The Maccabees
The Maccabees

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

Daniel 11:32
Some people know God and live for Him.

God blesses them with powerful success.

**Exploit.** An act or deed; a feat; in modern use, an achievement displaying a brilliant degree of bravery or skill.
Do you know the LORD God Jehovah?
Do you live for Him in all your decisions?
How have you shown unusual strength for Him?
What exploit will you be known for by Sunday?
What exploits will we recount for you at your funeral?
And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

Daniel 11:32
The Maccabees

The name Maccabee was a personal epithet of Judah son of Mattathias a priest of Israel, meaning “the hammer,” in recognition of his ferocity in battle, though also applied to his four brothers and often incorrectly to the entire Hasmonean dynasty.
Judas Maccabee
Judah the Hammer!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>526</td>
<td>Nebuchadnezzar took Israel captive to Babylon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>456</td>
<td>Cyrus sent the Jews back to Jerusalem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>323</td>
<td>Alexander the Great died – four generals ruled.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>175</td>
<td>Antiochus IV began reign over Seleucid Empire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>165</td>
<td>Judah Maccabees drives Seleucids out of Judea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>The Romans take Judea and make it a province.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Antiochus the IV (Epiphanes)

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

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

MATTATHIAS d. 165 BCE

SIMON 142-134 BCE

HYRCANUS (JOHN) 134-104 BCE

JUDAS 164-161 BCE

JONATHAN 161-142 BCE

ARISTOBOLUS I (JUDAS) 104-103 BCE

ALEXANDER JANNAEUS 103-76 BCE

ALEXANDRA (SALOME) 76-67 BCE

HYRCANUS II d. 30 BCE

ARISTOBOLUS II 67-63 BCE

ALEXANDRA d. 28 BCE?

ALEXANDER d. 49 BCE

ANTIGONUS d. 37 BCE

ANTIPATER SON OF HEROD THE GREAT

ARISTOBOLUS THE HIGH PRIEST d. 35 BCE

MIRIAM d. 29 BCE

HEROD THE GREAT

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

Mattathias (d. 166)
- John (d. 159)
  - Mattathias (d. 135)
    - Judas (d. 135)
      - John Hyrcanus (135-104)
        - Aristobulus I (104-103)
          - Alexander Janneus - Salome Alexandra (163-76; 76-67)
            - Aristobulus I (67-63; d. 49)
              - Antigonus (40-37)
            - Hyrcanus II (63-40; d. 30)
              - Alexander = Alexandra (d. 49)
                - Mariamne I = Herod the Great (40-4)
                  - Alexander (d. 7)
                    - Bernice = Aristobulus (daughter of Herod's sister Salome) (d. 7)
                      - Herod, King of Chalcis (A.D. 41-48)
                        - Agrippa I (A.D. 37-44)
                          - Herod Philip = Herodias = Herod Antipas (4 B.C. - A.D. 39)
                            - Aristobulus = Salome (of Herodias)
                                - Agrippa II (A.D. 50-100)
                                  - Salome = Philip the Tetrarch (4 B.C. - A.D. 34)
                                      - Eleazar (d. 163)
                                        - Jonathan (60-143)
                                          - Judas Maccabeus (d. 160)

What About I and II Maccabees?

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

Nemlye Translated out of the Original Tongues: & with the Former Translations diligently compared and revised, by his Maiesties Speciall Commandement
Upon a Newes in vse in Churches.
Imprinted at London by Robert Barker, Printer to the Kings most Excellent Majestie.
Anno Dom. 1611.
### The names and order of all the Bookes of the Olde and New Testament, with the Number of their Chapters.

| The Bookes of the Old Testament | 
|--------------------------------|---|
| Genesis                        | 50 |
| Exodus                        | 40 |
| Leviticus                      | 37 |
| Numbers                        | 36 |
| Deuteronomy                    | 34 |
| Joshua                         | 24 |
| Judges                         | 21 |
| Ruth                           | 4  |
| Samuel                         | 31 |
| 1 Kings                        | 34 |
| 2 Kings                        | 33 |
| 1 Chronicles                   | 29 |
| 2 Chronicles                   | 26 |
| Ezra                           | 10 |
| Nehemiah                       | 13 |
| Esther                         | 10 |
| Job                            | 42 |
| Psalms                         | 150|
| Proverbs                       | 11 |
| Ecclesiastes                   | 12 |
| The Song of Solomon            | 8  |
| Isaiah                         | 66 |
| Jeremiah                       | 52 |
| Lamentations                   | 5  |
| Ezekiel                        | 48 |
| Daniel                         | 12 |
| Hosea                          | 14 |
| Joel                           | 3  |
| Amos                           | 9  |
| Obadiah                        | 1  |
| Jonah                           | 4 |
| Micah                          | 7  |
| Nahum                          | 5  |
| Habakkuk                       | 3  |
| Zephaniah                      | 3  |
| Haggai                         | 2  |
| Zechariah                      | 14 |
| Malachi                        | 6  |

### The Books called Apocrypha.

| The Books called Apocrypha | 
|----------------------------|---|
| Sirach                        | 9  |
| 1 Maccabees                     | 16 |
| 2 Maccabees                     | 16 |
| The Epistle of Enoch          | 6  |
| The Epistle of Jeremiah       | 6  |
| The Epistle of the Three Children | 6 |
| The Epistle of Susanna        | 14 |
| The Idols and the Dragon      | 6  |
| The prayer of Manasseh        | 6  |
| The Epistle of James          | 5  |
| The Epistle of Peter          | 5  |
| The Epistle of John           | 1  |
| The Epistle of John           | 1  |

### The Books of the New Testament.

| The Books of the New Testament | 
|--------------------------------|---|
| Matthew                       | 18 |
| Marke                         | 16 |
| Luke                          | 14 |
| John                          | 11 |
| The Acts                      | 16 |
| The Epistle to the Romans     | 16 |
| 1 Corinthians                 | 15 |
| 2 Corinthians                 | 15 |
| Galatians                     | 6  |
| Ephesians                     | 6  |
| Philippians                   | 4  |
| Colossians                    | 4  |
| The Philippians               | 5  |
| The Epistle to the Hebrews    | 13 |
| The Epistle of James          | 5  |
| The Epistle of Peter          | 3  |
| 1 John                        | 11 |
| 2 John                        | 11 |
| 3 John                        | 11 |
| Revelation                    | 32 |
The comming and Malachi. Office of Elisha.

Chap. III.

And the Lord spake unto the children of Israel, saying, Thus saith the Lord God of hosts, Behold, I will feed you with meal, and will replenish you with bread. 

Chap. IV.

And God spake unto the children of Israel, saying, Thus saith the Lord God of hosts, Behold, I will feed you with meal, and will replenish you with bread. 

Apocrypha.

Chap. I.

And God spake unto the children of Israel, saying, Thus saith the Lord God of hosts, Behold, I will feed you with meal, and will replenish you with bread. 

The end of the Prophets.

Chap. I.

A letter of the , from Jerusalem to them of Egypt, to thank them for the death of Antiochus. 19. Of the fire that was in the prist. The prayer of Nehemiah.

Be brethren the , that ye be at Jerusalem, and in the land of Judea, both into the time that the , that ye be in the midst of Egypt, health and peace.

God be gracious unto you, and remember his , and his , and his , and his faithfull servants.

And give you an heart to serve him, and to be his, with a good courage, and a willing mind.

And open your hearts in his law and commandments, that ye live peace.

And hear your , and be at one with you, and never forsake you in time of trouble.

And now be here praying for you.

What time as Demetrius reigned, in the hundred thereforess and three yeeres, be the , wrote into you, in the extremity of trouble, that came upon you. In these three yeeres, from the time that Jason and his company cruellized from the holy land, and kingdom, and burnt the north, and their innocent blood. Then the king sent unto the , and wrote: We offer unto you, the sacrifices, and fine wine, and light the lamps, and set forth the lights.

And now see that you keep the feast.
A Simple Timeline  (B.C. dates)

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

• He was humiliated by a Roman ambassador in 168.
• On his return to Syria, he severely punished the Jews.
• Tore down the wall of Jerusalem.
• Slaughtered many of the Jews.
• Destroyed the sacred scriptures.
• Turned temple into brothel with prostitutes.
• Death for circumcision, etc.
• Flogged Eleazar for refusal.
• Killed mother and seven children.
• Offered swine to Zeus on altar.
Daniel 8

- The prophecy of ram (Persia) and he goat (Greece).
- These are two of the Empires from chapters 2 and 7.
- This prophecy is confined to latter Greek kings (20-22).
- A whole chapter about two empires before Rome (7).
- Chapter 7 is about popes; Chapter 9 about Messiah.
- Alexander the Great is the notable horn of he goat.
- The enemy is a king from one of the generals (8-9).
- He defiled temple worship and ended sacrifices (9-12).
- His defiled and dominated Israel for 2300 days (13-14).
- This is Antiochus Epiphanes, a vile latter Greek king.
Daniel 11

- It clearly began with Darius and Persian Empire (11:2).
- It clearly ends with ruin of Israel in 70 A.D. (12:1,7).
- The *Kings of the North* = kings of Seleucid Empire.
- The *Kings of the South* = kings of Ptolemaic Empire.
- Syria is north of Egypt ... Israel lies between them.
- The prophecy has successive kings of both empires.
- Daniel 11:21-32 is about Antiochus IV Epiphanes.
- Daniel 11:32-35 is about the Maccabees and revolt.
- Daniel 11:36-45 is about Herod the Great and Caesar.
And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

Daniel 11:21
Then shall he return into his land with great riches; and his heart shall be against the holy covenant; and he shall do exploits, and return to his own land.

Daniel 11:28
For the ships of Chittim shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant.

Daniel 11:30
And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.

Daniel 11:31
But now it is time for Judah Maccabees and the Jewish revolt!
And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

Daniel 11:32
Judah Maccabees and Revolt!

- Priest Mattathias killed a Seleucid and called to arms.
- His son Judah, strong and zealous, took the lead.
- The Seleucids had a trained army with many weapons.
- The Jews were farmers with no army or weapons.
- Judah was a genius at guerilla warfare on his terms.
- The first battle wiped out a Greek force in a pass.
- Antiochus also had to fight the Parthians in the east.
- Judah defeated larger and larger Seleucid armies.
- Antiochus died fighting, so Lysias allowed a treaty.
- Like David and Oliver Cromwell, Judah did exploits.
And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

Daniel 11:32
What is Hanukkah?
What Is Hanukkah?

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

John 10:22-23
Is Hanukkah Really in the Bible?

- Moses commanded 3 feasts recorded in the Bible.
- **Passover** is in the spring (about March or April).
- **Weeks**, or Pentecost, is spring 7 weeks later (May-June).
- **Tabernacles**, or Booths, is in the fall (Sep/Oct).
- But the feast of John 10:22-23 was in the winter!
- But the feast of John 10:22-23 was for dedication!
- It was started 200 years before Jesus in John 10!
- This can only be Hanukkah of the Maccabees!
- Jesus visited Jerusalem and the temple at this time!
- He confirmed Dan 11:32 and honored national days.
Is there any other mention of the Maccabees in the Bible?
Hebrews 11:32-38

- Paul’s *Hall of Faith* is generally chronological by date.
- Paul wrote 100 years after the Hasmonean dynasty.
- His use of “women” allows others than named (32,35).
- What of … *out of weakness were made strong*?
- What of … *waxed valiant in fight*?
- What of … *turned to flight the armies of aliens*?
- What of … *tortured, not accepting deliverance*?
- What of … *cruel mockings and scourgings*?
- What of … *sawn asunder*?
- What of … *being destitute, afflicted, tormented*?
What does God say of the Maccabees and others like them that served Him to death?

(Of whom the world was not worthy:)

Hebrews 11:38
Paul used “women” in 11:35, allowing his listing to include more than those in 11:32.

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

The world and its heroes cannot be compared to these heavenly saints of God.
Will you be ... a Maccabee ... in your life?
Will you be ... *The Hammer* ... in your life?
In what parts of your life ... do you need to bring down the hammer?
Areas You Can Hammer

- Marriage
- Finances
- Soul-winning
- Reading
- Child Training
- Television
- Speech
- Alcohol
- Friends
- House
- Grades
- Savings
- Giving
- Career
- Driving
- Time
- Inputs
- Weight
More Areas You Can Hammer

- Moods
- Consistency
- Initiative
- Attitude
- Weakness
- Productivity
- Praise
- Pursuit
- Priorities
- Hospitality
- Forgiveness
- Love
- Service
- Relationships
- Holiness
- Zeal
Do you understand that many parts of life need finesse, not force?
And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

Daniel 11:32
Do you know the LORD God Jehovah?
Do you live for Him in all your decisions?
How have you shown unusual strength for Him?
What exploit will you be known for by Sunday?
What exploits will we recount for you at your funeral?
For Further Study

Daniel 8 ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/prophecy/daniel08.php
Bruce Gore about Antiochus IV ... https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3W0d65FOPI
Bruce Gore about the Maccabees ... https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6hwkThHYBxs
Conservative commentaries ... (Poole, Henry, Gill, Barnes)
Conservative Bible dictionaries ... http://biblehub.com/dictionary/
I and II Maccabees or Antiquities by Josephus ... I & II Maccabees ... Josephus Antiquities

www.LetGodBeTrue.com