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### Maccabees

The Maccabees are apart of the four books of Jewish history and theology. The Maccabees is a priestly family leading a Jewish revolt against Hellenism and Syrian rule and reigning over Palestine. The Maccabees were known as rebellious warriors. This reading starts out with Alexander the Great. Alexander ruled over ancient Macedonia for about 12years. He is known to have changed history and one of the greatest military men of all time. He never lost a battle in all his quests. Alexanders officers took over his leadership when he passed away. Evil spread across the earth. Antiochus Epiphanes son of King Antiochus became king of the Greeks.

During these times of Antiochus rule there were many who seduced the law wanting to make an agreement with the Gentiles. They realized their separation caused evil to come upon them. The king gave authority for them to introduce laws to the Gentiles. They basically gave into wrongdoing during this time. When this occurred King Antiochus became ruler over Egypt as well. Now he had authority over both kingdoms. During his rule he advised all to become one people and leave behind their traditions. The Gentiles submit to this rule and many Israelites were said to delight in this ruling and their religion. They sacrificed at the feet of idols and rejected the Sabbath. Evil became rule over the land by king Antiochus rule. He put inspectors over the people and called the place of Judah to have more sacrifices.

They established pagan alters that offered burnt offerings. They burned incense around their homes and in public places. All forms of laws they would come across would be destroyed

and if found harboring any would be put to death. On the twenty fifth day of each month there were sacrifices given in the form of women and babies. Those who were circumcised were chosen to be sacrificed. In these times there was a man named Mattathias and he had sons. This man left Jerusalem and traveled to Modein. During this time many followed into the wilderness to seek righteousness. They could not be of the evil any longer. There were soldiers followed and planned to take them down specifically on the sabbath. The soldiers ended up killing many husbands, wives, and children as well cattle.

During the time of King Mattathias passing, he spoke to his sons. He warned them that evil has spread and is strong. He advised his sons to keep in mind what the ancestors have done and how they behaved and what they believed in.

The Maccabees gives us different perspectives about the wars and rule during these times. We see there is much rebellion and intent to defile the Temple of Jerusalem. Authority was more powerful than religion during these times. Antiochus was in denial about the rebellion and the strength of the Jewish army. His intentions were to delete the Jewish people in Judea. He sent his valuable soldier Lysias in hand with about 50,000 soldiers. Judah prayed to God and pleaded for victory over this war. Antiochus army was very disappointed with their loss. They then fought again at the gates of Jerusalem. The Jewish army beat Lysias. After cleansing the land, the Temple was surrendered back to God. They achieved their liberty and religious values.

Cited Work:

<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/>

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