

The Maccabees

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“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

- A. Learn the whole Bible, even Daniel 8 and 11; John 10; and Hebrews 11.
- B. Fulfilled prophecy exalts God (Is 44:6-8).
- C. Jesus is greatest Deliverer, far superior to Maccabees, Moses, Joshua, David, etc.
- D. Save from all kinds of errors, both prophetic and practical e.g. SDA's, JW's.
- E. National days can be good, as our nearby Thanksgiving Day. Use it to God's glory.
- F. Do you have exploits for God? Be strong.
- G. We have cloud of witnesses (Heb 12:1-4).
- H. We face the perilous times (II Tim 3:1-5).

For Further Study

- A. Sermon Outline: (see links)
<https://letgodbettrue.com/bible-topics/index/prophecy/making-sense-of-daniel/daniel-chapter-8/> Daniel 8
- B. [Understanding Daniel 11](#)
- C. Sermon Outline: [Daniel's 2300 Days](#)
- D. Philip Mauro's ["Seventy Weeks"](#)

- E. Read conservative commentaries as Poole, Henry, Gill, Barnes, etc.
- F. Read conservative Bible dictionaries
- G. Read I and II Maccabees
- H. Read “Antiquities” by Josephus
- I. Google search any names / events