

# MAQQABIM 1

א מקבים א מ/אפמ

1 And it came to be, after Alexandros son of Philippos, the Makedonian, who came out of the land of Kittim, had smitten Dareyawesh sovereign of Paras and Madai, that he reigned in his place, the first over Yawan.

2 And he fought many battles, and won many strongholds, and slew the sovereigns of the earth.

3 And he went through to the ends of the earth, and took spoils from many nations, so that the earth was at rest before him; therefore he was exalted and his heart was lifted up.

4 And he gathered a very mighty army and ruled over countries, and nations, and sovereigns, who became tributary to him.

5 And after these events he fell sick, and perceived that he would die.

6 So he called his servants, who were honourable, and had been brought up with him from his youth, and divided his reign among them, while he was still alive.

7 So Alexandros reigned twelve years, and then he died.

8 And his servants ruled, each one in his place.

9 And after his death they all put crowns upon themselves, as did their sons after them many years, and evils were multiplied in the earth.

10 And a wicked root came out from them: Antioḳos also called Epiphanēs, son of Antioḳos the sovereign, who had been a hostage at Rome, and he reigned in the hundred and thirty-seventh year of the reign of the Yawanites.

11 In those days wicked men went out of Yisra'el, who persuaded many saying, "Let us go and make a covenant with the gentiles that are round about us, for since we departed from them we have had much sorrow."

12 So this plan was well-pleasing to them.

13 Then some of the people were so

bold in this, that they went to the sovereign, who gave them authority to do according to the laws of the gentiles.

14 So they built a place of training at Yerushalayim according to the customs of the gentiles;

15 and made themselves as uncircumcised, and forsook the qodesh Covenant, and joined themselves to the gentiles, and were sold to do evil.

16 Now when the reign was established before Antiokos, he thought to reign over Mitsrayim that he might have the rule of two reigns.

17 Therefore he entered into Mitsrayim with a great multitude; with chariots, and elephants, and horsemen, and a great fleet,

18 and fought against Ptolemaeus, sovereign of Mitsrayim. But Ptolemaeus was afraid of him, and fled, and many were wounded and slain.

19 Therefore they took the fortified cities in the land of Mitsrayim and he took the spoils from there.

20 And after Antiokos had smitten Mitsrayim, he returned again in the hundred and forty-third year, and went up against Yisra'el and Yerushalayim with a great multitude.

21 And he entered proudly into the Miqdash, and took away the golden altar, and the lampstand of light, and all its utensils,

22 and the table of the showbread, and the bowls for pouring, and the vessels, and the gold fire holders, and the veil, and the crown, and the golden ornaments that were before the Hēykal, all which he pulled off.

23 He also took the silver and the gold, and the precious vessels. He also took the hidden treasures which he found.

24 And when he had taken all away, he went to his own land, having made a great slaughter, and spoken very proudly.

25 Therefore there was a great mourning in Yisra'el, in every place where they were,

26 so that the rulers and elders mourned, the maidens and young men were weakened, and the pleasantness of women was changed.

27 Every bridegroom lamented, and she that sat in the bridal chamber was in grief.

28 The land also was moved for the inhabitants, and all the house of Ya'aqob was covered with shame.

29 And after a full two years passed, the sovereign sent his chief tax collector to the cities of Yahudāh, who came to Yerushalayim with a great multitude,

30 and spoke peaceable words to them. But all was deceit, for when they had accepted him, he fell suddenly upon the city, and smote it greatly, and destroyed many people of Yisra'ël.

31 And when he had taken the spoils of the city, he lit it on fire, and pulled down the houses and its walls all around.

32 But they took the women and children captive, and took possession of the cattle.

33 Then they built the city of Dawid with a great and strong wall, and with mighty towers, and made it a stronghold for themselves.

34 And they put a sinful nation in it - wicked men - and strengthened themselves within.

35 They also stored it with weapons and food, and when they had gathered together the spoils of Yerushalayim, they laid them up there. And so they became a great snare,

36 for it was a place to lie in wait against the Miqdash, and an evil adversary to Yisra'ël.

37 Thus they shed innocent blood on every side of the Miqdash, and defiled it,

38 so that the inhabitants of Yerushalayim fled because of them. Therefore the city was made a dwelling of foreigners, and became foreign to those that were born in her; and her own children left her.

39 Her Miqdash was laid waste like a wilderness; her Feasts were turned into mourning; her Shabbathoth into

reproach; her honour into contempt.

40 As had been her esteem, so was her dishonour increased, and her excellency was turned into mourning.

41 And Sovereign Antiokos wrote to his whole reign, that all should be one people,

42 and everyone should leave his laws. So all the gentiles agreed according to the command of the sovereign.

43 Even many of the Yisra'ëlites also agreed to his belief, and slaughtered to idols, and profaned the Shabbath.

44 For the sovereign had sent letters by messengers to Yerushalayim and the cities of Yahudāh that they should follow the foreign laws of the land,

45 and forbid burnt offerings, and slaughtering, and drink offerings, in the Hëykal; and that they should profane the Shabbathoth and Festival days,

46 and pollute the Miqdash and qodesh people,

47 put up altars, and Ashërim, and temples of idols, and offer pig's flesh, and unclean beasts.

48 That they should also leave their children uncircumcised, and make their beings abominable with all manner of uncleanness and abomination,

49 so that they might forget the Torah, and change all the Laws.

50 And whoever would not do according to the command of the sovereign, he said, "He should die."

51 He wrote to his whole reign in the same way, and appointed overseers over all the people, commanding the cities of Yahudāh to offer, city by city.

52 Then many of the people were gathered to them, that is, every one that forsook the Law; and so they committed evils in the land,

53 and drove the Yisra'ëlites into hiding places, even wherever they could flee for safety.

54 Now on the fifteenth day of the month Kislëw, in the hundred and forty-fifth year, they put up the abomination of desolation upon the altar, and built idol altars throughout the cities of Yahudāh on every side,

55 and burned incense at the doors of

their houses, and in the streets.

56 And when they had torn in pieces the Books of the Law which they found, they burned them with fire.

57 And whoever was found with any of the Book of the Covenant, or if any adhered to the Law, the sovereign's command was that they should put him to death.

58 Thus they did by their authority to the Yisra'élites every month, to as many as were found in the cities.

59 Now on the twenty-fifth day of the month they slaughtered on the idol altar, which was upon the altar of Elohim,

60 at which time, according to the command they put to death some women that had allowed their children to be circumcised.

61 And they hanged the infants by their necks, and ransacked their houses, and slew those that had circumcised them.

62 However, many in Yisra'él were fully resolved and confirmed in themselves not to eat any unclean matter.

63 Therefore rather to die, that they might not be defiled with food, and that they might not profane the qodesh Covenant; so then they died.

64 And very great wrath came to be upon Yisra'él.

**2** In those days Mattithyahu the son of Yoḥanan, the son of Shim'on, a kohēn of the sons of Yoyariḇ, came from Yerushalayim, and dwelt in Modi'im.

2 And he had five sons: Yoḥanan, called Gaddi;

3 Shim'on; called Thassi;

4 Yahudāh, who was called Maqqabāh;

5 Eli'ezer, called Aḇaran; and Yahnathan, who was also called Apphus.

6 And when he saw the blasphemies that were committed in Yahudāh and Yerushalayim,

7 he said, "Woe is me! Why was I born to see this misery of my people, and of the qodesh city, and to dwell there, when it was delivered into the hand of the enemy, and the Miqdash into the hand of foreigners?"

8 "Her Hēykal has become as a man without esteem.

9 "Her splendid utensils are carried away into captivity, her infants are slain in the streets, her young men - with the sword of the enemy.

10 "What nation has not had a part in her reign and received of her spoils?"

11 "All her adornments are taken away; from a free woman she has become a slave!

12 "And, see, our Miqdash, even our splendour and our esteem, is laid waste, and the gentiles have profaned it.

13 "Why therefore shall we live any longer?"

14 Then Mattithyahu and his sons tore their garments, and put on sackcloth, and mourned greatly.

15 In the meantime, the sovereign's officers, who compelled the people to revolt, came into the city of Modi'im, to make them offer.

16 And when many of Yisra'él came to them, Mattithyahu and his sons also came together.

17 Then the sovereign's officers answered and spoke to Mattithyahu in this way: "You are a ruler, and an honourable and great man in this city, and strengthened with sons and brothers.

18 "Now therefore, you come first and complete the sovereign's command, as all the gentiles have done, and also the men of Yahudāh, and those who remain at Yerushalayim, so you and your house shall be in the number of the sovereign's friends, and you and your children shall be honoured with silver and gold, and many rewards."

19 Then Mattithyahu answered and spoke with a loud voice, "Though all the nations that are under the sovereign's reign obey him, and every one falls away from the belief of their fathers, and gives consent to his commands,

20 still my sons and my brothers and I will walk in the Covenant of our fathers.

21 "Elohim forbid that we should forsake the Torah and the Laws!

22 "We will not listen to the sovereign's words, to go from our belief, either to the right hand, or the left."

23 Now when he had finished speaking these words, one of the Yahudim came in the sight of all to offer on the altar which was at Modi'im, according to the sovereign's command.

24 When Mattithyahu saw this matter, he burned with ardour, and he trembled within, neither could he refrain to show his wrath according to righteousness. Therefore he ran, and slew him upon the altar.

25 At that time, he also killed the sovereign's commissioner, who compelled men to offer, and he pulled down the altar.

26 Thus he dealt with ardour for the Law of Elohim as Pinehas did toward Zimri the son of Sallu.

27 And Mattithyahu cried throughout the city with a loud voice, saying, "Whoever is ardent for the Torah, and continues in the Covenant, let him follow me!"

28 So he and his sons fled into the mountains, and left all that they had in the city.

29 Then many that sought after right-ruling and judgment went down into the wilderness, to dwell there,

30 both they and their children, and their wives, and their cattle, because afflictions increased greatly upon them.

31 Now when it was told to the sovereign's servants, and the army that was at Yerushalayim, in the city of Dawid, that some men who had broken the sovereign's command had gone down into the hiding places in the wilderness,

32 they pursued after them in great number, and having overtaken them, they encamped against them, and fought against them on the Shabbath day.

33 And they said to them, "Let that which you have done until now be enough! Come out, and do according to the command of the sovereign, and you shall live."

34 But they said, "We do not come out, neither shall we do the sovereign's

command, to profane the Shabbath day!"

35 So then they fought them in haste.

36 However they did not answer them, neither threw a stone at them, nor disclosed the places where they lay hid,

37 but said, "Let us die all in our innocence. The shamayim and earth will witness for us, that you put us to death wrongfully."

38 So they rose up against them in battle on the Shabbath, and they slew them, with their wives and children and their cattle, to the number of one thousand people.

39 Now when Mattithyahu and his friends heard of this, they mourned for them greatly.

40 And one of them said to another, "If we all do as our brothers have done, and do not fight for our lives and Laws against the gentiles, they will now quickly destroy us from the earth."

41 At that time therefore they agreed, saying, "Whoever shall come to fight with us on the Shabbath day, we will fight against him; neither will we all die as our brothers that were murdered in the hiding places."

42 Then an army of Hasidim came to him, who were mighty men of Yisra'el, even all those who were voluntarily dedicated to the Law.

43 Also all those that fled from persecution joined themselves to them, and were a support to them.

44 So they joined their forces, and smote sinful men in their wrath, and wicked men in their wrath; but the rest fled to the gentiles for support.

45 Then Mattithyahu and his friends went round about, and pulled down the altars.

46 And whatever uncircumcised children they found within the borders of Yisra'el, those they courageously circumcised.

47 They also pursued after the proud men, and the work prospered in their hand.

48 So they retained the Torah from the hand of the gentiles, and out of the hand of sovereigns, neither did they

allow the sinner to overcome.

49 Now when the time drew near that Mattithyahu would die, he said to his sons, "Excellence and rebuke has now gained strength, and the time of destruction, and the wrath of displeasure.

50 "Now therefore my sons, be ardent for the Torah, and give your lives for the Covenant of your fathers.

51 "Call to remembrance what acts our fathers did in their time; so shall you receive great honour and an everlasting name.

52 "Was not Abraham found trustworthy in temptation, and it was reckoned to him for righteousness?

53 "Yosēph in the time of his distress kept the Command and was made master of Mitsrayim.

54 "Pineḥas our father in being ardent and fervent obtained the Covenant of an everlasting kehunnah.

55 "Yahoshua for filling the Word was made a judge in Yisra'el.

56 "Kalēb for bearing witness before the assembly received the inheritance of the land.

57 "Dawid for being kind possessed the throne of an everlasting reign.

58 "Ēliyahu for being ardent and fervent for the Torah was taken up into the shamayim.

59 "Ḥananyah, Azaryah, and Misha'el were saved out of the fire by belief.

60 "Dani'el for his innocence was delivered from the mouth of lions.

61 "And so consider throughout all the ages, that none that put their trust in Him shall be overcome.

62 "Do not fear then the words of a sinful man; for his esteem shall be dung and worms.

63 "Today he may be lifted up, but tomorrow he shall not be found, because he has returned to his dust, and his plans have come to naught.

64 "Therefore, you my sons, be brave and show yourselves men on behalf of the Torah; for by It you shall obtain esteem.

65 "And see, I know that your brother Shim'on is a man of counsel, listen to him always. He shall be a father to

you.

66 "As for Yahudāh Maqqabāh, he has been mighty and strong, even from his youth. Let him be your captain, and fight the battle of the people.

67 "Also receive all those that observe the Law, and avenge the wrong of your people.

68 "Repay the gentiles completely, and guard the Commands of the Torah."

69 So he barak them; and was gathered to his fathers.

70 And he died in the hundred and forty-sixth year, and his sons buried him in the tomb of his fathers at Modi'im, and all Yisra'el made a great lamentation for him.

**3** Then his son Yahudāh, called Maqqabāh, rose up in his place.

2 And all his brothers aided him, and so did all they that stood with his father, and they fought the battle for Yisra'el with eagerness.

3 So he gave his people great honour, and put on a breastplate as a giant, and girded his armour about him, and he fought, protecting the army with his sword.

4 In his acts he was like a lion, and like a lion's cub roaring for his prey.

5 For He pursued the wicked, and sought them out, and burned up those that oppressed his people.

6 Therefore the wicked shrunk for fear of him, and all the workers of wickedness were troubled, because deliverance prospered in his hand.

7 He also grieved many sovereigns, and made Ya'aqob glad with his deeds, and his remembrance is baruk forever.

8 And he went through the cities of Yahudāh, destroying the wicked out of them, and turning away wrath from Yisra'el,

9 so that he was renowned to the utmost ends of the earth, and he received to himself those who were ready to perish.

10 Then Apollonios gathered the gentiles together, and a great army out of Shomeron to fight against Yisra'el.

11 When Yahudāh knew of this, he went out to meet him, and so he smote

him, and slew him. Many also fell down slain, but the rest fled.

12 Therefore Yahudāh took their spoils, and also the sword of Apollonios, and he fought with it all his lifetime.

13 Now when Seron, a prince of the army of Suria, heard that Yahudāh had gathered a multitude to himself and an army of the trustworthy to go out with him to battle;

14 he said, "I will make myself a name and reign in honour; for I will go fight with Yahudāh and those that are with him, who despise the sovereign's command."

15 So he prepared to go up, and a mighty army of the wicked went with him to help him, and to be avenged on the children of Yisra'ël.

16 And when he came near to the ascent of Bēyth Ḥoron, Yahudāh went out to meet him with a small army,

17 who, when they saw the army coming to meet them, said to Yahudāh, "How shall we be able, being so few, to fight against so great a multitude and so strong, seeing we are ready to faint from fasting all this day?"

18 Yahudāh answered them, "It is no hard matter for many to be shut up in the hands of a few; and with the Elohim of the shamayim it is all the same - to deliver with a great multitude, or a small company,

19 for the overcoming of battle stands not in the multitude of an army; but strength comes from the shamayim.

20 "They come against us in great pride and wickedness to destroy us with our wives and children, and to plunder us,

21 but we fight for our lives and our Laws.

22 "Therefore ~~they~~ himself will overthrow them before our face. And as for you, do not be afraid of them."

23 Now as soon as he had ended speaking, he rushed upon them suddenly, and so Seron and his army was overthrown before him.

24 And they pursued them from the descent of Bēyth Ḥoron to the plain, where about eight hundred men of

them were slain; and the remainder fled into the land of the Pelishtites.

25 Then the fear of Yahudāh and his brothers began, and an exceedingly great dread, fell upon the nations round about them,

26 so that the report of him came to the sovereign, and all nations spoke of the battles of Yahudāh.

27 Now when Sovereign Antiokos heard these matters, he was full of wrath, therefore he sent and gathered together all the armies of his reign, even a very strong army.

28 He also opened his treasury, and gave his soldiers wages for a year, commanding them to be ready whenever he needed them.

29 Nevertheless, when he saw that the silver of his treasures was spent and that the taxes in the country were small, because of the uprising and plague, which he had brought upon the land in taking away the Laws which had been of old;

30 he feared that he would not be able to bear the expenses any longer, nor to have such gifts to give so liberally as he did before, for he had exceeded the sovereigns that were before him.

31 Therefore, being greatly perplexed in his mind, he determined to go to Paras, to take the taxes from the lands, and to gather much silver.

32 So he left Lusias, a nobleman, and one of royal blood, to oversee the affairs of the sovereign from the River Perath to the borders of Mitsrayim,

33 and to raise his son Antiokos, until he came again.

34 And he delivered to him half of his armies and the elephants, and gave him charge of all matters that he would have done, and also concerning those that dwelt in Yahudāh and Yerushalayim,

35 that is, that he should send an army against them to destroy and uproot the strength of Yisra'ël, and the remnant of Yerushalayim, and to remove their remembrance from that place,

36 and that he should place foreigners in all their places, and divide their land

by lot.

37 So the sovereign took the half of the armies that remained, and departed from Antiokeia, his royal city in the hundred and forty-seventh year; and having passed over the River Perath, he went through the high countries.

38 Then Lusias chose Ptolemaeus the son of Dorumēnēs, Nikanor, and Gorgias, mighty men of the sovereign's friends,

39 and he sent forty thousand footmen with them, and seven thousand horsemen, to go into the land of Yahudāh, and destroy it, as the sovereign commanded.

40 So they went out with all their strength, and came and encamped by Amma'us in the plains country.

41 And the merchants of the country, hearing the report of them, took very much silver and gold, with servants, and came to the camp to buy the children of Yisra'ēl as slaves. A strength from Suria and of the land of the Pelishtites also joined themselves to them.

42 Now when Yahudāh and his brothers saw that hardships were multiplied, and that the armies encamped themselves on their borders, for they knew how the sovereign had given command to destroy the people, and utterly annihilate them,

43 they said one to another, "Let us restore the fallen state of our people, and let us fight for our people and the Miqdash."

44 Then the assembly gathered together, that they might be ready for battle, and that they might pray, and ask for favour and compassion.

45 Now Yerushalayim lay as empty as a wilderness; there was none of her children that went in or out. The Miqdash was also trodden down, and foreigners guarded the stronghold; the gentiles had their dwelling in that place and joy was taken from Ya'aqob, and the flute with the harp had ceased.

46 Therefore the Yisra'ēlites assembled themselves together, and came to Mitspah, opposite Yerushalayim; for in

Mitspah was the place where they previously prayed in Yisra'ēl.

47 Then they fasted that day, and put on sackcloth, and threw ashes on their heads, and tore their garments,

48 And laid open the Book of the Torah, wherein the gentiles had sought to paint the likeness of their images.

49 They also brought the garments of the kohenim, and the first-fruits, and the tithes, and they brought up the Nazirites, who had completed their days.

50 Then they cried with a loud voice toward the shamayim saying, "What shall we do with these, and to where shall we carry them away?"

51 "For your Miqdash is trodden down and profaned, and your kohenim are in despair, and brought low.

52 "And see, the gentiles have assembled together against us to destroy us! What they devise against us, You know.

53 "How shall we be able to stand against them, unless You, O Elohim, are our Help?"

54 Then they sounded with trumpets, and cried with a loud voice.

55 And after this Yahudāh appointed commanders over the people, even commanders over thousands, and over hundreds, and over fifties, and over tens.

56 But as for those that were building houses, or were engaged to wives, or were planting vineyards, or were fearful, those he commanded that they should return, every man to his own house, according to the Torah.

57 So the camp moved, and encamped on the south side of Amma'us.

58 And Yahudāh said, "Arm yourselves, and be brave men, and see that you are ready before the morning to fight with these nations that are assembled together against us to destroy us and our Miqdash.

59 "For it is better for us to die in battle, than to see the destruction of our people and our Miqdash.

60 "Nevertheless, according to the desire of Elohim in the shamayim, so let Him do.

- 4 Then Gorgias took five thousand footmen, and one thousand of the best horsemen, and moved out of the camp by night,  
 2 so that he might charge in upon the camp of the Yahudim, and smite them suddenly; and the men of the fortress were his guides.  
 3 Now when Yahudah heard of this, he relocated himself, and the brave men with him, that he might smite the sovereign's army which was at Amma'us,  
 4 while as yet, the armies were dispersed from the camp.  
 5 In the meantime Gorgias came into the camp of Yahudah by night, and when he found no one there, he sought them in the mountains, for he said, "These men flee from us!"  
 6 But as soon as it was day, Yahudah showed himself in the plain with three thousand men, who however had neither armour nor swords at hand.  
 7 And they saw the camp of the gentiles, that it was strong and well armed, and surrounded with horsemen; and these were arranged for battle.  
 8 Then Yahudah said to the men that were with him, "Do not fear their multitude, neither be afraid of their attack.  
 9 "Remember how our fathers were delivered in the Sea of Reeds, when Pharaoh pursued them with an army.  
 10 "Now therefore, let us cry unto the shamayim. It might be that אלהים shows favour upon us, and remembers the Covenant of our fathers, and destroy this army before our face this day,  
 11 "So that all the gentiles may know that there is One who delivers and saves Yisra'el."  
 12 Then the foreigners lifted up their eyes, and saw them coming over against them,  
 13 therefore they went out of the camp to battle; and those that were with Yahudah sounded their trumpets.  
 14 So they joined in battle, and the gentiles, being defeated, fled into the plain.  
 15 However all those in the rear were slain with the sword, for they pursued them to Gezer, and to the plains of Edom, and Ashdod, and Yabneh, so that around three thousand men of them were slain.  
 16 This done, Yahudah returned again with his army from pursuing them,  
 17 and said to the people, "Do not be greedy for the spoil, because there is a battle before us,  
 18 'and Gorgias and his army are here by us in the mountain. But stand now against our enemies, and overcome them, and after this you may boldly take the spoils.  
 19 As Yahudah was still speaking these words, there appeared a group of them looking out from the mountain;  
 20 who saw that the Yahudim had put their army to flight and were burning the tents, for the smoke that was seen revealed what was done.  
 21 Therefore when they saw these matters, they were very afraid, and also seeing the army of Yahudah in the plain ready to fight,  
 22 they fled, every one into the land of foreigners.  
 23 Then Yahudah returned to plunder the tents, where they took much gold, and silver, and blue silk, and purple of the sea, and great riches.  
 24 After this they went home, and sung a song of thanksgiving, and praised אלהים in the shamayim, because He is good, because His kindness endures forever.  
 25 Therefore Yisra'el had a great deliverance that day.  
 26 Now all the foreigners that had escaped came and told Lusias what had come to be,  
 27 who, when he heard of it, was ashamed and discouraged, because matters that he would not have done were done to Yisra'el, nor such matters as the sovereign commanded him had come to pass.  
 28 Therefore the next year following, Lusias gathered together sixty thousand chosen footmen, and five thousand horsemen, that he might subdue them.

29 So they came to Edom, and pitched their tents at Bēyth Tsur; and Yahudāh met them with ten thousand men.

30 And when he saw that mighty army, he prayed and said, "Baruk are you, O Saviour of Yisra'ēl, who calmed the violence of the mighty by the hand of your servant Dawid, and gave the army of foreigners into the hands of Yahnathan the son of Sha'ul, and his armour bearer.

31 "Deliver this army into the hand of your people Yisra'ēl, and let them be put to shame in their strength and horsemen.

32 "Cause them to be weakened, and make the boldness of their strength fall away, and let them quake at their destruction.

33 "Throw them down with the sword of those that love you, and let all those that know Your Name praise You with thanksgiving!"

34 So they joined in battle, and there were about five thousand men of the army of Lusias slain; so they were slain before them.

35 Now when Lusias saw his army put to flight, and the bravery of Yahudāh's soldiers, and how they were ready either to live or die bravely, he went to Antiokeia, and gathered together an army of foreigners. And having made his army greater than it was, he prepared to come again to Yahudāh.

36 Then Yahudāh and his brothers said, "See, our enemies are defeated, let us go up to cleanse and dedicate the Miqdash."

37 After this, all the army assembled themselves together and went up to Mount Tsiyon.

38 And when they saw the Miqdash desolate, and the altar profaned, and the gates burned, and shrubs growing in the courts as in a forest, or in one of the mountains, and also the rooms of the kohenim pulled down,

39 they tore their garments, and made a great lamentation, and threw ashes on their heads,

40 and fell down flat to the ground on their faces, and blew an alarm with the trumpets, and cried toward the

shamayim.

41 Then Yahudāh appointed some men to fight against those that were in the fortress, until he had cleansed the Miqdash.

42 So he chose kohenim of qodesh behaviour, who took delight in the Torah;

43 who cleansed the Miqdash, and carried out the defiled stones to an unclean place.

44 And when they consulted what to do with the altar of burnt offerings, which was profaned;

45 they thought it best to pull it down, lest it should be a reproach to them, because the gentiles had defiled it. Therefore they pulled it down,

46 and laid up the stones in the mountain of the Hēykal in a suitable place, until there should come a nabi to show what should be done with them.

47 Then they took whole stones according to the Torah, and built a new altar according to the former,

48 and built up the Miqdash, and that which was within the Hēykal, and qadosh the courts.

49 They also made new qodesh vessels, and they brought the lampstand into the Hēykal, and the altar of burnt offerings, and of incense, and the table.

50 And they burned incense upon the altar, and they lit the lamps that were on the lampstand, that they might give light in the Hēykal.

51 Furthermore they put the loaves on the table, and spread out the veils, and finished all the works which they had begun to do.

52 Now on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month, which is called the month Kislēw, in the hundred and forty-eighth year, they rose up early in the morning, and offered an offering according to the Torah upon the new altar of burnt offerings, which they had made.

54 Even, at the time and the day the gentiles had profaned it, even in that it was dedicated with songs, and stringed instruments, and harps, and cymbals.

55 Then all the people fell on their faces, worshipping and praising the Elohim of the shamayim, who had given them good success.

56 And so they guarded the dedication of the altar eight days and offered burnt offerings with gladness, and slaughtered the offering of deliverance and praise.

57 They also adorned the front of the Hēykal with crowns of gold, and with shields; and they renewed the gates and the rooms, and hung doors upon them.

58 Therefore there was very great joy among the people, because the reproach of the gentiles was removed.

59 And Yahudāh and his brothers with the whole assembly of Yisra'ēl ordained that the days of the dedication of the altar should be kept in their season from year to year over eight days, from the twenty-fifth day of the month Kislēw, with joy and gladness.

60 At that time they also built up Mount Tsiyon with high walls and strong towers round about, lest the gentiles should come and trample it down as they had done before.

61 And they appointed a garrison there to guard it, and fortified Bēyth Tsur to guard it; that the people might have a defence against Eḡom.

**5** Now when the nations round about heard that the altar was built and the Miqdash renewed as before, it displeased them very much.

2 Therefore they thought to destroy the generation of Ya'aqob that was among them, and so they began to slay and destroy the people.

3 Then Yahudāh fought against the children of Ēsaw in Eḡom at Aqrabbim, because they besieged Ga'al. And he gave them a great overthrow, and weakened their resolve, and took their spoil.

4 He also remembered the wrong of the children of Be'an, who had been a snare and an offense to the people, in that they lay in wait for them in the ways.

5 Therefore He enclosed them in the

towers, and encamped against them, and destroyed them utterly, and burned the towers of that place with fire, and all that were in them.

6 Afterward, he passed over to the children of Ammon, where he found many people of great strength, with Timotheos their captain.

7 So he fought many battles with them, till at length they were defeated before him; and he smote them.

8 And when he had taken Ya'zēr, with the towns belonging to it, he returned to Yahudāh.

9 Then the gentiles that were at Gil'aḡ assembled themselves together against the Yisra'ēlites that were in their borders, to destroy them. But they fled to the fortress of Dathema,

10 and sent letters to Yahudāh and his brothers: "The gentiles that are round about us are assembled together against us to destroy us,

11 and they are preparing to come and take the fortress where we have fled, Timotheos being captain of their army.

12 "Come now therefore, and deliver us from their hands, for many of us are slain.

13 "Even all our brothers that were in the places of Toḅ are put to death. They have also taken their wives and their children captive, and carried away their goods, and they have destroyed about one thousand men there."

14 While these letters were still being read, see, other messengers came from Galil with their garments torn, who reported on this way,

15 and said, "They of Ptolemais, and of Tsor, and Tsiḡon, and all Galil of the gentiles, are assembled together against us to destroy us!"

16 Now when Yahudāh and the people heard these words, there assembled a great assembly together, to consult what they should do for their brothers who were in trouble, and under attack.

17 Then Yahudāh said to Shim'on his brother, "Choose men, and go and deliver your brothers that are in Galil, for I and Yahnathan my brother will go into the country of Gil'aḡ."

18 So he left Yosēph the son of Zekaryah, and Azaryah, captains of the people, with the remainder of the army in Yahudāh to guard it;  
 19 to whom he gave command, saying, "Take charge of this people, and see that you do not fight against the gentiles until the time that we return."  
 20 Now to Shim'on were given three thousand men to go to Galil, and to Yahudāh, eight thousand men for the country of Gil'ad.  
 21 Then Shim'on went to Galil, where he fought many battles with the gentiles, so that the gentiles were defeated by him.  
 22 And he pursued them to the gate of Ptolemais, and about three thousand men of the gentiles were slain, whose spoil he took.  
 23 And those that were in Galil and in Araboth with their wives and their children and all that they had, he took away with him, and brought them to Yahudāh with great joy.  
 24 Yahudāh Maqqabāh and his brother Yahnathan also went over the Yardēn, and traveled three days' journey in the wilderness,  
 25 where they met with the Nabothites who came to them in a peaceable manner, and told them all that had befallen their brothers in the land of Gil'ad,  
 26 and how many of them were shut up in Botsrah, and Besor, and Almon, Kaphtor, Maqqēdah, and Qarnayim - all these cities, strong and great -  
 27 and that they were shut up in the rest of the cities of the country of Gil'ad, and that the next day they had appointed to bring their army against the forts, and to take them, and to destroy them all in one day.  
 28 So Yahudāh and his army turned suddenly by the way of the wilderness to Botsrah; and when he had won the city, he slew all the males with the edge of the sword and took all their spoil, and burned the city with fire.  
 29 From there he moved by night, and went till he came to the fortress.  
 30 And early in the morning they looked up, and see, there was an

innumerable multitude carrying ladders and other engines of battle, to take the fortress, for they assaulted them.  
 31 Therefore when Yahudāh saw that the battle had begun, and that the cry of the city went up to the shamayim, with trumpets, and a great noise,  
 32 he said to his army, "Fight this day for your brothers!"  
 33 So he went out behind them in three companies, who sounded their trumpets, and cried with prayer.  
 34 Then the army of Timotheos, knowing that it was Maqqabāh, fled from him. Therefore he smote them with a great slaughter, so that about eight thousand men of them were killed that day.  
 35 This done, Yahudāh turned aside to Mitspah; and after he had attacked it, he took and slew all the males there, and took the spoil from there and and burned it with fire.  
 36 From there, he went and took Kaspōr, Meḡiddo, Besor, and the other cities of the country of Gil'ad.  
 37 After these events, Timotheos gathered another army and encamped against Raphah beyond the wadi.  
 38 So Yahudāh sent men to spy out the army, who brought him word saying, "All the gentiles that are round about us are assembled to them, even a very great army.  
 39 "He has also hired the Arabians to help them and they have pitched their tents beyond the wadi, ready to come and fight against you." Hearing this Yahudāh went to meet them.  
 40 Then Timotheos said to the captains of his army, "When Yahudāh and his army come near the wadi, if he passes over to us first, we shall not be able to withstand him; for he will mightily overcome us.  
 41 "But if he is afraid, and encamps beyond the river, we shall go over to him, and overcome him."  
 42 Now when Yahudāh came near the wadi, he made the scribes of the people remain by the wadi, to whom he gave command saying, "Allow no man to remain in the camp, but let all come to the battle."

43 So he went over to them first, and all the people after him. Then all the gentiles being defeated before him, threw away their weapons and fled to the temple that was at Qarnayim.

44 But they took the city and burned the temple with all that were in it. Thus Qarnayim was subdued, neither could they stand any longer before Yahudāh.

45 Then Yahudāh gathered together all the Yisra'ēlites that were in the country of Gil'aḏ, from the least to the greatest, even their wives and their children and their goods - a very great company - so that they might come to the land of Yahudāh.

46 Now when they came to Ephron, - this was a great city in the way they were going; very well fortified - they could not turn from it, either to the right hand or the left, but had to pass through the midst of it.

47 Then those of the city shut them out, and stopped up the gates with stones.

48 So Yahudāh sent to them in a peaceable manner saying, "Let us pass through your land to go to our own country and none shall do you any harm. We will only pass through on foot." However, they would not open to him.

49 Therefore Yahudāh called a commanded to be made throughout the army, that every man should pitch his tent in the place where he was.

50 So the soldiers encamped, and attacked the city all that day and all that night, till in the end the city was delivered into his hands;

51 who then slew all the males with the edge of the sword and tore down the city and took the spoil from there, and passed through the city over those that were slain.

52 After this, went they over the Yardēn into the great plain before Bēyth She'an.

53 And Yahudāh gathered together those that came behind and encouraged the people all the way through till they came to the land of Yahudāh.

54 So they went up to Mount Tsiyon with joy and gladness, where they

offered burnt offerings - because not one of them were slain - until they had returned in peace.

55 Now during the time Yahudāh and Yahnathan were in the land of Gil'aḏ and Shim'on his brother in Galil before Ptolemis,

56 Yosēph the son of Zekaryah and Azaryah, captains of the garrisons, heard of the brave acts and mighty deeds which they had done.

57 So they said, "Let us also get ourselves a name, and go fight against the gentiles that are round about us."

58 So when they had given charge to the garrison that was with them, they went toward Yaḅneh.

59 Then Gorgias and his men came out of the city to fight against them.

60 And so it was, that Yosēph and Azaryah were put to flight, and pursued to the borders of Yahudāh, and about two thousand men of the people of Yisra'ēl were slain that day.

61 So there was a great overthrow among the children of Yisra'ēl, because they were not obedient to Yahudāh and his brothers, but thought to do some mighty deed.

62 But these men did not come from the seed of those by whose hand deliverance was given to Yisra'ēl.

63 However, the man Yahudāh and his brothers were greatly renowned in the sight of all Yisra'ēl and of all the gentiles wherever their name was heard of;

64 so that the the people assembled to them with joyful cheers.

65 Afterward Yahudāh went out with his brothers and fought against the children of Ēsaw in the land toward the south, where he smote Hebron and its towns and pulled down its fortress and burned the towers round about.

66 From there he moved to go to the land of the Pelishtites and passed through Shomeron.

67 At that time some kohenim, wanting to show their courage, were slain in battle, for they went out to fight recklessly.

68 So Yahudāh turned to Ashdoḏ in the land of the Pelishtites, and when he

had pulled down their altars and burned their carved images with fire and plundered their cities, he returned to the land of Yahudāh.

6 About that time 'Sovereign Antiokos travelling through the high countries heard it said that Elumais in the country of Paras was a city greatly renowned for riches, silver and gold;

2 and that there was a very rich temple in it in which were coverings of gold and breastplates and shields which Alexandros, son of Philippos the Makedonian sovereign, who reigned first among the Yawanites, had left there.

3 Therefore he came and sought to take the city, and to plunder it; but he was not able, because those of the city having had warning,

4 rose up against him in battle. So he fled and departed from there in great distress, and returned to Babel.

5 And there came one who brought him news of Paras, that the armies, which went against the land of Yahudāh, were put to flight,

6 and that Lusias, who went out first with great strength was driven away by the Yahudim; and that they were strengthened by the armour and strength and store of plunder, which they had taken from the armies whom they had destroyed.

7 Also, that they had pulled down the abomination, which he had placed upon the altar in Yerushalayim, and that they had surrounded the Miqdash with high walls as before, and its city Bēyth Tsur.

8 Now when the sovereign heard these words, he was astonished and distressed, so he laid himself down on his bed, and fell sick for grief, because it had not resulted as he planned.

9 And there he stayed many days, for his grief increased further, and he thought that he would die.

10 So he called for all his friends, and said to them, "The sleep is gone from my eyes, and my heart fails for every concern.

11 "And I thought within myself, 'Into

what tribulation have I come, and how great a flood of misery it is, in which I now am!' for I was respectable and well loved in my power.

12 "But now I remember the evils that I did at Yerushalayim, and that I took all the vessels of gold and silver that were there, and sent to destroy the inhabitants of Yahudāh without reason.

13 "I perceive therefore, that for this reason these troubles have come upon me, and, see, I perish through great grief in a strange land."

14 Then he called for Philippos, one of his friends, who he made ruler over all his reign,

15 and gave him the crown, and his robe, and his seal, so that he should bring up his son Antiokos, and raise him up for the reign.

16 So Sovereign Antiokos died there in the hundred and forty-ninth year.

17 Now when Lusias knew that the sovereign was dead, he appointed Antiokos his son, whom he had brought up from youth to reign in his place, and his name he called Eupator.

18 About this time those that were in the fortress enclosed the Yisra'ēlites round about the Miqdash, and continually sought their evil, and the strengthening of the gentiles.

19 Therefore Yahudāh, intending to destroy them, called all the people together to besiege them.

20 So they came together, and besieged them in the hundred and fiftieth year, and he made mounts for shot against them, and other engines.

21 However some of those that were besieged escaped, to whom some wicked men of Yisra'ēl joined themselves.

22 And they went to the sovereign, and said, "How long will it be till you execute judgment, and avenge our brothers?"

23 "We have been willing to serve your father, and do as he would have us, and to obey his commands.

24 "For this reason those of our nation besiege the fortress, and are alienated from us! And as many of us as they could fall upon, they slew, and

plundered our inheritance.

25 "Neither have they stretched out their hand against us alone, but also against their borders.

26 "And, see, this day they are besieging the fortress at Yerushalayim, to take it; the Miqdash also, and they have fortified Běyth Tsur.

27 "Therefore if you do not prevent them quickly, they will do greater matters than these, neither shall you be able to rule them."

28 Now when the sovereign heard this, he was wroth, and gathered together all his associates and the captains of his army, and those that had charge of the horses.

29 There also came to him bands of hired soldiers from other reigns, and from islands of the sea,

30 so that the number of his army was a hundred thousand footmen, and twenty thousand horsemen, and thirty-two elephants trained for battle.

31 These went through Eđom, and encamped against Běyth Tsur, which they assaulted many days, making engines of battle. But those of Běyth Tsur came out, and burned them with fire, and fought bravely.

32 After this, Yahudah moved from the fortress, and encamped in Běyth Zekaryah, opposite the sovereign's camp.

33 Then the sovereign rising very early, marched fiercely with his army toward Běyth Zekaryah, where his armies prepared for battle, and sounded the trumpets.

34 And so, that they might provoke the elephants to fight, they showed them the blood of grapes and mulberries.

35 And they divided the beasts among the armies, and for every elephant they appointed one thousand men, armed with coats of mail, and with bronze helmets on their heads. And besides this, for every beast were assigned five hundred of the best horsemen.

36 These were ready at every occasion. Wherever the beast was, and wherever the beast went, they went also, neither did they depart from

it.

37 And upon the beasts there were strong wooden towers, which covered every one of them, and were girded tightly to them with devices. There were also, thirty-two strong men on every one that fought upon them, besides the Hodite that directed it.

38 As for the remainder of the horsemen, they positioned them on this side and that side of the two divisions of the army giving them signals what to do, and being armed all over among the ranks.

39 Now when the sun shone upon the shields of gold and bronze, the mountains glistened, and shone like lamps of fire.

40 So part of the sovereign's army being spread over the high mountains, and part on the valleys below, marched on boldly and in formation.

41 Therefore all that heard the noise of their multitude, and the marching of the army, and the rattling of the armour, were moved; for the army was very great and mighty.

42 Then Yahudah and his army drew near, and joined in battle, and six hundred men of the sovereign's army were slain.

43 Eli'ezer, also named Savaran, perceiving that one of the beasts armed with royal armour, was higher than all the rest, and supposing that the sovereign was upon him,

44 put himself in danger, so that he might deliver his people, and obtain a lasting name for himself.

45 Therefore he ran upon him courageously through the midst of the battle, slaying on the right hand and on the left, so that they were divided from him on both sides.

46 Having done so, he crept under the elephant, and thrust it underneath, and slew it, so the elephant fell down upon him, and he died there.

47 However the rest of the Yahudim, seeing the strength of the sovereign, and the violence of his forces, turned away from them.

48 Then the sovereign's army went up to Yerushalayim to meet them, and the

sovereign pitched his tents against Yahudah, and against mount Tsiyon.

49 But he made peace with those that were in Běyth Tsur; for they came out of the city, because they had no food there to endure the siege, being a year of rest for the land.

50 So the sovereign took Běyth Tsur, and appointed a garrison there to guard it.

51 As for the Miqdash, he besieged it many days, and appointed siege engines there with weapons and instruments to throw fire and stones, and catapults and weapons to shoot arrows.

52 So they also made engines against their engines, and withheld them in battle a long time.

53 Yet in the end, their containers being without food - for it was the seventh year, and those in Yahudah that were delivered from the gentiles had eaten up the remains of the store.

54 So there were only a few left in the Miqdash, and because the scarcity of food prevailed against them, they were compelled to disperse themselves, every man to his own place.

55 At that time Lusias heard it said, that Philippos - whom Antioķos the sovereign, while he lived - had appointed to bring up his son Antioķos to be sovereign;

56 had returned from Paras and Mađai, and the sovereign's army that also went with him, and that he planned to seize the control of affairs for himself.

57 Therefore he went in haste, and said to the sovereign and the captlains of the army and the company, "We diminish daily, and our food runs short, and the place we lay siege to is strong, and the affairs of the reign lie upon us.

58 "Now therefore let us be friends with these men, and make peace with them, and with all their nation;

59 and make a covenant with them, that they shall live after their Laws, as they did before. For they are displeased because we abolished their Laws, and therefore, have done all these matters."

60 So the sovereign and the princes

were pleased; therefore he sent to them to make peace, and they accepted.

61 The sovereign and the princes also made an oath to them, so they went out of the stronghold.

62 Then the sovereign entered into Mount Tsiyon; but when he saw the strength of the place, he broke his oath that he had made, and gave command to pull down the wall round about.

63 Afterward he departed in haste, and returned to Antioķeia, where he found Philippos to be master of the city. So he fought against him, and took the city by force.

**7** In the one hundred and fiftieth year, Děmětrios the son of Seleukus departed from Rome, and came up with a few men to a city of the sea coast, and reigned there.

2 And as he entered into the palace of his ancestors, it had come to pass, that his army had taken Antioķos and Lusias, to bring them to him.

3 Therefore, when he knew it, he said, "Do not let me see their faces."

4 So his army slew them. Now when Děmětrios was appointed to the throne of his reign,

5 there came to him all the wicked and evil men of Yisra'ěl, having Elyaqim, who desired to be kohěn ha'gadol, as their captain.

6 And they accused the people before the sovereign, saying, "Yahudah and his brothers have slain all your friends, and driven us out of our own land.

7 "Now therefore, send some man whom you trust, and let him go and see what disorder he has made among us, and in the sovereign's land, and let him punish them with all those that assist them."

8 Then the sovereign chose Bakķidēs, a friend of the sovereign, who ruled beyond the River, and was a great man in the reign, and trustworthy to the sovereign,

9 And he sent him with the wicked Elyaqim, whom he made kohěn ha'gadol, and commanded that he should take vengeance on the children of Yisra'ěl.

10 So they departed, and came with a large force into the land of Yahudāh, where they sent messengers to Yahudāh and his brothers with peaceable words, deceitfully.

11 But they gave no heed to their words, for they saw that they had come with a large force.

12 Then a company of scribes gathered to Elyaqim and Bakkidēs, to require right-ruling.

13 Now the Hasidim were the first among the children of Yisra'ēl that sought peace from them,

14 for they said, "One that is a kohēn of the seed of Aharon has come with this army, and he will do us no wrong."

15 So he spoke to them peaceably, and swore to them, saying, "We will neither do evil to you nor your friends."

16 So they believed him; however he took from them sixty men, and slew them in one day, to fill the words which are written:

17 "The flesh of your qodeshim they have thrown out, and their blood they have shed round about Yerushalayim, with no one to bury them."

18 Therefore the fear and dread of them fell upon all the people, who said, "There is neither truth nor righteousness in them; for they have broken the covenant and oath that they made."

19 After this, Bakkidēs moved from Yerushalayim, and pitched his tents in Bēyth Zatha, where he sent and took many of the men that had forsaken him, and some of the people also, and when he had slain them, he threw them into a large pit.

20 Then he entrusted the land to Elyaqim, and left with him a force to assist him; so Bakkidēs returned to the sovereign.

21 But Elyaqim contended to be kohēn ha'gadol.

22 And all those who troubled the people assembled to him, who, after they had taken the land of Yahudāh into their power, did much evil in Yisra'ēl.

23 Now when Yahudāh saw all the evil that Elyaqim and his company had

done among the Yisra'ēlites, even more than the gentiles,

24 he went out to all the coastlands of Yahudāh round about, and took vengeance on those that had revolted from him, so that they no longer dared go out into the country.

25 On the other side, when Elyaqim saw that Yahudāh and his army had gotten the upper hand, and knew that he was not able to withstand their strength, he went again to the sovereign, and said all the worst about them that he could.

26 Then the sovereign sent Nikanor, one of his honourable princes, a man that bore deadly hatred for Yisra'ēl, with a command to destroy the people.

27 So Nikanor came to Yerushalayim with a large force, and sent to Yahudāh and his brothers deceitfully with friendly words, saying,

28 "Let there be no battle between me and you. I will come with a few men, that I may see you in peace."

29 Therefore he came to Yahudāh, and they greeted one another peaceably; however the enemies were prepared to take away Yahudāh with violence.

30 After this matter was known to Yahudāh, to know that he came to him with deceit, he was very afraid of him, and would no longer see his face.

31 Also, when Nikanor saw that his plan was discovered, went out to fight against Yahudāh beside Kepharsalem,

32 where about five thousand men were slain from Nikanor's side, and the rest fled to the city of Dawid.

33 After this went Nikanor up to Mount Tsiyon, and some of the kohenim and some of the elders of the people came out of the Miqdash, to greet him peaceably, and to show him the burnt offering that was offered for the sovereign.

34 But he mocked them, and laughed at them, and abused them shamefully, and spoke proudly,

35 and swore in his wrath, saying, "Unless Yahudāh and his army are now delivered into my hands, if I ever come again in safety, I will burn up this

House!" and with that he went out in a great rage.

36 Then the kohenim entered in, and stood before the altar and the Hēykal weeping, and saying,

37 "You, O אֱלֹהֵינוּ, chose this House to be called by Your Name, and to be a House of prayer and petition for Your people.

38 "Be avenged on this man and his army, and let them fall by the sword. Remember their blasphemies, and do not allow them to continue any longer."

39 So Nikanor went out of Yerushalayim, and pitched his tents in Bēyth Hōron, where an army out of Suria met him.

40 But Yahudāh pitched in Ḥadashah with three thousand men, and he prayed there saying,

41 "O אֱלֹהֵינוּ, when those that were sent from the sovereign of Ashshur blasphemed, Your messenger went out, and smote a hundred and eighty-five thousand of them.

42 "In the same way, destroy this army before us today, that the rest may know that he has spoken blasphemy against Your Miqdash, and judge him according to his wickedness."

43 So on the thirteenth day of the month Adar the armies joined in battle, but Nikanor's army was defeated, and he himself was the first slain in the battle.

44 Now when Nikanor's army saw that he was slain, they threw down their weapons, and fled.

45 Then they pursued after them a day's journey, from Ḥadashah to Gezer, sounding a shout after them with their trumpets.

46 So they came out from all of the towns of Yahudāh round about and closed them in, so that they, turning back upon those that pursued them, were all slain with the sword, and not one of them was left.

47 Afterward they took the spoils, and the plunder, and smote off Nikanor's head, and his right hand, which he stretched out so proudly, and took them away, and hanged them up toward Yerushalayim.

48 Because of this the people rejoiced greatly, and they kept that day as a day of great gladness.

49 And they ordained to guard this day yearly, being the thirteenth of Adar.

50 Thus the land of Yahudāh was at rest a little while.

8 Now Yahudāh had heard of the the Romans, that they were brave and mighty men, and such that would kindly accept all that joined themselves to them, and make a covenant of peace with all that came to them;

2 and that they were men of great courage. To him was also told of their battles and notable deeds which they had done among the Galatians, and how they had conquered them, and brought them under tribute;

3 and what they had done in the country of Spania, in taking the mines of silver and gold which is there;

4 and that by their strategy and patience they had conquered all that place, though it was very far from them; and of the sovereigns that also came against them from the ends of the earth, till they had defeated them, and given them a great overthrow, so that the rest gave them tribute every year.

5 Besides this, how they had defeated Philippos and Perseus, sovereign of the Hittites in battle, with others that lifted themselves up against them and had overcome them.

6 Also how Antiokos the great sovereign of Asia, that came against them in battle, having a hundred and twenty elephants with horsemen and chariots, and a very great army, was defeated by them;

7 and how they took him alive, and made a covenant that he and those that reigned after him should pay a great tribute and give hostages, and that which was agreed upon.

8 And the country of Hodu, and Madai and Ludia and of the best lands which they took from him and gave to Sovereign Eumēnēs.

9 And how the Yawanites had determined to come and destroy them;

10 and that they, having knowledge of

this sent against them a certain captain, and fighting with them slew many of them, and took away captive their wives and their children, and plundered them, and took possession of their lands, and pulled down their strongholds, and took them to be their servants to this day.

11 It was also told him, how they destroyed and brought under their rule all other reigns and islands that at any time resisted them,

12 but they kept peace with their friends and those that relied upon them; and that they had conquered reigns both far and near, so that all that heard of their name were afraid of them.

13 Also that whom they would assist to reign, those reigned; and again, whom they determined, they displaced. Lastly, that they were greatly exalted, 14 yet for all this, none of them wore a crown or was clothed in purple, to be made great by it.

15 And, how they had made for themselves a senate house, in which three hundred and twenty men sat in council daily, consulting always for the people, so that they might be well ordered;

16 and that they committed their government to one man every year, who ruled over all their country, and that all were obedient to that one, and that there was neither envy nor strife among them.

17 In consideration of these matters, Yahudāh chose Eupolemus the son of Yoḥanan, the son of Haqqots, and Yason the son of Eli'ezer, and sent them to Rome, to make a covenant of peace and ally with them,

18 and to ask them that they would take the yoke from them; for they saw that the reign of the Yawanites oppressed Yisra'el with bondage.

19 So they went to Rome, which was a very great journey, and came into the senate, where they spoke and said,

20 "Yahudāh Maqqabāh with his brothers, and the people of the Yahudim, have sent us to you, to make peace and an alliance with you, and

that we might be counted your allies and friends."

21 So that matter pleased the Romans well.

22 And this is the copy of the letter which the senate wrote back again on tablets of bronze, and sent to Yerushalayim, that they would possess a memorial of peace and alliance for them there:

23 "Good success be to the Romans, and to the people of the Yahudim, by sea and by land forever. Also the sword and enemy be far from them.

24 "If there should come first any battle upon the Romans or any of their allies throughout all their reign,

25 the people of the Yahudim shall assist them at the appointed time with all their heart.

26 "Neither shall they give whatever to those that fight against them, or aid them with food, weapons, silver, or ships, as it seems good to the Romans; but they shall guard their covenants without taking any for this.

27 "Also in the same manner, if battle should come first upon the nation of the Yahudim, the Romans shall assist them with all their heart, according to the time appointed for them.

28 "Neither shall food be given to those that take part against them, or weapons, or silver, or ships, as it seems good to the Romans; but they shall guard their covenants, and that, without deceit.

29 "According to these articles, the Romans make a covenant with the people of the Yahudim.

30 "However, if after this, the one party or the other shall think by rights to add or diminish whatever, they may do so at their pleasure, and whatever they shall add or take away shall be consented to.

31 "And regarding the evils that Dēmētrios has done to the Yahudim, we have written to him, saying, 'Why have you made your yoke heavy upon our friends and allies the Yahudim?'

32 'If therefore they complain against you any more, we will do right by them, and fight with you by sea and by

land.' "

9 Furthermore, when Dēmētrios heard that Nikanor and his army were slain in battle, he sent Bakḳidēs and Elyaqim to the land of Yahudāh a second time, and with them the main force of his army,

2 who went out by the way that leads to Gilgal, and pitched their tents before Mēsaloḥ, which is in Arbela. And after they had won it, they slew much people.

3 Also, on the first month of the hundred and fifty-second year, they encamped before Yerushalayim.

4 From there they moved, and went to Beroia, with twenty thousand footmen and two thousand horsemen.

5 Now Yahudāh had pitched his tents at El'asah, with three thousand chosen men with him,

6 who, seeing the multitude of the mighty army opposing him, was greatly afraid. Therefore many withdrew from the army, so that no more than eight hundred men of them stayed.

7 Therefore when Yahudāh saw that his army slipped away, and that the battle pressed upon him, he was greatly troubled in mind and very distressed, for he had no time to assemble them together.

8 Nevertheless, to those that remained he said, "Let us arise and go up against our enemies, if possible we are able to defeat them."

9 But they pleaded with him saying, "We shall never be able! Let us now rather save our lives, and afterward we will return with our brothers, and fight against them, for we are but a few."

10 Then Yahudāh said, "Elohim forbid that I should do this matter, and flee away from them. If our time has come, let us die bravely for our brothers, and let us not stain our honour."

11 With that, the army of Bakḳidēs moved out of their tents, and stood opposite them; their horsemen being divided into two companies, and their slingers and archers going before the army. And those that marched in the front were all mighty men.

12 As for Bakḳidēs, he was in the right

wing. So the army drew near to the two divisions, and sounded their trumpets.

13 Those of Yahudāh's side, even they also sounded their trumpets, so that the earth shook at the noise of the armies, and the battle continued from morning till night.

14 Now when Yahudāh perceived that Bakḳidēs and the strength of his army were on the right side, he took with him all the brave men,

15 who defeated the right wing, and pursued them to Mount Ashdoḡ.

16 But when those on the left wing saw that those on the right wing were defeated, they pursued Yahudāh, and those that were with him hard at the heels from behind.

17 Therefore there was a great battle, so that many were slain on both sides.

18 Yahudāh was also killed, and the remnant fled.

19 Then Yahonathan and Shim'on took Yahudāh their brother, and buried him in the tomb of his fathers in Modi'im.

20 And they mourned him, and all Yisra'ēl made a great lamentation for him, and mourned many days, saying,

21 "How the brave man has fallen that delivered Yisra'ēl!"

22 As for the other matters concerning Yahudāh and his battles, and the mighty deeds which he did, and his greatness, are they not written; for they were very many.

23 Now after the death of Yahudāh, the wicked began to lift their heads in all the coasts of Yisra'ēl, and there arose all those doing wickedness.

24 In those days there was also a very great scarcity of food; the land revolted because of this, and went with them.

25 Then Bakḳidēs chose these wicked men, and made them masters of the land.

26 And they made inquiry and sought for Yahudāh's friends, and brought them to Bakḳidēs, who took vengeance on them, and mistreated them.

27 So was there a great affliction in Yisra'ēl, the like of which was not seen, since the time that a naḅi was

among them.

28 Because of this, all Yahudāh's companions came together, and said to Yahnathan,

29 "Since your brother Yahudāh died, we have no man like him to go out against our enemies, and Bakḳidēs, and against those of our nation that are adversaries to us.

30 "Now therefore, we have chosen you today to be our leaser and captain in his place, that you may fight our battles."

31 Therefore, at that time Yahnathan took the authority upon himself, and rose up instead of his brother Yahudāh.

32 But when Bakḳidēs learned of this, he sought to slay him.

33 Then Yahnathan, and Shim'on his brother, and all that were with him, perceiving this, fled into the wilderness of Teqowa, and pitched their tents by the water of the pool Asphar.

34 When Bakḳidēs knew, he came near to the Yardēn with all his army on the Shabbath day.

35 Now Yahnathan had sent his brother Yoḥanan, a captain of the people, to ask his friends the Naḅothites, that they might leave with them their goods, which was much.

36 But the children of Yambri came out of Mēydeḅa, and took Yoḥanan, and all that he had, and went their way with it.

37 After this, word came to Yahnathan and Shim'on his brother, that the children of Yambri held a great marriage, and were bringing the bride, the daughter of one of the great princes of Kena'an from Naḅaḅath, with a great procession.

38 Therefore they remembered Yoḥanan their brother, and went up, and hid themselves under cover of the mountain,

39 where they lifted up their eyes, and looked, and, see, there was a great tumult and a great procession. And the bridegroom came out, and his friends and brothers, to meet them with tambourines and music and many instruments.

40 Then Yahnathan and those that were with him rose up against them from the place where they lay in ambush, and made a slaughter of them, so that many fell down dead, and the remnant fled into the mountain; and they took all their spoil.

41 Thus the marriage was turned into mourning, and the noise of their song into lamentation.

42 So when they had fully avenged the blood of their brother, they turned again to the wadi of the Yardēn.

43 Now when Bakḳidēs heard of this, he came on the Shabbath day to the banks of the Yardēn with a great force.

44 Then Yahnathan said to his army, "Let us go up now and fight for our lives, for it does not stand with us today, as in time past.

45 "For, see, the battle is before us and behind us, and the water of the Yardēn on this side and that side, the wadi and also the forest, neither is there a place for us to turn aside.

46 "Therefore cry out now to the shamayim, that you may be delivered from the hand of your enemies."

47 Therefore, they joined battle, and Yahnathan stretched out his hand to smite Bakḳidēs, but he turned back from him.

48 Then Yahnathan and those that were with him leaped into the Yardēn, and swam over to the other bank; however, the others did not pass over the Yardēn to them.

49 So about one thousand men of Bakḳidēs' army were slain that day.

50 Afterward Bakḳidēs returned to Yerushalayim and repaired the strong cites in Yahudāh, the fort in Yeriḥo and Amma'us and Bēyth Ḥoron and Bēyth Ēl and Timnathah, Pirathon and Tsaphon. He strengthened these with high walls, with gates and with bars.

51 And he appointed a garrison in them, that they might do evil to Yisra'ēl.

52 He also fortified the city of Bēyth Tsur, and Gezer, and the tower, and put forces in them, and provisions of food.

53 He also took the chief men's sons in

the land for hostages, and put them into the tower at Yerushalayim to be guarded.

54 And in the hundred and fifty-third year, in the second month, Elyaqim commanded that the wall of the inner court of the Miqdash should be pulled down. He also pulled down the works of the nebi'im.

55 And as he began to pull down, even at that time Elyaqim was plagued, and his works were hindered; for his mouth was stopped, and he was paralysed, so that he could no longer speak a word, nor give orders concerning his house.

56 So Elyaqim died at that time in great torment.

57 Now when Bakkidēs saw that Elyaqim was dead, he returned to the sovereign. So the land of Yahudah was at rest two years.

58 Then all the wicked men held a council, saying, "See, Yahnathan and his company are at ease, and dwell without concern. Now therefore we will bring Bakkidēs here, who shall take them all in one night."

59 So they went and consulted with him.

60 Then he moved, and came with a great army, and sent letters secretly to his supporters in Yahudah, that they should take Yahnathan and those that were with him. However they could not, because their counsel was known to them.

61 Therefore they took the men of the land that were the cause of that evil - about fifty people - and slew them.

62 Afterward Yahnathan, and Shim'on, and those that were with him, escaped to Bēyth Bēsai, which is in the wilderness, and they repaired the ruins there, and strengthened it.

63 When Bakkidēs knew this, he gathered together all his army, and sent word to those that were of Yahudah.

64 Then he went and laid siege against Bēyth Bēsai. And they fought against it for a long time and built siege engines.

65 But Yahnathan left his brother Shim'on in the city, and went out

himself into the land, and with a certain number he went out.

66 And he smote Odomera and his brothers, and the children of Phaseiron in their tent.

67 And when he began to smite them, and came up with his forces, Shim'on and his army went out of the city, and burned the siege engines,

68 and fought against Bakkidēs, who was defeated by them. And they distressed him greatly, for his counsel and hardship was worthless.

69 Therefore he was very wroth at the wicked men that gave him counsel to come into the land, so he slew many of them, and intended to return to his own land.

70 When Yahnathan knew of this, he sent ambassadors to him, so that he should make peace with him, and deliver them the prisoners;

71 which he accepted, and did according to his demands, and swore to him that he would never do him harm all the days of his life.

72 Therefore when he had restored the prisoners to him that he had taken previously out of the land of Yahudah, he returned and went his way to his own land, neither did he come to their borders any more.

73 Thus the sword ceased from Yisra'el, and Yahnathan dwelt at Mikmas, and began to rule the people, and he destroyed the wicked men out of Yisra'el.

**10** In the hundred and sixtieth year, Alexandros the son of Antiokos, also named Epiphanēs, went up and took Ptolemais; for the people had received him, by means of which he reigned there.

2 Now when Sovereign Dēmētrios heard of this, he gathered together an exceedingly great army, and went out to fight against him.

3 And Dēmētrios sent letters to Yahnathan with kind words, so that he exalted him.

4 For said he, "Let us first make peace with him, before he joins with Alexandros against us,

5 or else he will remember all the evils

that we have done against him, and against his brothers and his people."

6 Therefore he gave him authority to gather together an army, and to provide weapons, that he might aid him in battle. He also commanded that the hostages that were in the tower should be delivered to him.

7 Then Yahnathan came to Yerushalayim and read the letters in the hearing of all the people and of those that were in the tower,

8 who were greatly afraid when they heard that the sovereign had given him authority to gather together an army.

9 So those of the tower delivered their hostages to Yahnathan, and he delivered them to their parents.

10 This done, Yahnathan settled himself in Yerushalayim, and began to build and repair the city.

11 And he commanded the workmen to build the walls and Mount Tsiyon round about with square stones for fortification; and they did so.

12 Then the foreigners, that were in the fortresses which Bakkidēs had built, fled away;

13 so that every man left his place and went into his own land.

14 Only, some of those still remained at Bēyth Tsur that had forsaken the Law and the Commands; for it was their place of refuge.

15 Now when Sovereign Alexandros had heard what promises Dēmētrios had sent to Yahnathan; when it was also told to him of the battles and brave deeds which he and his brothers had done, and of the pains that they had endured,

16 He said, "Shall we find such another man? Now therefore we will make him our friend and ally."

17 Therefore he wrote a letter, and sent it to him, according to these words, saying:

18 "Sovereign Alexandros, to his brother Yahnathan, greetings.

19 "We have heard of you, that you are a man of great strength, and worthy to be our friend.

20 "Therefore now, we ordain you this day to be the kohēn ha'gadol of your

nation, and to be called the sovereign's friend, and require you to take our side, and maintain friendship with us." And with all this he sent him a purple robe and a crown of gold.

21 So in the seventh month of the hundred and sixtieth year, at the Feast of Sukkoth, Yahnathan put on the qodesh robe, and gathered together forces, and provided much armour.

22 When Dēmētrios heard of this, he was very grieved, and said,

23 "What have we done, that Alexandros has prevented us in making peace with the Yahudim to strengthen himself?

24 "I will also write words of encouragement to them, and promise them esteem and gifts, that I may have their support."

25 Therefore he sent to them to this word: "Sovereign Dēmētrios, to the people of the Yahudim, greetings.

26 "Whereas you have kept covenants with us, and continued in our friendship, not joining yourselves with our enemies, we have heard of this, and are glad.

27 "Therefore now continue to be still trustworthy to us, and we will recompense you well for the matters you do on our behalf,

28 and will grant you many exemptions, and give you rewards.

29 "And I now release you, and for your sake, I release all the Yahudim from tributes, and from the customs of salt, and from crown taxes,

30 and from that which pertains to me to receive of the third part of the seed, and the half of the fruit of the trees. I release it from this day onward, so that they shall not be taken from the land of Yahudah, nor of the three governments which are added to them out of the country of Shomeron and Galil, from this day onward, forever.

31 "Let Yerushalayim also be qodesh and released, with its borders, both from tenths and tributes.

32 "And as for the tower which is at Yerushalayim, I yield up authority over it, and give to the kohēn ha'gadol, that he may appoint in it such men as he

shall choose to guard it.

33 "And I freely release every one of the Yahudim, that were carried captive out of the land of Yahudah into any part of my reign, and I purpose that all my officers release the tributes even of their cattle.

34 "Furthermore, I purpose that all the Feasts, and Shabbathoth, and New Moons, and Appointed Times, and the three days before the Feast, and the three days after the Feast shall be all of tolerance and freedom for all the Yahudim in my reign.

35 "Also, no man shall have authority to meddle with or to provoke any of them in any matter.

36 "I further purpose, that there be enrolled among the sovereign's forces about thirty thousand men of the Yahudim, to whom wages shall be given, as belongs to all sovereign's forces.

37 "And of them, some shall be positioned in the sovereign's strongholds, some of whom are trustworthy shall also be appointed over the affairs of the reign. And I purpose that their overseers and governors be from among themselves, and that they live after their own Laws, even as the sovereign has commanded in the land of Yahudah.

38 "And concerning the three governments that are added to Yahudah from the country of Shomeron, let them be joined with Yahudah, that they may be reckoned to be under one, nor bound to obey authority other than the kohēn ha'gadol.

39 "As for Ptolemais, and the land pertaining to it, I give it as a free gift to the Miqdash at Yerushalayim for the necessary expenses of the Miqdash.

40 "And every year I give fifteen thousand shekels of silver out of the sovereign's accounts from the pertaining places,

41 and all the remainder, which the officers did not pay as in former time, from now on shall be given toward the works of the Hēykal.

42 "And besides this, the five thousand

shekels of silver which they took from the uses of the Hēykal out of the accounts year by year, even those shall be released, because they pertain to the kohenim that serve.

43 "And whoever flees to the Hēykal at Yerushalayim, or comes within these freedoms, being indebted to the sovereign, or for any other matter, let them be released, and all that they have in my reign.

44 "Also for the building and repairing of the works of the Miqdash, expenses shall be given from the sovereign's accounts.

45 "And also for the building of the walls of Yerushalayim, and its fortifications round about, expenses shall be given out of the sovereign's accounts, as also for the building of the walls in Yahudah."

46 Now when Yahnathan and the people heard these words, they gave them no trust, nor received them, because they remembered the great evil that he had done in Yisra'el; for he had afflicted them very greatly.

47 But with Alexandros they were well pleased, because he was the first that sought true peace with them, and they were allied with him always.

48 Then Sovereign Alexandros gathered great forces, and encamped opposite Dēmētrios.

49 And after the two sovereigns had joined battle, Dēmētrios' army fled, but Alexandros followed after him, and prevailed against them.

50 And he continued the battle greatly until the sun went down; and Dēmētrios was slain that day.

51 Afterward, Alexandros sent ambassadors to Ptolemaeus sovereign of Mitsrayim with a message to this effect:

52 "Since I have come again to my reign, and am appointed to the throne of my ancestors, and have acquired the reign, and overthrown Dēmētrios, and recovered our country;

53 for after I had joined battle with him, both he and his army were defeated by us, so that we sit on the throne of his reign.

54 Now therefore let us make a covenant of peace together, and give me now your daughter as wife, and I will be your son-in-law, and will give both to you and her according to your dignity."

55 Then Ptolemaeus the sovereign gave answer, saying, "Joyful is the day in which you returned to the land of your fathers, and sat on the throne of their reign.

56 "And now I will do to you, as you have written. Therefore meet me at Ptolemais, that we may see one another; for I will marry my daughter to you according to your desire."

57 So Ptolemaeus went out of Mitsrayim with his daughter Cleopatra, and they came to Ptolemais in the hundred and sixty-second year,

58 where Sovereign Alexandros met him, gave to him his daughter Cleopatra, and celebrated her marriage at Ptolemais with great esteem, as is the manner of sovereigns.

59 Now Sovereign Alexandros had written to Yahunathan, that he should come and meet him,

60 who therefore went honourably to Ptolemais, where he met the two sovereigns, and gave they and their friends silver and gold and many gifts, and found favour in their sight.

61 At that time some wicked men of Yisra'el, men of a Beliya'al, assembled themselves against him to accuse him; but the sovereign would not hear them.

62 Yet furthermore, the sovereign commanded to take off his garments, and clothe him in purple; and they did so.

63 And he made him sit beside him, and said to his princes, "Go with him into the midst of the city, and proclaim, that no man complain against him for any matter, and that no man trouble him for any reason."

64 Now when his accusers saw that he was honored according to the proclamation, and clothed in purple, they all fled.

65 So the sovereign honoured him, and wrote him among his chief friends, and

made him a chief, and shared in his reign.

66 Afterward, Yahunathan returned to Yerushalayim in peace and gladness.

67 Furthermore, in the hundred and sixty-fifth year Dēmētrios son of Dēmētrios came out of Krētē into the land of his fathers.

68 When Sovereign Alexandros heard of this, he was grieved, and returned to Antiokeia.

69 Then Dēmētrios made Apollonios the governor of Koēlē Suria his general, who gathered together a great army, and encamped in Yaḅneh, and sent to Yahunathan the kohēn ha'gadol saying,

70 "You alone lift yourself up against us, and I am mocked for your sake and reproached, and why do you boast of your strength against us in the mountains?"

71 "Now therefore, if you trust in your own strength, come down to us into the field of the plains, and there let us try the matter together. For the strength of the cities is with me.

72 "Ask, and learn who I am, and the rest that take our side, and they shall tell you that your foot is not able to flee in their own land.

73 "Therefore now, you shall not be able to stand against the horsemen and such a great strength in the plain, where there is neither stone nor flint, nor a place to flee to!"

74 So when Yahunathan heard these words of Apollonios, he was moved in his mind, and choosing ten thousand men he went out of Yerushalayim, where Shim'on his brother met him to help him.

75 And he pitched his tents against Yapho, but those of Yapho shut him out of the city, because Apollonios had a garrison there.

76 Then Yahunathan laid siege against it, so those of the city let him in for fear. And so Yahunathan won Yapho.

77 When Apollonios heard of this, he took three thousand horsemen, with a great army of footmen, and went to Ashdoḡ as one that journeyed, and then approached the plain, because he

had a great number of horsemen, in whom he put his trust.

78 Then Yahanathan followed after him to Ashdod where the armies joined battle.

79 Now Apollonios had left one thousand horsemen in ambush.

80 And Yahanathan knew that there was an ambush behind him; for they had surrounded his army, and shot arrows at the people, from morning till evening.

81 But the people stood still, as Yahanathan had commanded them, and so the enemy's horses were tired.

82 Then brought Shim'on out his army, and positioned them against the footmen, for the horsemen who were defeated by him were weary, and fled.

83 The horsemen also, being scattered in the field, fled to Ashdod, and went to the house of Daḡon, their idol's temple, for safety.

84 But Yahanathan lit fire to Ashdod, and the cities round about it, and took their spoils. And he burned the temple of Daḡon with fire with those that had fled into it,

85 so there were nearly eight thousand men burned and slain with the sword.

86 And from there Yahanathan moved his army, and encamped against Ashqelon, where the men of the city came out and met him with great ceremony.

87 After this, Yahanathan and his army returned to Yerushalayim possessing many spoils.

88 Now, when Sovereign Alexandros heard these matters, he honoured Yahanathan still further,

89 and sent him a gold buckle, as is the custom to be given to those of the sovereign's blood. He also gave him Eqron with it's borders as a possession.

**11** And the sovereign of Mitsrayim gathered together a great army, like the sand that lies upon the sea shore, and many ships, and through deceit attempted to gain the reign of Alexandros, and join it to his own.

2 So he departed to Spania in a peaceable manner, so that those of

the cities opened to him, and met him; for Sovereign Alexandros had commanded them to do so, because he was his brother-in-law.

3 Now as Ptolemaeus entered into the cities, he positioned a garrison of soldiers in every one of them to guard it.

4 And when he came near to Ashdod, they showed him the temple of Daḡon that was burned, and Ashdod and the suburbs of there that were destroyed, and the bodies that were thrown about and those that he had burned in the battle; for they had made heaps of them by the way where he should pass.

5 They also told the sovereign all Yahanathan had done, to the intent he might blame him, but the sovereign held his peace.

6 Then Yahanathan met the sovereign with great ceremony at Yapho, where they greeted one another, and stayed.

7 Afterward, when Yahanathan had gone with the sovereign to the river called Eleutherus, he returned again to Yerushalayim.

8 Therefore Sovereign Ptolemaeus, having gained the reign of the cities by the sea to Seleukeia on the sea coast, devised wicked plans against Alexandros.

9 So he sent ambassadors to Sovereign Dēmētrios, saying, "Come, let us make an alliance between us, and I will give you my daughter whom Alexandros has, and you shall reign in your father's reign.

10 "For I regret that I gave my daughter to him, for he sought to slay me."

11 So he slandered him, because he desired his reign.

12 Therefore he took his daughter from him, and gave her to Dēmētrios, and forsook Alexandros, so that their hatred was openly known.

13 Then Ptolemaeus came to Antiokeia, where he placed two crowns upon his head: the crown of Asia, and of Mitsrayim.

14 In the winter, Sovereign Alexandros was in Kilikia, because those that dwelt in those parts had revolted

against him.

15 But when Alexandros heard of this, he came to fight against him; so Sovereign Ptolemaeus brought forth his army, and met him with a mighty strength, and put him to flight.

16 So Alexandros fled to Arabia to take defence there, but Sovereign Ptolemaeus was exalted.

17 For Zabdi'el the Arabian took off Alexandros' head, and sent it to Ptolemaeus.

18 Sovereign Ptolemaeus also died after the third day, and those that were in the strongholds were slain, one after another.

19 Because of this, Dēmētrios reigned in the hundred and sixty-seventh year.

20 At the same time Yahnathan gathered together those that were in Yahudah to take the tower that was in Yerushalayim, and he built many siege engines against it.

21 Then wicked men, who hated their own people, went to the sovereign, and told him that Yahnathan besieged the tower.

22 When he heard of this, he was wroth, and moving immediately, he came to Ptolemais and wrote to Yahnathan, that he should not lay siege to the tower, but come quickly and speak with him at Ptolemais.

23 Nevertheless, when Yahnathan heard this, he commanded to continue the siege, and he chose some of the elders of Yisra'el and the kohenim, and put himself at risk,

24 and took silver and gold and garments, and also various presents, and went to Ptolemais to the sovereign, where he found favour in his sight.

25 And though some wicked men of the people had made complaints against him,

26 the sovereign still treated him as his predecessors had done before, and promoted him in the sight of all his friends,

27 and confirmed him in the high kehunnah, and in all the honours that he had before, and made him first among his chief friends.

28 Then Yahnathan requested from the sovereign, that he would make Yahudah free from tribute, as also the three governments, with the country of Shomeron; and he promised him three hundred talanton.

29 So the sovereign agreed, and wrote letters for Yahnathan of all these matters after this manner:

30 "Sovereign Dēmētrios to his brother Yahnathan, and to the nation of the Yahudim, greetings.

31 "We send you here a copy of the letter which we wrote to our cousin Lashhēnēs concerning you, that you might see it.

32 'Sovereign Dēmētrios to his father Lashhēnēs sends greeting.

33 "We are determined to do good to the people of the Yahudim, who are our friends, and guard covenants with us, because of their favour toward us.

34 'Therefore we have assigned to them the borders of Yahudah, with the three governments of Ephrayim and Loḡ and Ramathayim, that are added to Yahudah from the country of Shomeron, and all pertaining to them, for all those who offer in Yerushalayim, instead of the payments which the sovereign received from them yearly previously out of the fruits of the earth and of trees.

35 'And as for other matters that relate to us, of the tithes and customs pertaining to us, and also the salt-pits and the crown taxes which are due to us, we release them all for their aid.

36 'And none of this shall be revoked from this time on forever.

37 'Now therefore, see that you make a copy of these matters, and let it be delivered to Yahnathan, and put on the qodesh mountain in a conspicuous place.' "

38 After this, when Sovereign Dēmētrios saw that the land was at peace before him, and that no resistance was made against him, he sent away all his armies, every one to his own place, except some bands of foreigners, whom he had gathered from the islands of the gentiles; therefore all the armies of his fathers

hated him.

39 Now there was one Truphon, that had been of Alexandros' group before, who, seeing that all the army grumbled against Dēmētrios, went to Imalkuē the Arabian that brought up Antioḱos the young son of Alexandros,

40 And pressured him to deliver him this young Antioḱos, that he might reign in his father's place. So he told him of all that Dēmētrios had done, and how his soldiers were at enmity with him, and he remained there a long time.

41 In the meantime, Yahunathan sent to Sovereign Dēmētrios, that he would throw those of the tower out of Yerushalayim, and also those in the fortresses; for they fought against Yisra'ēl.

42 So Dēmētrios sent to Yahunathan saying, "I will not only do this for you and your people, but I will greatly honour you and your nation, if opportunity arises.

43 "Now therefore you shall do well if you send me men to help me; for all my forces are gone from me."

44 Upon this Yahunathan sent him three thousand strong men to Antioḱeia; and when they came to the sovereign, the sovereign was very glad of their arrival.

45 However those that were from the city gathered themselves together into the midst of the city, numbering a hundred and twenty thousand men, and would have slain the sovereign.

46 So the sovereign fled into the court, but those of the city guarded the passages of the city, and began to fight.

47 Then the sovereign called to the Yahudim for help, who came to him all at once, and dispersing themselves throughout the city slew that day in the city to the number of a hundred thousand.

48 They also lit the city on fire, and gathered many spoils that day, and delivered the sovereign.

49 So when those of the city saw that the Yahudim had taken the city as they would, their courage decreased,

therefore they made supplication to the sovereign, and cried, saying,

50 "Grant us peace, and let the Yahudim cease from assaulting us and the city!"

51 With that, they threw down their weapons, and made peace; and the Yahudim were honoured in the sight of the sovereign and in the sight of all that were in his reign; and they returned to Yerushalayim, having great spoils.

52 So Sovereign Dēmētrios sat on the throne of his reign, and the land was at rest before him.

53 However, he deceived in all that he spoke, and estranged himself from Yahunathan, neither rewarded him according to the good which he had received from him, but troubled him deeply.

54 After this, Truphon returned, and the young child Antioḱos with him, who was crowned and reigned.

55 Then all the men of battle gathered to him, whom Dēmētrios had put away, and they fought against Dēmētrios, who turned his back and fled.

56 Then Truphon took the elephants, and won Antioḱeia.

57 At that time young Antioḱos wrote to Yahunathan, saying, "I confirm you in the high kehunnah and appoint you ruler over the four governments and to be one of the sovereign's friends."

58 Then he sent him golden vessels to be served in, allowed him to drink in gold, and to be clothed in purple, and to wear a golden buckle.

59 He also made Shim'on his brother captain of the place called 'The ladder of Tsor' to the borders of Mitsrayim.

60 Then Yahunathan went out, and passed through the cities beyond the waters, and all the forces of Suria gathered themselves to him to assist him. And when he came to Ashqelon, those of the city met him honourably.

61 From there he went to Azzah, but those of Azzah shut him out, so he laid siege to it, and burned the open lands with fire, and plundered them.

62 Afterward, when those of Azzah made supplication to Yahunathan, he

made peace with them, and took the sons of their chief men for hostages, and sent them to Yerushalayim, and passed through the country to Dammaseq.

63 Now when Yahnathan heard that the princes of Dēmētrios had come to Qadēsh, which is in Galil, with a great force, with the purpose of removing him out of the land,

64 he went to meet them, and left Shim'on his brother in the land.

65 Then Shim'on encamped against Bēyth Tsur and fought against it a long time, and shut it up.

66 But they desired for peace with him, which he granted them, and then put them out from there, and took the city, and positioned a garrison in it.

67 As for Yahnathan and his army, they encamped at the lake of Gennēsar, and early in the morning they went from there to the plain of Ḥatsor.

68 And see, the army of foreigners met them in the plain, who, having laid men in ambush for him in the mountains, they came opposite him.

69 So when those that lay in ambush rose out of their places and joined battle, all that were of Yahnathan's side fled;

70 so that there was not one of them left, except Mattithyahu the son of Abshalom, and Yahudāh the son of Ḥalphi, the captains of the army.

71 Then Yahnathan tore his garments, and threw dust upon his head, and prayed.

72 After turning again to battle, he put them to flight, and so they ran away.

73 Now when his own men that had fled saw this, they turned again toward him, and with him, pursued them to Qadēsh, even to their own tents, and there they encamped.

74 So there were slain that day about three thousand men of the gentiles, but Yahnathan returned to Yerushalayim.

**12** Now when Yahnathan saw that time served him, he chose some men, and sent them to Rome, to confirm and renew the alliance that

they had with them.

2 He also sent letters to the Lakedaemonians, and to other places, for the same purpose.

3 So they went to Rome, and entered into the senate, and said, "Yahnathan the kohēn ha'gadol, and the people of the Yahudim, sent us to you, so that you should renew the friendship which you had with them, and alliance as before."

4 Upon this, the Romans gave them letters to the governors of every place that they should bring them into the land of Yahudāh peaceably.

5 And this is the copy of the letters which Yahnathan wrote to the Lakedaemonians:

6 "Yahnathan the kohēn ha'gadol, and the elders of the nation, and the kohanim, and the other of the Yahudim, to the Lakedaemonians their brothers, greetings.

7 "There were letters sent in time past to Onyah the kohēn ha'gadol from Dareyawesh, who then reigned among you, to signify that you are our brothers, as the copy here underwritten specifies;

8 at which time Onyah entreated the ambassador that was sent honourably, and received the letters, in which declaration was made of the alliance and friendship.

9 "Therefore we also - although we need none of these matters, in that we have the qodesh Books of Scripture in our hands to comfort us -

10 have nevertheless attempted to send to you for the renewing of brotherhood and friendship, lest we should become strangers to you altogether; for a long time has passed since you sent to us.

11 "We therefore at all times without ceasing, both in our Feasts, and other convenient days, remember you in the slaughterings which we offer, and in our prayers, as is right, and as it is fitting for us to think upon our brothers, 12 and we are rightly pleased for your honour.

13 "As for ourselves, we have had great troubles and battles on every

side, because the sovereigns that are round about us have fought against us.

14 "However, we would not be troublesome to you, nor to others of our allies and friends, in these battles,

15 for we have help from the shamayim that upholds us, so that we are delivered from our enemies, and our enemies are brought under foot.

16 "For this cause we chose Numēnios the son of Antiokos, and Antipater the son of Yason, and sent them to the Romans, to renew the friendship that we had with them, and the former alliance.

17 "We also commanded them to go to you, and to greet and to deliver you our letters concerning the renewing of our brotherhood.

18 "Therefore now you shall do well to give us an answer to this."

19 And this is the copy of the letters which he sent to Onyah:

20 "Arēios sovereign of the Lakedaemonians to Onyah the kohēn ha'gadōl; greetings.

21 "It is found in writing, that the Lakedaemonians and Yahudim are brothers, and that they are of the race of Abraham.

22 "Now therefore, since this has come to our knowledge, you shall do well to write to us of your prosperity.

23 "We write back again to you, that your cattle and goods are ours, and ours are yours. We command therefore our ambassadors to make report to you in this way."

24 Now when Yahnathan heard that Dēmētrios' princes had come to fight against him with a greater army than before,

25 He moved from Yerushalayim, and met them in the land of Amathos; for he gave them no release to enter his country.

26 He also sent spies to their tents, who came again, and told him that they were positioned to attack them in the night.

27 Therefore, as soon as the sun was down, Yahnathan commanded his men to be armed and to watch all night long so that they would be ready

to fight. He also sent out watchmen round about the army.

28 But when the adversaries heard that Yahnathan and his men were ready for battle, they feared, and trembled in their hearts, and they kindled fires in their camp.

29 However Yahnathan and his army did not know it till the morning; for they saw the lights burning.

30 Then Yahnathan pursued after them, but did not overtake them, for they had passed over the River Eleutherus.

31 Therefore Yahnathan turned to the Arabians, who were called Zabadeans, and smote them, and took their spoils.

32 And moving from there, he came to Dammaseq, and so passed through all the land.

33 Shim'on also went out and passed through the land to Ashqelon and the towers beside there, from where he turned aside to Yapho, and took it,

34 for he had heard that they would deliver the stronghold to those that allied with Dēmētrios; therefore he positioned a garrison there to guard it.

35 After this, Yahnathan returned home again, and calling the elders of the people together, he consulted with them about building strongholds in Yahudah,

36 and making the walls of Yerushalayim higher, and raising a great mound between the tower and the city to separate it from the city, so that it might stand alone, that men might neither sell nor buy in it.

37 Upon this they came together to build up the city, because part of the wall toward the wadi on the east side had fallen down, and they repaired that which was called Kaphenatha.

38 Shim'on also built up Aḏida in Shephelah, and strengthened it with gates and bars.

39 Now Truphon went about to take the reign of Asia, and to kill Antiokos the sovereign, that he might place the crown upon his own head.

40 However he was afraid that Yahnathan would not allow him, and that he would fight against him;

therefore he sought a way how to take Yahunathan, that he might kill him. So he moved, and came to Běyth She'an.

41 Then Yahunathan went out to meet him with forty thousand men chosen for the battle, and came to Běyth She'an.

42 Now when Truphon saw Yahunathan come with so great a force, he dared not stretch out his hand against him;

43 but received him honourably, and commended him to all his friends, and gave him gifts, and commanded his men of battle to be as obedient to him, as to himself.

44 To Yahunathan he also said, "Why have you brought all this people such great trouble, seeing there is no battle between us?"

45 "Now therefore, send them home again, and choose a few men to wait on you, and you, come with me to Ptolemais, for I will give it to you, and the rest of the strongholds and forces, and all that have any charge. As for me, I will return and depart, for this is why I have come."

46 So Yahunathan believing him, did as he asked him, and sent away his army, who went into the land of Yahudah.

47 And he only kept three thousand men with himself, of which he sent two thousand into Galil, and one thousand went with him.

48 Now as soon as Yahunathan entered into Ptolemais, those of Ptolemais shut the gates and took him, and all those that came with him they slew with the sword.

49 Then Truphon sent an army of footmen and horsemen into Galil, and into the great plain to destroy all Yahunathan's army.

50 But when they knew that Yahunathan and those that were with him were taken and slain, they encouraged one another, and drew close together preparing to fight.

51 Therefore those that pursued them, seeing that they were ready to fight for their lives, turned back again.

52 So they all came into the land of

Yahudah peaceably, and there they mourned for Yahunathan, and those that were with him, and they were very afraid. And so all Yisra'el made a great lamentation.

53 Then all the gentiles that were round about sought to destroy them, for they said, "They have no captain, nor any to help them. Now therefore let us fight them, and take away their remembrance from among men."

**13** Now when Shim'on heard that Truphon had gathered together a great army to invade the land of Yahudah, and destroy it,

2 and seeing that the people were in great trembling and fear, went up to Yerushalayim, and gathered the people together,

3 and gave them encouragement, saying, "You yourselves know what great deeds my brothers and I and my father's house have done for the Laws and the Miqdash; also the battles and troubles which we have seen.

4 "For this reason all my brothers are slain for Yisra'el's sake, and I alone am left.

5 "Now therefore, far be it from me that I should spare my own life in any time of trouble, for I am no better than my brothers.

6 "Certainly I shall avenge my nation, and the Miqdash and our wives and our children; for all the gentiles are gathered with great evil to destroy us."

7 Now as soon as the people heard these words their spirit revived,

8 and they answered with a loud voice saying, "You shall be our leader instead of Yahudah and Yahunathan your brother!"

9 "You fight our battles, and whatever, you command us, that we shall do."

10 So then he gathered together all the men of battle, and made haste to finish the walls of Yerushalayim, and he fortified it round about.

11 He also sent Yahunathan the son of Abshalom, and a great force with him to Yapho, who throwing out those that were there, remained there in it.

12 So Truphon moved from Ptolemais with a great strength to invade the land

of Yahudah, and Yahunathan was with him under guard.

13 But Shim'on pitched his tents at Adida, opposite the plain.

14 Now when Truphon knew that Shim'on had risen up instead of his brother Yahunathan, and meant to fight with him, he sent messengers to him, saying,

15 "Although we have Yahunathan your brother under guard, it is for silver that he owes to the sovereign's treasury, concerning that which was delivered to him.

16 "Now therefore, send a hundred talanton of silver and two of his sons as hostages, that when he is released he may not revolt against us, and we will let him go."

17 Although Shim'on perceived that they spoke deceitfully to him, because of this he sent the silver and the children, lest he should possibly gain great hatred for himself from the people,

18 who might have said, "Because he did not send him the silver and the children, therefore Yahunathan is dead."

19 So he sent them the children and the hundred talanton. However, Truphon was deceitful, neither would he let Yahunathan go.

20 And after this, Truphon came to invade the land and destroy it, going round about by the way that leads to Adorayim. But Shim'on and his army marched against him in every place, wherever he went.

21 Now those that were in the tower sent messengers to Truphon, so that he should hasten his coming to them by the wilderness, and send them food.

22 Therefore Truphon prepared all his horsemen to come that night, but he did not come because a very great snow fell. So he departed, and came into the land of Gil'ad.

23 And when he came near to Baskama he slew Yahunathan, who was buried there.

24 Afterward Truphon returned and went into his own land.

25 Then Shim'on sent, and took the bones of Yahunathan his brother, and buried them in Modi'im, the city of his fathers,

26 and all Yisra'el made a great lamentation for him, and mourned for him many days.

27 Shim'on also built a monument upon the tomb of his father and his brothers, and raised it up to be seen, with hewn stone in front and behind.

28 And, he put up seven memorials, one against another, for his father, and his mother, and his four brothers.

29 And in these he made skilled works, around which he placed great column. And he placed all their armour upon the columns for a remembrance forever, and ships were carved by the armour, that they might be seen of all that sail on the sea.

30 This is the tomb which he made at Modi'im, and it still stands to this day.

31 Now Truphon dealt deceitfully with the young Sovereign Antiochos, and slew him,

32 and he reigned in his place, and crowned himself sovereign of Asia, and brought great distress upon the land.

33 Then Shim'on built up the strongholds in Yahudah, and walled them around with high towers, and great walls, and gates, and bars, and stored up food within.

34 And Shim'on chose men, and sent to Sovereign Dēmētrios so that he would give the land immunity, because all that Truphon did was to plunder;

35 unto whom Sovereign Dēmētrios answered and wrote after this manner:

36 "Sovereign Dēmētrios, to Shim'on the kohēn ha'gadol, and friend of sovereigns, also to the elders and nation of the Yahudim, greetings.

37 "The golden crown, and the scarlet robe which you sent to us, we have received, and we are ready to make lasting peace with you, and also to write to our officers to confirm the immunities which we have granted.

38 "And whatever covenants we have made with you shall stand, and the

strongholds which you have built shall be your own.

39 "As for any oversight or fault committed to this day, we forgive it, and also the crown tax which you owe us. And if there were any other tribute paid in Yerushalayim, it shall no longer be paid.

40 "And seek those who are upright among you to be in our court; let them be enrolled, and let there be peace between us."

41 Thus the yoke of the gentiles was taken away from Yisra'ël in the hundred and seventieth year.

42 Then the people of Yisra'ël began to write in their documents and contracts, "In the first year of Shim'on the kohën ha'gadol, the governor and leader of the Yahudim."

43 In those days Shim'on encamped against Azzah and besieged it round about. He also made a siege engine, and positioned it by the city, and battered a certain tower, and took it.

44 And those that were in the siege engine leaped into the city; therefore there was such a great uproar in the city,

45 that the people of the city tore their garments, and climbed up on the walls with their wives and children, and cried with a loud voice pleading for Shim'on to grant them peace.

46 And they said, "Do not deal with us according to our wickedness, but according to your kindness!"

47 So Shim'on was appeased toward them and no longer fought against them, but put them out of the city, and cleansed the houses in which the idols were, and so entered into it with songs and thanksgiving.

48 He also removed all its uncleanness, and appointed men there that would guard the Law, and made it stronger than it was before, and built a dwelling place for himself there.

49 Also, those of the tower in Yerushalayim were kept so restricted, that they could neither come out, nor go into the country, nor buy, nor sell. Therefore they were in great distress for need of food, and a great number

of them perished through scarcity of food.

50 Then they cried to Shim'on, pleading for him to be at one with them, which he granted them. And when he had put them out from there, he cleansed the tower from uncleannesses,

51 and entered into it on the twenty-third day of the second month, in the hundred and seventy-first year with thanksgiving and branches of palm trees, and with harps and cymbals and with stringed instruments, and songs of praise and songs; because a great enemy was destroyed out of Yisra'ël.

52 He also ordained that the day should be kept every year with gladness. And he made the hill of the Hëykal that was by the tower stronger than it was, and he dwelt there himself with his army.

53 And when Shim'on saw that Yoëhanan his son was a brave man, he made him captain of all the armies; and he dwelt in Gezer.

**14** Now in the hundred and seventy-second year Sovereign Dëmëtrios gathered his forces together, and went into Maḏai to gain help to fight against Truphon.

2 But when Arsakës, the sovereign of Paras and Maḏai, heard that Dëmëtrios had entered within his borders, he sent one of his princes to take him alive,

3 who went and smote the army of Dëmëtrios, and took him and brought him to Arsakës, by whom he was put under guard.

4 As for the land of Yahudah, it was quiet all the days of Shim'on; for he sought the good of his nation in order that his authority and honour pleased them well all the days.

5 And as he was honourable in all his deeds, so in this, that he took Yapho for a harbour, and made an entrance to the islands of the sea,

6 and enlarged the boundary of his nation, and recovered the land,

7 and gathered together a great number of captives, and had the reign of Gezer, and Bëyth Tsur, and the tower, out of the which he took all

uncleanness, neither was there any that resisted him.

8 Then they tilled their ground in peace, and the earth gave its increase, and the trees of the field their fruit.

9 All the old men sat in the streets, speaking good words together, and the young men put on splendid armour.

10 He provided food for the cities, and appointed in them all manner of fortification, so that his honourable name was known to the ends of the world.

11 He made peace in the land, and Yisra'ël rejoiced with great joy,

12 for every man sat under his vine and his fig tree, and there was none to trouble them,

13 neither was there any left in the land to fight against them. The sovereigns themselves were also overthrown in those days,

14 and he strengthened all those of his people that were brought low. He searched out the Law, and he removed every despiser of the Law and wicked person.

15 He adorned the Miqdash, and multiplied vessels for the Hëykal.

16 Now when it was heard in Rome, and as far as Sparta, that Yahunathan was dead, they were very sorry,

17 but as soon as they heard that his brother Shim'on was made kohën ha'gadol in his place, and ruled the country, and the cities there,

18 they wrote to him on tablets of bronze, to renew the friendship and alliance which they had made with Yahuḏah and Yahunathan his brothers;

19 writings which were read before the assembly at Yerushalayim.

20 And this is the copy of the letters that the Lakedaemonians sent: "The rulers of the Lakedaemonians, with the city, to Shim'on the kohën ha'gadol, and the elders, and kohenim, and remnant of the people of the Yahuḏim, our brothers, greetings.

21 The ambassadors that were sent to our people informed us of your esteem and honour, therefore we were glad of their coming,

22 and registered the words that they spoke in the council of the people in this manner: 'Numënios son of Antioḡos, and Antipater son of Yason, the Yahuḏim's ambassadors, came to us to renew the friendship they had with us,

23 and it pleased the people to receive the men honourably, and to put the copy of their message in public record, so that the people of the Lakedaemonians might have a memorial of it. Furthermore we have written a copy of it to Shim'on the kohën ha'gadol.' "

24 After this Shim'on sent Numënios to Rome with a great golden shield of one thousand minas weight to confirm the alliance with them.

25 When the people heard of this, they said, "What thanks shall we give to Shim'on and his sons?"

26 "For he and his brothers and the house of his father have established Yisra'ël, and chased away their enemies from them in battle, and confirmed their freedom."

27 So then they wrote it on tablets of bronze, which they placed on columns in mount Tsiyon. And this is the copy of the writing: "The eighteenth day of the month Elul, in the hundred and seventy-second year, being the third year of Shim'on the kohën ha'gadol,

28 at Asaramel in the great assembly of the kohenim and people and rulers of the nation and elders of the country, these words were declared to us.

29 "Since many times there have been battles in the country, for which the maintenance of their Miqdash, and the Law, Shim'on the son of Mattithyahu, of the descendants of Yarib, together with his brothers, put themselves in danger, and resisting the enemies of their nation did their nation great honour.

30 "For after Yahunathan, having gathered his nation together, and been their kohën ha'gadol, was added to his people,

31 their enemies prepared to invade their country, that they might destroy it, and lay hands on the Miqdash.

32 "At which time Shim'on rose up, and fought for his nation, and spent much of his own wealth, and armed the brave men of his nation and gave them wages,

33 and fortified the cities of Yahudāh, together with Bēyth Tsur that lies on the borders of Yahudāh, where the armour of the enemies had been before; but he positioned a garrison of Yahudim there.

34 "He also fortified Yapho, which lies on the coast, and Gezer, that borders on Ashdod, where the enemies had dwelt before. And he appointed Yahudim there, and supplied them with all matters necessary for its repairs."

35 So the people sang the deeds of Shim'on, and to what esteem he thought to bring his nation, making him their governor and chief kohēn, because he had done all these matters, and for the Right-Ruling and belief which he guarded for his nation, and that by all means he sought to exalt his people.

36 For in his time matters prospered in his hands, so that the gentiles were taken out of their country, and also those that were in the city of Dawid in Yerushalayim who had made themselves a tower from which they came out and polluted all around the Miqdash and did much evil in the qodesh place.

37 But he appointed Yahudim in it and fortified it for the safety of the country and the city, and raised up the walls of Yerushalayim.

38 Sovereign Dēmētrios also confirmed him in the high kehunnah according to those matters,

39 and made him one of his friends, and honoured him with great honour.

40 For he had heard it said, that the Romans had called the Yahudim their friends and allies and brothers; and that they had entertained the ambassadors of Shim'on honourably.

41 Also that the Yahudim and kohēnim were well pleased that Shim'on should be their governor and kohēn ha'gadol forever, until there should arise a

trustworthy nabi.

42 That he should also be their leader, and would take charge of the Miqdash, to appoint them over their works, and over the country, and over the armoury, and over the fortresses.

43 Besides this, that he should be obeyed by every man, and that all the writings in the country should be made in his name, and that he should be clothed in purple and wear gold.

44 Also that it should be not allowed for the people or kohēnim to break any of these matters, or to refute his words, or to gather an assembly in the country without him, or to be clothed in purple, or wear a gold buckle;

45 and whoever should do otherwise, or break any of these matters should be punished.

46 So it pleased all the people to establish Shim'on, and to do as had been said.

47 Then Shim'on accepted this, and was well pleased to be kohēn ha'gadol, and leader and governor of the Yahudim and kohēnim, and to defend them all.

48 So they commanded that this writing should be put on tablets of bronze, and that they should be put up within the surrounds of the Miqdash in a conspicuous place;

49 also that the copies of this should be stored in the treasury, so that that Shim'on and his sons might have them.

**15** Now Antiokos son of Dēmētrios the sovereign sent letters from the islands of the sea to Shim'on the kohēn and prince of the Yahudim, and to all the people;

2 the contents of which were these: "Sovereign Antiokos to Shim'on the kohēn ha'gadol and leader of his nation, and to the people of the Yahudim, greetings.

3 "Since some troublesome men have usurped the reign of our fathers, and my purpose is to challenge it again that I may restore it to the old estate, and to that end have gathered a multitude of foreign soldiers together and prepared ships of battle;

4 my purpose also being to go through the country that I may be avenged of those that have destroyed it and made many cities in the reign desolate.

5 "Now therefore I confirm to you all the offerings which the sovereigns before me granted you, and also whatever gifts they granted.

6 "I allow you to coin silver for your country with your own stamp.

7 "And concerning Yerushalayim and the Miqdash; let them be free, and all the armour that you have made, and fortresses that you have built, and keep in your hands, let them remain with you.

8 "And if whatever is, or shall be, owing to the sovereign, let it be forgiven you from this time on forever.

9 "Furthermore, when we have obtained our reign, we will honour you, and your nation, and your Hëykal, with great honour, so that your honour shall be known throughout the world."

10 In the hundred and seventy fourth year Antiokos went into the land of his fathers, at which time all the forces came together to him, so that few were left with Truphon.

11 Therefore being pursued by Sovereign Antiokos, he fled to Dora, which lies by the sea coast,

12 for he saw that troubles came upon him all at once, and that his forces had deserted him.

13 Then Antiokos encamped against Dora, having with him a hundred and twenty thousand men of battle, and eight thousand horsemen.

14 And when he had surrounded the city and linked ships close to the town on the sea coast, he troubled the city by land and by sea, neither did he allow any to go out or in.

15 In the winter Numënios and his army came from Rome, having letters to the sovereigns and countries in which were written these matters:

16 "Lukios, consul of the Romans to Sovereign Ptolemaeus, greetings.

17 The Yahudim's ambassadors, our friends and allies, came to us to renew the old friendship and alliance, being sent from Shim'on the kohën ha'gadol

and from the people of the Yahudim, 18 and they brought a gold shield of one thousand minas.

19 "We thought it good therefore to write to the sovereigns and countries, that they should do them no harm, nor fight against them, their cities, or countries, nor indeed aid their enemies against them.

20 "It also seemed good to us to receive the shield from them.

21 "If therefore there are any troublesome fellows, that have fled from their country to you, deliver them to Shim'on the kohën ha'gadol, that he may punish them according to their own Law."

22 He also wrote the same words to Dëmëtrios the sovereign, and Attalus, to Ariarathës, and Arsakës,

23 and to all the countries and to Lampsakos, and the Lakedaemonians and to Dëlos and Mundos and Sikion and Karia and Samos and Pamphulia and Lukia and Halikarnassos and Rhodos and Arados and Kos and Sidë and Aradus and Gortina and Knidos and Kupros and Kurënë.

24 And the copy of this they wrote to Shim'on the kohën ha'gadol.

25 So Antiokos the sovereign encamped against Dora the second day, assaulting it continually, and making siege engines by which means he shut up Truphon, that he could neither go out nor go in.

26 At that time Shim'on sent him two thousand chosen men to aid him; also silver and gold and much armour.

27 Nevertheless he would not receive them, but broke all the covenants which he had made with him before, and became hostile toward him.

28 Furthermore he sent Athënobius, one of his friends to him, to speak with him, and say, "You withhold Yapho and Gezer - with the tower that is in Yerushalayim - which are cities of my reign.

29 "You have destroyed its borders, and done great evil in the land, and taken the rule of many places within my reign.

30 "Now therefore, deliver the cities

which you have taken, and the tributes of the places, of which you have taken rule outside the borders of Yahudāh;

31 or else give me five hundred talanton of silver for them and for the damage that you have done, and the tributes of the cities - another five hundred talanton. If not, we will come and fight against you."

32 So Athēnobiūs the sovereign's friend came to Yerushalayim, and when he saw the esteem of Shim'on, and the storage of gold and silver plate and his great attendance, he was astonished and told him the sovereign's message.

33 Then Shim'on answered and said to him, "We have neither taken other men's land, nor held that which belongs to others, but the inheritance of our fathers which our enemies held wrongfully in possession for a certain time.

34 "Therefore we, having opportunity, hold the inheritance of our fathers.

35 "And whereas you demand Yapho and Gezer - although they did great harm to the people in our country - yet we will give you a hundred talanton for them." To this Athēnobiūs answered him not a word,

36 but returned in a rage to the sovereign, and reported these words to him, and of the esteem of Shim'on, and of all that he had seen. So the sovereign was exceedingly wroth.

37 In the meantime, Truphon fled by ship to Orthosia.

38 Then the sovereign made Kendēbeus captain of the sea coast, and gave him an army of footmen and horsemen,

39 and commanded him to move his army toward Yahudāh. He also commanded him to build up Qidron, and to fortify the gates, and to fight against the people. But as for the sovereign himself, he pursued Truphon.

40 So Kendēbeus came to Yaḡneh and began to provoke the people and to invade Yahudāh, and to take the people captive and slay them.

41 And when he had built up Qidron, he

positioned horsemen there, and an army of footmen, so that coming out they might make attacks on the roads to Yahudāh, as the sovereign had commanded him.

**16** Then Yoḡanan came up from Gezer, and told Shim'on his father what Kendēbeus had done.

2 Therefore Shim'on called his two eldest sons Yahudāh and Yoḡanan and said to them, "My brothers and I and my father's house have from my youth to this day always fought against the enemies of Yisra'ēl. And matters have prospered so well in our hands, that we have delivered Yisra'ēl many times.

3 "But now I am old, and you, by Elohim's kindness, are of a sufficient age. You take the place of myself and my brother, and go and fight for our nation, and the help from the shamayim be with you."

4 So he chose twenty thousand men of battle out of the country with horsemen, who went out against Kendēbeus, and rested that night at Modi'im.

5 And when as they rose in the morning, and went into the plain, see, a mighty great army of both footmen and horsemen came against them. However, there was a wadi of water between them,

6 so he and his people encamped opposite them. But when he saw that the people were afraid to go over the wadi of water, he went over first himself, and then the men seeing him, passed over after him.

7 That done, he divided his men, and positioned the horsemen in the midst of the footmen, for the enemy's horsemen were very numerous.

8 Then they sounded with the qodesh trumpets, so Kendēbeus and his army were put to flight, so that many of them were slain, and the remnant went to the stronghold.

9 At that time Yahudāh, Yoḡanan's brother was wounded; but Yoḡanan still pursued them until he came to Qidron which Kendēbeus had built.

10 So they fled even to the towers in

the fields of Ashdog; therefore he burned it with fire, so that there were about two thousand of them slain. Afterward he returned to the land of Yahudah in peace.

11 And in the plain of Yeriho Ptolemaeus the son of Aboubus was made captain, and he had an abundance of silver and gold,

12 for he was the kohēn ha'gadol's son-in-law.

13 Therefore his heart being lifted up, he thought to take the land for himself, and therefore planned deceitfully against Shim'on and his sons to destroy them.

14 Now Shim'on was visiting the cities that were in the country and taking care for the good ordering of them; at which time he himself came down to Yeriho with his sons Mattithyahu and Yahudah, in the hundred and seventy-seventh year, in the eleventh month called Shebat,

15 where the son of Aboubus, receiving them deceitfully into a small fortress called Dok - which he had built - made them a great feast. However, he had men hidden there.

16 So when Shim'on and his sons had drunk plenty, Ptolemaeus and his men rose up, and took their weapons, and came upon Shim'on into the feasting place, and slew him, and his two sons,

and some of his servants.

17 In doing so, he committed a great treachery, and repaid evil for good.

18 Then Ptolemaeus wrote these matters, and sent to the sovereign, that he should send him an army to aid him, and he would deliver him the land and cities.

19 He also sent others to Gezer to kill Yoḥanan. And he sent letters to the tribunes to come to him, that he might give them silver and gold and rewards.

20 And others he sent to take Yerushalayim and the mountain of the Hēykal.

21 Now one had run before to Gezer and told Yoḥanan that his father and brothers were slain, and he said, "Ptolemaeus has sent to slay you also."

22 When he heard of this, he was greatly astonished, so he took hold of those that came to destroy him, and slew them; for he knew that they sought to make him away.

23 Concerning the rest of the acts of Yoḥanan, and his battles, and worthy deeds which he did, and the building of the walls which he made, and his doings,

24 see, these are written in the chronicles of his kehunnah, from the time he was made kohēn ha'gadol after his father.