

2 MACCABEES

CHAPTER 1

The brethren, the Jews, that be at Jerusalem and in the land of Judah, wish unto the brethren, the Jews that are throughout Egypt, health and peace: ²God be gracious unto you, and remember His covenant that He made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob His faithful servants; ³and give you an heart to serve Him, and to do His will, with a good courage and a willing mind; ⁴and open your hearts in His law and commandments, and send you peace, ⁵and hear your prayers, and be at one with you, and never forsake you in time of trouble. ⁶And now we be here praying for you. ⁷What time as Demetrius reigned, in the hundred threescore and ninth year, we the Jews wrote unto you in the extremity of trouble that came upon us in those years, from the time that Jason and his company revolted from the holy land and kingdom, ⁸and burned the porch, and shed innocent blood: then we prayed unto the Lord, and were heard; we offered sacrifices and fine flour, and lighted the lamps, and set forth the loaves. ⁹And now see that ye keep the feast of tabernacles in the month Chislev. In the hundred fourscore and eighth year.

¹⁰The people that were at Jerusalem and in Judea, and the council, and Judas, sent greeting and health unto Aristobulus, king Ptolemy's master, who was of the stock of the anointed priests, and to the Jews that were in Egypt: ¹¹Insomuch as God hath delivered us from great perils, we thank Him highly, as having been in battle against a king. ¹²For He cast them out that fought within the holy city. ¹³For when the leader was come into Persia, and the army with him that seemed invincible, they were slain in the temple of Nanea by the deceit of Nanea's priests. ¹⁴For Antiochus, as though he would marry her, came into the place, and his friends that were with him, to receive money in name of a dowry. ¹⁵Which when the priests of Nanea had set forth, and he was entered with a small company into the compass of the temple, they shut the temple as soon as Antiochus was come in: ¹⁶and opening a privy door of the roof, they threw stones like thunderbolts, and struck down the captain, hewed them in pieces, smote off their heads, and cast them to those that were without. ¹⁷Blessed be our God in all things, Who hath delivered up the ungodly. ¹⁸Therefore seeing we are now purposed to keep the purification of the temple upon the five and twentieth day of *the month* Chislev, we thought it necessary to certify you thereof, that ye also might keep it, *as the feast* of the tabernacles, and of the fire, *which was given us* when Nehemiah offered sacrifice, after that he had builded the altar and the temple. ¹⁹For when our fathers were led into Persia, the priests that were then devout took the fire of the altar privily, and hid it in an hollow place of a pit without water, where they kept it sure, so that the place was unknown to all men. ²⁰Now after many years, when it pleased God, Nehemiah, being sent from the

king of Persia, did send of the posterity of those priests that had hid it to the fire: but when they told us they found no fire, but thick water; ²¹then commanded he them to draw it up, and to bring it; and when the sacrifices were laid on, Nehemiah commanded the priests to sprinkle the wood and the things laid thereupon with the water. ²²When this was done, and the time came that the sun shone, which afore was hid in the cloud, there was a great fire kindled, so that every man marvelled. ²³And the priests made a prayer whilst the sacrifice was consuming, I say, both the priests, and all the rest, Jonathan beginning, and the rest answering thereunto, as Nehemiah did. ²⁴And the prayer was after this manner: O Lord, Lord God, Creator of all things, Who art fearful and strong, and righteous, and merciful, and the only and gracious King, ²⁵the only giver of all things, the only just, almighty and everlasting, Thou that deliverest Israel from all trouble, and didst choose the fathers, and didst sanctify them: ²⁶receive the sacrifice for Thy whole people Israel, and preserve Thine own portion, and sanctify it. ²⁷Gather those together that are scattered from us, deliver them that serve among the nations, look upon them that are despised and abhorred, and let the nations know that Thou art our God. ²⁸Punish them that oppress us, and with pride do us wrong. ²⁹Plant Thy people again in Thy holy place, as Moses hath spoken. ³⁰And the priests sung psalms of thanksgiving. ³¹Now when the sacrifice was consumed, Nehemiah commanded the water that was left to be poured on the great stones. ³²When this was done, there was kindled a flame: but it was consumed by the light that shined from the altar. ³³So when this matter was known, it was told the king of Persia, that in the place, where the priests that were led away had hid the fire, there appeared water, and that Nehemiah had purified the sacrifices therewith. ³⁴Then the king, inclosing the place, made it holy, after he had tried the matter. ³⁵And the king took many gifts, and bestowed thereof on those whom he would gratify. ³⁶And Nehemiah called this thing Nephthar, which is as much to say, a cleansing: but many called it nephtha.

CHAPTER 2

It is also found in the records, that Jeremiah the prophet commanded them that were taken away to take of the fire, as it hath been signified: ²and how that the prophet, having given them the law, charged them not to forget the commandments of the Lord, and that they should not err in their minds, when they see images of silver and gold, with their ornaments. ³And with other such speeches exhorted he them, that the law should not depart from their hearts. ⁴It was also contained in the same writing, that the prophet, being warned of God, commanded the tabernacle and the ark to go up with him, as he went forth into the mountain, where Moses climbed up, and saw the heritage of God. ⁵And when Jeremiah came hither, he found an hollow cave, wherein he laid the tabernacle, and the ark, and the altar of incense, and so stopped the door. ⁶And some of them that followed him came to mark

the way, but they could not find it. ⁷Which when Jeremiah perceived, he blamed them, saying, As for that place, it shall be unknown until the time that God gather His people again together, and receive them unto mercy. ⁸Then shall the Lord shew them these things, and the glory of the Lord shall appear, and the cloud also, as it was shewed under Moses, and as when Solomon desired that the place might be honourably sanctified. ⁹It was also declared, that he being wise offered the sacrifice of dedication, and of the finishing of the temple. ¹⁰And as when Moses prayed unto the Lord, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the sacrifices: even so prayed Solomon also, and the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the whole burnt offerings. ¹¹And Moses said, Because the sin offering was not to be eaten, it was consumed. ¹²So Solomon kept those eight days. ¹³The same things also were reported to the writings and commentaries of Nehemiah; and how he founding a library gathered together the acts of the kings, and the prophets, and of David, and the epistles of the kings concerning the holy gifts. ¹⁴In like manner also Judas gathered together all those things that were lost by reason of the war we had, and they remain with us. ¹⁵Wherefore if ye have need thereof, send some to fetch them unto you.

¹⁶Whereas we then are about to celebrate the purification, we have written unto you, and ye shall do well, if ye keep the same days. ¹⁷We hope also, that the God, that delivered all His people, and gave them all an heritage, and the kingdom, and the priesthood, and the sanctuary, ¹⁸as He promised in the law, will shortly have mercy upon us, and gather us out of every land under heaven into the holy place: for He hath delivered us out of great troubles, and hath purified the place.

¹⁹Now as concerning Judas Maccabeus, and his brethren, and the purification of the great temple, and the dedication of the altar, ²⁰and the wars against Antiochus Epiphanes, and Eupator his son, ²¹and the manifest signs that came from heaven unto those that behaved themselves manfully to their honour for Judaism: so that, being but a few, they overcame the whole country, and chased barbarous multitudes, ²²and recovered again the temple renowned the world over, and freed the city, and upheld the laws which were going down, the Lord being gracious unto them with all favour: ²³*all these things*, I say, being declared by Jason of Cyrene in five books, we will assay to abridge in one volume. ²⁴For considering the infinite number, and the difficulty which they find that desire to look into the narrations of the story, for the variety of the matter, ²⁵we have been careful, that they that will read may have delight, and that they that are desirous to commit to memory might have ease, and that all into who hands it cometh might have profit. ²⁶Therefore to us, that have taken upon us this painful labour of abridging, it was not easy, but a matter of sweat and watching; ²⁷even as it is no case unto him that prepareth a banquet, and seeketh the benefit of others: yet for the pleasuring of many we will undertake gladly this great pains; ²⁸leaving to the author the exact handling of every particular, and labouring to follow the rules of an abridgement. ²⁹For as the master builder of a new house must care for the whole building; but he that undertaketh to set it out, and paint it,

must seek out fit things for the adorning thereof: even so I think it is with us. ³⁰To stand upon every point, and go over things at large, and to be curious in particulars, belongeth to the first volume of the story: ³¹but to use brevity, and avoid much labouring of the work, is to be granted to him that will make an abridgement. ³²Here then we will begin the story: only adding thus much to that which hath been said, that it is a foolish thing to make a long prologue, and to be short in the story itself.

CHAPTER 3

Now when the holy city was inhabited with all peace, and the laws were kept very well, because of the godliness of Onias the high priest, and his hatred of wickedness, ²it came to pass that even the kings themselves did honour the place, and magnify the temple with their best gifts; ³insomuch that Seleucus king of Asia of his own revenues bare all the costs belonging to the service of the sacrifices. ⁴But one Simon of the tribe of Benjamin, who was made governor of the temple, fell out with the high priest about disorder in the city. ⁵And when he could not overcome Onias, he gat him to Apollonius *the son* of Thraseas, who was then governor of Ceolesyria and Phoenicia, ⁶and told him that the treasury in Jerusalem was full of infinite sums of money, so that the multitude of their riches, which did not pertain to the account of the sacrifices, was innumerable, and that it was possible to bring all into the king's hand. ⁷Now when Apollonius came to the king, and had shewed him of the money whereof he was told, the king chose out Heliodorus his treasurer, and sent him with a commandment to bring him the forsaid money. ⁸So forthwith Heliodorus took his journey, under a colour of visiting the cities of Ceolesyria and Phoenicia, but indeed to fulfil the king's purpose. ⁹And when he was come to Jerusalem, and had been courteously received of the high priest of the city, he told him what intelligence was given of the money, and asked if these things were so indeed. ¹⁰Then the high priest told him that there was such money laid up for the relief of widows and fatherless children: ¹¹and that some of it belonged to Hircanus son of Tobias, a man of great dignity, and not as that wicked Simon had misinformed: the sum whereof in all was four hundred talents of silver, and two hundred of gold: ¹²and that it was altogether impossible that such wrongs should be done unto them, that had committed it to the holiness of the place, and to the majesty and inviolable sanctity of the temple, honoured over all the world. ¹³But Heliodorus, because of the king's commandment given him, said, that in any wise it must be brought into the king's treasury. ¹⁴So at the day which he appointed he entered in to order this matter: wherefore there was no small agony throughout the whole city. ¹⁵But the priests, prostrating themselves before the altar in their priests' vestments, called unto heaven upon him that made a law concerning things given to be kept, that they should safely be preserved for such as had committed them to be kept. ¹⁶Then whoso had looked the high priest in the face, it would have wounded his heart: for his

countenance and the changing of his colour declared the inward agony of his mind. ¹⁷For the man was so compassed with fear and horror of the body, that it was manifest to them that looked upon him, what sorrow he had now in his heart. ¹⁸Others ran flocking out of their houses to the general supplication, because the place was like to come into contempt. ¹⁹And the women, girt with sackcloth under their breasts, abounded in the streets, and the virgins that were kept in ran, some to the gates, and some to the walls, and others looked out of the windows. ²⁰And all, holding their hands toward heaven, made supplication. ²¹Then it would have pitied a man to see the falling down of the multitude of all sorts, and the fear of the high priest, being in such an agony. ²²They then called upon the Almighty God to keep the things committed of trust safe and sure for those that had committed them. ²³Nevertheless Heliodorus executed that which was decreed. ²⁴Now as he was there present himself with his guard about the treasury, the Lord of spirits, and the Prince of all power, caused a great apparition, so that all that presumed to come in with him were astonished at the power of God, and fainted, and were sore afraid. ²⁵For there appeared unto them an horse with a terrible rider upon him, and adorned with a very fair covering, and he ran fiercely, and smote at Heliodorus with his forefeet, and it seemed that he that sat upon the horse had complete harness of gold. ²⁶Moreover two other young men appeared before him, notable in strength, excellent in beauty, and comely in apparel, who stood by him on either side, and scourged him continually, and gave him many sore stripes. ²⁷And Heliodorus fell suddenly unto the ground, and was compassed with great darkness: but they that were with him took him up, and put his body into a litter. ²⁸Thus him, that lately came with a great train and with all his guard into the said treasury, they carried out, being unable to help himself with his weapons: and manifestly they acknowledged the power of God: ²⁹for he by His hand was cast down, and lay speechless without all hope of life. ³⁰But they praised the Lord, that had miraculously honoured His own place: for the temple, which a little afore was full of fear and trouble, when the Almighty Lord appeared, was filled with joy and gladness. ³¹Then straightways certain of Heliodorus' friends prayed Onias, that he would call upon the Most High to grant him his life, who lay ready to give up the ghost. ³²So the high priest, suspecting lest the king should misconceive that some treachery had been done to Heliodorus by the Jews, offered a sacrifice for the health of the man. ³³Now as the high priest was making an atonement, the same young men in the same clothing appeared and stood beside Heliodorus, saying, Give Onias the high priest great thanks, insomuch as for his sake the Lord hath granted thee life: ³⁴and seeing that thou hast been scourged from heaven, declare unto all men the mighty power of God. And when they had spoken these words, they appeared no more. ³⁵So Heliodorus, after he had offered sacrifice unto the Lord, and made great vows unto Him that had saved his life, and saluted Onias, returned with all his host to the king. ³⁶Then testified he to all men the works of the great God, which he had seen with his eyes. ³⁷And when the king asked Heliodorus, who might be a fit man to be sent yet once again to Jerusalem, he said, ³⁸If thou hast any enemy or traitor,

send him hither, and thou shalt receive him well scourged, if he escape with his life: for in that place, no doubt, there is an especial power of God. ³⁹For He that dwelleth in heaven hath His eye on that place, and defendeth it; and he beateth and destroyeth them that come to hurt it. ⁴⁰And the things concerning Heliodorus, and the keeping of the treasury, fell out on this sort.

CHAPTER 4

This Simon now, of whom we spake afore, having been a bewrayer of the money, and of his country, slandered Onias, as if he had terrified Heliodorus, and been the worker of these evils. ²Thus was he bold to call him a traitor, that had deserved well of the city, and tendered his own nation, and was so zealous of the laws. ³But when their hatred went so far, that by one of Simon's faction murders were committed, ⁴Onias seeing the danger of this contention, and that Apollonius, as being the governor of Ceolesyria and Phoenicia, did rage and increase Simon's malice. ⁵He went to the king, not to be an accuser of his countrymen, but seeking the good of all, both public and private: ⁶for he saw that it was impossible that the state should continue quiet, and Simon leave his folly, unless the king id look thereunto.

⁷But after the death of Seleucus, when Antiochus, called Epiphanes, took the kingdom, Jason the brother of Onias laboured underhand to be high priest, ⁸promising unto the king by intercession three hundred and threescore talents of silver, and of another revenue eighty talents: ⁹beside this, he promised to assign an hundred and fifty more, if he might have license to set him up a place for exercise, and for the training up of youth in the fashion of the nations, and to write them of Jerusalem *by the name of* Antiochians. ¹⁰Which when the king had granted, and he had gotten into his hand the rule, he forthwith brought his nation to the Greekish fashion. ¹¹And the special privileges granted of special favour to the Jews by the means of John the father of Eupolemus, who went ambassador to Rome for amity and aid, he took away; and putting down the governments which were according to the law, he brought up new customs against the law: ¹²for he built gladly a place of exercise under the tower itself, and brought the chief young men under his subjection, and made them wear a hat. ¹³Now such was the height of Greek fashions, and increase of heathenish manners, through the exceeding profaneness of Jason, that ungodly wretch, and no high priest; ¹⁴that the priests had no courage to serve any more at the altar, but despising the temple, and neglecting the sacrifices, hastened to be partakers of the unlawful allowance in the place of exercise, after the game of discus called them forth; ¹⁵not setting by the honours of their fathers, but liking the glory of the Greeks best of all. ¹⁶By reason whereof sore calamity came upon them: for they had them to be their enemies and avengers, whose custom they followed so earnestly, and unto whom they desired to be like in all things. ¹⁷For it is not a light thing to do wickedly against the laws of God; but the time following shall declare these things. ¹⁸Now when the game that was used every fifth

year was kept at Tyrus, the king being present, ¹⁹this ungracious Jason sent special messengers from Jerusalem, who were Antiochians, to carry three hundred drachms of silver to the sacrifice of Herakles, which even the bearers thereof thought fit not to bestow upon the sacrifice, because it was not convenient, but to be reserved for other charges. ²⁰This money then, in regard of the sender, was appointed to Heracles' sacrifice; but because of the bearers thereof, it was employed to the making of galleys. ²¹Now when Apollonius *the son* of Menestheus was sent into Egypt for the coronation of king Ptolemy Philometer, Antiochus, understanding him not to be well affected to his affairs, provided for his own safety: whereupon he came to Joppa, and from thence to Jerusalem: ²²where he was honourably received of Jason, and of the city, and was brought in with torch light, and with great shoutings: and so afterward went with his host unto Phoencia. ²³Three years afterward Jason sent Menelaus, the aforesaid Simon's brother, to bear the money unto the king, and to put him in mind of certain necessary matters. ²⁴But he being brought to the presence of the king, when he had magnified him for the glorious appearance of his power, got the priesthood to himself, offering more than Jason by three hundred talents of silver. ²⁵So he came with the king's mandate, bringing nothing worthy the high priesthood, but having the fury of a cruel tyrant, and the rage of a savage beast. ²⁶Then Jason, who had undermined his own brother, being undermined by another, was compelled to flee into the country of the Ammonites. ²⁷So Menelaus got the principality: but as for the money that he had promised unto the king, he took no good order for it, albeit Sostratus the ruler of the castle required it: ²⁸for unto him appertained the gathering of the customs. Wherefore they were both called before the king. ²⁹Now Menelaus left his brother Lysimachus in his stead in the priesthood: and Sostratus left Krates, who was governor of the Cyprians. ³⁰While these things were in doing, they of Tarsus and Mallos made insurrection, because they were given to the king's concubine, called Antiochis. ³¹Then came the king in all haste to appease matters, leaving Anronicus, a man in authority, for his deputy. ³²Now Menelaus, supposing that he had gotten a convenient time, stole certain vessels of gold out of the temple, and gave some of them to Andronicus, and some he sold into Tyrus and the cities round about. ³³Which when Onias knew of a surety, he reproved him, and withdrew himself into a sanctuary at Daphne, that lieth by Antiochia. ³⁴Wherefore Menelaus, taking Andronicus apart, prayed him to get Onias into his hands; who being persuaded thereunto, and coming to Onias in deceit, gave him his right hand with oaths; and though he was suspected *by him*, yet persuaded he him to come forth of the sanctuary: whom forthwith he shut up without regard to justice. ³⁵For the which cause not only the Jews, but many also of other nations, took great indignation, and were much grieved for the unjust murder of the man. ³⁶And when the king was come again from the places about Cilicia, the Jews that were in the city, and certain of the Greeks that abhorred the fact also, complained because Onias was slain without cause. ³⁷Therefore Antiochus was heartily sorry, and moved to pity, and wept, because of the sober and modest behaviour of him that was

dead. ³⁸And being kindled with anger, forthwith he took away Andronicus his purple, and rent off his clothes, and leading him through the whole city unto that very place, where he had committed impiety against Onias, there slew he the cursed murderer. Thus the lord rewarded him his punishment, as he had deserved. ³⁹Now when many sacrileges had been committed in the city by Lysimachus with the consent of Menelaus, and the bruit thereof was spread abroad, the multitude gathered themselves together against Lysimachus, many vessels of gold already being carried away. ⁴⁰Whereupon the common people rising, and being filled with rage, Lysimachus armed about three thousand men, and began first to offer violence; one Auranus being the leader, a man far gone in years, and no less in folly. ⁴¹They then seeing the attempt of Lysimachus, some of them caught stones, some clubs, others taking handfuls of dust, that was next at hand, cast them all together upon Lysimachus, and those that set upon them. ⁴²Thus many of them they wounded, and some they struck to the ground, and all *of them* they forced to flee: but as for the churchrobber himself, him they killed beside the treasury. ⁴³Of these matters therefore there was an accusation laid against Menelaus. ⁴⁴Now when the king came to Tyrus, three men that were sent from the senate pleaded the cause before him: ⁴⁵but Menelaus being now convicted, promised Ptolemy the son of Dorymenes to give him much money, if he would pacify the king toward him. ⁴⁶Whereupon Ptolemy taking the king aside into a certain gallery, as it were to take the air, brought him to be of another mind: ⁴⁷insomuch that he discharged Menelaus from the accusations, who notwithstanding was cause of all the mischief: and those poor men, who, if they had told their cause, yea, before the Scythians, should have been judged innocent, them he condemned to death. ⁴⁸Thus they that followed the matter for the city, and for the people, and for the holy vessels, did soon suffer unjust punishment. ⁴⁹Wherefore even they of Tyre, moved with hatred of that wicked deed, caused them to be honourably buried. ⁵⁰And so through the covetousness of them that were of power Menelaus remained still in authority, increasing in malice, and being a great traitor to the citizens.

CHAPTER 5

About the same time Antiochus prepared his second voyage into Egypt: ²and then it happened, that through all the city, for the space almost of forty days, there were seen horsemen running in the air, in cloth of gold, and armed with lances, like a band of soldiers, ³and troops of horsemen in array, encountering and running one against another, with shaking of shields, and multitude of pikes, and drawing of swords, and casting of darts, and glittering of golden ornaments, and harness of all sorts. ⁴Wherefore every man prayed that that apparition might turn to good. ⁵Now when there was gone forth a false rumour, as though Antiochus had been dead, Jason took at the least a thousand men, and suddenly made an assault upon the city; and they that were upon the walls being put back, and the city at length taken,

Menelaus fled into the castle: ⁶but Jason slew his own citizens without mercy, not considering that to get the day of them of his own nation would be a most unhappy day for him; but thinking that they had been *his* enemies, and not his countrymen, whom he conquered. ⁷Howbeit for all this he obtained not the principality, but at the last received shame for the reward of his treason, and fled again into the country of the Ammonites. ⁸In the end therefore he had an unhappy return, being accused before Aretas the king of the Arabians, fleeing from city to city, pursued of all men, hated as a forsaker of the laws, and being had in abomination as an open enemy of his country and countrymen, he was cast out of Egypt. ⁹Thus he that had driven many out of their country perished in a strange land, retiring to the Lacedemonians, and thinking there to find succour by reason of his kindred: ¹⁰and he that cast out many unburied had none to mourn for him, nor any solemn funerals at all, nor sepulchre with his fathers.

¹¹Now when this that was done came to the king's ear, he thought that Judah had revolted: whereupon removing out of Egypt in a furious mind, he took the city by force of arms, ¹²and commanded his men of war not to spare such as they met, and to slay such as went up upon the houses. ¹³Thus there was killing of young and old, making away of men, women, and children, slaying of virgins and infants. ¹⁴And there were destroyed within the space of three whole days fourscore thousand, whereof forty thousand were slain in the conflict; and no fewer sold than slain. ¹⁵Yet was he not content with this, but presumed to go into the most holy temple of all the world; Menelaus, that traitor to the laws, and to his own country, being his guide: ¹⁶and taking the holy vessels with polluted hands, and with profane hands pulling down the things that were dedicated by other kings to the augmentation and glory and honour of the place, he gave them away. ¹⁷And so haughty was Antiochus in mind, that he considered not that the Lord was angry for a while for the sins of them that dwelt in the city, and therefore His eye was not upon the place. ¹⁸For had they not been formerly wrapped in many sins, this man, as soon as he had come, had forthwith been scourged, and put back from his presumption, as Heliodorus was, whom Seleucus the king sent to view the treasury. ¹⁹Nevertheless God did not choose the people for the place's sake, but the place for the people's sake. ²⁰And therefore the place itself, that was partaker with them of the adversity that happened to the nation, did afterward communicate in the benefits sent from the Lord: and as it was forsaken in the wrath of the Almighty, so again, the great Lord being reconciled, it was set up with all glory. ²¹So when Antiochus had carried out of the temple a thousand and eight hundred talents, he departed in all haste unto Antiochia, weening in his pride to make the land navigable, and the sea passable by foot: such was the haughtiness of his mind. ²²And he left governors to vex the nation: at Jerusalem, Philip, for his country a Phrygian, and for manners more barbarous than he that set him there; ²³and at Garizim, Andronicus; and besides, Menelaus, who worse than all the rest bare an heavy hand over the citizens, having a malicious mind against his countrymen the Jews. ²⁴He sent also that detestable ringleader Apollonius

with an army of two and twenty thousand, commanding him to slay all those that were in their best age, and to sell the women and the younger sort: ²⁵who coming to Jerusalem, and pretending peace, did forbear till the holy day of the sabbath, when taking the Jews keeping holy day, he commanded his men to arm themselves. ²⁶And so he slew all them that were gone to the celebrating of the sabbath, and running through the city with weapons slew great multitudes.

²⁷But Judas Maccabeus with nine others, or thereabout, withdrew himself into the wilderness, and lived in the mountains after the manner of beasts, with his company, who fed on herbs continually, lest they should be partakers of the pollution.

CHAPTER 6

Not long after this the king sent an old man of Athens to compel the Jews to depart from the laws of the fathers, and not to live after the laws of God: ²and to pollute also the temple in Jerusalem, and to call it the temple of Jupiter Olympios; and in that of Garizim, of Jupiter the defender of strangers, as they did desire that dwelt in the place. ³The coming in of this mischief was sore and grievous to the people: ⁴for the temple was filled with riot and revelling by the nations, who dallied with harlots, and had to do with women within the circuit of the holy places, and besides that brought in things that were not lawful. ⁵The altar also was filled with profane things, which the law forbiddeth. ⁶Neither was it lawful for a man to keep sabbath days or ancient feasts, or to profess himself at all to be a Jew. ⁷And in the day of the king's birth every month they were brought by bitter constraint to eat of the sacrifices; and when the feast of Bacchus was kept, the Jews were compelled to go in procession to Bacchus, carrying ivy. ⁸Moreover there went out a decree to the neighbour cities of the nations, by the suggestion of Ptolemy, against the Jews, that they should observe the same fashions, and be partakers of their sacrifices: ⁹and whoso would not conform themselves to the manners of the nations should be put to death. Then might a man have seen the present misery. ¹⁰For there were two women brought, who had circumcised their children; whom when they had openly led them round about the city, the babes hanging at their breasts, they cast them down headlong from the wall. ¹¹And others, that had run together into caves near by, to keep the sabbath day secretly, being discovered to Philip, were all burnt together, because they made a conscience to help themselves for the honour of the most sacred day.

¹²Now I beseech those that read this book, that they be not discouraged for these calamities, but that they judge those punishments not to be for destruction, but for a chastening of our nation. ¹³For it is a token of His great goodness, when wicked doers are not suffered any longer time, but forthwith punished. ¹⁴For not as with other nations, whom the Lord patiently forbearth to punish, till they be come to the fulness of their sins, so dealeth

He with us, ¹⁵lest that, being come to the height of sin, afterwards He should take vengeance of us. ¹⁶And therefore He never withdraweth His mercy from us: and though He punish with adversity, yet doth He never forsake His people. ¹⁷But let this that we have spoken be for a warning unto us. And now will we come to the declaring of the matter in few words.

¹⁸Eleazar, one of the principal scribes, an aged man, and of a well favoured countenance, was constrained to open his mouth, and to eat swine's flesh. ¹⁹But he, choosing to die gloriously, than to live stained with such an abomination, spit it forth, and came of his own accord to the torment, ²⁰as it behoved them to come, that are resolute to stand out against such things, as are not lawful for love of life to be tasted. ²¹But they that had the charge of that wicked feast, for the old acquaintance they had with the man, taking him aside, besought him to bring flesh of his own provision, and make as if he did eat of the flesh taken from the sacrifice commanded by the king; ²²that in so doing he might be delivered from death, and for the old friendship with them find favour. ²³But he began to consider discreetly, and as became his age, and the excellency of his ancient years, and the honour of his gray head, whereunto he was come, and his most honest education from a child, or rather the holy law given and made by God: therefore he answered accordingly, and willed them straightways to send him to the grave. ²⁴For it becometh not our age, *said he*, in any wise to dissemble, whereby many young people might think that Eleazar, being fourscore years old and ten, were now gone to a strange religion; ²⁵and so they through mine hypocrisy, and desire to live a little time and a moment longer, should be deceived by me, and I get a stain to mine old age, which is abominable. ²⁶For though for the present time I should be delivered from the punishment of men: yet should I not escape the hand of the Almighty, neither alive, nor dead. ²⁷Wherefore now, manfully changing this life, I will shew myself such an one as mine age requireth, ²⁸and leave a notable example to such as be young to die willingly and courageously for the honourable and holy laws. And when he had said these things, immediately he went to the torment: ²⁹they that led him changing the good will they bare him a little before into hatred, because the foresaid speeches proceeded, as they thought, from a desperate mind. ³⁰But when he was ready to die with stripes, he groaned, and said, It is manifest unto the Lord, that hath the holy knowledge, that seeing I might have been delivered from death, I now endure sore pains in body by being beaten: but in soul am well content to suffer these things, because I fear Him. ³¹And thus this man died, leaving his death for an example of a noble courage, and a memorial of virtue, not only unto young men, but unto all his nation.

CHAPTER 7

It came to pass also, that seven brethren with their mother were taken, and compelled by the king against the law to taste swine's flesh, and

were tormented with scourges and whips. ²But one of them that spake first said thus, What wouldest thou ask or learn of us? we are ready to die, rather than to transgress the laws of our fathers. ³Then the king, being in a rage, commanded pans and caldrons to be made hot: ⁴which forthwith being heated, he commanded to cut out the tongue of him that spake first, and to cut off the utmost parts of his body, the rest of his brethren and his mother looking on. ⁵Now when he was thus maimed in all his members, he commanded him yet being alive to be brought to the fire, and to be fried in the pan: and as the vapour of the pan was for a good space dispersed, they exhorted one another with the mother to die manfully, saying thus, ⁶The Lord God looketh upon us, and in truth hath comfort in us, as Moses in his song, which witnessed to their faces, declared, saying, And He shall be comforted in His servants. ⁷So when the first was dead after this manner, they brought the second to make him a mocking stock: and when they had pulled off the skin of his head with his hair, they asked him, Wilt thou eat, before thou be punished throughout every member of thy body? ⁸But he answered in his own language, and said, No. Wherefore he also received the next torment in order, as the former did. ⁹And when he was at the last gasp, he said, Thou like a fury takest us out of this present life, but the King of the world shall raise us up, who have died for His laws, unto everlasting life. ¹⁰After him was the tenth made a mocking stock: and when he was required, he put out his tongue, and that right soon, holding forth his hands manfully, ¹¹and said courageously, These I had from heaven; and for His laws I despise them; and from Him I hope to receive them again. ¹²Insomuch that the king, and they that were with him, marvelled at the young man's courage, for that he nothing regarded the pains. ¹³Now when this man was dead also, they tormented and mangled the fourth in like manner. ¹⁴So when he was ready to die he said thus, It is good, being put to death by men, to look for hope from God to be raised up again by Him: as for thee, thou shalt have no resurrection to life. ¹⁵Afterward they brought the fifth also, and mangled him. ¹⁶Then looked unto the king, and said, Thou hast power over men, thou art corruptible, thou doest what thou wilt; yet think not that our nation is forsaken of God; ¹⁷but abide a while, and behold His great power, how he will torment thee and thy seed. ¹⁸After him also they brought the sixth, who being ready to die said, Be not deceived without cause: for we suffer these things for ourselves, having sinned against our God: therefore marvellous things are done unto us. ¹⁹But think not thou, that takest in hand to strive against God, that thou shalt escape unpunished. ²⁰But the mother was marvellous above all, and worthy of honourable memory: for when she saw her seven sons slain within the space of one day, she bare it with a good courage, because of the hope she had in the Lord. ²¹Yea, she exhorted every one of them in her own language, filled with courageous spirits; and stirring up her womanish thoughts with a manly stomach, she said unto them, ²²I cannot tell how ye came into my womb; for I neither gave you breath nor life, neither was it I that formed the members of every one of you; ²³but doubtless the Creator of the world, who formed the generation of man, and found out the beginning of all things, will

also of His own mercy give you breath and life again, as ye now regard not yourselves for His laws' sake. ²⁴Now Antiochus, thinking himself despised, and suspecting it to be a reproachful speech, whilst the youngest was yet alive, did not only exhort him by words, but also assured him with oaths, that he would make him both a rich and a happy man, if he would turn from the laws of his fathers; and that also he would take him for his friend, and trust him with affairs. ²⁵But when the young man would in no case hearken unto him, the king called his mother, and exhorted her that she would counsel the young man to save his life. ²⁶And when he had exhorted her with many words, she promised him that she would counsel her son. ²⁷But she bowing herself toward him, laughing the cruel tyrant to scorn, spake in her country language on this manner; O my son, have pity on me that bare thee nine months in my womb, and gave thee suck three years, and nourished thee, and brought thee up unto this age, and endured the troubles of education. ²⁸I beseech thee, my son, look upon the heaven and the earth, and all that is therein, and consider that God made them of things that were not; and so was mankind made likewise. ²⁹Fear not this tormentor, but, being worthy of thy brethren, take thy death, that I may receive thee again with mercy with thy brethren. ³⁰Whiles she was yet speaking these words, the young man said Whom wait ye for? I will not obey the king's commandment: but I will obey the commandment of the law that was given to our fathers by Moses. ³¹And thou, that hast been the author of all mischief against the Hebrews, shalt not escape the hands of God. ³²For we suffer because of our sins. ³³And thou the living God be angry with us a little while for our chastening and correction, yet shall He be at one again with His servants. ³⁴But thou, O godless man, and of all other most wicked, be not lifted up without a cause, nor puffed up with uncertain hopes, lifting up thy hand against the servants of God: ³⁵for thou hast not yet escaped the judgment of Almighty God, who seeth all things. ³⁶For our brethren, who now have suffered a short pain, are dead under God's covenant of everlasting life: but thou, through the judgment of God, shalt receive just punishment for thy pride. ³⁷But I, as my brethren, offer up my body and life for the laws of our fathers, beseeching God that He would speedily be merciful unto our nation; and that thou by torments and plagues mayest confess, that he alone is God; ³⁸and that in me and my brethren the wrath of the Almighty, which is justly brought upon all our nation, may cease. ³⁹Then the king, being in a rage, handled him worse than all the rest, and took it grievously that he was mocked. ⁴⁰So this man died undefiled, and put his whole trust in the Lord. ⁴¹Last of all after the sons the mother died. ⁴²Let this be enough now to have spoken concerning the idolatrous feasts, and the extreme tortures.

CHAPTER 8

Then Judas Maccabeus, and they that were with him, went privily into the towns, and called their kinfolk together, and took unto them all such

as continued in the Jews' religion, and assembled about six thousand men. ²And they called upon the Lord, that He would look down upon the people that was trodden down by all; and also pity the temple profaned of ungodly men; ³and that He would have compassion upon the city, sore defaced, and ready to be made even with the ground; and hear the blood that cried unto Him, ⁴and remember the wicked slaughter of harmless infants, and the blasphemies committed against His name; and that he would shew His hatred against the wicked. ⁵Now when Maccabeus had his company round about him, he could not be withstood by the nations: for the wrath of God was turned into mercy. ⁶Therefore he came at unawares, and burnt up towns and cities, and got into his hands the most commodious places, and overcame and put to flight no small number of his enemies. ⁷But specially he took advantage of the night for such privy attempts, insomuch that the bruit of his manliness was spread every where.

⁸So when Philip saw that this man increased by little and little, and that things prospered with him still more and more, he wrote unto Ptolemy, the governor of Ceolesyria and Phoenicia, to yield more aid to the king's affairs. ⁹Then forthwith choosing Nicanor the son of Patroclus, one of his special friends, he sent with him no fewer than twenty thousand of all nations under him, to root out the whole generation of the Jews; and with him he joined also Gorgias a captain, who in matters of war had great experience. ¹⁰So Nicanor undertook to make so much money of the captive Jews, as should defray the tribute of the two thousand talents, which the king was to pay to the Romans. ¹¹Wherefore immediately he sent to the cities upon the sea coast, proclaiming a sale of the captive Jews, and promising that they should have fourscore and bodies for one talent, not expecting the vengeance that was to follow upon him from the Almighty God. ¹²Now when word was brought unto Judah of Nicanor's coming, and he had imparted unto those that were with him that the army was at hand, ¹³they that were fearful, and distrusted the justice of God, fled, and conveyed themselves away. ¹⁴Others sold all that they had left, and withal besought the Lord to deliver them, being sold by the wicked Nicanor before they met together: ¹⁵and if not for their own sakes, yet for the covenants He had made with their fathers, and for His holy and glorious name's sake, by which they were called. ¹⁶So Maccabeus called his men together unto the number of six thousand, and exhorted them not to be stricken with terror of the enemy, nor to fear the great multitude of the nations, who came wrongfully against them; but to fight manfully, ¹⁷and to set before their eyes the injury that they had unjustly done to the holy place, and the cruel handling of the city, whereof they made a mockery, and also the taking away of the government of their forefathers: ¹⁸For they, said he, trust in their weapons and boldness; but our confidence is in the Almighty God, who at a beck can cast down both them that come against us, and also all the world. ¹⁹Moreover he recounted unto them what helps their forefathers had found, and how they were delivered, when under Sennacherib an hundred fourscore and five thousand perished. ²⁰And he told them of the battle that they had in Babylon with the Galatians, how they came but eight thousand in

all to the business, with four thousand Macedonians, and that the Macedonians being perplexed, the eight thousand destroyed an hundred and twenty thousand because of the help that they had from heaven, and so received a great booty. ²¹Thus when he had made them bold with these words, and ready to die for the laws and the country, he divided his army into four parts; ²²and joined himself with his own brethren, leaders of each band, to wit, Simon, and Joseph, and Jonathan, giving each one fifteen hundred men. ²³Also he appointed Eleazar to read the holy book: and when he had given them this watchword, The help of God; himself leading the first band, he joined battle with Nicanor. ²⁴And by the help of the Almighty they slew above nine thousand of their enemies, and wounded and maimed the most part of Nicanor's host, and so put all to flight; ²⁵and took their money that came to buy them, and pursued them far: but lacking time they returned: ²⁶for it was the day before the sabbath, and therefore they would no longer pursue them. ²⁷So when they had gathered their armour together, and spoiled their enemies, they occupied themselves about the sabbath, yielding exceeding praise and thanks to the Lord, Who had preserved them unto that day, which was the beginning of mercy distilling upon them. ²⁸And after the sabbath, when they had given part of the spoils to the maimed, and the widows, and orphans, the residue they divided among themselves and their servants. ²⁹When this was done, and they had made a common supplication, they besought the merciful Lord to be reconciled with His servants for ever. ³⁰Moreover of those that were with Timotheus and Bacchides, who fought against them, they slew above twenty thousand, and very easily got high and strong hold, and divided among themselves many spoils more, and made the maimed, orphans, widows, yea, and the aged also, equal in spoils with themselves. ³¹And when they had gathered their armour together, they laid them up all carefully in convenient places, and the remnant of the spoils they brought to Jerusalem. ³²They slew also Philarches, that wicked person, who was with Timotheus, and had annoyed the Jews many ways. ³³Furthermore at such time as they kept the feast for the victory in their country they burnt Kallisthenes, (and some others) that had set fire upon the holy gates, who had fled into a little house; and they received a reward meet for their wickedness. ³⁴As for that most ungracious Nicanor, who had bought a thousand merchants to buy the Jews, ³⁵he was through the help of the Lord brought down by them, of whom he made least account; and putting off his glorious apparel, and discharging his company, he came like a fugitive servant through the midland unto Antioch, having very great dishonour, for that his host was destroyed. ³⁶Thus he, that took upon him to make good to the Romans their tribute by means of the captives in Jerusalem, told abroad, that the Jews had God to fight for them, and therefore they could not be hurt, because they followed the laws that He gave them.

CHAPTER 9

About that time came Antiochus with dishonour out of the country of Persia. ²For he had entered the city called Persepolis, and went about to rob the temple, and to hold the city; whereupon the multitude running to defend themselves with their weapons put them to flight; and so it happened, that Antiochus being put to flight of the inhabitants returned with shame. ³Now when he came to Ecbatana, news was brought him what had happened unto Nicanor and Timotheus. ⁴Then swelling with anger, he thought to avenge upon the Jews the disgrace done unto him by those that made him flee. Therefore commanded he his chariotman to drive without ceasing, and to dispatch the journey, the judgment of God now following him. for he had spoken proudly in this sort, that he would come to Jerusalem, and make it a common burying place of the Jews. ⁵But the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, smote him with an incurable and invisible plague: for as soon as he had spoken these words, a pain of the bowels that was remediless came upon him, and sore torments of the inner parts; ⁶and that most justly: for he had tormented other men's bowels with many and strange torments. ⁷Howbeit he nothing at all ceased from his bragging, but still was filled with pride, breathing out fire in his rage against the Jews, and commanding to haste the journey: but it came to pass that he fell down from his chariot, carried violently; so that having a sore fall, all the members of his body were much pained. ⁸And thus he that a little afore thought he might command the waves of the sea, (so proud was he beyond the condition of men) and weigh the high mountains in a balance, was now cast on the ground, and carried in an horselitter, shewing forth unto all the manifest power of God. ⁹So that the worms rose up out of the body of this wicked man, and whiles he lived in sorrow and pain, his flesh fell away, and the filthiness of his smell was noisome to all his army. ¹⁰And the man, that thought a little afore he could reach to the stars of heaven, no man could endure to carry for his intolerable stink. ¹¹Here therefore, being plagued, he began to leave off his great pride, and to come to the knowledge *of himself* by the scourge of God, his pain increasing every moment. ¹²And when he himself could not abide his own smell, he said these words, It is meet to be subject unto God, and that a man that is mortal should not proudly think of himself, as if he were God. ¹³This wicked person vowed also unto the Lord, Who now no more would have mercy upon him, saying thus, ¹⁴that the holy city (to the which he was going in haste, to lay it even with the ground, and to make it a common buryingplace,) he would set at liberty: ¹⁵and as touching the Jews, whom he had judged not worthy so much as to be buried, but to be cast out with their children to be devoured of the fowls and wild beasts, he would make them all equals to the citizens of Athens: ¹⁶and the holy temple, which before he had spoiled, he would garnish with goodly gifts, and restore all the holy vessels with many more, and out of his own revenue defray the charges belonging to the sacrifices: ¹⁷yea, and that also he would become a Jew himself, and go through all the world that was inhabited, and declare the power of God. ¹⁸But

for all this his pains would not cease: for the just judgment of the Lord was come upon him: therefore despairing of his health he wrote unto the Jews the letter underwritten, containing the form of a supplication, after this manner: ¹⁹Antiochus, king and governor, to the good Jews his citizens wisheth much joy, health, and prosperity: ²⁰If ye and your children fare well, and your affair be to your contentment, I give very great thanks to God, having my hope in heaven. ²¹As for me, I was weak, or else I would have remembered kindly your honour and good will. Returning out of Persia, and being taken with a grievous disease, I thought it necessary to care for the common safety of all: ²²not distrusting mine health, but having great hope to escape this sickness. ²³But considering that even my father, at what time he led an army into the high countries, appointed a successor, ²⁴to the end that, if any thing fell out contrary to expectation, or if any tidings were brought that were grievous, they of the land, knowing to whom the state was left, might not be troubled: ²⁵again, considering how that the princes that are borderers and neighbours unto my kingdom wait for opportunities, and expect what shall be the event, I have appointed my son Antiochus king, whom I have often committed and commended unto many of you, when I went up into the high provinces; to whom I have written as followeth: ²⁶therefore I pray and request you to remember the benefits that I have done unto you generally, and in special, and that every man will still be faithful to me and my son. ²⁷For I am persuaded that he understanding my mind will favourably and graciously yield to your desires. ²⁸Thus the murderer and blasphemer having suffered most grievously, as he entreated other men, so died he a miserable death in a strange country in the mountains. ²⁹And Philip, that was brought up with him, carried away his body, who also fearing the son of Antiochus went into Egypt to Ptolemy Philometer.

CHAPTER 10

Now to Maccabeus and his company, the Lord guiding them, recovered the temple and the city: ²but the altars, which the heathen had built in the open street, and also the chapels, they pulled down. ³And having cleansed the temple they made another altar, and striking stones they took fire out of them, and offered a sacrifice after two years, and set forth incense, and lights, and loaves of presentation. ⁴When that was done, they fell flat down, and besought the Lord that they might come no more into such troubles; but if they sinned any more against Him, that he Himself would chasten them with mercy, and that they might not be delivered into the blasphemous and barbarous nations. ⁵Now upon the same day that the strangers profaned the temple, on the very same day it was cleansed again, even the five and twentieth day of the same month, which is Chisleu. ⁶And they kept eight days with gladness, as in the feast of the tabernacles, remembering that not long afore they had held the feast of the tabernacles, when as they wandered in the mountains and dens like beasts. ⁷Therefore

they brought branches, and fair boughs, and palms also, and sang psalms unto Him that had given them good success in cleansing His place. ⁸They ordained also by a common statute and decree, that every year those days should be kept of the whole nation of the Jews. ⁹And this was the end of Antiochus, called Epiphanes.

¹⁰Now we will declare the acts of Antiochus Eupator, who was the son of this wicked man, gathering briefly the calamities of the wars. ¹¹So when he was come to the crown, he set one Lycias over the affairs of his realm, and *appointed him* chief governor of Ceolesyria and Phoenicia. ¹²For Ptolemy, that was called Macron, choosing rather to do justice unto the Jews for the wrong that had been done unto them, endeavoured to continue peace with them. ¹³Whereupon being accused of the king's friends before Eupator, and called traitor at every word, because he had left Cyprus, that Philometer had committed unto him, and departed to Antiochus Epiphanes, and seeing that he was in no honourable place, he was so discouraged, that he poisoned himself and died.

¹⁴But when Gorgias was governor of the holds, he hired soldiers, and nourished war continually with the Jews; ¹⁵and therewithal the Idumeans, having gotten into their hands the most commodious holds, kept the Jews occupied, and receiving those that were banished from Jerusalem, they went about to nourish war. ¹⁶Then they that were with Maccabeus made supplication, and besought God that He would be their helper; and so they ran with violence upon the strong holds of the Idumeans, ¹⁷and assaulting them strongly, they won the holds, and kept off all that fought upon the wall, and slew all that fell into their hands, and killed no fewer than twenty thousand. ¹⁸And because certain, who were no less than nine thousand, were fled together into two very strong castles, having all manner of things convenient to sustain the siege, ¹⁹Maccabeus left Simon, and Joseph, and Zaccheus also, and them that were with him, who were enough to besiege them, and departed himself unto those places which more needed his help. ²⁰Now they that were with Simon, being led with covetousness, were persuaded for money through certain of those that were in the castle, and took seventy thousand drachms, and let some of them escape. ²¹But when it was told Maccabeus what was done, he called the governors of the people together, and accused those men, that they had sold their brethren for money, and set their enemies free to fight against them. ²²So he slew those that were found traitors, and immediately took the two castles. ²³And having good success with his weapons in all things he took in hand, he slew in the two holds more than twenty thousand.

²⁴Now Timotheus, whom the Jews had overcome before, when he had gathered a great multitude of foreign forces, and horses out of Asia not a few, came as though he would take Jewry by force of arms. ²⁵But when he drew near, they that were with Maccabeus turned themselves to pray unto God, and sprinkled earth upon their heads, and girded their loins with sackcloth, ²⁶and fell down at the foot of the altar, and besought Him to be merciful to them, and to be an enemy to their enemies, and an adversary to their

adversaries, as the law declareth. ²⁷So after the prayer they took their weapons, and went on further from the city: and when they drew near to their enemies, they kept by themselves. ²⁸Now the sun being newly risen, they joined both together; the one part having together with their virtue their refuge also unto the Lord for a pledge of their success and victory: the other side making their rage leader of their battle. ²⁹But when the battle waxed strong, there appeared unto the enemies from heaven five comely men upon horses, with bridles of gold, and two of them led the Jews, ³⁰and took Maccabeus betwixt them, and covered him on every side with their weapons, and kept him safe, but shot arrows and lightnings against the enemies: so that being confounded with blindness, and full of trouble, they were killed. ³¹And there were slain *of footmen* twenty thousand and five hundred, and six hundred horsemen. ³²As for Timotheus himself, he fled into a very strong hold, called Gazara, where Chaereas was governor. ³³But they that were with Maccabeus laid siege against the fortress courageously four days. ³⁴And they that were within, trusting to the strength of the place, blasphemed exceedingly, and uttered wicked words. ³⁵Nevertheless upon the fifth day early twenty young men of Maccabeus' company, inflamed with anger because of the blasphemies, assaulted the wall manly, and with a fierce courage killed all that they met withal. ³⁶Others likewise ascending after them, whiles they were busy with them that were within, burnt the towers, and kindling fires burnt the blasphemers alive; and others broke open the gates, and, having received in all the rest of the army, took the city, ³⁷and killed Timotheus, that was hid in a certain pit, and Chaereas his brother, and Apollophanes. ³⁸When this was done, they praised the Lord with psalms and thanksgiving, Who had done so great things for Israel, and given them the victory.

CHAPTER 11

Not long after this, Lysias the king's protector and cousin, who also managed the affairs, took sore displeasure for the things that were done. ²And when he had gathered about fourscore thousand with all the horsemen, he came against the Jews, thinking to make the city, an habitation for the nations, ³and to make a gain of the temple, as of the other chapels of the nations, and to set the high priesthood to sale every year: ⁴not at all considering the power of God, but puffed up with his ten thousands of footmen, and his thousands of horsemen, and his fourscore elephants. ⁵So he came to Judah, and drew near to Beth-zur, which was a strong town, but distant from Jerusalem about five furlongs, and he laid sore siege unto it. ⁶Now when they that were with Maccabeus heard that he besieged the holds, they and all the people with lamentation and tears besought the Lord that He would send a good angel to deliver Israel. ⁷Then Maccabeus himself first of all took weapons, exhorting the other that they would jeopard themselves together with him to help their brethren: so they went forth together with a willing mind. ⁸And as they were at Jerusalem, there appeared before them on

horseback one in white clothing, shaking his armour of gold. ⁹Then they praised the merciful Lord all together, and took heart, insomuch that they were ready not only to fight with men, but with most cruel beasts, and to pierce through walls of iron. ¹⁰Thus they marched forward in their armour, having an helper from heaven: for the Lord was merciful unto them. ¹¹And giving a charge upon their enemies like lions, they slew eleven thousand *footmen*, and sixteen hundred horsemen, and put all the other to flight. ¹²Many of them also being wounded escaped naked; and Lysias himself fled away shamefully, and so escaped. ¹³Who, as he was a man of understanding, casting with himself what loss he had had, and considering that the Hebrews could not be overcome, because the Almighty God helped them, he sent unto them, ¹⁴and persuaded them to agree to all reasonable *conditions*, and *promised* that he would persuade the king that he must needs be a friend unto them. ¹⁵Then Maccabeus consented to all that Lysias desired, being careful for the common good; and whatsoever Maccabeus wrote unto Lysias concerning the Jews, the king granted it. ¹⁶For there were letters written unto the Jew from Lysias to this effect: Lysias unto the people of the Jews sendeth greeting: ¹⁷John and Absalom, who were sent from you, delivered me the petition subscribed, and made request for the performance of the contents thereof. ¹⁸Therefore what things soever were meet to be reported to the king, I have declared them, and he hath granted as much as might be. ¹⁹If then ye will keep yourselves loyal to the state, hereafter also will I endeavour to be a means of your good. ²⁰But of the particulars I have given order both to these, and the other that came from me, to commune with you. ²¹Fare ye well. The hundred and eight and fortieth year, the four and twentieth day of the month Dioscorinthius.

²²Now the king's letter contained these words: King Antiochus unto his brother Lysias sendeth greeting: ²³since our father is translated unto the gods, our will is, that they that are in our realm live quietly, that every one may attend upon his own affairs. ²⁴We understand also that the Jews would not consent to our father, for to be brought unto the customs of the Gentiles, but had rather keep their own manner of living: for the which cause they require of us, that we should suffer them to live after their own laws. ²⁵Wherefore our mind is, that this nation shall be in rest, and we have determined to restore them their temple, that they may live according to the customs of their forefathers. ²⁶Thou shalt do well therefore to send unto them, and grant them peace, that when they are certified of our mind, they may be of good comfort, and ever go cheerfully about their own affairs.

²⁷And the letter of the king unto the nation of the Jews was after this manner: "King Antiochus sendeth greeting unto the council, and the rest of the Jews: ²⁸If ye fare well, we have our desire: we are also in good health. ²⁹Menelaus declared unto us, that your desire was to return home, and to follow your own business: ³⁰wherefore they that will depart shall have safe conduct until the thirtieth day of Xanthicus with security. ³¹And the Jews shall use their own kinds of meats and laws, as before: and none of them any ways shall be molested for things ignorantly done. ³²I have sent also

Menelaus, that he may comfort you. ³³Fare ye well. In the hundred forty and eighth year, and the fifteenth *day* of the month Xanthicus.

³⁴The Romans also sent them a letter containing these words: Quintus Memmius and Titus Manlius, ambassadors of the Romans, send greeting unto the people of the Jews. ³⁵Whatsoever Lysias the king's cousin hath granted, therewith we also are well pleased. ³⁶But touching such things as he judged to be referred to the king, after ye have advised thereof, send one forthwith, that we may declare as it is convenient for you: for we are now going to Antioch. ³⁷Therefore send some with speed, that we may know what is your mind. ³⁸Farewell. This hundred and eight and fortieth year, the fifteenth day of the month Xanthicus.

CHAPTER 12

When these covenants were made, Lysias went unto the king, and the Jews were about their husbandry. ²But the governors of several places, Timotheus, and Apollonius the son of Genneus, also Hieronymous, and Demophon, and beside them Nicanor the governor of Cyprus, would not suffer them to be quiet, and live in peace. ³The men of Joppa also did such an ungodly deed: they prayed the Jews that dwelt among them to go with their wives and children into the boats which they had prepared, as though they had meant them no hurt. ⁴Who accepted of it according to the common decree of the city, as being desirous to live in peace and suspecting nothing: but when they were gone forth into the deep, they drowned no less than two hundred of them. ⁵When Judas heard of this cruelty done unto his countrymen, he commanded those that were with him *to make them ready*. ⁶And calling upon God the righteous Judge, he came against those murderers of his brethren, and burnt the haven by night, and set the boats on fire, and those that fled thither he slew. ⁷And when the town was shut up, he went backward, as if he would return to root out all them of the city of Joppa. ⁸But when he heard that the Jamnites were minded to do in like manner unto the Jews that dwelt among them, ⁹he came upon the Jamnites also by night, and set fire on the haven and the navy, so that the light of the fire was seen at Jerusalem two hundred and forty furlongs off.

¹⁰Now when they were gone from thence nine furlongs in their journey toward Timotheus, no fewer than five thousand men on foot and five hundred horsemen of the Arabians set upon him. ¹¹Whereupon there was a very sore battle; but Judas' side by the help of God got the victory; so that the Nomades of Arabia, being overcome, besought Judas for peace, promising both to give him cattle, and to pleasure him otherwise. ¹²Then Judas thinking indeed that they would be profitable in many things, granted them peace: whereupon they shook hands, and so they departed to their tents.

¹³He went also about to make a bridge to a certain strong city, which was fenced about with walls, and inhabited by people of divers countries; and the name of it was Caspin. ¹⁴But they that were within it put such trust in

the strength of the walls and provision of victuals, that they behaved themselves rudely toward them that were with Judas, railing and blaspheming, and uttering such words as were not to be spoken. ¹⁵Wherefore Judas with his company, calling upon the great Lord of the world, Who without any rams or engines of war did cast down Jericho in the time of Joshua, gave a fierce assault against the walls, ¹⁶and took the city by the will of God, and made unspeakable slaughters, insomuch that a lake two furlongs broad near adjoining thereunto, being filled full, was seen running with blood.

¹⁷Then departed they from thence seven hundred and fifty furlongs, and came to Charax unto the Jews that are called Toubiani. ¹⁸But as for Timotheus, they found him not in the places: for before he had dispatched any thing, he departed from thence, having left a very strong garrison in a certain hold. ¹⁹Howbeit Dositheus and Sosipater, who were of Maccabeus' captains, went forth, and slew those that Timotheus had left in the fortress, above ten thousand men. ²⁰And Maccabeus ranged his army by bands, and set them over the bands, and went against Timotheus, who had about him an hundred and twenty thousand men of foot, and two thousand and five hundred horsemen. ²¹Now when Timotheus had notice of Judas' coming, he sent the women and children and the other baggage unto a fortress called Carnaim: for the town was hard to besiege, and uneasy to come unto, by reason of all the straitness of all the places. ²²But when Judas his first band came in sight, the enemies, being smitten with fear and terror through the appearing of him that seeth all things, fled amain, one running this way, another that way, so as that they were often hurt of their own men, and wounded with the points of their own swords. ²³Judas also was very earnest in pursuing them, killing those wicked wretches, of whom he slew about thirty thousand men. ²⁴Moreover Timotheus himself fell into the hands of Dositheus and Sosipater, whom he besought with much craft to let him go with his life, because he had many of the Jews' parents, and the brethren of some of them, who, if they put him to death, should not be regarded. ²⁵So when he had assured them with many words that he would restore them without hurt, according to the agreement, they let him go for the saving of their brethren.

²⁶Then Maccabeus marched forth to Carnaim, and to the temple of Atargatis, and there he slew five and twenty thousand persons. ²⁷And after he had put to flight and destroyed them, Judas removed the host to Ephron, a strong city, wherein Lysias abode, and a great multitude of divers nations, and the strong young men kept the walls, and defended them mightily: wherein also was great provision of engines and darts. ²⁸But when Judas and his company had called upon Almighty God, Who with His power breaketh the strength of His enemies, they won the city, and slew twenty and five thousand of them that were within. ²⁹From thence they departed to Scythopolis, which lieth six hundred furlongs from Jerusalem. ³⁰But when the Jews that dwelt there testified that the Scythopolitans dealt lovingly with them, and entreated them kindly in the time of their adversity; ³¹they gave them thanks, desiring

them to be friendly still unto them: and so they came to Jerusalem, the feast of the weeks approaching.

³²And after the feast, called Pentecost, they went forth against Gorgias the governor of Edom, ³³who came out with three thousand men of foot and four hundred horsemen. ³⁴And it happened that in their fighting together a few of the Jews were slain. ³⁵At which time Dositheus, one of Bakenor's company, who was on horseback, and a strong man, was still upon Gorgias, and taking hold of his coat drew him by force; and when he would have taken that cursed man alive, a horseman of Thracia coming upon him smote off his shoulder, so that Gorgias fled unto Marisa. ³⁶Now when they that were with Gorgias had fought long, and were weary, Judas called upon the Lord, that He would shew Himself to be their helper and leader of the battle. ³⁷And with that he began in his own language, and sung psalms with a loud voice, and rushing unawares upon Gorgias' men, he put them to flight.

³⁸So Judas gathered his host, and came into the city of Odollam. And when the seventh day came, they purified themselves, as the custom was, and kept the sabbath in the same place. ³⁹And upon the day following, as the use had been, Judas and his company came to take up the bodies of them that were slain, and to bury them with their kinsmen in their fathers' graves. ⁴⁰Now under the coats of every one that was slain they found things consecrated to the idols of the Jamnites, which is forbidden the Jews by the law. Then every man saw that this was the cause wherefore they were slain. ⁴¹All men therefore praising the Lord, the righteous Judge, Who had opened the things that were hid, ⁴²betook themselves unto prayer, and besought Him that the sin committed might be wholly put out of remembrance. Besides, that noble Judas exhorted the people to keep themselves from sin, forso much as they saw before their eyes the things that came to pass for the sins of those that were slain. ⁴³And when he had made a gathering throughout the company to the sum of two thousand drachms of silver, he sent it to Jerusalem to offer a sin offering, doing therein very well and honestly, in that he was mindful of the resurrection: ⁴⁴for if he had not hoped that they that were slain should have risen again, it had been superfluous and vain to pray for the dead. ⁴⁵And also in that he perceived that there was great favour laid up for those that died godly, it was an holy and good thought. Whereupon he made a reconciliation for the dead, that they might be delivered from sin.

CHAPTER 13

In the hundred forty and ninth year it was told Judas, that Antiochus Eupator was coming with a great power into Judea, ²and with him Lysias his protector, and ruler of his affairs, having either of them a Grecian power of footmen, and hundred and ten thousand, and horsemen five thousand and three hundred, and elephants two and twenty, and three hundred chariots armed with hooks. ³Menelaus also joined himself with them, and with great dissimulation encouraged Antiochus, not for the safeguard of the country, but

because he thought to have been made governor. ⁴But the King of kings moved Antiochus' mind against this wicked wretch, and Lysias informed the king that this man was the cause of all mischief, so that the king commanded to bring him unto Berea, and to put him to death, as the manner is in that place. ⁵Now there was in that place a tower of fifty cubits high, full of ashes, and it had a round instrument, which on every side hanged down into the ashes. ⁶And whosoever was condemned of sacrilege, or had committed any other grievous crime, there did all men thrust him unto death. ⁷Such a death it happened that wicked man to die, not having so much as burial in the earth; and that most justly: ⁸for inasmuch as he had committed many sins about the altar, whose fire and ashes were holy, he received his death in ashes.

⁹Now the king came with a barbarous and haughty mind to do far worse to the Jews, than had been done in his father's time. ¹⁰Which things when Judas perceived, he commanded the multitude to call upon the Lord day and night, that if ever at any other time, He would now also help them, being at the point to be put from their law, from their country, and from the holy temple: ¹¹and that He would not suffer the people, that had even now been but a little refreshed, to be in subjection to the blasphemous nations. ¹²So when they had all done this together, and besought the merciful Lord with weeping and fasting, and lying flat upon the ground three days long, Judas, having exhorted them, commanded they should be in a readiness. ¹³And Judas, being apart with the elders, determined, before the king's host should enter into Judea, and get the city, to go forth and try the matter *in fight* by the help of God. ¹⁴So when he had committed all to the Creator of the world, and exhorted his soldiers to fight manfully, even unto death, for the laws, the temple, the city, the country, and the commonwealth, he camped by Modein: ¹⁵and having given the watchword to them that were about him, Victory is of God; with the most valiant and choice young men he went into the king's tent by night, and slew in the camp about four thousand men, and the chiefest of the elephants, and all that were upon him. ¹⁶And at last they filled the camp with fear and tumult, and departed with good success. ¹⁷This was done in the break of the day, because the protection of the Lord did help him.

¹⁸Now when the king had taken a taste of the manliness of the Jews, he went about to take the holds by policy, ¹⁹and marched toward Beth-zur, which was a strong hold of the Jews: but he was put to flight, failed, and lost of his men: ²⁰for Judas had conveyed unto them that were in it such things as were necessary. ²¹But Rhodocus, who was in the Jews' host, disclosed the secrets to the enemies; therefore he was sought out, and when they had gotten him, they put him in prison. ²²The king treated with them in Beth-zur the second time, gave his hand, took theirs', departed, fought with Judas, was overcome: ²³heard that Philip, who was left over the affairs in Antioch, was desperately bent, confounded, intreated the Jews, submitted himself, and sware to all equal conditions, agreed with them, and offered sacrifice, honoured the temple, and dealt kindly with the place, ²⁴and accepted well of

Maccabeus, made him principal governor from Ptolemais unto the Gerrhenians; ²⁵came to Ptolemais: the people there were grieved for the covenants; for they stormed, because they would make their covenants void. ²⁶Lysias went up into the judgment seat, said as much as could be said in defence of the cause, persuaded, pacified, made them well affected, returned to Antioch. Thus it went touching the king's coming and departing.

CHAPTER 14

After three was Judas informed, that Demetrius the *son* of Seleucus, having entered by the haven of Tripolis with a great power and navy, ²had taken the country, and killed Antiochus, and Lysias his protector. ³Now one Alcimus, who had been high priest, and had defiled himself wilfully in the times of their mingling *with the nations*, seeing that by no means he could save himself, nor have any more access to the holy altar, ⁴came to king Demetrius in the hundred and one and fiftieth year, presenting unto him a crown of gold, and a palm, and also of the boughs which were used solemnly in the temple: and so that day he held his peace. ⁵Howbeit, having gotten opportunity to further his foolish enterprise, and being called into council by Demetrius, and asked how the Jews stood affected, and what they intended, he answered thereunto: ⁶Those of the Jews that be called Hassideans, whose captain is Judas Maccabeus, nourish war, and are seditious, and will not let the realm be in peace. ⁷Therefore I, being deprived of mine ancestors' honour, I mean the high priesthood, am now come hither: ⁸first, verily for the unfeigned care I have of things pertaining to the king; and secondly, even for that I intend the good of mine own citizens: for all our nation is in no small misery through the unadvised dealing of them aforesaid. ⁹Wherefore, O king, seeing thou knowest all these things, be careful for the country, and our nation, which is pressed on every side, according to the clemency that thou readily shewest unto all. ¹⁰For as long as Judas liveth, it is not possible that the state should be quiet. ¹¹This was no sooner spoken of him, but others of the king's friends, being maliciously set against Judas, did more incense Demetrius. ¹²And forthwith calling Nicanor, who had been master of the elephants, and making him governor over Judea, he sent him forth, ¹³commanding him to slay Judas, and to scatter them that were with him, and to make Alcimus high priest of the great temple. ¹⁴Then the nations, that had fled out of Judea from Judas, came to Nicanor by flocks, thinking the harm and calamities of the Jews to be their welfare.

¹⁵Now when the Jews heard of Nicanor's coming, and that the nations were up against them, they cast earth upon their heads, and made supplication to Him that had established His people for ever, and Who always helpeth His portion with manifestation of His presence. ¹⁶So at the commandment of the captain they removed straightways from thence, and came near unto them at the town of Dessau. ¹⁷Now Simon, Judas' brother, had joined battle with Nicanor, but was somewhat discomfited through the

sudden silence of his enemies. ¹⁸Nevertheless Nicanor, hearing of the manliness of them that were with Judah, and the courageousness that they had to fight for their country, durst not try the matter by the sword. ¹⁹Wherefore he sent Posidonius, and Theodotus, and Mattathias, to make peace. ²⁰So when they had taken long advisement thereupon, and the captain had made the multitude acquainted therewith, and it appeared that they were all of one mind, they consented to the covenants, ²¹and appointed a day to meet in together by themselves: and when the day came, and stools were set for either of them, ²²Judas placed armed men ready in convenient places, lest some treachery should be suddenly practised by the enemies: so they made a peacable conference. ²³Now Nicanor abode in Jerusalem, and did no hurt, but sent away the people that came flocking unto him. ²⁴And he would not willingly have Judas out of his sight: for he loved the man from his heart. ²⁵He prayed him also to take a wife, and to beget children: so he married, was quiet, and took part of this life.

²⁶But Alcimus, perceiving the love that was betwixt them, and considering the covenant that were made, came to Demetrius, and told him that Nicanor was not well affected toward the state: for that he had ordained Judas, a traitor to his realm, to be the king's successor. ²⁷Then the king being in a rage, and provoked with the accusations of the most wicked man, wrote to Nicanor, signifying that he was much displeased with the covenants, and commanding him that he should send Maccabeus prisoner in all haste unto Antioch. ²⁸When this came to Nicanor's hearing, he was much confounded in himself, and took it grievously that he should make void the articles that were agreed upon, the man being in no fault. ²⁹But because there was no dealing against the king, he watched his time to accomplish this thing by policy. ³⁰Notwithstanding, when Maccabeus saw that Nicanor began to be churlish unto him, and that he entreated him more roughly than he was wont, perceiving that such behaviour came not of good, he gathered together not a few of his men, and withdrew himself from Nicanor. ³¹But the other, knowing that he was notably prevented by Judas' policy, came into the great and holy temple, and commanded the priests, that were offering the sacrifices, to deliver him the man. ³²And when they sware that they could not tell where the man was whom he sought, ³³he stretched out his right hand toward the temple, and made an oath in this manner: If ye will not deliver me Judas as a prisoner, I will lay this temple of God even with the ground, and I will break down the altar, and erect a notable temple unto Bacchus. ³⁴After these words he departed. Then the priests lifted up their hands toward heaven, and besought him that was ever a defender of the nation, saying in this manner; ³⁵Thou, O Lord of all things, Who hast need of nothing, wast pleased that the temple of Thine habitation should be among us: ³⁶therefore now, O holy Lord of all holiness, keep this house ever undefiled, which lately was cleansed, and stop every unrighteous mouth.

³⁷Now there was accused unto Nicanor one Razis, one of the elders of Jerusalem, a lover of his countrymen, and a man of very good report, who for his kindness was called a father of the Jews. ³⁸For in the former times, when

they mingled themselves not with the nations, he had been accused of Judaism, and did boldly jeopard his body and life with all vehemency for the religion of the Jews. ³⁹So Nicanor, willing to declare the hate that he bare unto the Jews, sent above five hundred men of war to take him: ⁴⁰for he thought by taking him to do the Jews much hurt. ⁴¹Now when the multitude would have taken the tower, and violently broken into the outer door, and bade that fire should be brought to burn it, he being ready to be taken on every side fell upon his sword; ⁴²choosing rather to die manfully, than to come into the hands of the wicked, to be abused otherwise than beseemed his noble birth: ⁴³but missing his stroke through haste, the multitude also rushing within the doors, he ran boldly up to the wall, and cast himself down manfully among the thickest of them. ⁴⁴But they quickly giving back, and a space being made, he fell down into the midst of the void place. ⁴⁵Nevertheless, while there was yet breath within him, being inflamed with anger, he rose up; and though the blood gushed out like spouts of water, and his wounds were grievous, yet he ran through the midst of the throng, ⁴⁶when as his blood was now quite gone, he plucked out his bowels, and taking them in both of his hands, he cast them upon the throng, and calling upon the Lord of life and spirit to restore him those again, he thus died.

CHAPTER 15

But Nicanor, hearing that Judas and his company were in the strong places about Samaria, resolved without any danger to set upon them on the sabbath day. ²Nevertheless the Jews that were compelled to go in with him said, O destroy not so cruelly and barbarously, but give honour to that day, which He, that seeth all things, hath honoured with holiness above *other days*. ³Then the most ungracious wretch demanded, if there were a Mighty One in heaven, that had commanded the sabbath day to be kept. ⁴And when they said, There is in heaven a living Lord, and mighty, Who commanded the sabbath day to be kept: ⁵then said the other, And I also am mighty upon earth, and I command to take arms, and to do the king's business. Yet he obtained not to have his wicked will done. ⁶So Nicanor in exceeding pride and haughtiness determined to set up a public monument of his victory over Judas and them that were with him. ⁷But Maccabeus had ever sure confidence that the Lord would help him: ⁸wherefore he exhorted his people not to fear the coming of the nations against them, but to remember the help which in former times they had received from heaven, and now to expect the victory and aid, which should come unto them from the Almighty. ⁹And so comforting them out of the law and the prophets, and withal putting them in mind of the battles that they won afore, he made them more cheerful. ¹⁰And when he had stirred up their minds, he gave them their charge, shewing them therewithal the falsehood of the nations, and the breach of oaths. ¹¹Thus he armed every one of them, not so much with defence of shields and spears, as with comfortable and good words: and beside that, he told them a dream

worthy to be believed, as if it had been so indeed, which did not a little rejoice them. ¹²And this was his vision: That Onias, who had been high priest, a virtuous and good man, reverend in conversation, gentle in condition, well spoken also, and exercised from a child in all points of virtue, holding up his hands prayed for the whole body of the Jews. ¹³This done, in like manner there appeared a man with gray hairs, and exceeding glorious, who was of a wonderful and excellent majesty. ¹⁴Then Onias answered, saying, This is a lover of the brethren, who prayeth much for the people, and for the holy city, to wit, Jeremiah the prophet of God. ¹⁵Whereupon Jeremiah holding forth his right hand gave to Judas a sword of gold, and in giving it spake thus, ¹⁶Take this holy sword, a gift from God, with the which thou shalt wound the adversaries. ¹⁷Thus being well comforted by the words of Judas, which were very good, and able and stir them up to valour, and to encourage the hearts of the young men, they determined not to pitch camp, but courageously to set upon them, and manfully to try the matter by conflict, because the city and the sanctuary and the temple were in danger. ¹⁸For the care that they took for their wives, and their children, their brethren, and kinsfolks, was in least account with them: but the greatest and principal fear was for the holy temple. ¹⁹Also they that were in the city took not the least care, being troubled for the conflict abroad. ²⁰And now, when as all looked what should be the trial, and the enemies were already come near, and the army was set in array, and the beasts conveniently placed, and the horsemen set in wings, ²¹Maccabeus seeing the coming of the multitude, and the divers preparations of armour, and the fierceness of the beasts, stretched out his hands toward heaven, and called upon the Lord that worketh wonders, knowing that victory cometh not by arms, but even as it seemed good to Him, He giveth it to such as are worthy: ²²therefore in his prayer he said after this manner; O Lord, Thou didst send Thine angel in the time of Hezekiah king of Judah, and didst slay in the host of Sennacherib an hundred fourscore and five thousand: ²³wherefore now also, O Lord of heaven, send a good angel before us for a fear and dread unto them; ²⁴and through the might of Thine arm let those be stricken with terror, that come against Thy holy people to blaspheme. And he ended thus. ²⁵Then Nicanor and they that were with him came forward with trumpets and songs. ²⁶But Judas and his company encountered the enemies with invocation and prayer. ²⁷So that fighting with their hands, and praying unto God with their hearts, they slew no less than thirty and five thousand men: for through the appearance of God they were greatly cheered. ²⁸Now when the battle was done, returning again with joy, they knew that Nicanor lay dead in his harness. ²⁹Then they made a great shout and a noise, praising the Almighty in their own language. ³⁰And Judas, who was ever the chief defender of the citizens both in body and mind, and who continued his love toward his countrymen all his life, commanded to strike off Nicanor's head, and his hand with his shoulder, and bring them to Jerusalem. ³¹So when he was there, and had called them of his nation together, and set the priests before the altar, he sent for them that were of the tower, ³²and shewed them vile Nicanor's head, and the hand of that blasphemmer, which with proud

brags he had stretched out against the holy temple of the Almighty. ³³And when he had cut out the tongue of that ungodly Nicanor, he commanded that they should give it by pieces unto the fowls, and hang up the reward of his madness before the temple. ³⁴So every man praised toward the heaven the glorious Lord, saying, Blessed is He that hath kept His own place undefiled. ³⁵He hanged also Nicanor's head upon the tower, an evident and manifest sign unto all of the help of the Lord. ³⁶And they ordained all with a common decree in no case to let that day pass without solemnity, but to celebrate the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which in the Syrian tongue is called Adar, the day before Mardocheus' day.

³⁷Thus went it with Nicanor: and from that time forth the Hebrews had the city in their power. And here I will make an end of my story. ³⁸And if *I have done* well, and as is fitting the story, it is that which I desired: but if slenderly and meanly, it is that which I could attain unto. ³⁹For as it is hurtful to drink wine and water alone; and as wine mingled with water is pleasant, and delighteth the taste: even so speech finely framed delighteth the ears of them that read the story. And here shall be an end.