

- 19 He sent other men also vnto Gazara, to take Iohn, and sent letters vnto the captaines to come to him, and he wolde giue the siluer, and golde and rewardes.
- 20 And to Ierusalem he sent other to take it, and the mountaine of the Temple.
- 21 But one ranne before, and tolde Iohn in Gazara, that his father, and his brethren were slaine, and that Ptolemus had sent to slay him.
- 22 When he heard this, he was sore astoni-

shed, & laid hands of them that were come to slay him, and slewe them: for he knewe that they went about to kill him.

- 23 Concerning other things of Iohn, bothe of his warres, and of his noble actes (wherein he behaued him self manfully) of the buylding of walles which he made, and other of his dedes,
- 24 Beholde, they are written in the chronicles of his priesthode, fro the time, that he was made high Priest after his father.

THE SECONDE BOoke of the Maccabees.

CHAP. I.

1 An epistle of the Iewes that dwelt at Ierusalem, sent vnto them that dwelt in Egypt, wherein they exhorthe them to giue thanks for the death of Antiochus. 19 Of the fyre that was hid in the pitte. 24 The prayer of Neemias.

- 1 **I**N brethren the Iewes, which be at Ierusalem, & they y are in the countrey of Iudea, vnto y brethren the Iewes, that are thoroughout Egypt, send salutation, and prosperitie.
- 2 God be gracious vnto you and remember his couenant made with Abraham, and Isaac, and Iacob his faithfull seruants,
- 3 And giue you all an heart, to worship him, and to do his wil with a whole heart and with a willing minde,
- 4 And open your hearts in his Law, and commandements, and send you peace,
- 5 And heare your prayers, and be reconciled with you, and neuer forsake you in time of trouble.
- 6 Thus now we praye here for you.
- 7 When Demetrius reigned, in the hundredth, threescore and nine yere, we Iewes wrote vnto you in the troublis, and violence that came vnto vs in those yeres, after that Iason, and his companie departed out of the holie land and kingdome,
- 8 And burnt the porche, and shed innocent blood. Then we praid vnto the Lord, and were heard: we offred sacrifices and fine floure, and lighted the lampes, and set forth the bread.
- 9 Now therefore kepe ye the dayes of the feast of the Tabernacles in the moneth Challeu.
- 10 ¶ In the hundredth, fourescore and eight yere, the people that was at Ierusalem, and in Iudea, and the counfel and Iudas, vnto Aristobulus King Ptolemeus master, which is of the stocke of the annointed

Priests, & to the Iewes that are in Egypt, sendeth greting and helth.

- 11 In so muche as God hath deliuered vs from great perils, we thanke him highly, as though we had ouercome the King.
- 12 For he brought them into Persia by heapes, that fought against the holie citie.
- 13 For albeit the captaine, and the armie, that was with him, seemed inuincible, yet they were slaine in the temple of Nanca, by the disceit of Naneas Priests.
- 14 For Antiochus, as though he wolde dwell with her, came thether, he, and his friends with him, to receiue money vnder the title of a dowrie.
- 15 But when the Priests of Nanca had laid it forthe, and he was entred with a smale companie within the Temple, they shut the Temple, when Antiochus was come in.
- 16 And by opening a priue dore of the vaute, they cast stones, as it were thunder, vpon the captaine & his, and hauing bruiised them in peeces, they cut of their heads & threwe the to those that were without.
- 17 God be blessed in all things, which hath deliuered vp the wicked.
- 18 Whereas we are now purposed to kepe y purification of the Tēple vpon the five & twētie day of y moneth Challeu, we thought it necessarie to certifie you thereof, y ye also might kepe the feast of y Tabernacles, & of the fyre which was giuen vs when Neemias offred sacrifice, after y he had buylt the Temple, and the altar.
- 19 For whē as our fathers were led away vnto Persia, y Priests, which sought the honor of God, toke the fyre of the altar priuely, *Leuis. 24. 13.* and hid it in an hollow pit, which was drie & *10. 2.* in y bottom, & therein they kept it, so that *16. 3.* the place was vnknewen vnto euerie mā.
- 20 Now after manie yeres when it pleased God that Neemias shulde be sent from the King of Persia, he sent of y posteritie of

Zzzz.ii.

II. Maccabees.

those Priests, which had hid it to fetch the fyre, and as they tolde vs, they founde no fyre, but thicke water.

21 Then commanded he them to drawe it vp, and to bring it: and when the things apperteinng to the sacrifices were broght, Neemias commanded the Priests to sprinkle the wood, and the things laid thereupō with water.

22 When this was done, and the time came that the sunne shone, which afore was hid in the cloude, there was a great fyre kindled, so that euerie man marueiled.

23 Now the Priests, and all prayed, while the sacrifice was consuming: Jonathan began, and the other answered thereunto.

24 And the prayer of Neemias was after this maner, O Lord, Lord God maker of all things, which art feareful, and strong, & righteous, and merciful, and the onelie and gracious King,

25 Onely liberal, onely iuste and almightie and euerlasting, thou that deliuerest Israel from all trouble, and hast chosen the fathers, and sanctified them,

26 Receiue the sacrifice for thy whole people of Israel, and preserue thine owne portion, and sanctifie it.

27 Gather those together, that are scattered from vs; deliuer them that serue amōg the heathen: loke vpon them which are despised, and abhorred, that the heathen may knowe that thou art our God.

28 Punish them that oppresse vs, and with pride do vs wrong.

29 Plant thy people againe in thine holie place * as Moyse hath spoken. *Dent. 30. 5.*

30 And the Priests sang psalmes thereunto.

31 Now when the sacrifice was consumed, Neemias commanded the great stones to be sprinkled with the residue of the water.

32 Which whē it was done, there was kindled a flame, which was consumed by the light, that shined from the altar.

33 So when this matter was knowen, it was tolde the King of Persia, that in the place where the Priests, which were led away, had hid fyre, there appeared water, where-with Neemias and his companie had purified the sacrifices.

34 The King tryed out the thing, and closed the place about, and made it holie.

35 And to them that the King fauoured, he gaue and bestowed manie giftes.

36 And Neemias called the same place Ephthar, which is to say, purification: but manie men call it Nephthar. *10. Nephth.*

CHAP. II.

* How Ieremie hid the tabernacle, the Arke, and the altar in the hil. 33 Of the five booke of Iason contained in one.

IT is founde also in the writings of Ieremias the Prophet, that he comman-

ded them, which were caried away, to take fyre, as was declared, & as the Prophet cōmāded thē that were led into captiuitie,

* Giuing them a Law that they shulde not forget the commandemēts of y Lord, & that they shulde not erre in their mindes, when they sawe images of golde and siluer, with their ornaments. *Baruc. 6.*

3 These and suche other things commanded he them, and exhorted them that they shuld not let y Law go out of their hearts.

4 It is written also, how the Prophet, by an oracle that he had, charged them to take the tabernacle and the arke, and follow him: & when he came vp into y mountaine where Moyse went vp, * and sawe the herirage of God, *Deu. 34. 1.*

5 Ieremias went forthe, and founde an hollowe caue, wherein he laid the Tabernacle, and the Arke, and the altar of incense, and so stopped the dore.

6 And there came certeine of those that followed him, to marke the place: but they colde not finde it.

7 Which when Ieremias perceiued, he reproued them, saying, As for that place, it shalbe vnknown, vntil the time that God gather his people together againe, & that mercie be shewed.

8 Thē shal the Lord shewe thē these things, and the maiestie of the Lord shal appeare and the cloude also, as it was shewed vnder Moyse, and as * when Salomō desired, that the place might be honorably sanctified. *1. King. 8. 62. 2. chro. 6. 31.*

9 For it is manifest that he, being a wise man, offred the sacrifice of dedication, and consecration of the Temple.

10 * And as when Moyse prayed vnto the Lord, the fyre came downe from heauē, & consumed the sacrifice: so, when Salomon prayed, * the fyre came downe frō heauen, and consumed the burnt offering. *Leu. 9. 24. & 16. 16.*

11 And Moyse said, Because the sinoffring was not eaten, therefore is it consumed. *2. chro. 7. 1.*

12 So Salomon kept those eight dayes.

13 These thigs also are declared in the writings, and registers of Neemias, and how he made a librarie, and how he gathered the actes of the Kings, & of the Prophets, and the actes of Dauid, and the epistles of the Kings concerning the holie giftes.

14 Euen so Iudas also gathered all things that came to passe by the warres that were among vs, which things we haue.

15 Wherefore if ye haue nede thereof, send some to fetch them vnto you.

16 Where as we then are about to celebrate the purification, we haue writen vnto you, and ye shal do wel, if ye kepe the same dayes.

17 We hope also that the God, which deliuered all his people, and gaue an heritage to them all & the kingdome, & the priesthoode,

Deu. 30. 5.

- hode, and the Sanctuarie,
- 18 *As he promised in the Law, wil shortly haue mercy vpon vs, & gather vs together from vnder the heauen into his holie place: for he hathe saued vs from great perils, and hathe clenfed the place.
- 19 As concerning Iudas Maccabeus, & his brethren, the purification of the great Tēple, and the dedicacion of the altar,
- 20 And the warres against Antiochus Epiphanes, and Eupator his sonne,
- 21 And the manifest signes, that came from heauen vnto those, which manfully stode for the Iewes religiō: (for though they were but fewe, yet they rāne through whole cōuntries, and pursued the barbarous armies,
- 22 And repaired the Tēple that was renowned thorow out all the worlde, and deliuered the citie, and established the Lawes, that were like to be abolished, because the Lord was merciful vnto the w all lenitie)
- 23 We wil assay to abridge in one volume those things, that Iason the Cyrenean hath declared in fīue booke.
- 24 For considering the wonderful number, & the difficultie that they haue that wolde be occupied in the rehearsal of stories, because of the diuersitie of the matters,
- 25 We haue indeuored, that they that wolde read, might haue pleasure, and that they which are studious, might easily kepe them in memorie, & that whosoever read them, might haue profite.
- 26 Therefore to vs that haue taken in hand this great labour, it was no easie thing to make this abridgement, but required both the swat, and watching.
- 27 Like as he that maketh a feast, & seeketh other mens commoditie, hathe no smale labour: so we also for manie mens sakes are verie wel content to vndertake this great labour.
- 28 Leauing to the autor the exact diligence of euerie particular, we will labour to go forward according to the prescript order of an abridgement.
- 29 For as he that wil buylde a newe house, must prouide for the whole buylding, but he that setteth out y plat or goeth about to painte it, seeketh but onely what is comlie for the decking thereof:
- 30 Euen so I thinke for vs, that it apperteineth to the first writer of a storie to enter depely into it, and to make mencion of all things, and to be curious in euerie parte.
- 31 But it is permitted to him that wil shorten it, to vse fewe wordes, and to auoyde those things that are curious therein.
- 32 Here then wil we beginne the storie, adding thus muche to our former wordes, that it is but a foolish thing to abonde in wordes before the storie, and to be shorte in the storie.

5 Of the honour done vnto the Temple by the Kings of the Gentiles. 6 Simon uttereth what treasure is in the Temple. 7 Heliodorus is sente to take them away. 26 He is stricken of God and healed at the prayer of Onias.

- W**Hat time as the holy citie was inhabited with all peace, and when the Lawes were very wel kept, because of the godlines of Onias the hie Priest, and hatred of wickednes,
- 1 It came to passe that euen the Kings did honour the place, and garnished the Temple with great gifts.
- 2 In so muche that Seleuchus King of Asia of his owne rentes, bare all the costes belonging to the seruice of the sacrifices.
- 3 But one Simon of the tribe of Benjamin being appointed ruler of the Temple, contented with the hie Priest concerning the iniquitie committed in the citie.
- 4 And whē he coulde not ouercome Onias, he gate him to Apollonius the sonne of Thraseas, which then was gouernour of Coelosyria and Phenice,
- 5 And tolde him that the treasure in Ierusalem was ful of innumerable money, which did not belong to the prouision of the sacrifices, and that it were possible that these things might come into y Kings hands.
- 6 Now whē Apollonius came to the King, and had shewed him of the money, as it was tolde him, the King chose out Heliodorus his treasurer, and sent him with a commandement, to bring him the foresaid money.
- 7 Immediately Heliodorus toke his journey as though he wolde visite the cities of Coelosyria & Phenice, but in effect to fulfil the Kings purpose.
- 8 So when he came to Ierusalem, and was courteously receiued of the hie Priest into the citie, he declared what was determined concerning the money, & shewed the cause of his coming, and asked if these things were so in dede.
- 9 Then the hie Priest tolde him that there were suche things laide vp by y widdowes and fatherles,
- 10 And that a certeine of it belonged vnto Hircanus the sonne of Tobias a noble mā, and not as that wicked Simon had reported, and that in all there were but foure hundred talents of siluer, and two hundred of golde,
- 11 And that it were altogether vnpossible to do this wrong to them that had committed it of trust to the holines of the place and Temple, which is honored thorow the whole worlde for holines & integritie.
- 12 But Heliodorus because of the Kings comandement giuen him, said that in any wise it must be brought into y Kings treasure.
- Zzzz. iii.

*Or as he first & prouision.

II. Maccabees.

- 24 So he appointed a day, and went in to take order for these things: then there was no small grief thorowout the whole citie.
- 25 For y^e Priests fell downe before the altar in the Priests garments, and called vnto heauen vpon him which had made a Law concerning things giuen to be kept, that they shulde be safely preserved for suche as had committed them to be kept.
- 26 Then thei that looked the high Priest in the face, were wounded in their heart: for his countenance, and the changing of his colour declared the sorowe of his minde.
- 27 The man was so wrapped in feare & trembling of the bodie, that it was manifest to thei that looked vpon him, what sorowe he had in his heart.
- 28 Others also came out of their houses by heapes vnto the comune prayer, because y^e place was like to come vnto contempt.
- 29 And the women, girt with sackcloth vnder their breastes, filled the stretes, and the virgines that were kept in, ranne some to the gates and some to the walles, & others looked out of the windowes.
- 30 And all helde vp their hands toward heauen, and made prayer.
- 31 It was a lamentable thing to se the multitude that fell downe of all sortes, and the expectation of the high Priest being in suche anguish.
- 32 Therefore thei called vpon the almighty Lord that he wolde kepe safe and sure the things, which were layed vp for those that had deliuered them.
- 33 Neuertheles, the thing y^e Heliodorus was determined to do, that did he performe.
- 34 And as he & his souldiers were now there present by the treasure, he that is the Lord of the spirits, & of all power, shewed a great vision, so that all thei which presumed to come with him, were astonished at the power of God, and fell into feare, and trembling.
- 35 For there appeared vnto them an horse with a terrible man sitting vpon him, most richely barbed, and he ranne fiercely, and smote at Heliodorus with his fore fete, & it semed that he that fate vpon the horse, had harnes of golde.
- 36 Moreouer, there appeared two yong men, notable in strength, excellent in beaurie, and comelie in apparel, which stode by him on either side, and scoured him continually, and gaue him manie sore stripes.
- 37 And Heliodorus fel suddenly vnto the ground, and was couered with great darkenes: but they that were with him, toke him vp, and put him in a litter.
- 38 Thus he that came with so great company, & manie souldiers into y^e said treasure, was borne out: for he colde not helpe him self with his weapons.
- 39 So they did knowe the power of God manifestly, but he was donne by the power of God, and lay destitute of all hope and helth.
- 40 And they praised the Lord that had honored his owne place: for the Temple which a litle afore was full of feare and trouble, when the almighty Lord appeared, was filled with ioye and gladnes.
- 31 Then streight wayes certeine of Heliodorus friends prayed Onias, that he wolde call vpon the moste High to grant him his life, which lay readie to giue vp the goste.
- 32 So the hie Priest, considering that the King might suspect that the Jewes had done Heliodorus some euil, he offered a sacrifice for the helth of the man.
- 33 Now when the hie Priest had made his prayer, the same yong men in the same clothing appeared, and stode beside Heliodorus, saying, Giue Onias y^e hie Priest great thanks: for his sake hath the Lord granted thee thy life.
- 34 And seeing that thou hast bene scourged from heauen, declare vnto all me the mighty power of God: & when they had spoken these wordes, they appeared no more.
- 35 So Heliodorus offered vnto the Lord sacrifice, and made great vowes vnto him, which had granted him his life, and thanked Onias, & went againe with his hoste to the King.
- 36 Then testified he vnto euerie man of the great workes of God that he had sene with his eyes.
- 37 And when the King asked Heliodorus, who were mete to be sent yet once againe to Ierusalem, he said,
- 38 If thou hast anie enemy or traitor, send him thither, & thou shalt receiue him wel scourged, if he escape with his life: for in that place, no doubt, there is a special power of God.
- 39 For he that dwelleth in heauen, hath his eye on y^e place, and defendeth it, & he beareth & destroyeth thei that come to hurt it.
- 40 This came to passe concerning Heliodorus, and the keeping of the treasure.

CHAP. IIII.

Simon reporteth euil of Onias. 7 Iason obtaineth the office of the hie Priest by corrupting the King, 27 And was by Menelaus defrauded by like bribing. 34 Onias is slayne traiterously by Andronicus.

THis Simon now, of whome we spake afore, being a bewraier of the money and of his owne natural cuntry, reported euil of Onias, as thogh he had moued Heliodorus vnto this, and had bene the inuenter of the euil.

2 Thus was he bolde to call him a traitour that was so beneficial to the citie, and a defender of his nacion, and so zealous of the Lawes.

3 But when his malice increased so farre, that thorow one that belonged to Simon, murthers were committed,

4 Onias considering the danger of this contention, & that Apollonius as he that was the gouernour of Coelosyria and Phenice, did rage, and increased Simons malice,

5 He went to the King not as an accuser of the citizens, but as one that intended the commune welth bothe priuatly and publicely.

6 For he sawe it was not possible except the King toke order to quiet the matters, and that Simon wolde not leaue of his folie.

7 But after the death of Seleucus, when Antiochus, called Epiphanes, toke the kingdom, Iason the brother of Onias labored by vnlawful meanes to be hie Priest.

8 For he came vnto the King, and promised him thre hundredth and thre score talents of siluer, and of another rente, fourescore talents.

9 Besides this he promised him an hundredth and fiftie, if he might haue licence to set vp a place for exercise, and a place for the youth, and that they wolde name them of Ierusalem Antiochians.

10 The which thing when the King had granted, & he had gotten the superioritie, he began immediately to drawe his kinisme to the customes of the Gentiles,

11 And abolished the friendlie priuiledges of the Kings, that the Iewes had set vp by Iohn, the father of Eupolemus, which was sent ambassadour vnto Rome, to become friends and confederates: he put downe their lawes & policies, & brought vp newe statutes, and contrarie to the Lawe.

12 For he presumed to buylde a place of exercise vnder the castel, & brought the chief yong men vnder his subiection, and made them weare Mattes.

13 So there began a great desire to follow the maners of the Gentiles, and they toke vp the facions of strange nacions by the exceeding wickednes of Iason, not the hie Priest, but the vngodlie persone,

14 So that the Priestes were now no more diligent about the seruice of the altar, but despised the Temple, and regarded not the sacrifices, but made haste to be partakers of the wicked expenses at the playe after the casting of the stone.

15 For they did not set by the honour of their fathers, but liked the glorie of the Gentiles best of all.

16 By reason whereof great calamitie came vpon them: for they had them to be their enemies and punishers, whose custome they followed so earnestly, and desired to be like them in all things.

17 For it is not a light thing to transgresse

against the Lawes of God, but the time following shal declare these things.

18 ¶ Now when the games that were vsed euerie siue yere, were plaide at Tyrus, the King being present,

19 This wicked Iason sent from Ierusalem men to loke vpon them, as thogh they had bene Antiochians, & brought thre hundredth drachmes of siluer for a sacrifice to Hercules: albeit they that caryed them, desired they might not be bestowed on the sacrifice (because it was not comelie) but to be bestowed for other expenses.

20 So he that sent them, sent them for the sacrifice of Hercules: but because of those that brought them, they were giuen to the making of galleis.

21 ¶ Now Apollonius the sonne of Menestheus was sent into Egypt because of the coronation of King Ptolemeus Philometor: but when Antiochus perceiued that he was euil affectioned towards his affaires, he sought his owne assurance, and departed from thence to Ioppe, and so came to Ierusalem,

22 Where he was honorably receiued of Iason, and of the citie, & was brought in with torche light, & with great showings, and so he went with his hoste vnto Phenice.

23 Thre yere afterwarde Iason sent Menelaus, the foresaid Simons brother, to beare the money vnto the King, and to bring to passe certeine necessarie affaires, whereof he had giuen him a memorial.

24 But he, being commended to the King, magnified him for the appearance of his power, & turned the priesthode vnto himself: for he gaue thre hundredth talents of siluer more then Iason.

25 So he gate the Kings letters patentes, albeit he had nothing in him self worthie of the hie priesthode, but bare the stomacke of a cruel tyrant, and the wrath of a wilde beast.

26 The Iason, which had disceiued his owne brother, being deceiued by another, was compelled to flee into the countrey of the Ammonites.

27 So Menelaus gate the dominion: but as for the money that he had promised vnto the King, he toke none order for it, albeit Sosstratus the ruler of the castel required it.

28 For vnto him appertained the gathering of the customes: wherefore they were bothe called before the King.

29 Now Menelaus left his brother Lysimachus in his stead in the priesthode, and Sosstratus left Crates which was gouernour of the Cyprians.

30 ¶ Whiles these things were in doing, the Tharsians and they of Mallot made insurrection, because they were giue to the Kings concubine called Antiochis.

Zzzz. iiii.

Or, that he wolde serue the Antiochians that were at Ierusalem, among them

Or, buskins in token of wantonnes at the Games did.

a This game was to trye strength by casting a stone. It had an hole in the middes, or a piece of metal.

Or, commended to him.

II. Maccabees.

- 31 Then came the King in all haste, to appease the busines, leauing Andronicus a man of autoritie to be his lieutenant.
- 32 Now Menelaus, supposing that he had gotten a cōuenient time, stole certeine vessels of golde out of the Temple, and gaue certeine of them to Andronicus: and some he solde at Tyrus & in the cities thereby.
- 33 Which when Onias knewe of a suretie, he reprobued him, and withdrewe him self into a Sāctuarie at Daphne by Antiochia.
- 34 Wherefore Menelaus, taking Andronicus a parte, prayed him to slay Onias: so whē he came to Onias, he cōsuled him craftely giuing him his right hand with an othe: (howbeit he suspect him, & perswaded him to come out of the Sanctuarie) so he slewe him incontinently without any regarde of righteousnes.
- 35 For the which cause not onely the Iewes, but many other nacions also were grieved, and toke it heauily for the vnrighteous death of this man.
- 36 ¶ And when the King was come againe from the places about Cilicia, the Iewes that were in the citie, and certeine of the Grekes that abhorred the fact also, complained because Onias was slaine without cause.
- 37 Therefore Antiochus was sorie in his minde, and he had compasston, and wept because of the modestie and great discretion of him that was dead.
- 38 Wherefore being kindled with angre, he toke away Andronicus garment of purple, and rent his clothes, and commanded him to be led through out the citie, and in the same place where he had comitted the wickednes against Onias, he was slaine as a murtherer. Thus the Lord rewarded him his punishment, as he had desired.
- 39 ¶ Now when Lyfimachus had done many wicked dedes in the citie through the counsell of Menelaus, and the brute was spread abroad, & multitude gathered them together against Lyfimachus: for he had caryed out now muche vessel of golde.
- 40 And when the people arose, & were full of angre, Lyfimachus armed about thre thousand, & began to vse vnlaful power, a certein tyrant being their captaine, who was no lesse decayed in wit then in age.
- 41 But whē they vnderstode the purpose of Lyfimachus, some gate stones, some great clubbes, and some cast handfuls of dust, which lay by, vpon Lyfimachus men, and those that inuaded them.
- 42 Whereby manie of them were wounded, some were slaine, and all the other chased away: but the wicked Churchrobber him self they killed besides the treasure.
- 43 For these causes an accusation was laide against Menelaus.
- 44 And when the King came to Tyrus, thre men sent from the Senat pleaded the cause before him.
- 45 But Menelaus, being now cōuincied, promised to Ptolemeus the sonne of Dorime-nes muche money, if he wolde perswade the King.
- 46 So Ptolemeus went to the King into a courte, where as he was to coule him self, & turned the Kings minde.
- 47 In so muche that he discharged Menelaus from the accusations (notwithstanding he was the cause of all mischief) and condēned those poore men to death, which if they had tolde their cause, yea, before the Scythians, they shulde haue bene heard as innocent.
- 48 Thus were they sone punished vniustly, which followed vpon the matter for the citie, and for the people, and for the holie vessels.
- 49 Wherefore they of Tyrus hated that wickednes, and ministred all things liberally for their buryal.
- 50 And so through the couetousnes of the that were in power, Menelaus remained in authoritie, increasing in malice, and declared him selfe a great traitor to the citizes.

CHAP. V.

2 Of the signes and tokens sene in Ierusalem. 6 Of the end and wickednes of Iason. 11 The pursute of Antiochus against the Iewes. 13 The spoiling of the Temple 27 Maccabees fleeth into the wilderness.

ABout the same time Antiochus vnderooke his seconde voyage into Egypt.

2 And then were there sene through out all the citie of Ierusalem, fortie dayes long, horsemen running in the aire, with robes of golde, and as bandes of speare men,

3 And as troupes of horsemen set in array, incountering & coursing one against another with shaking of shields and multitude of dartes and drawing of swordes, and shooting of arrowes, and the glittering of the golden armour sene, and harnes of all sortes.

4 Therefore euerie man prayed, that those tokens might turne to good.

5 Now when there was gone forth a false rumour, as thogh Antiochus had bene dead, Iason toke at & least a thousand mē, and came suddenly vpon the citie, & they that were vpon the walles, being put backe and the citie at length taken,

6 Menelaus fled into the castel, but Iason slewe his owne citizes without mercie, not considering that to haue the aduantage against his kinsmē is greatest disaduantage, but thought that he had gotten the victorie of his enemies, & not of his owne nacion.

7 Yet he gate not the superioritie, but at the last receiued shame for the rewarde of his traitors,

traison, and went againe like a vagabound into the country of the Ammonites.

8 Finally he had this end of his wicked cōuerfation, y^e he was accused before Areta, the King of the Arabians, and fled from citie to citie, being pursued of euerie mā, and hated as a forsaker of the Lawes, and was in abomination, as an enimie of his countrey and citizens, and was driuen into Egypt.

9 Thus he that had chased manie out of their owne countrey, perished as a banished man, after that he was gone to the Lacedemonians, thinking there to haue gotten succour by reason of kinred.

10 And he that had cast manie out vnburied, was thrown out him self, no man mourning for him, nor putting him in his graue: nether was he partaker of his fathers sepulchre.

11 ¶ Now when these things that were done, were declared to the King, he thought that Iudea wolde haue fallen from him: wherefore he came with a furious minde out of Egypt, & toke the citie by violence.

12 He commanded his men of warre also, that they shulde kill, and not spare suche as they met, and to slay suche as went into their houses.

13 Thus was there a slaughter of yong mē, and olde men, and a destruction of men & women & children, and virgines, and infants were murdered:

14 So that within thre dayes were slayne foure score thousand, and fortie thousand taken prisoners, and there were as manie solde as were slayne.

15 Yet was he not content with this, but durst go into the moste holy Temple of all the worlde, hauing Menelaus that traitour to the Lawes, and to his owne countrey, to be his guide,

16 And with his wicked hāds toke the holie vessels, which other Kings had giuen for y^e garnishing, glorie and honour of that place, & handled them with his wicked hāds.

17 So hautie in his minde was Antiochus, that he considered not, that God was not a litle wrothe for the sinnes of them that dwelt in the citie, for the which suche cōtempt came vpon that place.

18 For if they had not bene wrapped in manie sinnes, he, as sone as he had come, had suddely bene punished, & put backe from his presumption, as Heliodorus was, whome Seleucus the King sent to vewe the treasure.

19 But God hath not chosē the nation for the places sake, but the place for the nation sake.

20 And therefore is the place become partaker of the peoples trouble, but afterwards shal it be partaker of the benefites of

the Lord, and as it is now forsaken in the wrath of the Almighty, so when the great Lord shalbe reconciled, it shalbe set vp in great worship againe.

21 ¶ So when Antiochus had taken eighteen hundreth talents out of the Temple, he gate him to Antiochia in all haste, thinking in his pride to make men saye vpon the drye land, and to walke vpon the sea: suche an hie minde had he.

22 But he left deputies to vex the people: at Ierusalem Philippe a Phrygia by birth, in maners more cruel then he that set him there:

23 And at Garizin Andronicus, & with the Menelaus, which was more grievous to the citizens then the other, and was despitel against the Iewes his citizens.

24 He sent also Apollonius a cruel prince, with an armie of two & twentie thousand, whome he commanded to slaye those that were towarde mans age, and to sell the women, and the yonger sorte.

25 So when he came to Ierusalem, he fained peace, and kept him stil vntil the holy day of Sabbath: and then finding the Iewes keeping the feast, he commanded his men to take their weapons.

26 And so he slewe all them that were gone forthe to the shewe, and running through the citie with his men armed, he murdered a great number.

27 But Iudas Maccabeus, being as it were the tenth, fled into the wildernes, & liued there in the mountaines with his companie among the beastes, and dwelling there, and eating grasse, lest they shulde be partakers of the filthines.

CHAP. VI.

1 The Iewes are compelled to leaue the Law of God.

4 The Temple is defiled. 10 The women cruelly punished. 20 The grievous paine of Eleazar.

1 **N**Ot long after this, sent the King an olde man of Athens, for to compel the Iewes, to transgresse the Lawes of the fathers, and not to be gouerned by the Law of God,

2 And to defile the Temple that was at Ierusalem, and to call it the temple of Iupiter Olympius, and that of Garizin, according as they did that dwelt at that place, Iupiter, that kepeth hospitalitie.

3 This wicked gouernement was sore and grievous vnto the people.

4 For the Temple was ful of dissolucion, and glottonie of the Gentiles, which dallied with harlots, & had to do with women within the circuit of the holie places, and brought in suche things as were not lawful.

5 The altar also was ful of suche things, as were abominable & forbidden by the Law.

6 Nether was it lawful to kepe y^e Sabbaths, nor to obserue their ancient feasts, nor plaie

Aaaaa.i.

Or, thus vp.

Or, Antiochia.

II. Maccabees.

nely to confesse him self to be a Iewe.

7 In the day of the Kings birth they were grieuouly compelled parforce euerie moneth to banquet, and when the feast of Bacchus was kept, they were constrained to go in the procesion of Bacchus with garlandes of yuie.

8 Moreover through the counfel of Ptolemeus, there went out a commandemēt vnto the next cities of the heathen against the Iewes, that the like custome, and banquetting shulde be kept.

Or, eating of the flesh that was sacrificed.

9 And who so wolde not conforme them selues to the maners of the Gentiles, shulde be put to death: then might a man haue sene the present miserie.

10 For there were two women brought forth, that had circumcised their sonnes, whome when they had led rounde about y^e citie (the babes hanging at their breasts) they cast them downe headlong ouer the walles.

11 Some that were runne together into dens to kepe the Sabbath day secretly, were discouered vnto Philippe, and were burnt together, because that for the reuerence of the honorable day they were afraied to helpe them selues.

12 ¶ Now I beseeche those which reade this booke, that thei be not discouraged for these calamities, but that thei iudge these afflictions, not to be for destruction, but for a chastening of our nation.

13 For it is a token of his great goodnes not to suffer sinners long to continue, but straight waies to punish them.

14 For the Lord doeth not lōg waite for vs, as for other nacions, whome he punisheth whē thei are come to y^e fulnes of their sins.

15 But thus he dealeth with vs, that our sinnes shulde not be heaped vp to the ful, so that afterwarde he shulde punish vs.

16 And therefore he neuer withdraweth his mercie from vs: & though he punish with aduersitie, yet doeth he neuer forsake his people.

17 But let this be spoken now for a warnīg vnto vs: & now wil we come to the declaring of the matter in fewe wordes.

18 ¶ Eleazar then one of the principal scribes, an aged man, & of a wel fauoured countenance, was constrained to open his mouth, and to eat swines flesh.

19 But he desiring rather to dye gloriously thē to liue with hatred, offered him self willingly to the torment, and spīt it out.

20 As thei oght to go to death which suffer punishment for suche things, as it is not lawful to taste of for the desire to liue.

21 But thei that had the charge of this wicked banker, for that olde friēdship of the mā, toke him aside priuely, & prayed him, that he wolde take suche flesh, as was lau-

ful for him to vse, & as he wolde prepare for him self, & dissemble as though he had eaten of the things appointed by y^e King, euen the flesh of the sacrifice,

22 That in so doing he might be deliuered from death, and that for the olde friēdship that was among them, he wolde receiue this fauour.

23 But he began to consider discretely, & as became his age, and the excellencie of his ancient yeres, and the honour of his gray heerres, wherunto he was come, & his moste honest conuersation from his childehode, but chiefly the holie Law made and giuen by God: therefore he answered consequently, and willed them straight waies to send him to the graue.

24 For it becometh not our age, said he, to dissemble, whereby manie yong perfoncs might thinke, that Eleazar being foure score yere olde and ten were now gone to "another religion,

Or, so another manner of life.

25 And so through mine hypocrisie (for a litle time of a transitorie life) they might be deceived by me, and I shulde procure maledictiō, & reproche to mine olde age.

26 For though I were now deliuered frō the torments of mē, yet colde I not escape the hand of the Almightye, nether aliuie nor dead.

27 Wherefore I wil now change this life manfully, and wil shewe my self suche as mine age requireth,

28 And so wil leaue a notable exāple for suche as be yong, to dye willingly & courageously for the honorable & holie Lawes. And whē he had said these wordes, immediately he went to torment.

29 Now they that led him, changed y^e loue which they bare him before, into hatred, because of the wordes that he had spoken: for they thought it had bene a rage.

30 And as he was readie to giue the goft because of the strokes, he sighed and said, The Lord that hathe the holy knowledge, knoweth manifestly, that whereas I might haue bene deliuered frō death, I am scourged and suffer these sore paines of my bodie: but in my minde I suffer them gladly for his religion.

31 Euē now after this maner eded he his life, leauing his death for an exāple of a noble courage, and a memorial of vertue, not onely vnto yong mē, but vnto all his naciō.

CHAP. VII.

The punishment of the seven brethren & of their mother.

1 IT came to passe also that seven brethren, with their mother, were taken to be compelled by the King against the Law, to taste swines flesh, and were tormented with scourges and whippes.

2 But one of them, which spake first, said thus, What seekest thou? and what woldest y^e knowe.

knowe of vs: we are readie to dye, rather the to trasgresse the Lawes of our fathers.

3 Then was the King angrie, and commanded to heat pannes and cauldrons, which were incontinently made hote.

4 And he comanded the tongue of him that spake first, to be cut out, and to slay him & to cut of the vtmost partes of his bodie in y sight of his other brethren & his mother.

5 Now when he was thus mangled in all his membres, he comanded him to be brought alive to the fyre & to frye him in the panne: & while the smoke for a long time smoked out of the pane, the other brethren with their mother, exhorted one another to dye courageously, saying in this maner,

6 The Lord God doeth regarde vs, & in dede taketh pleasure in vs, as Moyses* declared in the song wherein he testified openly, saying,

That God wil take pleasure in his seruants.

7 ¶ So when the first was dead after this maner, they brought the seconde to make him a mocking stocke: and when they had pulled the skinned with y heere ouer his head, they asked him, if he wolde eat, or he were punished in all the members of the bodie.

8 But he answered in his owne langage, & said, No. Wherefore he was tormented forthewith like the first.

9 And when he was at y last breth, he said, Thou murthrer takest this present life from vs, but the King of the worlde wil raise vs vp, which dye for his Lawes, in the resurrection of euerlasting life.

10 ¶ After him was the thirde had in derision, and when they demanded his tongue, he put it out incontinently, & stretched forth his hands boldly,

11 And spake manfully, These haue I had from the heauen, but now for the Law of God, I despise them, and trust that I shal receiue them of him againe.

12 In so much that the King & they which were with him, marueiled at the yong mans courage, as at one that nothing regarded y paines.

13 ¶ Now when he was dead also, they vexed and tormented the fourth in like maner.

14 And when he was now readie to dye, he said thus, It is better that we shulde chage this which we might hope for of men, & wait for our hope from God, that we may be raised vp againe by him: as for thee, thou shalt haue no resurrection to life.

15 ¶ Afterwarde they brought the fift also & tormented him,

16 Who looked vpon the King, & said, Thou hast power among men, and though thou be a mortal man, thou doest what thou wilt: but thinke not, that God hath forsaken our nation.

17 But abide a while, and thou shalt se his

great power, how he wil torment thee and thy fede.

18 After him also they brought the sixt, who being at the point of death, said, Deceiue not thy self foolishly: for we suffer these things, which are worthie to be wored as for our owne sakes, because we haue offended our God.

19 But thinke not thou, which vndertakest to fight against God, that thou shalt be vnpunished.

20 But the mother was marueilous aboue all other, & worthie of honorable memorie: for when she sawe her seuē sonnes slaine within y space of one day, she suffred it with a good wil, because of the hope that she had in the Lord.

21 Yea, she exhorted euerie one of them in her owne langage, and being ful of courage and wisdome, stirred vp her womanlie affections with a malie stomacke, and said vnto them,

22 I can not tel how ye came into my wombe: for I nether gaue you breth nor life: it is not I that set in order the members of your bodie,

23 But douteles the Creator of the worlde, which formed the birth of man, & founde out the beginning of all things, wil also of his owne mercie giue you breth and life againe, as ye now regarde not your owne selues, for his Lawes sake.

24 Now Antiochus thinking him self despised, & considering the iniurious wordes, while the yongest was yet aliue, he did exhorte him not onely with wordes, but swore also vnto him by an othe y he wolde make him riche and welthie, if he wolde forsake y Lawes of his fathers, & that he wolde take him as a friēd, & giue him offices.

25 But when the yong mā wolde in no case hearken vnto him, the King called his mother, and exhorted that she wolde counsel the yong man to saue his life.

26 And when he had exhorted her with manie wordes, she promised him that she wolde counsel her sonne.

27 So she turned her vnto him, laughing the cruel tyrant to scorne, & spake in her owne langage, O my sonne, haue pitie vpon me, that bare thee nine moneths in my wombe, & gaue thee sucke thre yeres, & nourished thee, and toke care for thee vnto this age, and brought thee vp.

28 I beseeche thee, my sonne, loke vpon the heauen & the earth, and all that is therein, & consider that God made the of things y were not, & so was mākinde made likewise.

29 Feare not this hangman, but shewe thy self worthie suche brethren by suffering death, that I may receiue thee in mercie with thy brethren.

30 While she was yet speaking these words
Aaaaaa.

Deut. 32. 36.

II. Maccabees.

- des, the yong man said, Whome wait ye for? I wil not obey the Kings commandement: but I wil obey the commandement of the Lawe that was giuen vnto our fathers by Moyses.
- 31 And thou that imaginest all mischief against the Hebrewes, shalt not escape the hand of God.
- 32 For we suffer these things, because of our sinnes,
- 33 But thogh the liuing Lord be angrie with vs a litle while for our chastening and correction, yet wil he be reconciled with his owne seruants.
- 34 But thou, o man without religion & most wicked of all men, list not thy self vp in vaine, which art puffed vp with vncertaine hope, and listest thine hands against the seruants of God.
- 35 For thou hast not yet escaped the iudgement of almightie God, which seeth all things.
- 36 My brethré that haue suffered a litle paine, are now vnder the diuine couenant of euerlasting life: but thou through the iudgement of God, shalt suffer iust punishment for thy pride.
- 37 Therefore I, as my brethren haue done, offer my bodie and life for the Lawes of our fathers, beseeching God, that he wil some be merciful vnto our nacion, and that thou by torment and punishment mayest confesse, that he is the onelie God,
- 38 And that in me and my brethren y^e wrath of the Almighty, which is righteously fallen vpon all our nation, may cease.
- 39 Then the King being kindled with anger, raged more cruelly against him then the others, and toke it grieuously, that he was mocked.
- 40 So he also dyed holely, and put his whole trust in the Lord.
- 41 Last of all after the sonnes, was the mother put to death.
- 42 Let this now be ynough spoken concerning the bankers, and extreme cruelties.
- CHAP. VIII.
- 1 Iudas gathereth together his hoste. 2 Nicanor is sent against Iudas. 3 Iudas exhorteth his souldiers to constancie. 4 Nicanor is overcome. 5 The Iewes giue shankes, after they haue put their enemies to flight, diuiding parte of the spoiles vnto the fatherles and vnto the widowes. 6 Timotheus and Bacchides are discomfited. 7 Nicanor sleeth vnto Antiochus.
- 1 Then Iudas Maccabeus, and they that were with him, went priuely into the townes, & called their kinsfolkes & frieds together, & toke vnto the all suche as continued in the Iewes religio, and assembled six thousand men.
- 2 So they called vpon the Lord, that he wolde haue an eye vnto his people, which was vexed of euerie mā, & haue pitie vpon the Temple that was defiled by wicked men,
- And that he wolde haue compassion vpon the citie y^e was destroyed, & almost brought to the grounde, & that he wolde heare the voyce of the blood that cryed vnto him,
- 4 And that he wolde remember the wicked slaughter of the innocent children, & the blasphemies committed against his Name, & that he wolde shewe this hatred against the wicked.
- 5 Now when Maccabeus had gathered this multitude, he colde not be withstand by the heathen: for the wrath of the Lord was turned into mercie.
- 6 Therefore he came at vnwares, & burnt vp the townes and cities: yet he toke the moste commodious places, and slewe many of the enemies.
- 7 But specially he vsed the nightes to make suche assaults, in so muche that the brute of his manlines was spread euerie where.
- 8 ¶ So when Philippe sawe that this mā increased by litle and litle, and that things prospered with him for the moste part, he wrote vnto Ptolemeus the gouernour of Coelosyria and Phenice, to helpe him in the Kings busines.
- 9 Then sent he speedely Nicanor the sonne of Patroclus, a special friend of his, & gaue him of all nacions of the heathē no lesse then twentie thousand men, to rote out the whole generation of the Iewes, & ioyned with him Gorgias a captaine, which in matters of warre had great experience.
- 10 Nicanor ordeined also a tribute for the King of two thousand talents, which the Romaines shulde haue, to be taken of the Iewes that were taken prisoners.
- 11 Therefore immediatly he sent to the cities on the seacoast, prouoking them to bye Iewes to be their seruants, promising to sel fourescore & ten for one talent: but he considered not the vengeance of almightie God, that shulde come vpon him.
- 12 When Iudas then knewe of Nicanors coming, he tolde the that were with him, of the coming of the armie.
- 13 Now were there some of them fearful, which trusted not vnto y^e righteousness of God, but fled away, & abode not in y^e place.
- 14 But the other solde all that they had left, and besoght the Lord together, to deliuer them fro that wicked Nicanor, which had solde them, or euer he came nere them.
- 15 And thogh he wolde not do it for their sakes, yet for the couenant made with their fathers, and because they called vpon his holie and glorious Name.
- 16 And so Maccabeus called his men together, about six thousand, exhorting the not to be afraid of their enemies, neither to feare the great multitude of the Gentiles, which came against them vnrighteously, but to fight manly,

- 17 Setting before their eyes the iniurie that they had vniustly done to the holy place, and the crueltie done to the citie by derision, and the destruction of the orders established by their fathers.
- 18 For they, said he, trust in their weapons & boldenes: but our confidence is in the almighty God, which at a becke can bothe destroy them that come against vs, and all the worlde.
- 19 Moreouer he admonished them of the helpe that God shewed vnto their fathers, as when there perished an hundred and foure score, and five thousand vnder Sennacherib,
- 20 And of the battel that they had in Babylon against the Galacians, how they came in all to fy battel eight thousand, with foure thousand Macedonians: and when the Macedonians were astonished, the eight thousand slewe an hundred & twentie thousand through the helpe that was giuen them from heauen, whereby they had receiued many benefites.
- 21 Thus when he had made the bolde with these wordes, & readie to dye for y^e Lawes and the countrey, he deuided his armie into foure partes,
- 22 And made his owne brethren captaines ouer y^e armie, to wit, Simo, & Ioseph & Ionathan, giuing eche one fiftene hundred men.
- 23 And when Eleazarus had red the holie booke, & giuen them a token of the helpe of God, *and* which led the forwarde, ioyned with Nicanor,
- 24 And because the Almighty helped the, they slewe aboue nine thousand men, and wounded and maimed the mooste parte of Nicanors hoste, and so put all to flight,
- 25 And toke the money fro those that came to bye them, and pursued them farre: but lacking time they returned.
- 26 For it was the day before the Sabbath, & therefore: they wold no longer pursue the.
- 27 So they toke their weapons, & spoiled the enemies, & kept the Sabbath, giuing thanks and praising the Lord wonderfully, which had deliuered them that day, and powred vpon them the beginning of his mercie.
- 28 And after the Sabbath, * they distributed the spoiles to the sicke, & to the fatherles, & to the widdowes, & deuided the residue among them selues and their children.
- 29 When this was done, & they all had made a general prayer, they besoght the merciful Lord to be reconciled at the length with his seruants.
- 30 Afterwarde with one consent they fel vpon Timotheus and Bacchides, & slewe aboue twentie thousand, & wanne hie & strong holdes, & deuided great spoiles, & gaue an equal porcion vnto y^e sicke, & to y^e fatherles, & to y^e widdowes, & to aged persones also.

- 31 Moreouer they gathered their weapons together, and layed them vp diligently in conuenient places, and broght the remnant of the spoiles to Ierusalem.
- 32 They slewe also Philarches a mooste wicked person, which was with Timotheus, and had vexed the Iewes manie wayes.
- 33 And when they kept the feast of victorie in their countrey, they burnt Callisthenes that had set fyre vpon the holie gates, which was fled into a litle house: so he receiued a rewarde mete for his wickednes.
- 34 And that mooste wicked Nicanor, which had broght a thousand marchants to bye the Iewes,
- 35 He was through the helpe of the Lord broght downe of them whome he thought as nothing, in so muche that he put of his glorious raiment, and fled ouerthwart the countrey like a fugitiue seruant, and came alone to Antiochia, with great dishonour through the destruction of his hoste.
- 36 Thus he that promised to pay tribute to the Romaines, by meanes of the prisoners of Ierusalem, broght newes, that the Iewes had a defender, and for this cause none colde hurt y^e Iewes, because they followed the Lawes appointed by him.

Or, God their defender.

CHAP. IX.

- 1 Antiochus willing to spoyle Persopolis, is put to flight.
5 As he persecuteth the Iewes, he is stricken of the Lord. 13 The fained repentance of Antiochus. 28 He dyeth miserably.

- AT the same time, came Antiochus againe with dishonour out of the countrey of Persia.
- 2 For when he came to Persopolis, & went about to robbe the Temple, and to subdue the citie, the people ranne in a rage to defended them selues with their weapons, and put them to flight, and Antiochus was put to flight by the inhabitants, and returned with shame.
- 3 Now when he came to Ecbarana, he vnderstode the things that had come vnto Nicanor, and Timotheus.
- 4 And then being chased in his fume, he thought to impute to y^e Iewes their faute, & had put him to flight, and therefore commanded his charer man to driue continually, and to dispatche the iourney: for Gods iudgement compelled him: for he had said thus in his pride, I wil make Ierusalem a comune burying place of the Iewes, wher I come thether.
- 5 But the Lord almighty & God of Israel smote him with an incurable and inuisible plague: for as soone as he had spoken these wordes, a paine of the bowels, that was remediles, came vpon him, & sore tormets of the inner partes,
- 6 And that mooste iustely: for he had tormeted other mens bowels with diuerse, and

Aaaaa.iii.

1. King. 19. 35
isa. 37. 36.
rob. 1. 21.
ecclis. 48. 24.
1. mac. 7. 41.

Nomb. 31. 27.
1 sam. 30. 24.

II. Maccabees.

strange torments.

7 Howbeit he wolde in no wise cease from his arrogancie, but swelled the more with pride, breathing out fyre in his rage against the Iewes, and commanded to haste the iornay: but it came to passe that he fel downe from the charer that rane swiftly, so that all the membres of his bodie were bruised with the great fall.

8 And thus he that a litle afore thought he might commande the floods of the sea (so proude was he beyonde the condicion of man) & to weigh the hie mountaines in y balance, was now cast on the ground, and caried in an horselitter, declaring vnto all the manifest power of God,

Al. 12. 23.

9 *So that the wormes came out of the bodie of this wicked man in abundance: and whiles he was aliue, his flesh fel of for paine and torment, and all his armie was grieved at his smel.

10. 24. 25.

10 Thus no man colde beare because of his stinke, him y a litle afore thoght he might reach to the starres of heauen.

11 Then he began to leaue of his great pride, & self wil, when he was plagued & came to the knowledge of him self by the scourge of God, & by his paine which increased euerie moment.

12 And when he him self might not abide his owne stinke, he said these wordes, It is mete to be subiect vnto God, & that a man which is mortal, shulde not thinke him self equal vnto God through pride.

13 This wicked persone prayed also vnto y Lord, who wolde now haue no mercie on him,

14 And said thus y he wolde set at libertie y holie citie vnto y which he made haste to destroy it, & to make it a burying place.

15 And as touching the Iewes, whome he had iudged not worthie to be buried, but wolde haue cast them out with their children to be deuoured of the foules & wilde beastes, he wolde make the all like the citizens of Athenes.

16 And whereas he had spoiled y holie Tēple afore, he wolde garnish it with great giftes, and encrease the holle vessels, and of his owne rentes beare the charges belonging to the sacrifices.

17 Yea, & that he wolde also become a Iewe him self, & go through all the worlde that was inhabited, & preache y power of God.

18 But for all this his paines wolde not cease: for the iust iudgemēt of God was come vpon him: therefore despairing of his helth, he wrote vnto the Iewes this letter vnder writen, cōteining y forme of a supplicatiō.

19 ¶ THE KING & prince Antiochus vnto the Iewes his louing citizens wisheth muche ioye and helth and prosperitie.

20 If ye and your children fare wel, & if all

things go after your minde, I giue great thākes vnto God hauing hope in y heauē.

21 Thogh I lie sicke, yet I am mindeful of your honour, & good wil for y loue I beare you: therefore when I returned frō the countrey of Persia, and fel into a fore disease, I thought it necessarie to care for the commune safetie of all,

22 Not distrusting mine helth, but hauing great hope to escape this sickenes.

23 Therefore considering that when my father led an hoste against y high cōtreys, he appointed who shulde succede him:

24 That if anie controuersie happened contrary to his expectation, or if that anie tidings were broght that were grievous, they in the lād might knowe to whome y affaires were committed, that they shulde not be troubled.

25 Againe, when I ponder how that the gouernours, y are borderers, and neighbours vnto my kingdome, waite for all occasiōs, & loke but for opportunitie, I haue ordeined that my sōne Antiochus shal be King whome I oft cōmēded & cōmitted to many of you, whē I went into y hie prouinces, & haue writē vnto hī as followeth hereafter.

26 Therefore, I pray yon & require you, to remēber the benefites y I haue done vnto you generally, & particularly, and y euerie mā wil be faithful to me and to my sonne.

27 For I trust that he wil be gentle, & louing vnto you according to my minde.

28 ¶ Thus y murderer & blasphemers suffered moste grievously, & as he had increated other mē, so he dyed a miserable death in a strange countrey among the mountaines.

29 And Philippe that was broght vp with him, carryed away his bodie, who fearing the sonne of Antiochus, went into Egypt to Ptolemeus Philometor.

CHAP. X.

1 *Iudas Maccabeus taketh the citie and the Temple.*
10 *The actes of Eupator.* 16 *The Iewes fight against the Idumeans.* 24 *Timotheus inuadeth Iudea, with whome Iudas ioyneth battel.* 29 *Five men appeare in the aire to the helpe of the Iewes.* 37 *Timotheus is slaine*

1 Maccabeus now and his companie, through the helpe of the Lord, wan the Temple and the citie againe,

2 And destroyed the altars, and chapels that the heathē had buylded in the open places,
3 And clensted the Tēple, & made another altar, & burned stones, & toke fyre of thé, and offred sacrifices, & incense two yeres, and six monethes after, and set forthe the lampes, and the shewbread.

4 When that was done, they fel downe flat vpon the grounde, and besoght the Lord, that they might come no more into suche troubles: but if they sinned anie more against him, that he him self wolde chastē them with mercie, & that they might not

be

- be deliuered to the blasphemous, and barbarous nations.
- 5 Now vpon the same day, that the strangers polluted the Tēple, on the verie same day it was closed againe euen y^e five & twētieth day of the same moneth, which is Challeu.
- 6 They kept eight dayes with gladnes as in the feast of the Tabernacles, remēbring, that not long afore they held the feast of the Tabernacles when they liued in the mountaines and dennes like beastes.
- 7 And for the same cause they bare grene bowes, and faire branches and palmes, and sang psalmes vnto him that had giuen the good successe in cleansing his place.
- 8 They ordeined also by a commune statute, and decre that euerie yere those dayes shulde be kept of y^e whole naciō of y^e Iewes.
- 9 And this was the end of Antiochus called Epiphanes.
- 10 ¶ Now wil we declare the actes of Antiochus Eupator, which was the sonne of this wicked man gathering briefly the calamities of the warres, that followed.
- 11 For when he had taken the kingdome, he made one Lysias, which had bene capitaine of the holste in Phenice, & Coelofyria, ruler ouer the affaires of the realme.
- 12 For Ptolemeus that was called Macron, purposed to do iustice vnto the Iewes for y^e wrongs, y^e had bene done vnto the, & went about to behaue him self peaceably wth the.
- 13 For the which cause he was accused of his friends before Eupator, & was called oft times traitour, because he had left Cyprus that Philometor had committed vnto him, and came to Antiochus Epiphanes: therefore seing that he was no more in estimation, he was discouraged, and poysonned him self, and dyed.
- 14 ¶ But when Gorgias was gouernour of the same places, he interteined strangers, & made warre oft times against the Iewes.
- 15 Morcouer the Idumeans that helde the strong holds, which were mere for their purpose, troubled the Iewes, and by receiuing them that were driuen frō Ierusalem, toke in hand to continue warre.
- 16 Then thei that were with Maccabeus made prayers, & besoght God that he wolde be their helper, and so they fel vpon the strong holdes of the Idumeans,
- 17 And assailed them sore, that they wanne the places, & slewe all that foght against them on the wall, and killed all y^e they met with, & slewe no lesse the twētie thousand.
- 18 And because certeine (which were no lesse then nine thousand) were fled into two strong castels, hauing all maner of things convenient to susteine the siege,
- 19 Maccabeus left Simō, & Ioseph, & Zacheus also, & those that were with the, w^{ch} were y^e now to besiege them, and departed to those places w^{ch} were more necessarie.
- 20 Now thei that were with Simon, being led with couetousnes, were increased for money, (thorowe certeine of those that were in y^e castel,) & toke seuentie thousand drachmes, and let some of them escape.
- 21 But when it was tolde Maccabeus what was done, he called the gouernours of the people together, & accused those mē, that they had sold their brethgen for money, and let their enemies go.
- 22 So he slewe the when they were couēt of treason, & immediately wā y^e two castels:
- 23 And hauing good successe, as in all the warres that he toke in hand, he slew in the two castels mo then twētie thousand.
- 24 Now Timotheus whome the Iewes had ouercome afore, gathered an armie of strangers of all sortes, and brought a great troupe of horsemen out of Asia to winne Iewrie by strength.
- 25 But when he drew nere, Maccabeus, and thei y^e were with him, turned to praye vnto God, & sprinkled earth vpon their heads, & girded their reines with sackcloth,
- 26 And fel downe at the fote of the altar, & besoght the Lord to be mercifull to them, & to be an enemy to their enemies, and to be an aduersarie to their aduersaries, * as *Exod. 23. 221*
Deu. 20. 4.
- 27 So after the prayer, they toke their weapons, & went on further from the citie, & when they came nere to the enemies, they toke hede to them selues.
- 28 And whē y^e morning appeared, they both ioyned together: the one parte had y^e Lord for their refuge, & pledge of prosperitie, & noble victorie, and the other toke courage as a guide of the warre.
- 29 But when y^e battel waxed strong, there appeared vnto the enemies frō heauen five comelie men vpon horses with bridles of golde, and two of them led the Iewes,
- 30 And toke Maccabeus betwixt them, & couered him on euery side with their weapons, & kept him safe, but shot darts, & lightnings against the enemies, so y^e thei were confounded with blindness, and beaten downe and full of trouble.
- 31 There were slaine of the enemy twētie thousand & five hundred & six hundred horsemen.
- 32 As for Timotheus him self, he fled vnto Gazara, w^{ch} was called a very strong holde, wherein Chereas was capitaine.
- 33 But Maccabeus & his companie laid siege against y^e fortresses w^{ch} courage for foure daies.
- 34 And thei that were within, trusting to the height of the place, blasphemed exceedingly, and spake horrible wordes.
- 35 Neuertheles vpon the fifth day in y^e morning twētie yōg men of Maccabeus companie, whose hearts were inflamed, because of y^e blasphemies, came vnto y^e wall, & w^{ch} bolde

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- stomackes smote downe those y they met.
- 36 Others also that climed vp vpon the engines of warre against the that were within, set fyre vpon the towers, & burnt those blasphemers quicke with the fyres that they had made, & others brake vp the gates, and receiued the rest of the armie, and toke the citie.
- 37 And hauing found Timotheus, that was crept into a caue, they killed him, & Chereas his brother with Apolliophanes.
- 38 When this was done, they praised y Lord with psalmes, and thanksgiuing, which had done so great things for Israel, & giuen them the victorie.

CHAP. XI.

1 Lyfias goeth about to ouercome the Iewes. 2 Succor is sent from heauen vnto the Iewes. 36 The letter of Lyfias vnto the Iewes. 20 The letter of King Antiochus vnto Lyfias. 27 A letter of the same vnto the Iewes. 34 A letter of the Romans to the Iewes.

Verie shortly after this, Lyfias the Kings stewarde, and a kinsma of his, which had the gouernance of the affaires, toke fore displeasure for the things that were done.

1 And when he had gathered about fourescore thousand, with all the horsmen he came against the Iewes, thinking to make the citie an habitation of the Gentiles.

2 And the Temple wolde he haue to get money by, like the other temples of the heathen: for he wolde sel the Priests office euerie yere.

3 And thus being puffed vp in his minde, because of the great number of fotemen, & thousands of horsmen, & in his foure score elephants,

4 He came into Iudea, and drew nere to Beth-sura, which was a castel of defence, fure furlongs from Ierusalem, and laid fore siege vnto it.

a. Whereof eight make a mile.

5 But when Maccabeus, and his companie knewe that he besieged the holdes, they, & all the people made prayers with weping, and teares before the Lord, that he wolde send a good Angel to deliuer Israel.

6 And Maccabeus him self first of all toke weapons, exhorting the other that they wolde ioparde them selues together with him to helpe their brethren: so they went forthe together w a courageous minde.

7 And as they were there besides Ierusalem, there appeared before them vpon horsebacke a man in white clothing, shaking his harnes of golde.

8 Then they praised the merciful God all together, and toke heart, in so muche that they were ready, not onely to fight w me, but with the moste cruel beasts, & to breake downe walles of yron.

9 Thus they marched forwarde in array, hauing an helper from heauen: for the

Lord was merciful vnto them.

10 And runing vpō their enemies like lions, they slewe eleuen thousand fitemen, and sixteen hundred horsmen, & put all the other to flight.

11 Manie of them also being wounded, escaped naked, and Lyfias him self fled away shamefully, and so escaped,

12 Who as he was a man of vnderstanding cōsidering what losse he had had, & knowing, that the Hebrewes colde not be ouercome because the almightie God helped them, sent vnto them,

13 And promised, that he wolde consent to all things which were reasonable, and persuaide the King to be their friend.

14 Maccabeus agreed to Lyfias requestes, hauing respect in all things to y commune welth, and whatsoeuer Maccabeus wrote vnto Lyfias concerning the Iewes, the King granted it.

15 For there were letters written vnto the Iewes fro Lyfias cōteining these wordes, **LYSIAS** vnto the people of the Iewes sendeth greting.

16 Iohn & Abeslalom, which were sent fro you, deliuered me the things that you demaunde by writing, and required me to fulfil the things that they had declared.

17 Therefore what things soeuer were mete to be reported to the King him self, I haue declared them; and he granted that that was possible.

18 Therefore if ye behaue your selues as friēds toward his affaires, hereafter also I wil indeuour my self to do you good.

19 As concerning these things, I haue giue commandement to these men, and to those whome I sent vnto you, to commune with you of the same particularly.

20 Fare ye wel, the hundredth and eight and fortie yere, the foure and twētieth day of the moneth Dioscorinthius.

21 ¶ Now the Kings letter contained these wordes, **KING ANTIOCHVS** vnto his brother Lyfias sendeth greting.

22 Since our father is translated vnto the gods, our wilis, that they which are in our realme, liue quietly, that euerie man may applie his owne affaires.

23 We vnderstand also that the Iewes wolde not consent to our father, for to be brought vnto the custome of the Gentiles, but wolde kepe their owne maner of liuing: for the which cause they require of vs, that we wolde suffer them to liue after their owne Lawes.

24 Wherefore our minde is that this naciō shalbe in rest, and haue determined to restore them their Temple, that thei may be gouerned according to the custome of their fathers.

25 Thou shalt do wel therefore to send vnto them

them, and grante them peace, that when they are certified of our minde, they maie be of good comfort, and cherefully go about their owne affaires.

27 And this was the Kings letter vnto the nacion, KING ANTIOCHVS vnto the Elders of the Iewes, and to the rest of the Iewes sendeth greting.

28 If ye fare wel, we haue our desire: we are also in good helth.

29 Menelaus declared vnto vs that your desire was to returne home, & to applie your owne busines.

30 Wherefore, those that wil departe, we giue them fre libertie, vnto the thirtie daye of the moneth of^{10r, April.} Panthicus,

31 That the Iewes may vse their owne manner of liuing and Lawes, like as afore, and none of them by anie maner of waies to haue harme for things done by ignorance.

32 I haue sent also Menelaus to comfort you.

33 Fare ye wel: the hūdreth and eight & fortie yere, the fiftenth day of the moneth of Panthicus.

34 ¶ The Romains also sent a letter containing these wordes, *QVINTVS MEMMIVS* and Titus Manilius embassadours of the Romains, vnto the people of the Iewes send greting.

35 The things that Lyfias the Kings kinsman hath granted you, we grant the same also.

36 But concerning that which he shal report vnto the King, send hether some with speede, when ye haue considered the matter diligently, that we may consult thereupō as shalbe best for you: for we must go vnto Antiochia.

37 And therefore make haste and send some men, that we may knowe your minde.

38 Fare wel: this hundreth and eight, and fortie yere, the fiftenth day of the moneth of Panthicus.

CHAP. XII.

1 *Timotheus troubleth the Iewes. 3 The wicked dede of the of Ioppe against the Iewes. 6 Iudas is aduenged of the 9 He setteth fyre in the hauē of Iamnia. 20 The pursute of the Iewes against Timotheus. 24 Timotheus is taken and let go vnburt. 32 Iudas pursueth Gorgias.*

1 **W**Hen these couenāts were made, Lyfias went vnto the King, and the Iewes tilled their grounde.

2 But the gouernours of the places, as Timotheus & Apollonius the sonne of Genneus, and Ieronimus, & also Demophon, and besides them Nicanor the gouernour of Cyprus, wolde not let them liue in rest and peace.

3 ¶ They of Ioppe also did suche a vile act: they prayed the Iewes that dwelt among them, to go with their wiues and children into the shippes, which they had prepared

as thogh they had oght them none euil wil.

4 And so by the commune aduise of the citie, they obeyed them, and suspect nothing: but when they were gone forthe into the depe, they drowned no lesse then two hundreth of them.

5 Now when Iudas knewe of this crueltie shewed against his nacion, he commāded those men that were with him, to make them readie.

6 And hauing called vpon God the righteous Iudge, he went forthe against the murderers of his brethren, and set fyre in the haven by night, & burne the ships, and those that fled thence, he slewe.

7 And when the citie was shut vp, he departed as thogh he wolde come againe, and roote out all them of the citie of Ioppe.

8 ¶ But when he perceiued that the Iamnites were minded to do in like maner vnto the Iewes, which dwelt among them,

9 He came vpon the Iamnites by night, & set fyre in the hauē with the nauie, so that the light of the fyre was sene at Ierusalem, vpon a two hundreth and fortie furlongs.

10 Now when they were gone from thence nine furlongs, in their iourney towarde Timotheus, about fīue thousand mē of fote and fīue hundreth horsemen of the Arabians set vpon him.

11 So the battel was sharpe, but it prospered with Iudas thorowe the helpe of God: the ^a Nomades of Arabia, being ouercome, besought Iudas to make peace with them, and promised to giue him certeine cattel, and to helpe him in other things.

^a So called because they were shepherds.

12 And Iudas thinking that they shulde in dede be profitable cōcerning manie thiȝs, granted them peace: whereupō thei shoke hands, and so they departed to their tents.

13 ¶ Iudas also assailed a citie called Caphis, which was strong by reason of a bridge, and fenced rounde about with walles, and had diuers kindes of people dwelling therein.

14 So thei y were within it, put suche trust in the strength of the walles, and in store of vitailles, that they were the slacker in their doings, reuiling the that were with Iudas, and reproching the: yea, they blasphemed & spake suche wordes as were not lawful.

15 But Maccabeus souldiers, calling vpon the great Prince of y worlde (which withoutanie instruments, or engins of warre, did *cast downe the walles of Iericho, in the time of Iesus) gaue a fierce assault against the walles,

^{10r, bazei rammer. Iosh. 6, 20.}

16 And toke the citie by the wil of God, and made an exceeding great slaughter, in so much that a lake of two furlongs broad, which laye thereby, semed to flowe with blood.

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- 17 ¶ Then departed thei from thence, seuen hundreth and fiftie furlongs, and came to Characa vnto the Iewes, that are called Tubieni.
- 18 But they founde not Timotheus there: for he was departed from thence, and had done nothing, and had left a garison in a verie strong holde.
- 19 But Dositheus, & Sosipater, which were captaines with Maccabeus, went forth, & slewe those that Timotheus had left in the fortresse more the ten thousand men.
- 20 And Maccabeus prepared, & ranged his armie by bandes, & went courageously against Timotheus, which had with him an hundreth and twentie thousand men of fote, and two thousand and five hundreth horsemen.
- 21 Wñe Timotheus had knowledge of Iudas comming, he sent the women, & children, and the other baggage afore vnto a fortresse called Carnion (for it was hard to besiege, & vneasie to come vnto because of the straites on all sides.)
- 22 But when Iudas first bade came in fight, the enemies were smiten with feare, and a trembling was among them thorow the ptesence of him that seeth all things, in so much that thei fleing one here, another there, were oft times hurt by their owne people, and wounded with the pointes of their owne swordes.
- 23 But Iudas was verie earnest in pursuing, and slewe those wicked men: yea, he slewe thirtie thousand men of them.
- 24 Timotheus also him self fell into the hands of Dositheus, & Sosipater, whome he besoght with muche crafte to let him go with his life, because he had manie of the Iewes parents & the brethren of some of them, which if they put him to death, shulde be despised.
- 25 So when he had assured the with manie wordes, & promised that he wolde restore them without hurt, thei let him go for the helth of their brethren.
- 26 ¶ Then went Maccabeus towarde Carnion, and Atargation, and slewe five and twentie thousand persones.
- 27 And after that he had chased away and slayne the, Iudas remoued the hoste towarde Ephron a strong citie, wherein was Lysias & a great multitude of all naciós, & the strong yong men kept the walles defendig the mightely: there was also great preparacion of engins of warre, & dartes.
- 28 But when they had called vpo the Lord, which with his power breaketh the strength of the enemies, they wan the citie, & slewe five and twentie thousand of them that were within.
- 29 ¶ Fro thence went thei to Scythopolis, which lieth six hundreth furlongs fro Ierusalé.
- 30 But when the Iewes which dwelt there, testified, that the Scythopolitans delt lovingly with them, & intreated them kindly in the time of their aduersitie,
- 31 They gaue them thanks, desiring them to be friendlie stil vnto them, and so thei came to Ierusalem, as the feast of the weekes approached.
- 32 ¶ And after y feast called Pentecost thei went forth against Gorgias the gouernour of Idumea.
- 33 Who came out with thre thousand men of fote and foure hundreth horsemen.
- 34 And when they ioyned together, a fewe of the Iewes were slayne,
- 35 And Dositheus one of the Baccenors, which was on horsebacke and a mightie man, toke Gorgias, and laied holde of his garment, and drewe him by force, because he wolde haue taken the wicked man alive: but an horseman of Thracia fell vpon him, and smote of his shulder, so that Gorgias fled into Marisa.
- 36 And when they that were with Esferin, had foghten long, and were wearie, Iudas called vpo the Lord, that he wolde shewe him self to be their helper, and captaine of the field.
- 37 And then he began in his owne langage, and sung psalmes with a loude voyce, in so much that straight wayes he made the that were about Gorgias, to take their flight.
- 38 ¶ So Iudas gathered his hoste, and came into the citie of Odolla. And when the seuenth day came, they clenfed them selues (as the custome was) and kept the Sabbath in the same place.
- 39 And vpon the daye following, as necessitie required, Iudas and his companie came to take vp the bodies of them that were slayne, and to burye them with their kinsmen in their fathers graues.
- 40 Now vnder the coates of euerie one, that was slayne, they founde iewels that had bene consecrate to the idoles of the Iamnites, which thing is forbidden the Iewes by the Law. The euerie man sawe, that this was the cause wherefore thei were slayne.
- 41 And so euerie man gaue thanks vnto the Lord, the righteous Iudge, which had opened the things that were hid.
- 42 And they gaue them selues to prayer, & besoght him, that they shulde not vterly be destroyed for the faute committed. Besides that, noble Iudas exhorted the people to kepe them selues from sinne, for so muche as they sawe before their eyes the things which came to passe by the sinne of these that were slayne,
- 43 And hauing made a gathering through the companie, sent to Ierusalé about two thousand

Or, with Gorgias.

Deut. 7. 25. Josh. 7. 26.

thousand drachmes of siluer, to offer a sin-offering, doing very wel, and honestly that he thought of the resurrection.

44 For if he had not hoped, that thei which were slaine, shulde rise againe, it had bene superfluous, and vaine, to^a pray for the dead.

45 And therefore he perceiued, that there was great fauour laid vp for those y^e dyed godly. (It was an holie, & a good thought) So he made a reconciliation for the dead that they might be deliuered from sinne.

CHAP. XIII.

1 *The coming of Eupator into Iudea. 4 The death of Menelaus. 10 Maccabeus going to fight against Eupator, moueth his souldiers vnto prayer. 15 He killeth fouretene thousand men in the tentes of Antiochus. 21 Rhodocus the betrayer of the Iewes is taken.*

1 **I**N the hundredth, forrie and nine yere it was tolde Iudas, that Antiochus Eupator was comming with a great power into Iudea,

2 And Lyfias the stewarde and ruler of his affaires with him. hauing bothe in their armie an hundredth and tenthousand men of fote of the Grecians, and fure thousand horsemen, and two and twentie elephants, and thre hūdreth charrets set with hookes.

3 Menelaus also ioyned him self with them and with great disceit incouraged Antiochus, not for the safegard of the countrei, but because he thought to haue bene made the gouernour.

4 But the King of Kings moued Antiochus minde against this wicked man, and Lyfias informed the King that this man was the cause of all mischief, so that the King commanded to bring him to Berea to put him vnto death as the maner was in that place.

5 Now there was in that place a tower of fiftie cubites high, ful of ashes, and it had an instrument that turned rounde, and on euerie side it rouled downe into the ashes.

6 And there whosoener was condemned of sacrilege, or of anie other grieuous crime, was cast of all men to the death.

7 And so it came to passe that this wicked man shulde dye suche a death, and it was a moste iuste thing that Menelaus shulde want buryal,

8 For because he had committed manie sinnes by the altar, whose fyre and ashes were holie: he him self also dyed in the ashes.

9 ¶ Now the King raged in his minde, and came to shewe him self more cruel vnto the Iewes then his father.

10 Which things when Iudas perceiued, he commanded the people to call vpon the Lord night and day, that if euer he had

holpen them, he wolde now helpe them, when they shulde be put from their Law, from their countrey and from the holie Temple:

11 And that he wolde not suffer the people, which a litle afore began to recouer, to be subdued vnto the blasphemous nations.

12 So when they had done this all together, and besoght the Lord for mercie with weping, and fasting, and falling downe thre daies together, Iudas exhorted them to make them selues readie.

13 And he being aparte with the Elders, toke counsel to go forthe, afore the King broght his hoste into Iudea, & shulde take the citie, & commit the matter to the helpe of the Lord.

14 So committing the charge to the Lord of the worlde, he exhorted his souldiers to fight manfully, euen vnto death for the Lawes, the Temple, the citie, their countrey, and the commune wealth, and camped by Modin.

15 And so giuing his souldiers for a watche worde, The victorie of God, he piked out the manliest yong men, and went by night into the Kings campe, and slewe of the hoste fouretene thousand men, & the greatest elephant with all that sate vpon him.

16 Thus when they had broght a great feare, and trouble in the campe, & all things went prosperously with them, they departed.

17 This was done in the breake of the day, because the protection of the Lord did helpe them.

18 ¶ Now when the King had tasted the manlines of the Iewes, he went about to take the holdes by policie,

19 And marched towarde Beth-sura, which was a strōg holde of the Iewes: but he was chased away, hurt and lost of his men.

20 For Iudas had sent vnto them that were in it, suche things as were necessarie.

21 But Rhodocus which was in the Iewes hoste, disclosed the secretes to y^e enemies: therefore he was soght out, and when they had gotten him, they put him in prison.

22 After this did the King commune with them that were in Beth-sura, and toke truce with them, departed, and ioyned battel with Iudas, who ouercame him.

23 But when he vnderstode, that Philippe (whome he had left to be ouerseer of his busines at Antiochia) did rebell against him, he was astonished, so that he yelded him self to the Iewes, and made them an othe to do all things that were right, and was appeased towarde them, & offred sacrifice and adorned the Temple, and shewed great gentlenes to the place,

Bbbbb.ii.

^a Fro this verse to the end of this chapter the Greke text is corrupt, so that no good sense, muche lesse certeine doctrine can be gathered thereby: also it is euident that this place was not written by the holie God, bothe because it dissenteth fro the rest of the holie Scriptures, and also y^e autor of this booke acknowledg his owne iehumie, delat in pardo, if he haue not attained to y^e he shulde. And it semeth, that this Iason the Cyrenian, out of whome he toke this abridgement, is Ioseph Ben Gorion, who hath written in Hebrew fure bookes of these matters, and increating this place, maketh no mention of this prayer for the dead, lib. 3 chap. 19. for it is contrary to the custome of the Iewes, euen to this day, to pray for the dead. And though Iudas had so done, yet this particular example is not sufficient to establish a doctrine no more then Ziporahs was to proue that women might minister the sacraments, Exo. 4. 15, or the example of Razis that one might kil him self, whome this autor so muche comendeth, 2. Macc. 14. 41.

^aOrgans and take the right hand.

II. Maccabees.

24 And embraced Maccabeus, and made him capitaine and gouernour from Ptolemais vnto the Gerreneans.

25 Neuertheles, whē he came to Ptolemais, the people of the citie were not content wit this agreement: and because they were griued, they wolde that he shulde breake the couenants.

26 Then went Lyfias vp into the iudgemēt seat, and excused the fact as wel as he colde, & perswaded them, and pacified them, and made them wel affectioned, and came againe vnto Antiochia. This is the matter concerning the Kings iournay, and his returne.

CHAP. XIII.

Demetrius moued by Alcimus sendeth Nicanor to kil the Iewes. 18 Nicanor maketh a compacte with the Iewes. 29 Which he yet breaketh through the motion of the King. 37 Nicanor commandeth Raz to be taken, who slayeth him self.

1 After thre yeres was Iudas enformed that Demetrius the sonne of Seleucus was come vp with a great power and name by the hauē of Tripolis,

2 When he had wonne the countrey, and slaine Antiochus and his lieutenāt Lyfias.

3 Now Alcimus, which had bene the high Priest, and wilfully defiled him self in the time that all things were cōfounded, seing that by no meanes he colde saue him self, nor haue anie more entrance to the holie altar,

4 He came to King Demetrius in the hundredeth, fiftie and one yere, presenting vnto him a crowne of golde, and a palme, & of the boughes, which were vsed solemnely in the Temple, and that day he helde his tongue.

5 But when he had gotten oppōrtunitie, & occasion for his rage, Demetrius called him to counsell, and asked him what deuises or counsels the Iewes leane vnto.

6 To the which he answered, the Iewes that be called Asideans whose capitaine is Iudas Maccabeus, mainteine warres, and make insurrections, and wil not let the realme be in peace.

7 Therefore I, being depriued of my fathers honour (I meane the high priesthode) am now come hether,

8 Partely because I was wel affectioned vnto the Kings affaires, and secondly because I soght y profite of mine owne citizēs: for all our people, thorowe their rashnes, are not a litle troubled.

9 Wherefore, o King, seing thou knowest all these things, make prouision for the countrey, and our nacion which is abused, according to thine owne humanitie, that is readie to helpe all men.

10 For as long as Iudas liueth, it is not possible that the matter shulde be wel.

11 When he had spoken these wordes, other friends also hauing euil wil at Iudas, set Demetrius on fyre.

12 Who immediatly called for Nicanor, the ruler of the elephantes, and made him capitaine ouer Iudea,

13 And sent him forthe, commanding him to slay Iudas, and to scatter thē that were with him, & to make Alcimus high Priest of the great Temple.

14 Then the heathen which fled out of Iudea from Iudas, came to Nicanor by flockes, thinking the harme and calamities of the Iewes to be their welfare.

15 Now whē the Iewes heard of Nicanors comming, and the gathering together of the heathen, they sprinkled them selues with earth, & prayed vnto him which had appointed him self a people foreuer, and did alwaies defende his owne porcion with euident tokens.

16 So at the commandement of the capitaine, they remoued straight wayes from thence, and came to the towne of Dessan,

17 Where Simō Iudas brother had ioyned battel with Nicanor, and was somewhat astonished thorowe the sudden silence of the enemies.

18 Neuertheles Nicanor hearing the manlines of them that were with Iudas, & the bolde stomackes that they had for their countrey, durst not proue the matter with blood shedding.

19 Wherefore, he sent Posidonius, ^{*Or, Theodotus.} Theodotus, and Matthias ^{*Or, Matthias} before, to make peace.

20 So when they had taken long aduise mēt thereupō, and the capitaine shewed it vnto the multitude, they were agreed in one minde, and consented to the couenants.

21 And they appointed a day when they shulde particularly come together: so whē the day was come, they set for euerie man his stoole.

22 Neuertheles Iudas commanded certeine men of armes to waite in conuenient places, lest there shulde suddenly arise anie euil thorowe the enemies: and so they communed together of the things whereupon they had agreed.

23 Nicanor, while he abode at Ierusalem, did none hurt, but sent away the people that were gathered together.

24 He loued Iudas, and fauoured him in his heart. ^{*Or, had Iudas before his eye.}

25 He praid him also to take a wife, and to beger children: so he married, & they liued together.

26 But Alcimus perceiuing the loue that was betwene them, and vnderstanding the couenantes that were made, came to Demetrius, and tolde him that Nicanor had taken strange matters in hand, and ordeined Iudas a traitour to the realme, to be

his

- his succellour.
- 27 Then the King was displeased, and by the reportes of this wicked man, he wrote to Nicanor, saying, that he was very angrie for the couenants, commanding him that he shulde send Maccabeus in all haste prisoner vnto Antiochia.
- 28 When these things came to Nicanor, he was astonished & sore grieued, y he shulde breake the things wherein they had agreed, seeing that that man had committed no wickednes.
- 29 But because it was not comodious to him to withstand the King, he sought craftely to accomplish it.
- 30 Notwithstanding when Maccabeus perceiued that Nicanor beganne to be rough vnto him, and that he intreated him more rudely the he was wonte, he perceiued that suche rigour came not of good, and therefore he gathered a fewe of his men, and withdrew him self from Nicanor.
- 31 But the other perceiuing that he was preuented by Maccabeus worthie policie, came into the great & holie Temple, and commanded the Priests, which were offering their vsual sacrifices, to deliuer him the man.
- 32 And when they sware that they colde not tell where the man was, whome he sought,
- 33 He stretched out his right hand toward the Temple, and made an othe in this manner, If ye wil not deliuer me Iudas as a prisoner, I wil make this Temple of God a plaine field, and wil breake downe the altar, and wil erect a notable Temple vnto Bacchus.
- 34 After these wordes he departed: then the Priests lift vp their hands toward heauen, and besought him that was euer the defender of their nacion, saying in this manner,
- 35 Thou, o Lord of all things, which hast neede of nothing, woldest that the Temple of thine habitation shulde be among vs.
- 36 Therefore now, o moste holie Lord, kepe this house euer vndefiled, which lately was clenfed, and stoppe all the mouths of the vnrighteous.
- 37 Now was there accused vnto Nicanor, Razis one of the Elders of Ierusalem, a louer of the citie, and a man of very good reporte, which for his loue was called a father of the Iewes.
- 38 For this man afore times when the Iewes were minded to kepe them selues vndefiled and pure, being accused to be of the religion of the Iewes, did offer to spend his bodie and life with all constancie for the religion of the Iewes.
- 39 So Nicanor willing to declare the hatred that he bare to the Iewes, sent about fiftie hundred men of warre to take him.
- 40 For he thought by taking him to do the Iewes muche hurte.
- 41 But when this companie wolde haue taken his castel, and wolde haue broken the gates by violence, and commanded to bring fyre to burne the gates, so that he was ready to be taken on euerie side, he fel on his sworde,
- 42 Willing rather to dye manfully, the to giue him self into the hands of wicked men, and to suffer reproche vnworthie for his noble stocke.
- 43 Notwithstanding what time as he missed of his stroke for haste, and the multitude rushed in violently between the dores, he ran boldly to the wall, and cast him self downe manfully among the multitude.
- 44 Which conueyed them selues lightly away, and gaue place, so that he fell vpon his bellie.
- 45 Neuertheles while there was yet breth in him, being kindled in his minde, he rose vp, and thogh his blood gushed out like a fountaine, and he was verie fore wounded, yet he ran thorow the middes of the people,
- 46 And gate him to the toppe of an hie rocke: so when his blood was vtterly gone, he toke out his owne bowels with bothe his hands, and threw them vpon the people, calling vpon the Lord of life and spirit, that he wolde restore them againe vnto him, and thus he dyed.

a As this priuate example ought not to be followed of godlie, because it is contrary to the wordes of God, although the author here to approve it: so that place as touching prayce chap. 12. 44. thogh Iudas had appointed it, yet were it not sufficient to proue a doctrine, because it is onely a particular example.

CHAP. XV.

2 Nicanor goeth about to come vpon Iudas on the Sabbath day. 5 The blasphemie of Nicanor. 14 Maccabeus expounding vnto the Iewes the vision, incourageth them. 21 The prayer of Maccabeus. 30 Maccabeus commandeth Nicanors head and hands to be cut of, and his tongue to be giuen vnto the foules. 35 The autor excuseth him self.

NOW when Nicanor knewe that Iudas and his companie were in the countrey of Samaria, he thought with all assurance to come vpon them, vpon the Sabbath day.

3 Neuertheles the Iewes that were compelled to go with him, said, O kill not so cruelly and barbarously, but honour and sanctifie the day, that is appointed by him that seeth all things.

3 But this moste wicked persone demaded, Is there a Lord in heauen, that commanded the Sabbath day to be kepte?

4 And when he said, There is a liuing Lord, which ruleth in the heauen, who commanded the seuenth day to be kept,

5 The he said, And I am mightie vpon earth to commande them for to arme them selues, and to performe the Kings busines. Notwithstanding, he colde not accomplish his wicked enterprife.

6 For Nicanor lifted vp with great pride,

II. Maccabees.

- purposed to set vp a memorial of the victorie obtained of all them that were with Iudas.
- 7 But Maccabeus had euer sure confidence and a perfite hope that the Lord wolde helpe him,
- 8 And exhorted his people not to be afraid at the coming of the heathen, but alway to remember the helpe that had bene shewed vnto them from heauen, and to trust now also, that they shulde haue the victorie by the Almighty.
- 9 Thus he encouraged them by the Law & Prophetes, putting them in remembrance of the battels that they had wōne afore, & so made them more willing,
- 10 And stirred vp their hearts, and shewed them also the disceitfulnes of the heathē, and how they had broken their othes.
- 11 Thus he armed euerie one of them, not with the assurance of shields and speares, but with wholsome wordes and exhortations, and shewed them a dreame worthie to be beleued, and reioyced them greatly.
- 12 And this was his vision, He thought that he sawe Onias (which had bene the high Priest, a vertuous & a good man, reuerent in behauiour, and of sober conuersation, wel spoken, and one that had bene exercised in all pointes of godlines from a childe) holding vp his hands toward heauen, and praying for the whole people of the Iewes.
- 13 After this there appeared vnto him another man which was aged, honorable, and of a wonderful dignitie, and excellencie about him.
- 14 And Onias spake, & said, This is a louer of the brethren, who prayeth muche for the people, and for the holie citie, *to wit,* Ieremias the Prophet of God.
- 15 He thought also that Ieremias helde out his right hand, and gaue vnto Iudas a sworde of golde: & as he gaue it, he spake thus,
- 16 Take this holie sworde a gifte frō God, wherewith thou shalt wounde the aduersaries.
- 17 And so being comforted by the wordes of Iudas, which were very swete and able to stirre them vp to valiantnes and to encourage the heartes of the yong men, they determined to pitch no campe, but courageously to set vpon them, and māfully to assaile them, and to trye the matter hand to hand, because the citie and the Sanctuarie, and the Temple were in danger.
- 18 As for their wiues, and children, and brethren and kinnsfolkes, they set lesse by their danger: but their greatest and principal feare was for the holie Temple.
- 19 Againe they that were in the citie, were careful for the armie that was abroad.
- 20 Now whiles thei all waited for the tryal of the matter, and the enemies now met with them, and the hoste was set in aray, and the beastes were separated into convenient places, and the horsemen were placed in the wings,
- 21 Maccabeus considering the coming of the multitude and the diuers preparations of weapons, and the fiercenes of the beastes, helde vp his hands toward heauen, calling vpō the Lord that doeth wonders, and that looked vpon the, knowing that the victorie cometh not by the weapons, but that he giueth the victorie to them that are worthie, as semeth good vnto him.
- 22 Therefore in his prayer he said after this maner, O Lord, thou that didest send thine Angel in the time of Ezecias King of Iudea, who in the hoste of Sennacherib slewe an hundreth, fōrescore & fīue thousand,
- 23 Send now also thy good Angel before vs, O Lord of heauens, for a feare and dreade vnto them,
- 24 And let the be discōfited by the strength of thine arme, which come against thine holie people to blaspheme. Thus with these wordes he made an end.
- 25 Then Nicanor and they that were with him, drew nere with trumpets and shoutings for ioye.
- 26 But Iudas and his companie praying and calling vpon God, incountered with the enemies,
- 27 So that with their hands they fought, but with their hearts they prayed vnto God, and slewe no lesse then fīue & thirtie thousand mē: for thorowe the presence of God they were wonderously comforted.
- 28 Now when they left off, & were turning againe with ioye, they vnderstode that Nicanor him self was slaine for all his armour.
- 29 Then they made a great shoute and a crye, praising the Almighty in their owne language.
- 30 Therefore Iudas, which was euer fī chief defender of his citizens bothe in bodie & minde, and which bare euer good affectiō towardes them of his nacion, commanded to smite of Nicanors head, with his hand and shulder, and to bring it to Ierusalem.
- 31 And when he came there, he called all the of his nacion, and set the Priestes by the altar, and sent for them of the castel,
- 32 And shewed the wicked Nicanors head, & the hand of that blasphemour which he had holden vp against the holie Temple of the Almighty with proude bragges.
- 33 He caused the tongue also of wicked Nicanor to be cut in litle pieces, & to be cast vnto the foules, and that the rewardes of his madnes shulde be hanged vp before the Temple.

Or, elephants.

*1. King. 19. 35
isa. 37. 36.
Job. 1. 21.
eccles. 48. 24.*

- 34 So euerie man praised towarde the hea-
uen the glorious Lord, saying, Blessed be
he, that hath kept his place vndefiled.
- 35 He hanged also Nicanors head vpon the
hie castel, for an euident and plaine token
vnto all of the helpe of God.
- 36 And so they established all together by
a cōmune decre that they wolde in no ca-
se suffer this day without keeping it holie:
- 37 And that the feast shulde be the thir-
teenth day of the twelfth moneth, which is
called Adar in the Syriās langage, the day
before Mardocheus day.
- 38 Thus farre as concerning Nicanors mat-
ters, and from that time the Hebrewes had
the citie in possession. And here wil I also
make an end.
- 39 If I haue done wel, and as the storie re-
quired, it is the thing that I desired: but if
I haue spoken slenderly & barely, it is that
I colde.
- 40 For as it is hurtful to drinke wine alone,
and then againe water: and as wine tempe-
red with water is pleasant and deliteth the
taste, so the setting out of the matter deli-
teth the eares of them that read the storie.
And here shalbe the end.

Bbbbb. iiii.

