- Offered swine to Zeus on altar.







Daniel 8

- The prophecy of ram (Persia) and the goat (Greece).
- These are two of the Empires from chapters 2 and 7.
- This prophecy is confined to latter Greek kings (20-22).
- A whole chapter about two empires before Rome (7).
- Chapter 7 is about popes; Chapter 9 about Messiah.
- Alexander the Great is the notable horn of the goat.
- The enemy is a king from one of the generals (8-9).
- He defiled temple worship and ended sacrifices (9-12).
- He defiled and dominated Israel for 2300 days (13-14).
- This is Antiochus Epiphanes, a vile latter Greek king.

Daniel 11

- Prophecy of Daniel's people – the Jews (10:14; 12:7).
- It clearly began with Darius and Persian Empire (11:2).
- It clearly ends with ruin of Israel in 70 A.D. (12:1,7).
- The *Kings of the North* = kings of Seleucid Empire.
- The *Kings of the South* = kings of Ptolemaic Empire.
- Syria is north of Egypt ... Israel lies between them.
- The prophecy has successive kings of both empires.
- Daniel 11:21-32 is about Antiochus IV Epiphanes.
- Daniel 11:32-35 is about the Maccabees and revolt.
- Daniel 11:36-45 is about Herod the Great and Caesar.

And in his estate shall stand up a vile person,
to whom they shall not give the honour of
the kingdom: but he shall come in
peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by
flatteries.

Daniel 11:21

Then shall he return into his land with great riches; and his heart shall be against the holy covenant; and he shall do exploits, and return to his own land.

Daniel 11:28

For the ships of Chittim shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant.

Daniel 11:30

And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.

Daniel 11:31

**But now it is time for
Judah Maccabees and
the Jewish revolt!**

And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

Daniel 11:32

Judah Maccabees and Revolt!

- Priest Mattathias killed a Seleucid and called to arms.
- His son Judah, strong and zealous, took the lead.
- The Seleucids had a trained army with many weapons.
- The Jews were farmers with no army or weapons.
- Judah was a genius at guerilla warfare on his terms.
- The first battle wiped out a Greek force in a pass.
- Antiochus also had to fight the Parthians in the east.
- Judah defeated larger and larger Seleucid armies.
- Antiochus died fighting, so Lysias allowed a treaty.
- Like David and Oliver Cromwell, Judah did exploits.

And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

Daniel 11:32

**What is
Hanukkah?**



What Is Hanukkah?

- Jewish holiday near Christmas (late Nov to late Dec).
- The feast lasts eight days starting on Kislev 25 (Heb).
- It has a candelabra or menorah with nine branches.
- Known as *Festival of Lights* or *Feast of Dedication*.
- What is it for? *To honor the Maccabees and temple.*
- It was started by Judah Maccabees in 165 B.C.
- Is it in the Bible? *It is in the gospel of John (10:22-23).*

22 And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter.

23 And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch.

John 10:22-23

Is Hanukkah Really in the Bible?

- Moses commanded 3 feasts recorded in the Bible.
- Passover is in the spring (about March or April).
- Weeks, or Pentecost, is spring 7 weeks later (May-June).
- Tabernacles, or Booths, is in the fall (Sep/Oct).
- But the feast of John 10:22-23 was in the winter!
- But the feast of John 10:22-23 was for dedication!
- It was started 200 years before Jesus in John 10!
- This can only be Hanukkah of the Maccabees!
- Jesus visited Jerusalem and the temple at this time!
- He confirmed Dan 11:32 and honored national days.

**Is there any other
mention of the
Maccabees
in the Bible?**

Hebrews 11:32-38

- Paul's *Hall of Faith* is generally chronological by date.
- Paul wrote 100 years after the Hasmonean dynasty.
- His use of "women" allows others than named (32,35).
- What of ... *out of weakness were made strong*?
- What of ... *waxed valiant in fight*?
- What of ... *turned to flight the armies of aliens*?
- What of ... *tortured, not accepting deliverance*?
- What of ... *cruel mockings and scourgings*?
- What of ... *sawn asunder*?
- What of ... *being destitute, afflicted, tormented*?

What does God say of the Maccabees and others like them that served Him to death?

(Of whom the world was not worthy:)

Hebrews 11:38

Paul used “women” in 11:35, allowing his listing to include more than those in 11:32.

These great heroes by God’s electing grace had faith that set them apart from others.

The world and its heroes cannot be compared to these heavenly saints of God.

**Will you be ...
a Maccabee ...
in your life?**

**Will you be ...
The Hammer ...
in your life?**

**In what parts
of your life ...**

**do you need to
bring down
the hammer?**

Areas You Can Hammer

Marriage

Finances

Soul-winning

Reading

Child Training

Television

Speech

Alcohol

Friends

House

Grades

Savings

Giving

Career

Driving

Time

Inputs

Weight

More Areas You Can Hammer

Moods

Consistency

Initiative

Attitude

Weakness

Productivity

Praise

Pursuit

Priorities

Hospitality

Forgiveness

Love

Service

Relationships

Holiness

Zeal

**Do you understand
that many parts of life
need finesse, not
force?**

And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

Daniel 11:32

**Do you know the
LORD God Jehovah?**

**Do you live for Him
in all your decisions?**

**How have you shown
unusual strength
for Him?**

**What exploit will you
be known for by
Sunday?**

**What exploits will we
recount for you at
your funeral?**

For Further Study

Daniel 8 ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/bible/prophecy/daniel08.php>

Daniel 11 ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/bible/prophecy/daniel11.php>.

Philip Mauro, “Seventy Weeks” ... http://www.preteristarchive.com/Books/1921_mauro_seventy-weeks.html.

Bruce Gore about Antiochus IV ... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3W0d65FOPi>

Bruce Gore about the Maccabees ... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6hwkThHYBXs>

Conservative commentaries ... (Poole, Henry, Gill, Barnes)

Conservative Bible dictionaries ... <http://biblehub.com/dictionary/>

I and II Maccabees or Antiquities by Josephus ... [I & II Maccabees](#) ... [Josephus Antiquities](#)

Alexander the Great ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/bible/prophecy/alexander.php>.

What about the 2300 Days? ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/what-about-the-2300-days.pdf>.

Is There Not a Cause ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/is-there-not-a-cause-2.pdf>.

David’s Mighty Men ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/davids-mighty-men.pdf>.

Greatness by a Great Cause ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/greatness-by-a-great-cause.pdf>.

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