

1 MACCABEES

CHAPTER 1

And it happened, that after Alexander son of Philip, the Macedonian, who came out of the land of Kittim, had smitten Darius king of the Persians and Medes, that he reigned in his stead, the first over Greece, ²and made many wars, and won many strong holds, and slew the kings of the earth, ³and went through to the ends of the earth, and took spoils of many nations, insomuch that the earth was quiet before him; whereupon he was exalted, and his heart was lifted up. ⁴And he gathered a mighty strong host, and ruled over countries, and nations, and kings, who became tributaries unto him. ⁵And after these things he fell sick, and perceived that he should die. ⁶Wherefore he called his servants, such as were honourable, and had been brought up with him from his youth, and parted his kingdom among them, while he was yet alive. ⁷So Alexander reigned twelve years, and then died. ⁸And his servants bare rule every one in his place. ⁹And after his death they all put crowns upon themselves; so did their sons after them many years: and evils were multiplied in the earth. ¹⁰And there came out of them a wicked root, Antiochus surnamed Epiphanes, son of Antiochus the king, who had been hostage at Rome, and he reigned in the hundred and thirty and seventh year of the kingdom of the Greeks.

¹¹In those days went there out of Israel wicked men, who persuaded many, saying, Let us go and make a covenant with the Gentiles that are round about us: for since we have departed from them we have had much sorrow. ¹²So this device pleased them well. ¹³Then certain of the people were so forward herein, that they went to the king, who gave them licence to do after the ordinances of the nations: ¹⁴whereupon they built a place of excise at Jerusalem according to the customs of the Gentiles: ¹⁵and made themselves uncircumcised, and forsook the holy covenant, and joined themselves to the Gentiles, and were sold to do mischief.

¹⁶Now when the kingdom was established before Antiochus, he thought to reign over Egypt, that he might have dominion of two realms. ¹⁷Wherefore he entered into Egypt with a great multitude, with chariots, and elephants, and horsemen, and a great navy, ¹⁸and made war against Ptolemy king of Egypt: but Ptolemy was afraid of him, and fled; and many were wounded to death. ¹⁹Thus they got the strong cities in the land of Egypt, and he took the spoils thereof. ²⁰And after that Antiochus had smitten Egypt, he returned again in the hundred forty and third year, and went up against Israel and Jerusalem with a great multitude, ²¹and entered proudly into the sanctuary, and took away the golden altar, and the candlestick of light, and all the vessels thereof, ²²and the table of the loaves of presentation, and the pouring vessels, and the vials, and the censers of gold, and the veil, and the crowns, and the golden ornaments that were before the temple, all which he pulled off. ²³He took also the silver and the gold, and the precious vessels:

also he took the hidden treasures which he found. ²⁴And when he had taken all away, he went into his own land, having made a great massacre, and spoken very proudly. ²⁵Therefore there was great mourning in Israel, in every place where they were; ²⁶so that the princes and elders mourned, and the virgins and young men were made feeble, and the beauty of women was changed. ²⁷Every bridegroom took up lamentation, and she that sat in the marriage chamber was in heaviness. ²⁸The land also was moved for the inhabitants thereof, and all the house of Jacob was covered with confusion.

²⁹And after two years fully expired, the king sent his chief collector of tribute unto the cities of Judea, who came to Jerusalem with a great multitude, ³⁰and spake peaceable words unto them, but all was deceit: for when they had given him credence, he fell suddenly upon the city, and smote it very sore, and destroyed much people of Israel. ³¹And when he had taken the spoils of the city, he set it on fire, and pulled down the houses and walls thereof on every side. ³²But the women and the children took they captive, and possessed the cattle. ³³Then builded they the city of David with a great and strong wall, and with mighty towers, and made it a strong hold for them. ³⁴And they put therein a sinful nation, wicked men, and fortified themselves therein. ³⁵They stored it also with armour and victuals, and when they had gathered together the spoils of Jerusalem, they laid them up there, and so they became a sore snare: ³⁶for it was a place to lie in wait against the sanctuary, and an evil adversary to Israel. ³⁷Thus they shed innocent blood on every side of the sanctuary, and defiled it: ³⁸insomuch that the inhabitants of Jerusalem fled because of them: whereupon the city was made an habitation of strangers, and became strange to those that were born in her; and her own children left her. ³⁹Her sanctuary was laid waste like a wilderness, her feasts were turned into mourning, her sabbaths into reproach, her honour into contempt. ⁴⁰As had been her glory, so was her dishonour increased, and her excellency was turned into mourning.

⁴¹Moreover king Antiochus wrote to his whole kingdom, that all should be one people, ⁴²and every one should leave his laws: so all the nations agreed according to the commandment of the king. ⁴³Yea, many also of the Israelites consented to his religion, and sacrificed unto idols, and profaned the sabbath. ⁴⁴For the king had sent letters by messengers unto Jerusalem and the cities of Judea, that they should follow the strange laws of the land, ⁴⁵and forbid whole burnt offerings, and sacrifice, and drink offerings, in the temple; and that they should profane the sabbaths and festival days: ⁴⁶and pollute the sanctuary and holy people: ⁴⁷set up altars, and groves, and chapels of idols, and sacrifice swine's flesh, and unclean beasts: ⁴⁸that they should also leave their children uncircumcised, and make their souls abominable with all manner of uncleanness and profanation: ⁴⁹to the end that they might forget the law, and change all the ordinances. ⁵⁰And whosoever would not do according to the commandment of the king, he said, he should die. ⁵¹In the selfsame manner wrote he to his whole kingdom, and appointed over seers over all the people, commanding the cities of Judea to sacrifice, city by city. ⁵²Then many of the people were gathered unto them to

wit, every one that forsook the law; and so they committed evils in the land; ⁵³and drove the Israelites into secret places, even wheresoever they could flee for succour. ⁵⁴Now the fifteenth day *of the month* Chislew, in the hundred forty and fifth year, they set up the abomination of desolation upon the altar, and builded idol altars throughout the cities of Judea on every side; ⁵⁵and burnt incense at the doors of their houses, and in the streets. ⁵⁶And when they had rent in pieces the books of the law which they found, they burnt them with fire. ⁵⁷And wheresoever was found any with the book of the testament, or if any consented to the law, the king's commandment was, that they should put him to death. ⁵⁸Thus did they by their authority unto the Israelites every month, to as many as were found in the cities. ⁵⁹Now the five and twentieth day of the month they did sacrifice upon the idol altar, which was upon the altar of God. ⁶⁰At which time according to the commandment they put to death certain women, that had caused their children to be circumcised. ⁶¹And they hanged the infants about their necks, and rifled their houses, and slew them that had circumcised them. ⁶²Howbeit many in Israel were fully resolved and confirmed in themselves not to eat any unclean thing. ⁶³Wherefore they chose rather to die, that they might not be defiled with meats, and that they might not profane the holy covenant: so then they died. ⁶⁴And there was very great wrath upon Israel.

CHAPTER 2

In those days arose Mattathias the son of John, the son of Simeon, a priest of the sons of Joarib, from Jerusalem, and dwelt in Modein. ²And he had five sons, John, called Gaddi: ³Simon, called Thassi: ⁴Judas, who was called Maccabeus: ⁵Eleazar, called Avaran: and Jonathan, whose surname was Apphus. ⁶And when he saw the blasphemies that were committed in Judea and Jerusalem, ⁷he said, Woe is me! wherefore was I born to see this misery of my people, and of the holy city, and to dwell there, when it was delivered into the hand of the enemy, and the sanctuary into the hand of strangers? ⁸Her temple is become as a man without glory. ⁹Her glorious vessels are carried away into captivity, her infants are slain in the streets, her young men with the sword of the enemy. ¹⁰What nation hath not had a part in her kingdom, and gotten of her spoils? ¹¹All her ornaments are taken away; of a free woman she is become a bondslave. ¹²And, behold, our sanctuary, even our beauty and our glory, is laid waste, and the Gentiles have profaned it. ¹³To what end therefore shall we live any longer? ¹⁴Then Mattathias and his sons rent their clothes, and put on sackcloth, and mourned very sore.

¹⁵In the mean while the king's officers, such as compelled the people to revolt, came into the city Modein, to make them sacrifice. ¹⁶And when many of Israel came unto them, Mattathias also and his sons came together. ¹⁷Then answered the king's officers, and said to Mattathias on this wise, Thou art a ruler, and an honourable and great man in this city, and strengthened

with sons and brethren: ¹⁸now therefore come thou first, and fulfil the king's commandment, like as all the Gentiles have done, yea, and the men of Judea also, and such as remain at Jerusalem: so shalt thou and thy house be in the number of the king's friends, and thou and thy children shall be honoured with silver and gold, and many rewards. ¹⁹Then Mattathias answered and spake with a loud voice, Though all the Gentiles that are under the king's dominion obey him, and fall away every one from the religion of their fathers, and give consent to his commandments: ²⁰yet will I and my sons and my brethren walk in the covenant of our fathers. ²¹God forbid that we should forsake the law and the ordinances. ²²We will not hearken, to the king's words, to go from our religion, either on the right hand, or the left. ²³Now when he had left speaking these words, there came out one of the Jews in the sight of all to sacrifice on the altar which was at Modein, according to the king's commandment. ²⁴Which thing when Mattathias saw, he was inflamed with zeal, and his reins trembled, neither could he forbear to shew his anger according to judgment: wherefore he ran, and slew him upon the altar. ²⁵Also the king's commissioner, who compelled men to sacrifice, he killed at that time, and the altar he pulled down. ²⁶Thus dealt he zealously for the law of God, like as Phinehas did unto Zambri the son of Salome. ²⁷And Mattathias cried throughout the city with a loud voice, saying, Whosoever is zealous of the law, and maintaineth the covenant, let him follow me. ²⁸So he and his sons fled into the mountains, and left all that ever they had in the city.

²⁹Then many that sought after justice and judgment went down into the wilderness, to dwell there: ³⁰both they and their children, and their wives, and their cattle; because afflictions increased sore upon them. ³¹Now when it was told the king's servants, and the host that was at Jerusalem, in the city of David, that certain men, who had broken the king's commandment, were gone down into the secret places of the wilderness, ³²they pursued after them a great number, and having overtaken them, they camped against them, and made war against them on the sabbath day. ³³And they said unto them, Let that which ye have done hitherto suffice; come forth, and do according to the commandment of the king, and ye shall live. ³⁴But they said, We will not come forth, neither will we do the king's commandment, to profane the sabbath day. ³⁵So then they gave them battle with all speed. ³⁶Howbeit they answered them not, neither cast they a stone at them, nor stopped the places where they lay hid; ³⁷but said, Let us die all in our innocency: heaven and earth shall testify for us, that ye put us to death wrongfully. ³⁸So they rose up against them in battle on the sabbath, and they slew them, with their wives and children, and their cattle, to the number of a thousand people.

³⁹Now when Mattathias and his friends understood hereof, they mourned for them right sore. ⁴⁰And one of them said to another, If we all do as our brethren have done, and fight not for our lives and laws against the Gentiles, they will now quickly root us out of the earth. ⁴¹At that time therefore they decreed, saying, Whosoever shall come to make battle with us on the sabbath day, we will fight against him: neither will we die all, as our brethren that were murdered in the secret places. ⁴²Then came there unto

him a company of Hasideans, who were mighty men of Israel, even all such as were voluntarily devoted unto the law. ⁴³Also all they that fled for persecution joined themselves unto them, and were a stay unto them. ⁴⁴So they joined their forces, and smote sinful men in their anger, and wicked men in their wrath: but the rest fled to the Gentiles for succour. ⁴⁵Then Mattathias and his friends went round about, and pulled down the altars: ⁴⁶and what children soever they found within the coast of Israel uncircumcised, those they circumcised valiantly. ⁴⁷They pursued also after the proud men, and the work prospered in their hand. ⁴⁸So they recovered the law out of the hand of the Gentiles, and out of the hand of kings, neither suffered they the sinner to triumph.

⁴⁹Now when the time drew near that Mattathias should die, he said unto his sons, Now have pride and rebuke gotten strength, and the time of destruction, and the wrath of indignation: ⁵⁰now therefore, my sons, be ye zealous for the law, and give your lives for the covenant of your fathers. ⁵¹Call to remembrance what acts our fathers did in their time; so shall ye receive great honour and an everlasting name. ⁵²Was not Abraham found faithful in temptation, and it was imputed to him for righteousness? ⁵³Joseph in the time of his distress kept the commandment, and was made lord of Egypt; ⁵⁴Phinehas our father in being zealous and fervent obtained the covenant of an everlasting priesthood. ⁵⁵Joshua for fulfilling the word was made a judge in Israel. ⁵⁶Caleb for bearing witness before the congregation received of the land. ⁵⁷David for being merciful possessed the throne of an everlasting kingdom. ⁵⁸Elijah for being zealous and fervent for the law was taken up into heaven. ⁵⁹Aananius, Azarias, and Mishael, by believing were saved out of the flame. ⁶⁰Daniel for his innocency was delivered from the mouth of lions. ⁶¹And thus consider ye throughout all ages, that none that put their trust in Him shall be overcome. ⁶²Fear not then the words of a sinful man: for his glory shall be dung and worms. ⁶³To day he shall be lifted up, and to morrow he shall not be found, because he is returned into his dust, and his thought is come to nothing. ⁶⁴Wherefore, ye my sons, be valiant, and shew yourselves men in the behalf of the law; for by it shall ye obtain glory. ⁶⁵And, behold, I know that your brother Simon is a man of counsel; give ear unto him always: he shall be a father unto you. ⁶⁶As for Judas Maccabeus, he hath been mighty and strong, even from his youth up: let him be your captain, and fight the battle of the people. ⁶⁷Take also unto you all those that observe the law, and avenge ye the wrong of your people. ⁶⁸Recompense fully the Gentiles, and take heed to the commandments of the law. ⁶⁹So he blessed them, and was gathered to his fathers. ⁷⁰And he died in the hundred forty and sixth year, and his sons buried him in the sepulchres of his fathers at Modein, and all Israel made great lamentation for him.

CHAPTER 3

Then his son Judas, called Maccabeus, rose up in his stead. ²And all his brethren helped him, and so did all they that held with his father, and they fought with cheerfulness the battle of Israel. ³So he gat his people great honour, and put on a breastplate as a giant, and girt his warlike harness about him, and he made battles, protecting the host with his sword. ⁴In his acts he was like a lion, and like a lion's whelp roaring for his prey. ⁵For he pursued the wicked, and sought them out, and burnt up those that vexed his people. ⁶Wherefore the wicked shrunk for fear of him, and all the workers of iniquity were troubled, because salvation prospered in his hand. ⁷He grieved also many king, and made Jacob glad with his acts, and his memorial is blessed for ever. ⁸Moreover he went through the cities of Judea, destroying the ungodly out of them, and turning away wrath from Israel: ⁹so that he was renowned unto the utmost part of the earth, and he received unto him such as were ready to perish.

¹⁰Then Apollonius gathered the Gentiles together, and a great host out of Samaria, to fight against Israel. ¹¹Which thing when Judas perceived, he went forth to meet him, and so he smote him, and slew him: many also fell down slain, but the rest fled. ¹²Wherefore Judas took their spoils, and Apollonius' sword also, and therewith he fought all his life long. ¹³Now when Seron, a prince of the army of Syria, heard say that Judas had gathered unto him a multitude and company of the faithful to go out with him to war; ¹⁴he said, I will get me a name and honour in the kingdom; for I will go fight with Judas and them that are with him, who despise the king's commandment. ¹⁵So he made him ready to go up, and there went with him a mighty host of the ungodly to help him, and to be avenged of the sons of Israel. ¹⁶And when he came near to the going up of Beth-horon, Judas went forth to meet him with a small company: ¹⁷who, when they saw the host coming to meet them, said unto Judas, How shall we be able, being so few, to fight against so great a multitude and so strong, seeing we are ready to faint with fasting all this day? ¹⁸Unto whom Judas answered, It is no hard matter for many to be shut up in the hands of a few; and with the God of heaven it is all one, to deliver with a great multitude, or a small company; ¹⁹for the victory of battle standeth not in the multitude of an host; but strength cometh from heaven. ²⁰They come against us in much pride and iniquity to destroy us, and our wives and children, and to spoil us: ²¹but we fight for our lives and our laws. ²²Wherefore the Lord Himself will overthrow them before our face: and as for you, be ye not afraid of them. ²³Now as soon as he had left off speaking, he leaped suddenly upon them, and so Seron and his host were overthrown before him. ²⁴And they pursued them from the going down of Beth-horon unto the plain, where were slain about eight hundred men of them; and the residue fled into the land of the Philistines. ²⁵Then began the fear of Judas and his brethren, and exceeding great dread, to fall upon the nations round about them: ²⁶insomuch as his fame came unto the king, and all nations talked of the battles of Judas.

²⁷Now when king Antiochus heard these things, he was full of indignation: wherefore he sent and gathered together all the forces of his realm, even a very strong army. ²⁸He opened also his treasure, and gave his soldiers pay for a year, commanding them to be ready whensoever he should need them. ²⁹Nevertheless, when he saw that the money of his treasures failed, and that the tributes in the country were small, because of the dissension and the plague, which he had brought upon the land in taking away the laws which had been of old time; ³⁰he feared that he should not be able to bear the charges any longer, nor to have such gifts to give so liberally as he did before: for he had abounded above the kings that were before him. ³¹Wherefore, being greatly perplexed in his mind, he determined to go into Persia, there to take the tribute of the countries, and to gather much money. ³²So he left Lysias, a nobleman, and one of the blood royal, to oversee the affairs of the king from the river Euphrates unto the borders of Egypt: ³³and to bring up his son Antiochus, until he came again. ³⁴Moreover he delivered unto him the half of his forces, and the elephants, and gave him charge of all things that he would have done, as also concerning them that dwelt in Judea and Jerusalem; ³⁵to wit, that he should send an army against them, to destroy and root out the strength of Israel, and the remnant of Jerusalem, and to take away their memorial from that place; ³⁶and that he should place strangers in all their quarters, and divide their land by lot. ³⁷So the king took half of the forces that remained, and departed from Antioch, his royal city, the hundred forty and seventh year; and he passed the river Euphrates, and went through the high countries.

³⁸Then Lysias chose Ptolemy the son of Dorymenes, and Nicanor, and Gorgias, mighty men of the king's friends: ³⁹and with them he sent forty thousand footmen, and seven thousand horsemen, to go into the land of Judea, and to destroy it, as the king commanded. ⁴⁰So they went forth with all their power, and came and pitched by Emmaus in the plain country. ⁴¹And the merchants of the country, hearing the fame of them, took silver and gold very much, with servants, and came into the camp to buy the sons of Israel for slaves: a power also of Syria and of the land of the Philistines joined themselves unto them. ⁴²Now when Judas and his brethren saw that miseries were multiplied, and that the forces did encamp themselves in their borders; for they knew how the king had given commandment to destroy the people, and utterly abolish them; ⁴³they said one to another, Let us restore the decayed estate of our people, and let us fight for our people and the sanctuary. ⁴⁴Then the congregation gathered together, that they might be ready for battle, and that they might pray, and ask mercy and compassion. ⁴⁵Now Jerusalem was laid void as a wilderness, there was none of her children went in or out: the sanctuary also was trodden down, and aliens kept the strong hold; the Gentiles had their habitation in that place; and joy was taken from Jacob, and the pipe with the harp ceased. ⁴⁶Wherefore the Israelites assembled themselves together, and came to Mizpah, over against Jerusalem; for in Mizpah was the place where they prayed aforetime in Israel. ⁴⁷Then they fasted that day, and put on sackcloth, and cast ashes upon their heads,

and rent their clothes, ⁴⁸and laid open the book of the law, wherein the nations sought to paint the likeness of their images. ⁴⁹They brought also the priest's garments, and the firstfruits, and the tithes: and the Nazarites they stirred up, who had accomplished their days. ⁵⁰Then cried they with a loud voice toward heaven, saying, What shall we do with these, and whither shall we carry them away? ⁵¹For Thy sanctuary is trodden down and profaned, and Thy priests are in heaviness, and brought low. ⁵²And, lo, the Gentiles are assembled together against us to destroy us: what things they imagine against us, Thou knowest. ⁵³How shall we be able to stand against them, except Thou, *O God*, be our help? ⁵⁴Then sounded they with trumpets, and cried with a loud voice. ⁵⁵And after this Judas ordained captains over the people, even captains over thousands, and over hundreds, and over fifties, and over tens. ⁵⁶But as for such as were building houses, or were planting vineyards, or were fearful, those he commanded that they should return, every man to his own house, according to the law. ⁵⁷So the camp removed, and pitched upon the south side of Emmaus. ⁵⁸And Judas said, Arm yourselves, and be valiant men, and see that ye be in readiness against the morning, that ye may fight with these nations, that are assembled together against us to destroy us and our sanctuary: ⁵⁹for it is better for us to die in battle, than to behold the calamities of our people and our sanctuary. ⁶⁰Nevertheless, as the will of *God* is in heaven, so let Him do.

CHAPTER 4

Then took Gorgias five thousand footmen, and a thousand of the best horsemen, and removed out of the camp by night; ²to the end that he might rush in upon the camp of the Jews, and smite them suddenly. And the men of the fortress were his guides. ³Now when Judas heard thereof, he himself removed, and the valiant men with him, that he might smite the king's army which was at Emmaus, ⁴while as yet the forces were dispersed from the camp. ⁵In the mean season came Gorgias by night into the camp of Judas: and when he found no man there, he sought them in the mountains: for he said, "These fellows flee from us". ⁶But as soon as it was day, Judas shewed himself in the plain with three thousand men, who nevertheless had neither armour nor swords to their minds. ⁷And they saw the camp of the nations, that it was strong and well harnessed, and compassed round about with horsemen: and these were expert of war. ⁸Then said Judas to the men that were with him, Fear ye not their multitude, neither be ye afraid of their assault. ⁹Remember how our fathers were delivered in the Red Sea, when Pharaoh pursued them with an army. ¹⁰Now therefore let us cry unto heaven, if peradventure the Lord will have mercy upon us, and remember the covenant of our fathers, and destroy this host before our face this day: ¹¹that so all the nations may know that there is One Who delivereth and saveth Israel. ¹²Then the strangers lifted up their eyes, and saw them coming over against them. ¹³Wherefore they went out of the camp to battle; but they that were with Judas sounded

their trumpets. ¹⁴So they joined battle, and the nations being discomfited, fled into the plain. ¹⁵Howbeit all the hindermost of them were slain with the sword: for they pursued them unto Gazera, and unto the plains of Edom, and Azotus, and Jamnia, so that there were slain of them as many as three thousand men. ¹⁶This done, Judas returned again with his host from pursuing them, ¹⁷and said to the people, Be not greedy of the spoils, inasmuch as there is a battle before us, ¹⁸and Gorgias and his host are here by us in the mountain: but stand ye now against our enemies, and overcome them, and after this ye may boldly take the spoils. ¹⁹As Judas was yet speaking these words, there appeared a part of them looking out of the mountain: ²⁰who when they perceived that the Jews had put their host to flight, and were burning the tents; for the smoke that was seen declared what was done: ²¹when therefore they perceived these things, they were sore afraid, and seeing also the host of Judas in the plain ready to fight, ²²they fled every one into the land of strangers. ²³Then Judas returned to spoil the tents, where they got much gold, and silver, and blue silk, and purple of the sea, and great riches. ²⁴And after this they went home, and sung a song of thanksgiving, and praised the Lord in heaven: because it is good, because His mercy endureth for ever. ²⁵Thus Israel had a great deliverance that day.

²⁶Now all the strangers that had escaped came and told Lysias what had happened: ²⁷who when he heard thereof, was confounded and discouraged, because neither such things as he would were done unto Israel, nor such things as the king commanded him were come to pass. ²⁸In the following year therefore, Lysias gathered together threescore thousand choice *men of foot*, and five thousand horsemen, that he might subdue them. ²⁹So they came into Edom, and pitched their tents at Beth-zur, and Judas met them with ten thousand men. ³⁰And when he saw that mighty army, he prayed and said, Blessed art Thou, O Saviour of Israel, Who didst quell the violence of the mighty man by the hand of Thy servant David, and gavest the host of strangers into the hands of Jonathan the son of Saul, and his armourbearer; ³¹shut up this army in the hand of Thy people Israel, and let them be confounded in their power and horsemen: ³²make them to be of no courage, and cause the boldness of their strength to fall away, and let them quake at their destruction: ³³cast them down with the sword of them that love Thee, and let all those that know Thy name praise Thee with thanksgiving. ³⁴So they joined battle; and there were slain of the host of Lysias about five thousand men, even before them were they slain. ³⁵Now when Lysias saw his army put to flight, and the manliness of Judas' soldiers, and how they were ready either to live or die valiantly, he went into Antiochia, and gathered together a company of strangers, and having made his army greater than it was, he purposed to come again into Judea.

³⁶Then said Judas and his brethren, Behold, our brethren are discomfited: let us go up to cleanse and dedicate the sanctuary. ³⁷Upon this all the host assembled themselves together, and went up into mount Zion. ³⁸And when they saw the sanctuary desolate, and the altar profaned, and the gates burned up, and shrubs growing in the court as in a forest, or in one of

the mountains, yea, and the priests' chambers pulled down; ³⁹they rent their clothes, and made great lamentation, and cast ashes upon their heads, ⁴⁰and fell down flat to the ground upon their faces, and blew an alarm with their trumpets, and cried toward heaven. ⁴¹Then Judas appointed certain men to fight against those that were in the fortress, until he had cleansed the sanctuary. ⁴²So he chose priests of blameless conversation, such as had pleasure in the law: ⁴³who cleansed the sanctuary, and bare out the defiled stones into an unclean place. ⁴⁴And when as they consulted what to do with the altar of whole burnt offerings, which was profaned; ⁴⁵they thought it best to pull it down, lest it should be a reproach to them, because the nations had defiled it: wherefore they pulled it down, ⁴⁶and laid up the stones in the mountain of the temple in a convenient place, until there should come a prophet to shew what should be done with them. ⁴⁷then they took whole new stones according to the law, and built a new altar according to the former: ⁴⁸and made up the sanctuary, and the things that were within the temple, and hallowed the courts. ⁴⁹They made also new holy vessels, and into the temple they brought the candlestick, and the altar of incense, and the table. ⁵⁰And upon the altar they burned incense, and the lamps that were upon the altar they lighted, that they might give light in the temple. ⁵¹Furthermore they set the loaves upon the table, and spread out the veils, and finished all the works which they had begun to make. ⁵²Now on the five and twentieth day of the ninth month, which is called the month Chislew, in the hundred forty and eighth year, they rose up betimes in the morning, ⁵³and offered sacrifice according to the law upon the new altar of whole burnt offerings, which they had made. ⁵⁴At what time and day the nations had profaned it, even in that was it dedicated with songs, and citherns, and harps, and cymbals. ⁵⁵Then all the people fell upon their faces, worshipping and praising the God of heaven, Who had given them good success. ⁵⁶And so they kept the dedication of the altar eight days, and offered whole burnt offerings with gladness, and sacrificed the sacrifice of deliverance and praise. ⁵⁷They decked also the forefront of the temple with crowns of gold and with shields; and the gates and the chambers they renewed, and hanged doors upon them. ⁵⁸Then was there very great gladness among the people, for that the reproach of the nations was put away. ⁵⁹Moreover Judas and his brethren with the whole congregation of Israel ordained, that the days of dedication of the altar should be kept in their season from year to year by the space of eight days, from the five and twentieth day of the month Chislew, with mirth and gladness. ⁶⁰At that time also they builded up the mount Zion with high walls and strong towers round about, lest the nations should come and tread it down, as they had done before. ⁶¹And they set there a garrison to keep it, and fortified Beth-zur to preserve it; that the people might have strong defence against Edom.

CHAPTER 5

Now when the nations round about heard that the altar was built, and the sanctuary renewed as before, it displeased them very much. ²Wherefore they thought to destroy the generation of Jacob that was among them, and thereupon they began to slay and destroy the people. ³Then Judas fought against the children of Esau in Edom at Acrabattene, because they besieged Israel: and he gave them a great overthrow, and abated their courage, and took their spoils. ⁴Also he remembered the injury of the children of Baean, who had been a snare and offence unto the people, in that they lay in wait for them in the ways. ⁵He shut them up therefore in the towers, and encamped against them, and destroyed them utterly, and burned the towers of that place with fire, and all that were therein. ⁶Afterward he passed over to the children of Ammon, where he found a mighty power, and much people, with Timotheus their captain. ⁷So he fought many battles with them, until at last they were discomfited before him; and he smote them. ⁸And when he had taken Jazer, with towns belonging thereto, he returned into Judea.

⁹Then the nations that were at Gilead assembled themselves together against the Israelites that were in their quarters, to destroy them: and they fled into the fortress of Dathema, ¹⁰and sent letters unto Judas and his brethren, saying, The nations that are round about us are assembled together against us to destroy us: ¹¹and they are preparing to come and take the fortress whereunto we are fled, Timotheus being the captain of their host. ¹²Come now therefore, and deliver us from their hands, for many of us are slain: ¹³yea, all our brethren that were in the places of Tob are put to death: their wives and their children also they have carried away captives, and borne away their stuff; and they have destroyed there about a thousand men. ¹⁴And while these letters were yet being read, behold, there came other messengers from Galilee with their clothes rent, who reported on this wise, ¹⁵and said, They of Ptolemais, and of Tyre, and Sidon, and all Galilee of the Gentiles, are assembled together against us to consume us. ¹⁶Now when Judas and the people heard these words, there assembled a great congregation together, to consult what they should do for their brethren, that were in trouble, and assaulted of them. ¹⁷Then said Judas unto Simon his brother, Choose thee out men, and go and deliver thy brethren that are in Galilee, for I and Jonathan my brother will go into the country of Gilead. ¹⁸So he left Joseph the son of Zechariah, and Azariah, captains of the people, with the remnant of the host in Judea to keep it. ¹⁹Unto whom he gave commandment, saying, Take ye the charge of this people, and see that ye make not war against the nations until the time that we come again. ²⁰Now unto Simon was given three thousand men to go into Galilee, and unto Judas eight thousand men for the country of Gilead. ²¹Then went Simon into Galilee, where he fought many battles with the nations, so that the nations were discomfited by him. ²²And he pursued them unto the gate of Ptolemais; and there were slain of the nations about three thousand men, whose spoils he took. ²³And those that

were in Galilee, and in Arbatta, with their wives and their children, and all they had, took he away with him, and brought them into Judea with great joy. ²⁴Judas Maccabeus also and his brother Jonathan went over Jordan, and travelled three days' journey in the wilderness, ²⁵where they met with the Nabateans, who came unto them in a peaceable manner, and told them every thing that happened to their brethren in the land of Gilead: ²⁶and how that many of them were shut up in Bozra, and Bosor, and Alema, Chaspho, Maked, and Carnaim; all these cities are strong and great: ²⁷and that they were shut up in the rest of the cities of the country of Gilead, and that against to morrow they had appointed to bring their host against the forts, and to take them, and to destroy them all in one day. ²⁸Hereupon Judas and his host turned suddenly by the way of the wilderness unto Bozra: and when he had won the city, he slew all the males with the edge of the sword, and took all their spoils, and burned the city with fire. ²⁹From whence he removed by night, and went till he came to the fortress. ³⁰And betimes in the morning they looked up, and, behold, there was an innumerable people bearing ladders and other engines of war, to take the fortress: for they assaulted them. ³¹When Judas therefore saw that the battle was begun, and that the cry of the city went up to heaven, with trumpets, and a great sound, ³²he said unto his host, Fight this day for your brethren. ³³So he went forth behind them in three companies, who sounded their trumpets, and cried with prayer. ³⁴Then the host of Timotheus, knowing that it was Maccabeus, fled from him: wherefore he smote them with a great slaughter; so that there were killed of them that day about eight thousand men. ³⁵This done, Judas turned aside to Maspha; and after he had assaulted it, he took it, and slew all the males therein, and received the spoils thereof, and burnt it with fire. ³⁶From thence went he, and took Chaspho, Maked, Bosor, and the other cities of the country of Gilead. ³⁷After these things gathered Timotheus another host, and encamped against Raphon beyond the brook. ³⁸So Judas sent men to espy the host, who brought him word, saying, All the nations that be round about us are assembled unto them, even a very great host. ³⁹He hath also hired the Arabians to help them, and they have pitched their tents beyond the brook, ready to come and fight against thee. Upon this Judas went to meet them. ⁴⁰Then Timotheus said unto the captains of his host, When Judas and his host come near the brook, if he pass over first unto us, we shall not be able to withstand him; for he will mightily prevail against us: ⁴¹but if he be afraid, and camp beyond the river, we shall go over unto him, and prevail against him. ⁴²Now when Judas came near the brook, he caused the scribes of the people to remain by the brook: unto whom he gave commandment, saying, Suffer no man to remain in the camp, but let all come to the battle. ⁴³So he went over first unto them, and all the people after him: then all the nations, being discomfited before him, cast away their weapons, and fled unto the temple that was at Carnain. ⁴⁴But they took the city, and burned the temple with all that were therein. Thus was Carnain subdued, neither could they stand any longer before Judas. ⁴⁵Then Judas gathered together all the Israelites that were in the country of Gilead, from the least unto the greatest,

even their wives, and their children, and their stuff, a very great host, to the end that they might come into the land of Judea. ⁴⁶Now when they came unto Ephron, (this was a great city in the way as they should go, very well fortified) they could not turn from it, either on the right hand or the left, but must needs pass through the midst of it. ⁴⁷Then they of the city shut them out, and stopped up the gates with stones. ⁴⁸Whereupon Judas sent them in peaceable manner, saying, Let us pass through your land to go into our own country, and none shall do you any hurt; we will only pass through on foot: howbeit they would not open unto him. ⁴⁹Wherefore Judas commanded a proclamation to be made throughout the host, that every man should pitch his tent in the place where he was. ⁵⁰So the soldiers pitched, and assaulted the city all that day and all that night, till at length the city was delivered into his hands: ⁵¹who then slew all the males with the edge of the sword, and rased the city, and took the spoils thereof, and passed through the city over them that were slain. ⁵²After this went they over Jordan into the great plain before Beth-shan. ⁵³And Judas gathered together those that came behind, and exhorted the people all the way through, till they came into the land of Judea. ⁵⁴So they went up to mount Zion with joy and gladness, where they offered whole burnt offerings, because not one of them were slain until they had returned in peace.

⁵⁵Now what time as Judas and Jonathan were in the land of Gilead, and Simon his brother in Galilee before Ptolemais, ⁵⁶Joseph the son of Zechariah, and Azariah, captains of the garrisons, heard of the valiant acts and warlike deeds which they had done. ⁵⁷Wherefore they said, Let us also get us a name, and go fight against the nations that are round about us. ⁵⁸So when they had give charge unto the garrison that was with them, they went toward Jamnia. ⁵⁹Then came Gorgias and his men out of the city to fight against them. ⁶⁰And so it was that Joseph and Azariah were put to flight, and pursued unto the borders of Judea: and there were slain that day of the people of Israel about two thousand men. ⁶¹Thus was there a great overthrow among the sons of Israel, because they were not obedient unto Judas and his brethren, but thought to do some valiant act. ⁶²Moreover these men came not of the seed of those, by whose hand deliverance was given unto Israel. ⁶³Howbeit the man Judas and his brethren were greatly renowned in the sight of all Israel, and of all the nations, wheresoever their name was heard of: ⁶⁴insomuch as the people assembled unto them with joyful acclamations. ⁶⁵Afterward went Judas forth with his brethren, and fought against the children of Esau in the land toward the south, where he smote Hebron, and the towns thereof, and pulled down the fortress of it, and burned the towers thereof round about. ⁶⁶From thence he removed to go into the land of the Philistines, and passed through Samaria. ⁶⁷At that time certain priests, desirous to shew their valour, were slain in battle, for that they went out to fight unadvisedly. ⁶⁸So Judas turned to Azotus in the land of the Philistines, and when he had pulled down their altars, and burned their carved images with fire, and spoiled their cities, he returned into the land of Judea.

CHAPTER 6

About that time king Antiochus travelling through the high countries heard say, that Elymais in the country of Persia was a city greatly renowned for riches, silver and gold; ²and that there was in it a very rich temple, wherein were coverings of gold, and breastplates, and shields, which Alexander, son of Philip, the Macedonian king, who reigned first among the Grecians, had left there. ³Wherefore he came, and sought to take the city, and to spoil it; but he was not able, because they of the city, having had warning thereof, ⁴rose up against him in battle: so he fled, and departed thence with great heaviness, and returned to Babylon. ⁵Moreover there came one who brought him tidings into Persia, that the armies, which went against the land of Judea, were put to flight: ⁶and that Lysias, who went forth first with a great power, was driven away of the Jews; and that they were made strong by the armour, and power, and store of spoils, which they had gotten of the armies, whom they had destroyed: ⁷also that they had pulled down the abomination, which he had set up upon the altar in Jerusalem, and that they had compassed about the sanctuary with high walls, as before, and his city Beth-zur. ⁸Now when the king heard these words, he was astonished and sore moved: whereupon he laid him down upon his bed, and fell sick for grief, because it had not befallen him as he looked for. ⁹And there he continued many days: for his grief was ever more and more, and he made account that he should die. ¹⁰Wherefore he called for all his friends, and said unto them, The sleep is gone from mine eyes, and my heart faileth for very care. ¹¹And I thought with myself, Into what tribulation am I come, and how great a flood of misery is it, wherein now I am come! for I was bountiful and beloved in my power. ¹²But now I remember the evils that I did at Jerusalem, and that I took all the vessels of gold and silver that were therein, and sent to destroy the inhabitants of Judea without a cause. ¹³I perceive therefore that for this cause these troubles are come upon me, and, behold, I perish through great grief in a strange land. ¹⁴Then called he for Philip, one of his friends, whom he made ruler over all his realm; ¹⁵and gave him the crown, and his robe, and his signet, to the end that he should bring up his son Antiochus, and nourish him up for the kingdom. ¹⁶So king Antiochus died there in the hundred forty and ninth year. ¹⁷Now when Lysias knew that the king was dead, he set up Antiochus his son, whom he had brought up being young, to reign in his stead, and his name he called Eupator.

¹⁸About this time they that were in the tower shut up the Israelites round about the sanctuary, and sought always their hurt, and the strengthening of the nations. ¹⁹Wherefore Judas, purposing to destroy them, called all the people together to besiege them. ²⁰So they came together, and besieged them in the hundred and fiftieth year, and he made mounts for shots against them, and other engines. ²¹Howbeit certain of them that were besieged got forth, unto whom some ungodly men of Israel joined themselves: ²²and they went unto the king, and said, How long will it be ere thou execute judgment, and avenge our brethren? ²³We have been willing to serve thy

father, and to do as he would have us, and to obey his commandments; ²⁴for which cause they of our nation besiege the tower, and are alienated from us: moreover as many of us as they could light on they slew, and spoiled our inheritance. ²⁵Neither have they stretched out their hand against us only, but also against all their borders. ²⁶And, behold, this day are they besieging the tower at Jerusalem, to take it: the sanctuary also, and Beth-zur have they fortified. ²⁷Wherefore if thou dost not prevent them quickly, they will do greater things than these, neither shalt thou be able to rule them.

²⁸Now when the king heard this, he was angry, and gathered together all his friends, and the captains of his army, and those that had charge of the horse. ²⁹There came also unto him from other kingdoms, and from isles of the sea, bands of hired soldiers. ³⁰So that the number of his army was an hundred thousand footmen, and twenty thousand horsemen, and two and thirty elephants exercised in battle. ³¹These went through Edom, and pitched against Beth-zur, which they assaulted many days, making engines; but they of *Beth-zur* came out, and burned them with fire, and fought valiantly. ³²Upon this Judas removed from the tower, and pitched in Beth-zechariah, over against the king's camp. ³³Then the king rising very early marched fiercely with his host toward Beth-zechariah, where his armies made them ready to battle, and sounded the trumpets. ³⁴And to the end they might provoke the elephants to fight, they shewed them the blood of grapes and mulberries. ³⁵Moreover they divided the beasts among the armies, and for every elephant they appointed a thousand men, armed with coats of mail, and with helmets of brass on their heads; and beside this, for every beast were ordained five hundred horsemen of the best. ³⁶These were ready at every occasion: wheresoever the beast was, and whithersoever the beast went, they went also, neither departed they from him. ³⁷And upon the beasts were there strong towers of wood, which covered every one of them, and were girt fast unto them with devices: there were also upon every one two and thirty strong men, that fought upon them, beside the Indian that ruled them. ³⁸As for the remnant of the horsemen, they set them on this side and that side at the two parts of the host, giving them signs what to do, and being harnessed all over amidst the ranks. ³⁹Now when the sun shone upon the shields of gold and brass, the mountains glistened therewith, and shined like lamps of fire. ⁴⁰So part of the king's army being spread upon the high mountains, and part in the valleys below, they marched on safely and in order. ⁴¹Wherefore all that heard the noise of the multitude, and the marching of their company, and the rattling of the harness, were moved: for the army was very great and mighty. ⁴²Then Judas and his host drew near, and entered into battle, and there were slain of the king's army six hundred men. ⁴³Eleazar also, *surnamed* Avaran, perceiving that one of the beasts, armed with royal harness, was higher than all the rest, and supposing that the king was upon him, ⁴⁴put himself in jeopardy, to the end he might deliver his people, and get him a perpetual name: ⁴⁵wherefore he ran upon him courageously through the midst of the battle, slaying on the right hand and on the left, so that they were divided from him on both sides. ⁴⁶Which done, he crept under the elephant, and

thrust him under, and slew him: whereupon the elephant fall down upon him, and there he died. ⁴⁷Howbeit *the rest of the Jews*, seeing the strength of the king, and the violence of his forces, turned away from them. ⁴⁸Then the king's army went up to Jerusalem to meet them, and the king pitched his tents against Judea, and against mount Zion. ⁴⁹But with them that were in Beth-zur he made peace: for they came out of the city, because they had no victuals there to endure the siege, it being a year of rest to the land. ⁵⁰So the king took Beth-zur, and set a garrison there to keep it. ⁵¹As for the sanctuary, he besieged it many days: and set there artillery with engines and instruments to cast fire and stones, and pieces to cast fire and slings. ⁵²Whereupon they also made engines against their engines, and held them battle a long season. ⁵³Yet at the last, their vessels being without victuals, (for that it was the seventh year, and they in Judea, that were delivered up from the nations, had eaten up the residue of the store;) ⁵⁴there were but few left in the sanctuary, because the famine did so prevail against them, that they were fain to disperse themselves, every man to his own place.

⁵⁵At that time Lysias heard say, that Philip, whom Antiochus the king, while he lived, had appointed to bring up his son Antiochus, that he might be king, ⁵⁶was returned out of Persia and Media, and the king's host also that went with him, and that he sought to take unto him the ruling of affairs. ⁵⁷Wherefore he went in all haste, and said to the king and the captains of the host and the company, We decay daily, and our victuals are but small, and the place we lay siege unto is strong, and the affairs of the kingdom lie upon us: ⁵⁸now therefore let us be friends with these men, and make peace with them, and with all their nation; ⁵⁹and covenant with them, that they shall live after their laws, as they did before: for they are therefore displeased, and have done all these things, because we abolished their laws. ⁶⁰So the king and the princes were content: wherefore he sent unto them to make peace; and they accepted thereof. ⁶¹Also the princes made an oath unto them: whereupon they went out of the stronghold. ⁶²Then the king entered into mount Zion: but when he saw the strength of the place, he brake his oath that he had made, and gave commandment to pull down the wall round about. ⁶³Afterward departed he in all haste, and returned unto Antioch, where he found Philip to be master of the city: so he fought against him, and took the city by force.

CHAPTER 7

In the hundred and one and fiftieth year Demetrius the son of Seleucus departed from Rome, and came up with a few men unto a city of the sea coast, and reigned there. ²And as he entered into the palace of his ancestors, so it was, that his forces had taken Antiochus and Lysias, to bring them unto him. ³Wherefore, when he knew it, he said, Let me not see their faces. ⁴So his host slew them. Now when Demetrius was set upon the throne of his kingdom, ⁵there came unto him all the wicked and impious men of

Israel, having Alcimus, who was desirous to be high priest, for their captain: ⁶and they accused the people to the king, saying, Judas and his brethren have slain all thy friends, and driven us out of our own land. ⁷Now therefore let us send some man whom thou trustest, and let him go and see what havock he hath made among us, and in the king's land, and let him punish them with all them that aid them. ⁸Then the king chose Bacchides, a friend of the king, who ruled beyond the river, and was a great man in the kingdom, and faithful to the king. ⁹And him he sent with that wicked Alcimus, whom he made high priest, and commanded that he should take vengeance of the sons of Israel. ¹⁰So they departed, and came with a great power into the land of Judea, where they sent messengers to Judas and his brethren with peaceable words deceitfully. ¹¹But they gave no heed to their words; for they saw that they were come with great power. ¹²Then did there assemble unto Alcimus and Bacchides a company of scribes, to require justice. ¹³Now the Hasideans were the first among the sons of Israel that sought peace of them: ¹⁴for they said, One that is a priest of the seed of Aaron is come with this army, and he will do us no wrong. ¹⁵So he spake unto them peaceably, and swore unto them, saying, We will procure the harm neither of you nor your friends. ¹⁶Whereupon they believed him: howbeit he took of them threescore men, and slew them in one day, according to the words which he wrote, ¹⁷The flesh of Thy saints *have they cast out*, and their blood have they shed round about Jerusalem, and there was none to bury them. ¹⁸Wherefore the fear and dread of them fell upon all the people, who said, There is neither truth nor righteousness in them; for they have broken the covenant and the oath that they made. ¹⁹After this removed Bacchides from Jerusalem, and pitched his tents in Beth-zait, where he sent and took many of the men that had forsaken him, and certain of the people also, and when he had slain them, *he cast them* into the great pit. ²⁰Then committed he the country to Alcimus, and left him with a power to aid him: so Bacchides went to the king. ²¹But Alcimus contended for the high priesthood. ²²And unto him resorted all such as troubled the people, who, after they had gotten the land of Judea into their power, did much hurt in Israel. ²³Now when Judas saw all the mischief that Alcimus and his company had done among the Israelites, even above the heaven, ²⁴he went out into all the coasts of Judea round about, and took vengeance of them that had revolted from him, so that they durst no more go forth into the country. ²⁵On the other side, when Alcimus saw that Judas and his company had gotten the upper hand, and knew that he was not able to abide their force, he went again to the king, and said evil things against them.

²⁶Then the king sent Nicanor, one of his honourable princes, a man that bare deadly hate unto Israel, with commandment to destroy the people. ²⁷So Nicanor came to Jerusalem with a great force: and sent unto Judas and his brethren deceitfully with friendly words, saying, ²⁸Let there be no battle between me and you; I will come with a few men, that I may see you in peace. ²⁹He came therefore to Judas, and they saluted one another peaceably. Howbeit the enemies were prepared to take away Judas by violence. ³⁰Which

thing, after it was known to Judas, *to wit*, that he came unto him with deceit, he was sore afraid of him, and would see his face no more. ³¹Nicanor also, when he saw that his counsel was discovered, went out to fight against Judas beside Caphar-salamah: ³²and there were slain of Nicanor's side about five thousand men, and *the rest* fled into the city of David.

³³After this went Nicanor up to mount Zion, and there came out of the sanctuary certain of the priests and certain of the elders of the people, to salute him peaceably, and to shew him the burnt sacrifice that was offered for the king. ³⁴But he mocked them, and laughed at them, and abused them shamefully, and spake proudly, ³⁵and sware in his wrath, saying, Unless Judas and his host be now delivered into my hands, if ever I come again in safety, I will burn up this house: and with that he went out in a great rage. ³⁶Then the priests entered in, and stood before the altar and the temple, weeping, and saying, ³⁷Thou, O Lord, didst choose this house to be called by Thy name, and to be a house of prayer and petition for Thy people: ³⁸be avenged of this man and his host, and let them fall by the sword: remember their blasphemies, and suffer them not to continue any longer. ³⁹So Nicanor went out of Jerusalem, and pitched his tent in Beth-horon, where a host out of Syria met him. ⁴⁰But Judea pitched in Adassa with three thousand men, and there he prayed, saying, ⁴¹O Lord, when they that were sent from the king of Assyria blasphemed, Thine angel went out, and smote an hundred fourscore and five thousand of them. ⁴²Even so destroy Thou this host before us this day, that the rest may know that he hath spoken blasphemously against Thy sanctuary, and judge Thou him according to his wickedness. ⁴³So the thirteenth day of the month Adar the host joined battle: but Nicanor's host was discomfited, and he himself was first slain in the battle. ⁴⁴Now when Nicanor's host saw that he was slain, they cast away their weapons, and fled. ⁴⁵Then they pursued after them a day's journey, from Adassa unto Gazara, sounding an alarm after them with their trumpets. ⁴⁶Whereupon they came forth out of all the towns of Judea round about, and closed them in; so that they, turning back upon them that pursued them, were all slain with the sword, and not one of them was left. ⁴⁷Afterwards they took the spoils, and the prey, and smote off Nicanor's head, and his right hand, which he stretched out so proudly, and brought them away, and hanged them up toward Jerusalem. ⁴⁸For this cause the people rejoiced greatly, and kept that day as a day of great gladness. ⁴⁹Moreover they ordained to keep yearly this day, being the thirteenth of Adar. ⁵⁰Thus the land of Judea was in rest a little while.

CHAPTER 8

Now Judea had heard of the fame of the Romans, that they were mighty and valiant men, and such as would lovingly accept all that joined themselves unto them, and make a league of amity with all that came unto them; ²and that they were men of great valour. It was told him also of their

wars and noble acts which they had done among the Galatians, and how they had conquered them, and brought them under tribute; ³and what they had done in the country of Spain, for the winning of the mines of the silver and gold which is there; ⁴and that by their policy and patience they had conquered all the place, though it were very far from them; and the kings also that came against them from the uttermost part of the earth, till they had discomfited them, and given them a great overthrow, so that the rest did give them tribute every year. ⁵Beside this, how they had discomfited in battle Philip, and Perseus, king of the Macedonians, with others that lifted up themselves against them, and had overcome them: ⁶how also Antiochus the great king of Asia, that came against them in battle, having an hundred and twenty elephants, with horsemen, and chariots, and a very great army, was discomfited by them; ⁷and how they took him alive, and covenanted that he and such as reigned after him should pay a great tribute, and give hostages, and that which was agreed upon, ⁸and the country of India, and Media, and Lydia, and of the goodliest countries, which they took of him, and gave to king Eumenes. ⁹Moreover how the Grecians had determined to come and destroy them; ¹⁰and that they, having knowledge thereof, sent against them a certain captain, and fighting with them slew many of them, and carried away captives their wives and their children, and spoiled them, and took possession of their lands, and pulled down their strong holds, and brought them to be their servants unto this day. ¹¹*It was told him* besides, how they destroyed and brought under their dominion all other kingdoms and isles that at any time resisted them; ¹²but with their friends and such as relied upon them they kept amity: and that they had conquered kingdoms both far and nigh, insomuch as all that heard of their name were afraid of them: ¹³also that, whom they would help to a kingdom, those reign; and whom again they would, they displace: finally, that they were greatly exalted: ¹⁴yet for all this none of them wore a crown, or was clothed in purple, to be magnified thereby: ¹⁵moreover how they had made for themselves a senate house, wherein three hundred and twenty men sat in council daily, consulting always for the people, to the end they might be well ordered: ¹⁶and that they committed their government to one man every year, who ruled over all their country, and that all were obedient to that one, and that there was neither envy nor emulation among them. ¹⁷In consideration of these things, Judea chose Eupolemus the son of John, *the son* of Acos, and Jason the son of Eleazar, and sent them to Rome, to make a league of amity and confederacy with them, ¹⁸*and to intreat them* that they would take the yoke from them; for they saw that the kingdom of the Grecians did oppress Israel with servitude. ¹⁹They went, therefore, to Rome, which was a very great journey, and came into the senate, where they spake and said, ²⁰Judah Maccabeus with 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. ²¹So that matter pleased the Romans well. ²²And this is the copy of the epistle which the senate wrote back again in tables of brass, and sent to Jerusalem, that there they might have by them a memorial of peace and confederacy:

²³Good success be to the Romans, and to the people of the Jews, by sea and by land for ever: the sword also and enemy be far from them. ²⁴If there come any war upon the Romans or any of their confederates throughout all their dominion, ²⁵the people of the Jews shall help them, as the time shall be appointed, with all their heart: ²⁶neither shall they give any thing unto them that make war upon them, or aid them with victuals, weapons, money, or ships, as it hath seemed good unto the Romans; but they shall keep their covenants, and that without deceit. ²⁹According to these articles did the Romans make a covenant with the people of the Jews. ³⁰Howbeit if hereafter the one party or the other shall think meet to add or diminish any thing, they may do it at their pleasures, and whatsoever they shall add or take away shall be ratified. ³¹And as touching the evils that Demetrius doeth to the Jews, we have written unto him, saying, 'Wherefore hast thou made thy yoke heavy upon our friends and confederates the Jews?' ³²If therefore they complain any more against thee, we will do them justice, and fight with thee by sea and by land.

CHAPTER 9

Furthermore when Demetrius heard that Nicanor and his host were slain in battle, he sent Bacchides and Alcimus into the land of Judea the second time, and with them the chief strength of his host: ²who went forth by the way that leadeth to Gilgal, and pitched their tents before Mesaloth, which is in Arbela, and after they had won it, they slew much people. ³Also the first month of the hundred fifty and second year they encamped before Jerusalem: ⁴from whence they removed, and went to Berea, with twenty thousand footmen and two thousand horsemen. ⁵Now Judas had pitched his tents at Elasa, and three thousand chosen men with him: ⁶who seeing the multitude of the other army to be so great, were sore afraid; whereupon many conveyed themselves out of the host, insomuch as there abode of them no more but eight hundred men. ⁷When Judas therefore saw that his host slipt away, and that the battle pressed upon him, he was sore troubled in mind, and much distressed, for that he had no time to gather them together. ⁸Nevertheless unto them that remained he said, Let us arise and go up against our enemies, if peradventure we may be able to fight with them. ⁹But they dehorted him, saying, We shall never be able: let us now rather save our lives, and hereafter we will return with our brethren, and fight against them: for we are but few. ¹⁰Then Judas said, God forbid that I should do this thing, and flee away from them: if our time be come, let us die manfully for our brethren, and let us not stain our honour. ¹¹With that the host of *Bacchides* removed out of their tents, and stood over against them, their horsemen being divided into two troops, and their slingers and archers going before the host, and they that marched in the foreward were all mighty men. ¹²As for Bacchides, he was in the right wing: so the host drew near on the two parts, and sounded their trumpets. ¹³They also of Judas' side, even they sounded their trumpets also,

so that the earth shook at the noise of the armies, and the battle continued from morning till night. ¹⁴Now when Judea perceived that Bacchides and the strength of his army were on the right side, he took with him all the hardy men, ¹⁵who discomfited the right wing, and pursued them unto the mount Azotus. ¹⁶But when they of the left wing saw that they of the right wing were discomfited, they followed upon Judas and those that were with him hard at the heels from behind: ¹⁷whereupon there was a sore battle, insomuch as many were slain on both parts. ¹⁸Judas also was killed, and the remnant fled. ¹⁹Then Jonathan and Simon took Judas their brother, and buried him in the sepulchre of his fathers in Modein. ²⁰Moreover they bewailed him, and all Israel made great lamentation for him, and mourned many days, saying, ²¹How is the valiant man fallen, that delivered Israel! ²²As for the other things concerning Judas and his wars, and the noble acts which he did, and his greatness, they are not written, for they were very many.

²³Now after the death of Judas the wicked began to put forth their heads in all the coasts of Israel, and there arose up all such as wrought iniquity. ²⁴In those days also was there a very great famine, by reason whereof the country revolted, and went with them. ²⁵Then Bacchides chose the wicked men, and made them lords of the country. ²⁶And they made enquiry and search for Judas' friends, and brought them unto Bacchides, who took vengeance of them, and used them despitefully. ²⁷So was there a great affliction in Israel, the like whereof was not since the time that a prophet was not seen among them. ²⁸For this cause all Judas' friends came together, and said unto Jonathan, ²⁹Since thy brother Judas died, we have no man like him to go forth against our enemies, and Bacchides, and against them of our nation that are adversaries to us. ³⁰Now therefore we have chosen thee this day to be our prince and captain in his stead, that thou mayest fight our battles. ³¹Upon this Jonathan took the governance upon him at that time, and rose up instead of his brother Judas.

³²But when Bacchides gat knowledge thereof, he sought for to slay him. ³³Then Jonathan, and Simon his brother, and all that were with him, perceiving that, fled into the wilderness of Tekoa, and pitched their tents by the water of the pool Asphar. ³⁴Which when Bacchides understood, he came near to Jordan with all his host upon the sabbath day. ³⁵Now Jonathan had sent his brother John, a captain of the people, to pray his friends the Nabateans, that they might leave with them their carriage, which was much. ³⁶But the children of Jambri came out of Medeba, and took John, and all that he had, and went their way with it. ³⁷After this came word to Jonathan and Simon his brother, that the children of Jambri made a great marriage, and were bringing the bride from Nadabath with a great train, as being the daughter of one of the great princes of Canaan. ³⁸Therefore they remembered John their brother, and went up, and hid themselves under the covert of the mountain: ³⁹where they lifted up their eyes, and looked, and, behold, there was much ado and great carriage: and the bridegroom came forth, and his friends and brethren, to meet them with drums, and instruments of musick, and many weapons. ⁴⁰Then Jonathan and they that were with him rose up

against them from the place where they lay in ambush, and made a slaughter of them in such sort, as many fell down dead, and the remnant fled into the mountain, and they took all their spoils. ⁴¹Thus was the marriage turned into mourning, and the noise of their melody into lamentation. ⁴²So when they had avenged fully the blood of their brother, they turned again to the marsh of Jordan. ⁴³Now when Bacchides heard thereof, he came on the sabbath day unto the banks of Jordan with a great power. ⁴⁴Then Jonathan said to his company, Let us go up now and fight for our lives, for it standeth not with us to day, as in time past: ⁴⁵for, behold, the battle is before us and behind us, and the water of Jordan on this side that side, the marsh likewise and wood, neither is there any place for us to turn aside. ⁴⁶Wherefore cry ye now unto heaven, that ye may be delivered from the hand of your enemies. ⁴⁷With that they joined battle, and Jonathan stretched forth his hand to smite Bacchides, but he turned back from him. ⁴⁸Then Jonathan and they that were with him leapt into Jordan, and swam over unto the farther bank: howbeit the other passed not over Jordan unto them. ⁴⁹So there were slain of Bacchides' side that day about a thousand men. ⁵⁰Afterward returned *Bacchides* to Jerusalem, and repaired the strong cities in Judea; the fort in Jericho, and Emmaus, and Beth-horon, and Bethel, and Timnath, Pharathon, and Tephon, *these did he strengthen* with high walls, with gates, and with bars. ⁵¹And in them he set a garrison, that they might work malice upon Israel. ⁵²He fortified also the city Beth-zur, and Gazara, and the tower, and put forces in them, and provision of victuals. ⁵³Besides, he took the chief men's sons in the country for hostages, and put them into the tower at Jerusalem to be kept.

⁵⁴Moreover in the hundred fifty and third year, in the second month, Alcimus commanded that the wall of the inner court of the sanctuary should be pulled down; he pulled down also the works of the prophets. ⁵⁵And as he began to pull down, even at that time was Alcimus plagued, and his enterprizes hindered: for his mouth was stopped, and he was taken with a palsy, so that he could no more speak any thing, nor give order concerning his house. ⁵⁶So Alcimus died at that time with great torment. ⁵⁷Now when Bacchides saw that Alcimus was dead, he returned to the king: whereupon the land of Judea was in rest two years.

⁵⁸Then all the ungodly men held a council, saying, Behold, Jonathan and his company are at ease, and dwell without care: now therefore we will bring Bacchides hither, who shall take them all in one night. ⁵⁹So they went, and consulted with him. ⁶⁰Then removed he, and came with a great host, and sent letters privily to his adherents in Judea, that they should take Jonathan and those that were with him: howbeit they could not, because their counsel was known unto them. ⁶¹Wherefore they took of the men of the country, that were authors of that mischief, about fifty persons, and slew them. ⁶²Afterward Jonathan, and Simon, and they that were with him, got them away to Bethbasi, which is in the wilderness, and they repaired the decays thereof, and made it strong. ⁶³Which thing when Bacchides knew, he gathered together all his host, and sent word to them that were of Judea. ⁶⁴Then went he and laid siege against Bethbasi; and they fought against it a

long season, and made engines of war. ⁶⁵But Jonathan left his brother Simon in the city, and went forth himself into the country, and with a certain number went he forth. ⁶⁶And he smote Odomera and his brethren, and the children of Phasiron in their tent. ⁶⁷And when he began to smite them, and came up with his forces, Simon and his company went out of the city, and burned up the engines of war, ⁶⁸and fought against Bacchides, who was discomfited by them, and they afflicted him sore: for his counsel and travail was in vain. ⁶⁹Wherefore he was very wroth at the wicked men that gave him counsel to come into the country, insomuch as he slew many of them, and purposed to return into his own country. ⁷⁰Whereof when Jonathan had knowledge, he sent ambassadors unto him, to the end that he should make peace with him, and deliver them the prisoners. ⁷¹Which thing he accepted, and did according to his demands, and sware unto him that he would never do him harm all the days of his life. ⁷²When therefore he had restored unto him the prisoners that he had taken aforetime out of the land of Judea, he returned and went his way into his own land, neither came he any more into their borders. ⁷³Thus the sword ceased from Israel: but Jonathan dwelt at Michmash, and began to govern the people; and he destroyed the ungodly men out of Israel.

CHAPTER 10

In the hundred and sixtieth year Alexander, the *son* of Antiochus *surnamed* Epiphanes, went up and took Ptolemais: for the people had received him, by means whereof he reigned there. ²Now when king Demetrius heard thereof, he gathered together an exceeding great host, and went forth against him to fight. ³Moreover Demetrius sent letters unto Jonathan with loving words, so as he magnified him. ⁴For said he, Let us first make peace with him, before he join with Alexander against us: ⁵else he will remember all the evils that we have done against him, and against his brethren and his people. ⁶Wherefore he gave him authority to gather together an host, and to provide weapons, that he might aid him in battle: he commanded also that the hostages that were in the tower should be delivered him. ⁷Then came Jonathan to Jerusalem, and read the letters in the audience of all the people, and of them that were in the tower: ⁸who were sore afraid, when they heard that the king had given him authority to gather together an host. ⁹Whereupon they of the tower delivered their hostages unto Jonathan, and he delivered them unto their parents. ¹⁰This done, Jonathan settled himself in Jerusalem, and began to build and repair the city. ¹¹And he commanded the workmen to build the walls and the mount Zion round about with square stones for fortification; and they did so. ¹²Then the strangers, that were in the fortresses which the Bacchides had built, fled away; ¹³insomuch as every man left his place, and went into his own country. ¹⁴Only at Beth-zur certain of those that had forsaken the law and the commandments remained still: for it was their place of refuge.

¹⁵Now when king Alexander had heard what promises Demetrius had sent unto Jonathan: when also it was told him of the battles and noble acts which he and his brethren had done, and of the pains that they had endured, ¹⁶he said, Shall we find such another man? now therefore we will make him our friend and confederate. ¹⁷Upon this he wrote a letter, and sent it unto him, according to these words, saying, ¹⁸King Alexander to his brother Jonathan sendeth greeting: ¹⁹We have heard of thee, that thou art a man of great power, and meet to be our friend. ²⁰Wherefore now this day we ordain thee to be the high priest of thy nation, and to be called the king's friend; (and therewithal he sent him a purple robe and a crown of gold:) and require thee to take our part, and keep friendship with us. ²¹So in the seventh month of the hundred and sixtieth year, at the feast of the tabernacles, Jonathan put on the holy robe, and gathered together forces, and provided much armour.

²²Whereof when Demetrius heard, he was very sorry, and said, ²³What have we done, that Alexander hath prevented us in making amity with the Jews to strengthen himself? ²⁴I will also write unto them words of encouragement, and *promise them* dignities and gifts, that I may have their aid. ²⁵He sent unto them therefore to this effect: King Demetrius unto the people of the Jews sendeth greeting: ²⁶Whereas ye have kept covenants with us, and continued in our friendship, not joining yourselves with our enemies, we have heard thereof, and are glad. ²⁷Wherefore now continue ye to be faithful unto us, and we will well recompense you for the things ye do in our behalf, ²⁸and will grant you many immunities, and give you rewards. ²⁹And now do I free you, and for your sake I release all the Jews, from tributes, and from the customs of salt, and from crown taxes, ³⁰and from that which appertaineth unto me to receive for the third part of the seed, and the half of the fruit of the trees, I release it from this day forth, so that they shall not be taken of the land of Judea, nor of the three governments which are added thereunto out of the country of Samaria and Galilee, from this day forth for evermore. ³¹Let Jerusalem also be holy and free, with the borders thereof, both from tenths and tributes. ³²And as for the tower which is at Jerusalem, I yield up my authority over it, and give it to the high priest, that he may set in it such men as he shall choose to keep it. ³³Moreover I freely set at liberty every one of the Jews, that were carried captive out of the land of Judea into any part of my kingdom, and I *will* that all my officers remit the tributes even of their cattle. ³⁴Furthermore *I will* that all the feasts, and sabbaths, and new moons, and solemn days, and the three days before the feast, and the three days after the feast, shall be all days of immunity and freedom for all the Jews in my realm. ³⁵Also no man shall have authority to meddle with them, or to molest any of them in any matter. ³⁶*I will* further that there be enrolled among the king's forces about thirty thousand men of the Jews, unto whom pay shall be given, as belongeth to all the king's forces. ³⁷And of them *some* shall be placed in the king's strong holds, of whom also some shall be set over the affairs of the kingdom, which are of trust: and *I will* that their overseers and governors be of themselves, and that they live after their own laws, even as

the king hath commanded in the land of Judea. ³⁸And concerning the three governments that are added to Judea from the country of Samaria, let them be joined with Judea, that they may be reckoned to be under one, nor bound to obey other authority than the high priest's. ³⁹As for Ptolemais, and the land pertaining thereto, I give *it* as a free gift to the sanctuary at Jerusalem for the necessary expences of the sanctuary. ⁴⁰Moreover I give every year fifteen thousand shekels of silver out of the king's account from the places appertaining. ⁴¹And all the overplus, which the officers paid not in as in former time, from henceforth shall be given toward the works of the temple. ⁴²And beside this, the five thousand shekels of silver, which they took from the uses of the temple out of the accounts year by year, even those things shall be released, because they appertain to the priests that minister. ⁴³And whosoever they be that flee unto the temple at Jerusalem, or be within the liberties thereof, being indebted unto the king, or any other matter, let them be at liberty, and all they that have in my realm. ⁴⁴For the building also and repairing of the works of the sanctuary, expences shall be given out of the king's accounts, as also for the building of the walls in Judea. ⁴⁵Yea, and for the building of the walls of Jerusalem, and the fortifying thereof round about, expences shall be given out of the king's accounts, as also for the building of the walls in Judea.

⁴⁶Now when Jonathan and the people heard these words, they gave no credit unto them, nor received them, because they had remembered the great evil that he had done in Israel; for he had afflicted them very sore. ⁴⁷But with Alexander they were well pleased, because he was the first that entreated of true peace with them, and they were confederate with him always.

⁴⁸Then gathered king Alexander great forces, and camped over against Demetrius. ⁴⁹And after the two kings had joined battle, Demetrius' host fled: but Alexander followed after him, and prevailed against them. ⁵⁰And he continued the battle very sore until the sun went down: and that day was Demetrius slain. ⁵¹Afterward Alexander sent ambassadors to Ptolemy king of Egypt with a message to this effect: ⁵²Forasmuch as I am come again to my realm, and am set in the throne of my progenitors, and have gotten the dominion, and overthrown Demetrius, and recovered our country; ⁵³for after I had joined battle with him, both he and his host was discomfited by us, so that we sit in the throne of his kingdom: ⁵⁴now therefore let us make a league of amity together, and give me now thy daughter to wife: and I will be thy son in law, and will give both thee and her gifts according to thy dignity. ⁵⁵Then Ptolemy the king gave answer, saying, Happy be the day wherein thou didst return into the land of thy fathers, and satest in the throne of their kingdoms. ⁵⁶And now will I do to thee, as thou hast written: meet me therefore at Ptolemais, that we may see one another, for I will marry my daughter to thee according to thy desire.

⁵⁷So Ptolemy went out of Egypt with his daughter Cleopatra, and they came unto Ptolemais in the hundred threescore and second year: ⁵⁸where king Alexander meeting him, he gave unto him his daughter Cleopatra, and celebrated her marriage at Ptolemais with great glory, as the manner of kings

is. ⁵⁹Now king Alexander had written unto Jonathan, that he should come and meet him. ⁶⁰Who thereupon went honourably to Ptolemais, where he met the two kings, and gave them and their friends silver and gold, and many presents, and found favour in their sight. ⁶¹At that time certain pestilent fellows of Israel, men of a wicked life, assembled themselves against him, to accuse him: but the king would not hear them. ⁶²Yea more than that, the king commanded to take off his garments, and clothe him in purple: and they did so. ⁶³Also he made him sit by himself, and said unto his princes, Go with him into the midst of the city, and make proclamation, that no man complain against him of any matter, and that no man trouble him for any manner of cause. ⁶⁴Now when his accusers saw that he was honoured according to the proclamation, and clothed in purple, they fled all away. ⁶⁵So the king honoured him, and wrote him among his close friends, and made him a governor, and partaker of his dominion. ⁶⁶Afterward Jonathan returned to Jerusalem with peace and gladness.

⁶⁷Furthermore in the hundred threescore and fifth year came Demetrius son of Demetrius out of Crete into the land of his fathers: ⁶⁸whereof when king Alexander heard tell, he was right sorry, and returned into Antioch. ⁶⁹Then Demetrius made Apollonius the governor of Coelesyria his general, who gathered together a great host, and camped in Jamnia, and sent unto Jonathan the high priest, saying, ⁷⁰Thou alone liftest up thyself against us, and I am laughed to scorn for thy sake, and reproached: and why dost thou vaunt thy power against us in the mountains? ⁷¹Now therefore, if thou trustest in thine own strength, come down to us into the plain field, and there let us try the matter together: for with me is the power of the cities. ⁷²Ask and learn who I am, and the rest that take our part, and they shall tell thee that thy foot is not able to stand before our face; for thy fathers have been twice put to flight in their own land. ⁷³Wherefore now thou shalt not be able to abide the horsemen and so great a power in the plain, where there is neither stone nor flint, nor place to flee unto.

⁷⁴So when Jonathan heard these words of Apollonius, he was moved in his mind, and choosing ten thousand men he went out of Jerusalem, where Simon his brother met him for to help him. ⁷⁵And he pitched his tents against Joppa: but they shut him out of the city, because Apollonius had a garrison in Joppa. ⁷⁶Then Jonathan laid siege unto it: whereupon they of the city let him in for fear: and so Jonathan won Joppa. ⁷⁷Whereof when Apollonius heard, he took three thousand horsemen, with a great host of *footmen*, and went to Azotus as one that journeyed, and therewithal drew him forth into the plain, because he had a great number of horsemen, in whom he put his trust. ⁷⁸Then Jonathan followed after him to Azotus, where the armies joined battle. ⁷⁹Now Apollonius had left a thousand horsemen in ambush. ⁸⁰And Jonathan knew that there was an ambushment behind him; for they had compassed in his host, and cast darts at the people, from morning till evening. ⁸¹But the people stood still, as Jonathan had commanded them: and so the enemies' horses were tired. ⁸²Then brought Simon forth his host, and set them against the footmen, (for the horsemen

were spent,) who were discomfited by him, and fled. ⁸³The horsemen also, being scattered in the field, fled to Azotus, and went into Beth-dagon, their idol's temple, for safety. ⁸⁴But Jonathan set fire of Azotus, and the cities round about, and took their spoils; and the temple of Dagon, with them that were in it, he burned with fire. ⁸⁵Thus there were burned and slain with the sword well nigh eight thousand men. ⁸⁶And from thence Jonathan removed his host, and camped against Askelon, where the men of the city came forth, and met him with great pomp. ⁸⁷After this returned Jonathan and his host unto Jerusalem, having many spoils. ⁸⁸Now when king Alexander heard these things, he honoured Jonathan yet more, ⁸⁹and sent him a buckle of gold, as the use is to be given to such as are of the king's blood: he gave him also Ekron with the borders thereof in possession.

CHAPTER 11

And the king of Egypt gathered together a great host, like the sand that lieth upon the sea shore, and many ships, and went about through deceit to get Alexander's kingdom, and to join it to his own. ²Whereupon he took his journey into Syria in peaceable manner, so as they of the cities opened to him, and met him: for king Alexander had commanded them so to do, because he was his father in law. ³Now as Ptolemy entered into the cities, he set in every one of them a garrison of soldiers to keep it. ⁴And when he came near to Azotus, they shewed him the temple of Dagon that was burnt, and Azotus and the suburbs thereof that were destroyed, and the bodies that were cast abroad, and them that he had burnt in the battle: for they had made heaps of them by the way where he should pass. ⁵Also they told the king whatsoever Jonathan had done, to the intent he might blame him: but the king held his peace. ⁶Then Jonathan met the king with great pomp at Joppa, where they saluted one another, and lodged. ⁷Afterward Jonathan, when he had gone with the king to the river called Eleutherus, returned again to Jerusalem. ⁸King Ptolemy therefore, having gotten the dominion of the cities by the sea unto Seleucia upon the sea coast, imagined wicked counsels against Alexander. ⁹Whereupon he sent ambassadors unto king Demetrius, saying, Come, let us make a league betwixt us, and I will give thee my daughter whom Alexander hath, and thou shalt reign in thy father's kingdom: ¹⁰for I repent that I gave my daughter unto him, for he sought to slay me. ¹¹Thus did he slander him, because he was desirous of his kingdom. ¹²Wherefore he took his daughter from him, and gave her to Demetrius, and forsook Alexander, so that their hatred was openly known. ¹³Then Ptolemy entered into Antioch, where he set two crowns upon his head, the crown of Asia, and of Egypt. ¹⁴In the mean season was king Alexander in Cilicia, because those that dwelt in those parts had revolted from him. ¹⁵But when Alexander heard of this, he came to war against him: whereupon king Ptolemy brought forth his host, and met him with a mighty power, and put him to flight. ¹⁶So Alexander fled into Arabia, there to be defended; but king Ptolemy

was exalted: ¹⁷for Zabdiel the Arabian took off Alexander's head, and sent it to Ptolemy. ¹⁸King Ptolemy also died the third day after, and they that were in the strong holds were slain one of another. ¹⁹By this means Demetrius reigned in the hundred threescore and seventh year.

²⁰At the same time Jonathan gathered together them that were in Judea, to take the tower that was in Jerusalem: and he made many engines of war against it. ²¹Then certain ungodly persons, who hated their own people, went unto the king, and told him that Jonathan had besieged the tower. ²²Whereof when he heard, he was angry, and immediately removing, he came to Ptolemais, and wrote unto Jonathan, that he should not lay siege to the tower, but come and speak with him at Ptolemais in great haste. ²³Nevertheless Jonathan, when he heard this, commanded to besiege it still: and he chose certain of the elders of Israel and the priests, and put himself in peril; ²⁴and took silver and gold, and raiment, and divers presents besides, and went to Ptolemais unto the king, where he found favour in his sight. ²⁵And though certain ungodly men of the people had made complaints against him, ²⁶yet the king entreated him as his predecessors had done before, and promoted him in the sight of all his friends, ²⁷and confirmed him in the high priesthood, and in all the honours that he had before, and gave him pre-eminence among his chief friends. ²⁸Then Jonathan desired the king, that he would make Judea free from tribute, as also the three governments, with the country of Samaria; and he promised him three hundred talents. ²⁹So the king consented, and wrote letters unto Jonathan of all these things after this manner: ³⁰King Demetrius unto his brother Jonathan, and unto the nation of the Jews, sendeth greeting: ³¹We send you here a copy of the letter which we did write unto our cousin Lasthenes concerning you, that ye might see it. ³²King Demetrius unto his father Lasthenes sendeth greeting: ³³We are determined to do good to the people of the Jews, who are our friends, and keep covenants with us, because of their good will toward us. ³⁴Wherefore we have ratified unto them the borders of Judea, with the three governments of Aphairema and Lydda and Ramathim, that are 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 payments which the king received of them yearly aforetime out of the fruits of the earth and of trees. ³⁵And as for other things that belong unto us, of the tithes and customs pertaining unto us, as also the saltpits, and the crown taxes, which are due unto us, we discharge of them all for their relief. ³⁶And nothing hereof shall be revoked from this time forth for ever. ³⁷Now therefore see that thou make a copy of these things, and let it be delivered unto Jonathan, and set upon the holy mount in a conspicuous place.

³⁸After this, when king Demetrius saw that the land was quiet before him, and that no resistance was made against him, he sent away all his forces, every one to his own place, except certain bands of strangers, whom he had gathered from the isles of the nations: wherefore all the forces of his fathers hated him. ³⁹Moreover there was one Tryphon, that had been of Alexander's part afore, who, seeing that all the host murmured against

Demetrius, went to Imalkue the Arabian, that brought up Antiochus the young son of Alexander, ⁴⁰and lay sore upon him to deliver him this young Antiochus, that he might reign in his father's stead: he told him therefore all that Demetrius had done, and how his men of war were at enmity with him, and there he remained a long season. ⁴¹In the mean time Jonathan sent unto king Demetrius, that he would cast those of the tower out of Jerusalem, and those also in the fortresses: for they fought against Israel. ⁴²So Demetrius sent unto Jonathan, saying, I will not only do this for thee and thy people, but I will greatly honour thee and thy nation, if opportunity serve. ⁴³Now therefore thou shalt do well, if thou send me men to help me; for all my forces are gone from me. ⁴⁴Upon this Jonathan sent him three thousand strong men unto Antioch: and when they came to the king, the king was very glad of their coming. ⁴⁵Howbeit they that were of the city gathered themselves together into the midst of the city, to the number of an hundred and twenty thousand men, and would have slain the king. ⁴⁶Wherefore the king fled into the court, but they of the city kept the passages of the city, and began to fight. ⁴⁷Then the king called to the Jews for help, who came unto him all at once, and dispersing themselves through the city slew that day in the city to the number of an hundred thousand. ⁴⁸Also they set fire on the city, and gat many spoils that day, and delivered the king. ⁴⁹So when they of the city saw that the Jews had got the city as they would, their courage was abated: wherefore they made supplication to the king, and cried, saying, ⁵⁰Grant us peace, and let the Jews cease from assaulting us and the city. ⁵¹With that they cast away their weapons, and made peace; and the Jews were honoured in the sight of the king, and in the sight of all that were in his realm; and they returned to Jerusalem, having great spoils. ⁵²So king Demetrius sat on the throne of his kingdom, and the land was quiet before him. ⁵³Nevertheless he dissembled in all that ever he spake, and estranged himself from Jonathan, neither rewarded he him according to the benefits which he had received of him, but troubled him very sore.

⁵⁴After this returned Tryphon, and with him the young child Antiochus, who reigned, and was crowned. ⁵⁵Then there gathered unto him all the men of war, whom Demetrius had put away, and they fought against Demetrius, who turned his back and fled. ⁵⁶Moreover Tryphon took the elephants, and won Antioch. ⁵⁷At that time young Antiochus wrote unto Jonathan, saying, I confirm thee in the high priesthood, and appoint thee ruler over the four governments, and to be one of the king's friends. ⁵⁸Upon this he sent him golden vessels to be served in, and gave him leave to drink in gold, and to be clothed in purple, and to wear a golden buckle. ⁵⁹His brother Simon also he made captain from the place called The Ladder of Tyrus unto the borders of Egypt. ⁶⁰Then Jonathan went forth, and passed through the cities beyond the water, and all the forces of Syria gathered themselves unto him for to help him: and when he came to Askelon, they of the city met him honourably. ⁶¹From when he went to Gaza, but they of Gaza shut him out; wherefore he laid siege unto it, and burned the suburbs thereof with fire, and spoiled them. ⁶²Afterward, when they of Gaza made supplication unto

Jonathan, he made peace with them, and took the sons of their chief men for hostages, and passed through the country unto Damascus. ⁶³Now when Jonathan heard that Demetrius' princes were come to Kadesh, which is in Galilee, with a great power, purposing to remove him out of the country, ⁶⁴he went to meet them, and left Simon his brother in the country. ⁶⁵Then Simon encamped against Beth-zur, and fought against it a long season, and shut it up: ⁶⁶but they desired to have peace with him, which he granted them, and then put them out from thence, and took the city, and put a garrison in it. ⁶⁷As for Jonathan and his host, they pitched at the water of Gennesaret, from whence betimes in the morning they gat them to the plain of Hazor. ⁶⁸And, behold, the host of strangers met them in the plain, who, having laid men in ambush for him in the mountains, came themselves over against him. ⁶⁹So when they that lay in ambush rose out of their places, and joined battle, all that were of Jonathan's side fled; ⁷⁰insomuch as there was not one of them left, except Mattathias the son of Absalom, and Judas the son of Chalphi, the captains of the host. ⁷¹Then Jonathan rent his clothes, and cast earth upon his head, and prayed. ⁷²Afterwards turning again to battle, he put them to flight, and so they ran away. ⁷³Now when his own men that were fled saw this, they turned again unto him, and with him pursued them to Kadesh, even unto their own tents, and there they camped. ⁷⁴So there were slain of the nations that day about three thousand men: but Jonathan returned to Jerusalem.

***CHAPTER 12

Now when Jonathan saw that the time served him, he chose certain men, and sent them to Rome for to confirm and renew the friendship that they had with them. ²He sent letters also to the Lacedemonians, and to other places, for the same purpose. ³So they went unto Rome, and entered into the senate, and said, Jonathan the high priest, and the people of the Jews, sent us unto you, to the end ye should renew the friendship which ye had with them, and league, as in former time. ⁴Upon this, the Romans gave them letters unto the governors of every place, that they should bring them into the land of Judea peaceably.

⁵And this is the copy of the letters which Jonathan wrote to the Lacedemonians: ⁶Jonathan the high priest, and the elders of the nations, and the priests, and the other people of the Jews, unto the Lacedemonians their brethren send greeting: ⁷There were letters sent in times past unto Onias the high priest from Arius, who reigned then among you, to signify that ye are our brethren, as the copy here underwritten doth specify. ⁸At which time Onias entreated the ambassador that was sent honourably, and received the letters, wherein declaration was made of the league and friendship. ⁹Therefore we also, albeit we need none of these of these things, for that we have the holy books of scripture in our hands to comfort us, ¹⁰have nevertheless attempted to send unto you for the renewing of brotherhood and friendship, lest we

should become strangers unto you altogether: for there is a long time passed since ye sent unto us. ¹¹We therefore at all times without ceasing, both in our feasts, and other convenient days, do remember you in the sacrifices which we offer, and in our prayers, as reason is, and as it becometh us to think upon our brethren: ¹²and we are right glad of your honour. ¹³As for ourselves, we have had great troubles and wars on every side, forasmuch as the kings that are round about us have fought against us. ¹⁴Howbeit we would not be troublesome unto you, nor to others of our confederates and friends, in these wars: ¹⁵for we have help from heaven that succoureth us, so as we are delivered from our enemies, and our enemies are brought under foot. ¹⁶For this cause we chose Numenius *the son* of Antiochus, and Antipater *the son* of Jason, and sent them unto the Romans, to renew the amity that we had with them, and the former league. ¹⁷We commanded them also to go unto you, and to salute you, and to deliver you our letters concerning the renewing of our brotherhood. ¹⁸Wherefore now ye shall do well to give us an answer thereto.’ ”

¹⁹And this is the copy of the letters which Oniars sent. ²⁰Arius king of the Lacedemonians to Onias the high priest, greeting: ²¹It is found in writing, that the Lacedemonians and Jews are brethren, and that they are of the stock of Abraham: ²²now therefore, since this is come to our knowledge, ye shall do well to write unto us of your prosperity. ²³We do write back again to you, that your cattle and goods are ours, and ours are yours. We do command therefore our ambassadors to make report unto you on this wise.

²⁴Now when Jonathan heard that Demetrius’ princes were come to fight against him with a greater host than afore, he removed from Jerusalem, and met them in the land of Hamath: for he gave them no respite to enter his country. ²⁵He sent spies also unto their tents, who came again, and told him that they were appointed to come upon him in the night season. ²⁷Wherefore so 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 to fight: also he sent sentinels round about the host. ²⁸But when the adversaries learned that Jonathan and his men were ready for battle, they feared, and trembled in their hearts, and they kindled fires in their camps. ²⁹Howbeit Jonathan and his company knew it not till the morning: for they saw the lights burning. ³⁰Then Jonathan pursued after them, but overtook them not: for they were gone over the river Eleutherus. ³¹Wherefore Jonathan turned to the Arabians, who were called Zabadeans, and smote them, and took their spoils. ³²And removing thence, he came to Damascus, and so passed through all the country. ³³Simon also went forth, and passed through the country unto Askalon, and the holds there adjoining, from whence he turned aside to Joppa, and won it. ³⁴For he had heard that they would deliver the hold unto them that took Demetrius’ part: wherefore he set a garrison there to keep it. ³⁵After this came Jonathan home again, and calling the elders of the people together, he consulted with them about building strong holds in Judea, ³⁶and making the walls of Jerusalem higher, and raising a great mount between the tower and the city, for to separate it from the city, that so it might be alone,

that men might neither sell nor buy in it. ³⁷Upon this they came together to build up the city, forasmuch as part of the wall toward the brook on the east side was fallen down, and they repaired that which was called Chaphenatha. ³⁸Simon also set up Adida in Shephelah, and made it strong with gates and bars.

³⁹Now Tryphon went about to get the kingdom of Asia, and to kill Antiochus the king, that he might set the crown upon his own head. ⁴⁰Howbeit he was afraid that Jonathan would not suffer him, and that he would fight against him; wherefore he sought a way how to take Jonathan, that he might kill him. So he removed, and came to Beth-shan. ⁴¹Then Jonathan went out to meet him with forty thousand men chosen for the battle, and came to Beth-shan. ⁴²Now when Tryphon saw that Jonathan came with so great a force, he durst not stretch out his hand against him; ⁴³but received him honourably, and commended him unto all his friends, and gave him gifts, and commanded his men of war to be as obedient unto him, as to himself. ⁴⁴Unto Jonathan also he said, Why hast thou put all this people to so great trouble, seeing there is no war betwixt us? ⁴⁵Therefore send them now home again, and choose a few men to wait on thee, and come thou with me to Ptolemais, for I will give it thee, and the rest of the strong holds and forces, and all that have any charge: as for me, I will return and depart: for this is the cause of my coming. ⁴⁶So Jonathan believing him did as he bade him, and sent away his host, who went into the land of Judea. ⁴⁷And with himself he retained but three thousand men, of whom he sent two thousand into Galilee, and one thousand went with him. ⁴⁸Now as soon as Jonathan entered into Ptolemais, they of Ptolemais shut the gates, and took him, and all them that came with him they slew with the sword. ⁴⁹Then sent Tryphon an host of footmen and horsemen into Galilee, and into the great plain, to destroy all Jonathan's company. ⁵⁰But when they knew that Jonathan and they that were with him were taken and slain, they encouraged one another, and went close together, prepared to flight. ⁵¹They therefore that followed upon them, perceiving that they were ready to fight for their lives, turned back again. ⁵²Wherefore they all came into the land of Judea peaceably, and there they bewailed Jonathan, and them that were with him, and they were sore afraid; wherefore all Israel made great lamentation. ⁵³Then all the nations that were round about them sought to destroy them: for said they, They have no captain, nor any to help them: now therefore let us make war upon them, and take away their memorial from among men.

CHAPTER 13

Now when Simon heard that Tryphon had gathered together a great host to invade the land of Judea, and destroy it, ²and saw that the people was in great trembling and fear, he went up into Jerusalem, and gathered the people together, ³and gave them exhortation, saying, Ye yourselves know what great things I, and my brethren, and my father's house, have done for the law

and the sanctuary, the battles also and troubles which we have seen, ⁴by reason whereof all my brethren are slain for Israel's sake, and I am left alone. ⁵Now therefore be it far from me, that I should spare my life in any time of trouble: for I am no better than my brethren. ⁶Doubtless I will avenge my nation, and the sanctuary, and our wives, and our children: for the nations are gathered to destroy us of very malice. ⁷Now as soon as the people heard these words, their spirit revived. ⁸And they answered with a loud voice, saying, Thou shalt be our leader instead of Judas and Jonathan thy brother. ⁹Fight thou our battles, and whatsoever thou commandest us, that will we do. ¹⁰So then he gathered together all the men of war, and made haste to finish the walls of Jerusalem, and he fortified it round about. ¹¹Also he sent Jonathan the son of Absalom, and with him a great power, to Joppa: who casting out them that were therein remained there in it.

¹²So Tryphon removed from Ptolemais with a great power to invade the land of Judea, and Jonathan was with him in ward. ¹³But Simon pitched his tents at Adida, over against the plain. ¹⁴Now when Tryphon knew that Simon was risen up instead of his brother Jonathan, and meant to join battle with him, he sent messengers unto him, saying, ¹⁵Whereas we have Jonathan thy brother in hold, it is for money that he is owing unto the king's treasure, concerning the business that was committed unto him. ¹⁶Wherefore now send an hundred talents of silver, and two of his sons for hostage, that when he is at liberty he may not revolt from us, and we will let him go. ¹⁷Hereupon Simon, albeit he perceived that they spake deceitfully unto him, yet sent he the money and the children, lest peradventure he should procure to himself great hatred of the people: ¹⁸who might have said, Because I sent him not the money and the children, therefore is *Jonathan* dead. ¹⁹So he sent them the children and the hundred talents: howbeit *Tryphon* dissembled, neither would he let Jonathan go. ²⁰And after this came Tryphon to invade the land, and destroy it, going round about by the way that leadeth unto Adora: but Simon and his host marched against him in every place, wheresoever he went. ²¹Now they that were in the tower sent messengers unto Tryphon, to the end that he should hasten his coming unto them by the wilderness, and send them victuals. ²²Wherefore Tryphon made ready all his horsemen to come that night: but there fell a very great snow, by reason whereof he came not. So he departed, and came into the country of Gilead. ²³And when he came near to Bascama, he slew Jonathan, who was buried there. ²⁴Afterward Tryphon returned and went into his own land.

²⁵Then sent Simon, and took the bones of Jonathan his brother, and buried them in Modein, the city of his fathers. ²⁶And all Israel made great lamentation for him, and bewailed him many days. ²⁷Simon also built a monument upon the sepulchre of his father and his brethren, and raised it aloft to the sight, with hewn stone behind and before. ²⁸Moreover he set up seven pyramids, one against another, for his father, and his mother, and his four brethren. ²⁹And in these he made cunning devices, about which he set great pillars, and upon the pillars he made all their armour for a perpetual memory, and by the armour ships carved, that they might be seen of all that

sail on the sea. ³⁰This is the sepulchre which he made at Modin, and it standeth yet unto this day.

³¹Now Tryphon dealt deceitfully with the young king Antiochus, and slew him. ³²And he reigned in his stead, and crowned himself king of Asia, and brought a great calamity upon the land. ³³Then Simon built up the strong holds in Judea, and fenced them about with high towers, and great walls, and gates, and bars, and laid up victuals therein. ³⁴Moreover Simon chose men, and sent to king Demetrius, to the end that he should give the land an immunity, because all that Tryphon did was to spoil. ³⁵Unto whom king Demetrius answered and wrote after this manner: ³⁶King Demetrius unto Simon the high priest, and friend of kings, as also unto the elders and nation of the Jews, sendeth greeting: ³⁷The golden crown, and the scarlet robe, which ye sent unto us, we have received: and we are ready to make a steadfast peace with you, yea, and to write unto our officers, to confirm the immunities which we have granted. ³⁸And whatsoever covenants we have made with you shall stand; and the strong holds, which ye have builded, shall be your own. ³⁹As for any oversight or fault committed unto this day, we forgive it, and the crown tax also, which ye owe us: and if there were any other tribute paid in Jerusalem, it shall no more be paid. ⁴⁰And look who are meet among you to be in our court, let them be enrolled, and let there be peace betwixt us. ⁴¹Then the yoke of the nations was taken away from Israel in the hundred and seventieth year. ⁴²Then the people of Israel began to write in their instruments and contracts, In the first year of Simon the high priest, the governor and leader of the Jews. ⁴³In those days Simon camped against Gaza, and besieged it round about; he made also an engine of war, and set it by the city, and battered a certain tower, and took it. ⁴⁴And they that were in the engine leaped into the city; whereupon there was a great uproar in the city: ⁴⁵insomuch as the people of the city rent their clothes, and climbed upon the walls with their wives and children, and cried with a loud voice, beseeching Simon to grant them peace. ⁴⁶And they said, Deal not with us according to our wickedness, but according to thy mercy. ⁴⁷So Simon was appeased toward them, and fought no more against them, but put them out of the city, and cleansed the houses wherein the idols were, and so entered into it with songs and thanksgiving. ⁴⁸Yea, he put all uncleanness out of it, and placed such men there as would keep the law, and made it stronger than it was before, and built therein a dwelling place for himself. ⁴⁹They also of the tower in Jerusalem were kept so strait, that they could neither come forth, nor go into the country, nor buy, nor sell: wherefore they were in great distress for want of victuals, and a great number of them perished through famine. ⁵⁰Then cried they to Simon, beseeching him to be at one with them: which thing he granted them; and when he had put them out from thence, he cleansed the tower from pollutions; ⁵¹and entered into it the three and twentieth day of the second month, in the hundred seventy and first year, with thanksgiving, and branches of palm trees, and with harps, and with viols, and hymns, and songs: because there was destroyed a great enemy out of Israel. ⁵²He ordained also that that day should be kept every year with

gladness. Moreover the mount of the temple that was by the tower he made stronger than it was, and there he dwelt himself with his company. ⁵³And when Simon saw that John his son was a valiant man, he made him captain of all his hosts; and he dwelt in Gazara.

CHAPTER 14

Now in the hundred threescore and twelfth year king Demetrius gathered his forces together, and went into media, to get him help to fight against Tryphon. ²But when Arsaces, the king of Persia and Media, heard that Demetrius was entered within his borders, he sent one of his princes to take him alive: ³who went and smote the host of Demetrius, and took him, and brought him to Arsaces, by whom he was put in ward.

⁴As for the land of *Judea*, that was quiet all the days of Simon; for he sought the good of his nation in such wise, as that evermore his authority and honour pleased them well. ⁵And as he was honourable in all his acts, so in this, that he took Joppa for an haven, and made an entrance to the isles of the sea, ⁶and enlarged the bounds of his nation, and recovered the country, ⁷and gathered together a great number of captives, and had the dominion of Gazara, and Beth-zur, and the tower, out of the which he took all uncleanness, neither was there any that resisted him. ⁸Then did they till their ground in peace, and the earth gave her increase, and the trees of the field their fruit. ⁹The ancient men sat all in the streets, communing together of good things, and the young men put on glorious and warlike apparel. ¹⁰He provided victuals for the cities, and set in them all manner of munition, so that his honourable name was renowned unto the end of the world. ¹¹He made peace in the land, and Israel rejoiced with great joy: ¹²for every man sat under his vine and his fig tree, and there was none to fray them: ¹³neither was there any left in the land to fight against them: yea, the kings themselves were overthrown in those days. ¹⁴Moreover he strengthened all those of his people that were brought low: the law he searched out; and every contemner of the law and wicked person he took away. ¹⁵He beautified the sanctuary, and multiplied the vessels of the temple.

¹⁶Now when it was heard at Rome, and as far as Sparta, that Jonathan was dead, they were very sorry. ¹⁷But as soon as they heard that his brother Simon was made high priest in his stead, and ruled the country, and the cities therein: ¹⁸they wrote unto him in tables of brass, to renew the friendship and league which they had made with Judea and Jonathan his brethren: ¹⁹which writings were read before the congregation at Jerusalem. ²⁰And this is the copy of the letters that the Lacedomonians sent; The rulers of the Lacedomonians, with the city, unto Simon the high priest, and the elders, and priests, and residue of the people of the Jews, our brethren, send greeting: ²¹The ambassadors that were sent unto our people certified us of your glory and honour: wherefore we were glad of their coming, ²²and did register the things that they spake in the council of the people in 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. ²³And it pleased the people to entertain the men honourably, and to put the copy of their ambassage in publick records, to the end the people of the Lacedomonians might have a memorial thereof: furthermore we have written a copy thereof unto Simon the high priest. ²⁴After this Simon sent Numenius to Rome with a great shield of gold of a thousand pounds weight, to confirm the league with them.

²⁵Whereof when the people heard, they said, What thanks shall we give to Simon and his son? ²⁶For he and his two brethren and the house of his father have established Israel, and chased away in fight their enemies from them, and confirmed their liberty. ²⁷So then they wrote it in tables of brass, which they set upon pillars in mount Zion: and this is the copy of the writing; The eighteenth day of *the month* Elul, in the hundred threescore and twelfth year, being the third year of Simon the high priest, ²⁸at Saramel in the great congregation of the priests, and people, and rulers of the nation, and elders of the country, were these things notified unto us. ²⁹Forasmuch as oftentimes there have been wars in the country, wherein for the maintenance of their sanctuary, and the law, Simon the son of Mattathias, of the posterity of Jarib, together with his brethren, put themselves in jeopardy, and resisting the enemies of their nation did their nation great honour. ³⁰(For after that Jonathan, having gathered his nation together, and been their high priest, was added to his people, ³¹their enemies purposed to invade their country, that they might destroy it, and lay hands on the sanctuary: ³²at which time Simon rose up, and fought for his nation, and spent much of his own substance, and armed the valiant men of his nation, and gave them wages, ³³and fortified the cities of Judea, together with Beth-zur, that lieth upon the borders of Judea, where the armour of the enemies had been before; but he set a garrison of Jews there: ³⁴moreover he fortified Joppa which lieth upon the sea, and Gazara, that bordereth upon Azotus, where the enemies had dwelt before: but he placed the Jews there, and furnished them with all things convenient for the reparation thereof.) ³⁵The people therefore, seeing the acts of Simon, and unto what glory he sought to bring his nation, made him their governor and chief priest, because he had done all these things, and for the justice and faith which he kept to his nation, and for that he sought by all means to exalt his nation. ³⁶For in his time things prospered in his hands, so that the nations were taken out of their country, and they also that were in the city of Jerusalem, who had made themselves a tower, out of which they issued, and polluted all about the sanctuary, and did much hurt in the holy place: ³⁷but he placed Jews therein, and fortified it for the safety of the country and the city, and raised up the walls of Jerusalem. ³⁸King Demetrius also confirmed him in the high priesthood according to those things, ³⁹and made him one of his friends, and honoured him with great honour. ⁴⁰For he had heard say, that the Romans had called the Jews their friends and confederates and brethren; and that they had entertained the ambassadors of Simon honourably: ⁴¹also that the Jews and priests were well pleased that

Simon should be their governor and high priest for ever, until there should arise a more faithful prophet; ⁴²moreover that he should be their captain, and should take charge of the sanctuary, to set them over their works, and over the country, and over the armour, and over the fortresses, that, *I say*, he should take charge of the sanctuary; ⁴³beside this, that he should be obeyed of every man, and that all his writings in the country should be made in his name, and that he should be clothed in purple, and wear gold. ⁴⁴Also that it should be lawful for none of the people or priests to break any of these things, or to gainsay his word, or to gather an assembly in the country without him, or to be clothed in purple, or wear a buckle of gold: ⁴⁵and whosoever should do otherwise, or break any of these things, he should be punished. ⁴⁶Thus it liked all the people to deal with Simon, and to do as hath been said. ⁴⁷Then Simon accepted hereof, and was well pleased to be high priest, and captain and governor of the Jews, and to defend them all. ⁴⁸So they commanded that this writing should be put in tables of brass, and that they should be set up within the compass of the sanctuary in a conspicuous place; ⁴⁹also that the copies thereof should be laid up in the treasury, to the end that Simon and his sons might have them.

CHAPTER 15

Moreover Antiochus son of Demetrius the king sent letters from the isles of the sea unto Simon the priest and prince of the Jews, and to all the people; ²the contents whereof were these: King Antiochus to Simon the high priest, and prince of his nation, and to the people of the Jews, greeting: ³Forasmuch as certain pestilent men have usurped the kingdom of our fathers, and my purpose is to challenge it again, that I may restore it to the old estate, and to that end have gathered a multitude of foreign soldiers together, and prepared ships of war; ⁴my meaning also being to go through the country, that I may be avenged of them that have destroyed it, and made many cities in the kingdom desolate: ⁵now therefore I confirm unto thee all the oblations which the kings before me granted thee, and whatsoever gifts beside they granted. ⁶I give thee leave also to coin money for thy country with thine own stamp. ⁷And as concerning Jerusalem and the sanctuary, let them be free; and all the armour that thou hast made, and fortresses that thou hast built, and keepest in thine hands, let them remain unto thee. ⁸And if any thing be, or shall be, owing to the king, let it be forgiven thee for evermore. ⁹Furthermore, when we have obtained our kingdom, we will honour thee, and thy nation, and thy temple, with great honour, so that your honour shall be known throughout the world. ¹⁰In the hundred threescore and fourteenth year went Antiochus into the land of his fathers: at which time all the forces came together unto him, so that few were left with Tryphon. ¹¹Wherefore being pursued by king Antiochus, he fled unto Dora, which lieth by the sea side: ¹²for he saw that troubles came upon him all at once, and that his forces had forsaken him. ¹³Then camped Antiochus against Dora,

having with him an hundred and twenty thousand men of war, and eight thousand horsemen. ¹⁴And when he had compassed the city round about, and joined ships close to the town on the sea side, he vexed the city by land and by sea, neither suffered he any to go out or in.

¹⁵In the mean season came Numenius and his company from Rome, having letters to the kings and countries; wherein were written these things: ¹⁶Lucius, consul of the Romans unto king Ptolemy, greeting: ¹⁷The Jews' ambassador, our friends and confederates, came unto us to renew the old friendship and league, being sent from Simon the high priest, and from the people of the Jews: ¹⁸and they brought a shield of gold of a thousand pound. ¹⁹We thought it good therefore to write unto the kings and countries, that they should do them no harm, nor fight against them, their cities, or countries, nor yet aid their enemies against them. ²⁰It seemed also good to us to receive the shield of them. ²¹If therefore there be any pestilent fellows, that have fled from their country unto you, deliver them unto Simon the high priest, that he may punish them according to their own law. ²²The same things wrote he likewise unto Demetrius the king, and Attalus, to Ariarathes, and Arsaces, ²³and to all the countries, and to Sampsames, and the Lacedemonians, and to Delos, and Myndos, and Sieyon, and Caria, and Samos, and Pamphylia, and Lycia, and Halicarnassus, and Rhodes, and Phaselis, and Kos, and Side, and Arados, and Gortyna, and Cnidus, and Cyprus, and Cyrene. ²⁴And the copy hereof they wrote to Simon the high priest.

²⁵So Antiochus the king camped against Dora the second day, assaulting it continually, and making engines, by which means he shut up Tryphon, that he could neither go out nor in. ²⁶At that time Simon sent him two thousand chosen men to aid him; silver also, and gold, and much armour. ²⁷Nevertheless he would not receive them, but brake all the covenants which he had made with him afore, and became strange unto him. ²⁸Furthermore he sent unto him Athenobius, one of his friends, to commune with him, and say, Ye withhold Joppa and Gazara, with the tower that is in Jerusalem, which are cities of my realm. ²⁹The borders thereof ye have wasted, and done great hurt in the land, and got the dominion of many places within my kingdom. ³⁰Now therefore deliver the cities which ye have taken, and the tributes of the places whereof ye have gotten dominion without the borders of Judea: ³¹or 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: if not, we will come and fight against you. ³²So Athenobius the king's friend came to Jerusalem: and when he saw the glory of Simon, and the cupboard of gold and silver plate, and his great attendance, he was astonished, and told him the king's message. ³³Then answered Simon, and said unto him, We have neither taken other men's land, nor holden that which appertaineth to others, but the inheritance of our fathers, which our enemies have wrongfully in possession a certain time. ³⁴Wherefore we, having opportunity, hold the inheritance of our fathers. ³⁵And seeing thou demandest Joppa and Gazara, albeit they did great harm unto the people in our country, yet will we give an hundred talents for them. Hereunto

Athenobius answered him not a word; ³⁶but returned in a rage to the king, and made report unto him of these speeches, and of the glory of Simon, and of all that he had seen: whereupon the king was exceeding wroth.

³⁷In the mean time fled Tryphon by ship unto Orthosia. ³⁸Then the king made Cendebeus captain of the sea coast, and gave him an host of footmen and horsemen, ³⁹and commanded him to move his host toward Judea: also he commanded him to build up Kidron, and to fortify the gates, and to war against the people; but as for the king *himself*, he pursued Tryphon. ⁴⁰So Cendebeus came to Jamnia, and began to provoke the people, and to invade Judea, and to take the people prisoners, and slay them. ⁴¹And when he had built up Kidron, he set horsemen there, and an host of *footmen*, to the end that issuing out they might make outroads upon the ways of Judea, as the king had commanded him.

CHAPTER 16

Then came up John from Gazara, and told Simon his father what Cendebeus had done. ²Wherefore Simon called his two eldest sons, Judea and John, and said unto them, I, and my brethren, and my father's house, have ever from our youth unto this day fought against the enemies of Israel; and things have prospered so well in our hands, that we have delivered Israel oftentimes. ³But now I am old, and ye, by God's mercy, are of a sufficient age: be ye instead of me and my brother, and go and fight for our nation, and the help from heaven be with you. ⁴So he chose out of the country twenty thousand men of war with horsemen, who went out against Cendebeus, and rested that night at Modein. ⁵And when as they rose in the morning, and went into the plain, behold, a mighty great host both of footmen and horsemen came against them: howbeit there was a water brook betwixt them. ⁶So he and his people pitched over against them: and when he saw that the people were afraid to go over the water brook, he went first over himself, and then the men seeing him passed through after him. ⁷*That done*, he divided his men, and set the horsemen in the midst of the footmen: for the enemies' horsemen were very many. ⁸Then sounded they with the holy trumpets: whereupon Cendebeus and his host were put to flight, so that many of them were slain, and the remnant gat them to the strong hold. ⁹At that time was Judea John's brother wounded; but John still followed after them, until he came to Kidron, which *Cendebeus* had built. ¹⁰So they fled even unto the towers in the fields of Azotus; wherefore he burned it with fire: so that there were slain of them about two thousand men.

¹¹Moreover in the plain of Jericho was Ptolemy the son of Abubus made captain, and he had abundance of silver and gold: ¹²for he was the high priest's son in law. ¹³Wherefore his heart being lifted up, he thought to get the country to himself, and thereupon consulted deceitfully against Simon and his sons to destroy them. ¹⁴Now Simon was visiting the cities that were in the country, and taking care for the good ordering of them; at which time

he came down himself to Jericho with his sons, Mattathias and Judea, in the hundred threescore and seventeenth year, in the eleventh month, called Shebat: ¹⁵where the son of Abubus receiving them deceitfully into a little hold, called Dok, which he had built, made them a great banquet: howbeit he had hid men there. ¹⁶So when Simon and his sons had drunk largely, Ptolemy and his men rose up, and took their weapons, and came upon Simon into the banqueting place, and slew him, and his two sons, and certain of his servants. ¹⁷In which doing he committed a great treachery, and recompensed evil for good. ¹⁸Then Ptolemy wrote these things, and sent to the king, that he should send him an host to aid him, and he would deliver him the country and cities. ¹⁹He sent others also to Gazara to kill John: and unto the tribunes he sent letters to come unto him, that he might give them silver, and gold, and rewards. ²⁰And others he sent to take Jerusalem, and the mount of the temple. ²¹Now one had run afore to Gazara, and told John that his father and brethren were slain, and, quoth he, Ptolemy hath sent to slay thee also. ²²Hereof when he heard, he was sore astonished: so he laid hands on them that were come to destroy him, and slew them; for he knew that they sought to make him away.

²³As concerning the rest of the acts of John, and his wars, and worthy deeds which he did, and the building of the walls which he made, and his doings, ²⁴behold, these are written in the chronicles of the priesthood, from the time he was made high priest after his father.