

# Maccabees

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

**Daniel 11:32**

# A Simple Timeline

## All Dates Before Christ (B.C.)

- 526**      **Nebuchadnezzar**  
*Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations,  
Ezekiel, Daniel*
- 456**      **Cyrus sends Jews back**  
*Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai,  
Zechariah, Malachi*
- 323**      **Alexander dies – 4 rule**
- 175**      **Antiochus IV reigns**
- 165**      **Judas Maccabees wins**
- 63**        **Romans take Judea**

# **Antiochus Epiphanes**

**Antiochus IV began rule (175)**

**Epiphanes = *the Illustrious***

**Epimanes = *the Madman***

**High priest as political office**

**Sought to Hellenize the Jews**

**Jewish religion a threat**

**Defeat in Egypt enraged him**

**Died suddenly by illness at 51**

# Who are Maccabees?

Mattathias was faithful priest.

Hashman of Joarib (I Ch 24:7)

Sons: *John, Simon, Judas,  
Eleazar, and Jonathan*

Judas *Maccabee* began name

Judas rebelled, purged temple

John Hyrcanus from Simon

Hasmoneans ruled to Herod

# **Book of Maccabees**

**I Maccabees / II Maccabees**

**History of the Hasmoneans**

**History of Maccabean Revolt**

**Apocrypha = Uninspired**

**Apocrypha = Historical Help**

**Apocrypha = Josephus**

**In King James for help only**

**Not part of inspired scripture**

# Another Timeline

## All Dates Before Christ (B.C.)

- 175** Antiochus takes throne
- 175-** Hellenization pressed
- 170** Priesthood sold, forced
- 168** Temple profaned
- 167** Mattathias revolted
- 166** Judas replaced father
- 165** Temple rededicated
- 164** Antiochus dead at 51

# **Atrocities**

**Tore down Jerusalem walls**

**Slaughtered many Jews**

**Destroyed the scriptures**

**Used prostitutes in temple**

**Death for circumcision, etc.**

**Flogged Eleazar for refusal**

**Mother and 7 kids for refusal**

**Zeus on altar with pig offering**

# **Daniel 8**

**Latter Greek kings (20-22)**

**Whole chapter before Rome**

**Chapter 7 unrelated (popes)**

**Chapter 9 unrelated (Messiah)**

**See one of 4 kingdoms (8-9)**

**Defied temple worship (9-12)**

**To last for 2300 days (13-14)**

**Antiochus Epiphanes (23-25)**

# Daniel 11

Daniel's people (10:14; 12:7)

Beginning with Persia (11:2)

Ending with 70 A.D. (12:1,7)

King of North = Seleucid king

King of South = Ptolemy king

Easy! Syria is north of Egypt!

11:21-32 is Antiochus

11:32-35 is Maccabees

# **What is Hanukkah?**

**Jewish holiday near Christmas**

**Falls in late Nov – early Dec**

**Eight-day Feast of Lights**

**Why? Celebrate Maccabees!**

**Started? By Judas in 165 B.C.**

**In the Bible? In John 10:22!**

# John 10:22

And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter.

**Moses commanded 3 feasts.**

*Passover is in the spring (Mar/Apr).*

*Weeks, or Pentecost, is spring (May/June).*

*Tabernacles is in the fall (Sep/Oct).*

**This feast was in the winter.**

**This feast was of dedication.**

**Hanukkah of the Maccabees!**

**Jesus visited during this feast.**

# Hebrews 11:32-38

Paul's "Hall of Faith" is chronological.

Paul wrote 100 yrs after Hasmoneans.

"Women" allows many others (32,35).

*Out of weakness were made strong?*

*Waxed valiant in fight?*

*Turned to flight the armies of aliens?*

*Tortured, not accepting deliverance?*

*Cruel mockings and scourgings?*

*They were sawn asunder?*

*Being destitute, afflicted, tormented?*

# Conclusion

**Learn the whole Bible, even Daniel 8 and 11; John 10; and Hebrews 11.**

**Fulfilled prophecy exalts God (Is 44:6-8).**

**Jesus is greatest Deliverer, far superior to Maccabees, Moses, Joshua, David, etc.**

**Save from all kinds of errors, both prophetic and practical e.g. SDA's, JW's.**

**National days can be good, as our nearby Thanksgiving Day. Use it to God's glory.**

**Do you have exploits for God? Be strong.**

**We have cloud of witnesses (Heb 12:1-4).**

**We face the perilous times (II Tim 3:1-5).**

# For Further Study

- 1. Understanding Daniel 8** (see links)  
<http://www.letgodbetrue.com/daniel/daniel-08.htm>
- 2. Understanding Daniel 11** (see links)  
<http://www.letgodbetrue.com/daniel/daniel-11.htm>
- 3. Daniel's 2300 Days**  
<http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/days-of-daniel-8.pdf>
- 4. Philip Mauro's "Seventy Weeks ..."**  
[http://www.preteristarchive.com/Books/1921\\_mauro\\_seventy-weeks.html](http://www.preteristarchive.com/Books/1921_mauro_seventy-weeks.html)
- 5. Read conservative commentaries as Poole, Henry, Gill, Barnes, etc.**
- 6. Read conservative Bible dictionaries**
- 7. Read I and II Maccabees**
- 8. Read "Antiquities" by Josephus**
- 9. Google search any names / events**