

# Research Proposal Document

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NT 504: The Greek Bible and the Mediterranean World

**Overview:** The Research Proposal Document chosen is an In-depth Analysis of a Primary Document, using the provided template to analyze and discuss my document. The primary document chosen is entitled the Third Maccabee(3Maccabee).

**Abstract:** The focus of this in-depth analysis of a primary document is on "living a life of Faith in an increasingly hostile world". In the introduction of the New Testament book of Matthew it reads, "The Book of Matthew, written by a Jew about a Jew. The Israelites of the Old Testament have become the Jews of the New Testament and so much has happened to them and the world in which they live" (Powell, 39). Using 3 Maccabees and the apocrypha literature of first century B.C, this analysis will examine life and anti-Jewish behaviors during the Diaspora. Larry Helyer states that the burning question of the period is "How should Jews relate to Gentiles?"(277)

Review of the apocrypha literature of the times, textbooks, journal articles, video presentations, lecture highlights and class discussions will be the method of investigation used to highlight the lives of the Jews living in diaspora during this time and what they endured to live among the Gentiles. The focus on keywords and whole document study will be employed to bring a realistic backdrop and history of the period. As well as exegeting the chosen passage,(3Maccabee) analyzing it in-depth and presenting interpretation(s), and moving toward particular applications for ministry context.

**Target Audience:** The ministry context will be to effectively share the word of God to **all**, those who desire to hear the Word of God and those who don't.

## **Outcomes and Rationale:**

Deeper analysis of the Second Temple Period brings a contextual element to understanding the New Testament, its people, their culture and our Savior. Why did the Jews react the way they did to Jesus and His message? Were the Jews able to maintain their identity, their worship and reverence to God in the Greco-Roman world? The prevalence of Anti-semitism in the Second Temple Period, Was the literature of the time reflective of the period?, Egyptian Jewish Settlements, what were they like? Israel in Egypt again,

By discovering the truth and historical context of God's Word, allows one to make sense of scripture thereby enhancing the knowledge of the teacher and the pupil. It allows the scriptures to present the message God intended for us to hear, when we understand the historical background and context. Then we can perform better our ministerial call. "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.(Ephesians 4;11-12)]

## **Sources/Dialog Partners:**

What sources have you identified as helpful for your investigation into the passage/topic you are engaging?

### Preliminary Bibliography

Books :

Green, Joel and Lee Martin McDonald , editors. The World of the New Testament: Cultural, Social and Historical Contexts, Grand Rapid: Baker Academic, 2013.

Grabbe, Lester L., An Introduction to Second Temple Judaism, New York: T & T Clarke International Press, 2010.

Heller, Larry R., Exploring Jewish Literature of the Second Temple Period: A Guide For New Students, Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2002.

McClellan, Roderick M., *The Original Maccabees Bible with Psalms 151*, Chicago: Third Republic, Research Associates School Times Publication, 2007.

Nickelsburg, George W. E., *Jewish Literature between the Bible and the Mishnah, A Historical and Literary Introduction*, second edition, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005.\

Nickelesburg, George W.E., and Stone, Michael, *Early Judaism: Texts and Documents on Faith and Piety. Revised Edition*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2009.

Powell, Mark Allan, *Introducing The New Testament, A Historical, Literary and Theological Survey*, second edition, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academics, 2009.

#### Journal Articles:

Sung, UK Lim, 2013, Josephus Constructs The Samaritans: A Strategic Construction of Judean/Jewish identity through Rhetoric of inclusion and exclusion. *The Journal of Theological Studies*, NS, Vol. 64, Pt 2, Vanderbilt University

Rajak, Tessa, 2018, The Jewish Diaspora in Greco-Roman Antiquity, *Interpretation Journal*, 72, vol.2, p.146-162

Bacchi, Ashley, 2014, God as Kingly Foil in 3 Maccabees, *Zutot: Perspective on Jewish Culture*, Vol. 11, Issue 1, p 57-69

O'Kernick, Patrick J., 2018, Stalae, Elephants and Irony: The Battle of Raphia and its import as Historical Context for 3 Maccabees, *Journal for the study of Judaism in gather Persian, Hellenistic and Roman Period*, 49, no.1, p.49-67

Jones, Barry A., Life in the Diaspora: Christian Interpretation of Esther in dialogue with Judaism, *Review and Expositor*, 118 no. 2, p. 170-179.

Primary Sources and others....

