

MAQQABIM 2

ב מקבים א טו/אפמ

1 The brothers, the Yahudim that are at Yerushalayim and in the land of Yahudah desire health and peace to the brothers, the Yahudim that are throughout Mitsrayim.

2 Elohim show favour to you, and remember His Covenant that He made with Abraham, Yitshaq, and Ya'aqob His trustworthy servants;

3 and give you all a heart to serve Him and to do His desire with good courage and an eager mind.

4 And open your hearts in His Torah and Commands, and send you peace,

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

6 And now we are here praying for you.

7 Such time as Dēmētrios reigned, in the hundred and sixty-ninth year, we the Yahudim wrote to you in the extreme trouble that came upon us in those years, from the time that Yason and his company revolted from the qodesh land and reign,

8 and burned the porch and shed innocent blood; we then prayed to אלהים and were heard. We also offered slaughterings and fine flour, and lit the lamps, and put out the loaves.

9 And now, see that you guard the Feast of Sukkoth in the month Kislēw.

10 In the hundred and eighty-eighth year, the people that were at Yerushalayim and in Yahudah, and the council, and Yahudah, sent greeting and health to Aristobulus, Sovereign Ptolemaeus' master, who was of the descendants of the anointed kohenim, and to the Yahudim that were in Mitsrayim.

11 In so far as Elohim has delivered us from great perils, we thank Him highly, as having been in battle against a sovereign.

12 For He threw out those that fought within the qodesh city.

13 For when the leader had come to Paras, and the army with him that seemed invincible, they were slain in

the temple of Nanaia by deceit of the priests of Nanaia.

14 For Antiokos and his friends that were with him came into the place as though he would marry her, to receive silver in name of a dowry.

15 Which when the priests of Nanaia had presented and he had entered into the surrounds of the temple with a small company, they shut the temple as soon as Antiokos had come in.

16 And opening a secret door of the roof, they threw stones like thunderbolts, and struck down the captain, cut them in pieces, smote off their heads and threw them to those that were outside.

17 Baruk be our Elohim in all, who has delivered up the wicked.

18 Therefore now that we have purposed to guard the purification of the Hēykal on the twenty-fifth day of the month Kislēw, we thought it necessary to notify you of this, that you also might guard it, as the Feast of the Sukkoth, and of the fire which was given to us when Neḥemyah brought an offering after he had built the Hēykal and the altar.

19 For when our fathers were led into Paras, the kohenim that were then dedicated took the fire of the altar secretly, and hid it in a hollow place of a well without water, where they kept it safe, so that the place was unknown to all men.

20 Now after many years, when it pleased Elohim, Neḥemyah, having been sent from the sovereign of Paras, sent the descendants of those kohenim that had hid the fire. But when they told us they found no fire, but thick water;

21 he then commanded them to draw it up, and to bring it. And when the slaughterings were laid, Neḥemyah commanded the kohenim to sprinkle the wood and the matters laid upon it with the water.

22 When this was done, and the time came that the sun shone, which was hid in the cloud before, there was a great fire kindled, so that every man marvelled.

23 And the kohēnim made a prayer while the slaughtering was consumed; both the kohēnim and all the rest - Yahnathan beginning, and the rest answering to it - as Nehemyah did.

24 And the prayer was after this manner: "O אלהים, Adonai, Elohim, Creator of all things who is awesome and mighty and righteous and showing favour and the only kind Sovereign,

25 "The only Giver of all things, the only righteous, almighty and everlasting. You who delivers Yisra'el from all trouble and chose the fathers and qadosh them.

26 "Receive the offering for all Your people Yisra'el and preserve Your own portion and qadosh them.

27 "Gather together those that are scattered from us, deliver those that serve among the gentiles, look upon those who are despised and abhorred and let the gentiles know that You are our Elohim.

28 "Punish those that oppress us and do evil to us with pride.

29 "Plant Your people again in Your qodesh place as Mosheh has spoken."

30 And the kohēnim sang songs of thanksgiving.

31 Now when the offering was consumed, Nehemyah commanded the water that was left to be poured on the great stones.

32 When this was done, there was a flame kindled, and it was added to by the light that shone from the altar.

33 So when this matter was known, it was told the sovereign of Paras, that in the place where the kohēnim that were led away had hid the fire, there appeared water, and that Nehemyah had purified the offerings with it.

34 Then the sovereign, enclosing the place, qadosh it, after he had examined the matter.

35 And the sovereign took many gifts, and bestowed them on those whom he would esteem.

36 And Nehemyah called this Naphthar, which is to say, a cleansing; but many men call it Nephtar.

2 It is also found in the records that Yirmeyahu the nabi commanded

those that were carried away to take from the fire, as it has been declared, 2 and how the nabi, having given them the Law, charged them not to forget the Commands of אלהים, and that they should not stray in their minds when they see images of silver and gold with their ornaments.

3 And with other such words he urged them that the Law should not depart from their hearts.

4 It was also contained in the same writing, that the nabi, being warned by Elohim, commanded the Mishkan and the ark to go with him as he went up to the mountain where Mosheh climbed up and saw the inheritance of Elohim.

5 And when Yirmeyahu came there, he found a hollow cave where he laid the Mishkan and the ark and the altar of incense, and so sealed the entrance.

6 And some of those that followed him came to mark the way, but they could not find it.

7 When Yirmeyahu saw this, he charged them saying, "As for that place, it shall be unknown until the time that Elohim gathers his people together again and receives them in kindness.

8 "Then אלהים shall show them these matters and the esteem of אלהים shall appear and also the cloud as it was shown under Mosheh, and as when Shelomoh desired that the place might be qadosh with honour."

9 It was also declared, that he, being wise, offered the slaughtering of dedication and of the finishing of the Hēykal.

10 And as when Mosheh prayed to אלהים, the fire came down from the shamayim and consumed the offerings. Even as Shelomoh also prayed and the fire came down from the shamayim and consumed the burnt offerings.

11 And Mosheh said, "Because the sin offering was not to be eaten, it was consumed."

12 So Shelomoh kept those eight days.

13 The same matters were also reported in the writings and commentaries of Nehemyah; and how

he, establishing a library, gathered together the acts of the sovereigns and the nebi'im and of Dawid and the letters of the sovereigns concerning the qodesh gifts.

14 Likewise, Yahudāh also gathered together all those matters that were lost because of the battle we had, and they remain with us.

15 Therefore if you have need of these, send some to bring them to you.

16 Now that we are about to celebrate the purification, we have written to you, and you shall do well, if you guard the same days.

17 We also trust, that the Elohim who delivered all His people and gave them all an inheritance and the reign and the kehunnah and the Miqdash,

18 as He promised in the Law, will shortly show favour upon us, and gather us together out of every land under the shamayim to the qodesh place; for He has delivered us out of great troubles and has qadosh the place.

19 Now concerning Yahudāh Maqqabāh and his brothers and the purification of the great Hēykal and the dedication of the altar,

20 and the battles against Antiochos Epiphanēs and Eupator his son,

21 and the visible signs that came from the shamayim to those that acted bravely in their honour for the Yahudim so that, being but a few, they overcame the whole country, and chased a multitude of foreigners,

22 and again recovered the Hēykal renowned all the world over, and freed the city, and upheld the Laws which were declining, ~~אֵלֹהִים~~ showing favour to them with all kindness.

23 All these things I say, being declared by Yason of Kurēnē in five books, we will attempt to shorten in one volume.

24 For considering the limitless number and the difficulty which they find who desire to look into the narrations of the story, for the variety of the matter,

25 we have been careful that those who read may have delight, and that those who are eager to commit to memory might have ease, and that all

into whose hands it comes might benefit.

26 Therefore to we who have taken upon ourselves this painful labour of abridging, it was not easy, but a matter of sweat and watchfulness.

27 Even as it is not easy for he that prepares a banquet and seeks the benefit of others, yet for the pleasure of many we will gladly undertake this with great pains,

28 leaving to the author the exact handling of every particular, and labouring to follow the rules of an abridgement.

29 For as the master builder of a new house must care for the whole building; but he that undertakes to lay it out and paint it, must seek out proper adornments for it; even so I think it is with us.

30 To stand upon every point and go over matters at large and to be watchful in particulars, belongs to the first author of the story,

31 but to use brevity, and avoid much labouring of the work, is allowed to him that will make an abridgment.

32 Here then we will begin the story, only adding this much to that which has been said, that it is a foolish thing to make a long prologue, and to be short in the story itself...

3 Now when the qodesh city was inhabited with all peace and the Laws were guarded very well, because of the righteousness of Onyah the kohēn ha'gadol and his hatred of wickedness,

2 It came to be that even the sovereigns themselves honoured the place and extolled the Hēykal with their best gifts,

3 so that Seleukus of Asia bore all the costs pertaining to the service of the offerings from his own revenues.

4 But a certain Shim'on of the tribe of Binyamin, who was made governor of the Hēykal, fell out with the kohēn ha'gadol about disorder in the city.

5 And when he could not overcome Onyah, he went to Apollonios the son of Thraseas, who then was governor of Koēlē Suria and Phoinikē,

6 and told him that the treasury in Yerushalayim was full of an endless amount of silver, so that the multitude of their riches, which did not pertain to the account of the offerings, was innumerable, and that it was possible to bring all into the sovereign's hand.

7 Now when Apollonios came to the sovereign, and had showed him some of the silver of which he was told, the sovereign chose out Heliodorus his treasurer, and sent him with a command to bring him the silver spoken of.

8 So Heliodorus promptly took his journey, under pretense of visiting the cities of Koëlä Suria and Phoinikë, but indeed to fill the sovereign's purpose.

9 And when he came to Yerushalayim, and had been received in friendship by the kohën ha'gadol of the city, he told him what information was given regarding the silver and declared why he came and asked if these things were indeed so.

10 Then the kohën ha'gadol told him that there was such silver laid up for the relief of widows and fatherless children,

11 and that some of it belonged to Hurkanos son of Tobiyah, a man of high position, and not as that wicked Shim'on had misinformed; the sum of which in total was four hundred talanton of silver and two hundred of gold,

12 and that it was altogether impossible that such wrongs should be done to those that had committed it to the qodeshah of the place, and to the esteem and undefiled qodeshah of the Hëykäl honoured all over the world.

13 But because of the sovereign's command given him, Heliodorus said that by any means it must be brought into the sovereign's treasury.

14 So on the day which he appointed, he entered in to order this matter, therefore there was no small distress throughout the whole city.

15 But the kohenim, bowing themselves before the altar in their kehunnah garments, called to the shamayim on He that made a Law

concerning matters given to be kept, that they should safely be preserved for such as had committed them to be kept.

16 Then whoever the kohën ha'gadol had looked in the face, it would have wounded his heart, for his appearance and his change in colour made clear the inward agony of his mind.

17 For the man was so encompassed with fear and horror of the body, that it was made clear to those that looked upon him what sorrow he now had in his heart.

18 Others ran out of their houses gathering to the general supplication, because the place was likely to come into contempt.

19 And the women, girded with sackcloth under their breasts, overflowed in the streets, and the maidens that were kept in ran, some to the gates and some to the walls, and others looked out of the windows.

20 And all, holding their hands toward the shamayim, made supplication.

21 Then it would have pitied a man to see the falling down of the multitude of all sorts, and the fear of the kohën ha'gadol being in such an agony.

22 They then called upon אלהים the Almighty to guard the matters entrusted safe and secure for those that had committed them.

23 Nevertheless Heliodorus executed that which was decreed.

24 Now as he was there present with his guard around the treasury, אלהים of Ruaḥoth and the Prince of all power, caused a great appearance, so that all that though to come in with him were astonished at the power of Elohim and fainted and were greatly frightened.

25 For there appeared to them a horse with a fearsome rider upon it, and adorned with a very attractive covering. And it ran fiercely and smote at Heliodorus with its forelegs and it seemed that he that sat upon the horse had a harness completely of gold.

26 And two other young men appeared before him, notable in strength, excellent in beauty and splendid in

apparel, who stood by him on either side and flogged him continually and gave him very many stripes.

27 And Heliodorus fell suddenly to the ground and was surrounded with great darkness, but those that were with him picked him up and put him into a palanquin.

28 So he, that recently came with a great procession and with all his guard into the treasury, they carried out, being unable to help himself with his weapons, and making it clear they acknowledged the power of Elohim.

29 For he, by the hand of Elohim was thrown down, and lay speechless without any expectancy of life.

30 And they praised אלהים who had miraculously honoured His own place, for the Hëykäl - which shortly before was full of fear and trouble - when אלהים the Almighty appeared, was filled with joy and gladness.

31 Then immediately some friends of Heliodorus who lay ready to breath his last, pleaded with Onyah that he would call upon the Most High to grant him his life.

32 So the kohën ha'gadol, suspecting lest the sovereign should wrongly think that some treachery had been done to Heliodorus by the Yahudim, offered an offering for the health of the man.

33 Now as the kohën ha'gadol was making an atonement, the same young men in the same garments appeared and stood beside Heliodorus saying, "Give Onyah the kohën ha'gadol great thanks, because for his sake אלהים has granted you life.

34 "And seeing that you have been flogged from the shamayim, declare to all men the mighty power of Elohim." And when they had spoken these words, they no longer appeared.

35 So after he had brought an offering to אלהים, and made great vows to Him that had saved his life, and embraced Onyah, Heliodorus returned with his army to the sovereign.

36 Then he witnessed to all men the works of the great Elohim, which he had seen with his eyes.

37 And when the Sovereign Heliodorus,

who might be a suitable man to be sent yet once again to Yerushalayim said,

38 "If you have any enemy or traitor, send him there, and you shall receive him well flogged, if he escapes with his life. For in that place, no doubt; there is a special power of Elohim.

39 "For he that dwells in the shamayim has His eye on that place, and defends it; and He beats and destroys those that come to damage it."

40 And the matters concerning Heliodorus and the keeping of the treasury, fell out on this sort.

4 This Shim'on now, of whom we spoke before, having been a betrayer of the silver and of his country, slandered Onyah as if he had terrified Heliodorus and been the worker of these evils.

2 Thus he was bold to call him a traitor, that had deserved good from the city and shown concern for his own nation and was so ardent for the Laws.

3 But when their hatred went so far that murders were committed by one of Shim'on's faction,

4 Onyah seeing the danger of this contention, and that Apollonios - being the governor of Koëlä Suria and Phoinikë - raged and increased Shim'on's evil.

5 He went to the sovereign, not to be an accuser of his countrymen, but seeking the good of all, both public and private.

6 For he saw that it was impossible that the situation should remain calm, and Shim'on leave his folly, unless the sovereign looked into it.

7 But after the death of Seleukus, when Antiokos called Epiphanës took the reign, Yason the brother of Onyah acted corruptly to be kohën ha'gadol,

8 promising to the sovereign by intercession three hundred and sixty talanton of silver, and eighty talanton from another revenue.

9 Besides this, he promised to assign a hundred and fifty more if he might have authority to establish a place for exercise, and for the training up of youth in the manner of the gentiles,

and to describe those of Yerushalayim by the name of Antioķeians;

10 which when the sovereign had granted, and he had acquired the rulership into his hand, he promptly brought his own nation to Yawanite manner.

11 And he took away the royal privileges granted by special favour to the Yahudim by means of Yoĥanan the father of Eupolemus - who went ambassador to Rome for peace and assistance - and putting down the governments which were according to the Law, he brought up new customs against the Law.

12 For he gladly built an exercise arena under the tower itself, and brought the chief young men under his subjection, and made them wear a hat.

13 Now such was the height of Yawanite ways and increase of gentile manners through the exceeding profaneness of Yason, that wicked wretch, and no kohēn ha'gadol;

14 that the kohanim had no heart to serve any more at the altar, but despising the Hēykal and neglecting the slaughterings, hastened to be partakers of the unlawful allowance in the exercise arena, called out after striking the gong;

15 not remaining in the honours of their fathers, but loving the esteem of the Yawanites above all.

16 For this reason severe calamity came upon them, for those whose custom they followed so earnestly and to whom they desired to be like in every way, came to be their enemies and avengers.

17 For it is not a light thing to do wickedly against the Laws of Elohim, but the time following shall make known these things.

18 Now when the sovereign was present at the quadrennial games that were held at Tsor,

19 this shameful Yason sent special messengers from Yerushalayim, who were Antioķeians to carry three hundred draķmas of silver to the offering of Heraklēs, which even the bearers thought not fit to present upon

the offering, because it was not right, but to be reserved for other charges.

20 This silver then, in regard to the sender, was appointed to Heraklēs' offering; but because of the bearers, it was applied to the making of galleys.

21 Now when Apollonios the son of Mēnēstheos was sent to Mitsrayim for the coronation of Sovereign Ptolemaeus Philometor, Antioķos, understanding him not to be well inclined to his affairs, provided for his own safety. So he came to Yapho, and from there to Yerushalayim,

22 where he was honourably received by Yason and by the city, and was brought in with torch alight and with great shouting, and so afterward went with his army to Phoinikē.

23 Three years afterward Yason sent Menelaos, the brother of the same Shim'on, to take the silver to the sovereign, and to put him in mind of some necessary matters.

24 But he, being brought to the presence of the sovereign, when he had exalted him for the splendid appearance of his power, obtained the kehunnah for himself, offering more than Yason by three hundred talanton of silver.

25 So he came with the sovereign's authority, bringing nothing worthy of the high kehunnah, but having the fury of a cruel tyrant and the rage of a savage beast.

26 Then Yason, who had undermined his own brother, being undermined by another, was compelled to flee to the land of the Ammonites;

27 so Menelaos gained the principality. But as for the silver that he had promised to the sovereign, he gave no good order for it, although Sostratos the ruler of the fortress required it,

28 for the gathering of the customs belonged to him. Therefore they were both called before the sovereign.

29 Now Menelaos left his brother Lusimaķos in his place in the kehunnah, and Sostratos left Krētēs, who was governor of the Kuprians.

30 While those matters were taking place, those of Tarsos and Mallos

revolted because they were given to the sovereign's concubine called Antiokos.

31 Then the sovereign came in haste to appease matters, leaving Andronikos, a man in authority as his deputy.

32 Now Menelaos, supposing that he had gained a convenient time, stole some vessels of gold out of the Hëykal, and gave some of them to Andronikos, and some he sold to Tsor and the cities round about.

33 When Onyah knew for certain, he reproved him and withdrew himself to a refuge at Daphnë, that is near Antiokeia.

34 Therefore Menelaos, taking Andronikos aside, asked him to take Onyah into his hands; who being persuaded and coming to Onyah in deceit, gave him his right hand with oaths. And though he was suspected by him, yet he persuaded him to come out from the refuge, whom he promptly shut up without regard for righteousness.

35 For which cause, not only the Yahudim, but also many of other nations were greatly enraged and were very grieved for the unrighteous murder of the man.

36 And when the sovereign had come again from the places around Kilikia, the Yahudim that were in the city and some of the Yawanites that loathed the fact also, complained because Onyah was slain without cause.

37 Therefore Antiokos was deeply sorry and moved to pity, and wept because of the sober and modest behaviour of he that was dead.

38 And being kindled with wrath, he promptly took away from Andronikos his purple, and tore off his garments, and leading him through the whole city to that very place where he had committed unrighteousness against Onyah, there he slew the cursed murderer. Thus ⲁⲓⲁⲓ repaid him his punishment as he had deserved.

39 Now when many temple robberies had been committed in the city by Lusimaqos with the consent of Menelaos, and the fruit of which

was spread abroad, many vessels of gold already having been carried away, the multitude gathered themselves together against Lusimaqos.

40 So when the common people rose up being filled with rage, Lusimaqos armed about three thousand men and first began to do violence; a certain Auranus being the leader, a man far gone in years, and no less in folly.

41 Some of them then seeing the attempt of Lusimaqos took stones, some clubs, others taking handfuls of dust that was at hand, threw them all together at Lusimaqos, and those that attacked them.

42 Thus they wounded many of them, and some they struck to the ground, and they forced all of them to flee. But as for the temple-robber himself, they killed him beside the treasury.

43 Therefore because of these matters there was an accusation laid against Menelaos.

44 Now when the sovereign came to Tsor, three men that were sent from the senate pleaded the case before him,

45 but Menelaos, being now convicted, promised Ptolemaeus the son of Dorumënës to give him much silver, if he would pacify the sovereign toward him.

46 So Ptolemaeus taking the sovereign aside into a certain gallery, as it were to get some air, caused him to think differently,

47 so that he discharged Menelaos from the accusations, who was causing all the evil however, and those poor men, who, if they had stated their case - even before the Skuthians, should have been judged innocent - those he condemned to death.

48 So those that pursued the matter for the city and for the people and for the qodesh vessels, quickly suffered unrighteous punishment.

49 Therefore even those of Tsor, moved with hatred for that wicked deed, had them buried honourably.

50 And so through the covetousness of those that were of power, Menelaos still remained in authority, increasing in

evil, and being a great traitor to the citizens.

5 About the same time Antiochos prepared his second voyage to Mitsrayim.

2 And then it came to be, that through all the city for almost forty days, there was seen horsemen running in the air in golden garments, and armed with lances like a band of soldiers,

3 and bands of horsemen in array attacking and charging against one another with shaking shields and multitudes of spears and drawing swords and shooting arrows and glittering golden ornaments with harnesses of all kinds.

4 Therefore every man prayed that the apparition might turn to good.

5 Now when a false rumour had gone out, as though Antiochos had been dead, Yason took at the least one thousand men, and made a sudden assault on the city; and those that were on the walls retreated, and with the city being eventually taken, Menelaos fled into the fortress.

6 But Yason slew his own citizens without pity, not considering that to win the day from them over his own nation would be a very grievous day for him; but thinking they had been his enemies whom he conquered, and not his countrymen.

7 However for all this he did not obtain the principality, but in the end received shame for the recompense of his treason, and fled again into the land of the Ammonites.

8 In the end therefore, he had an unpleasant return, being accused before Aretas the sovereign of the Arabians, fleeing from city to city, pursued by all men, hated as a forsaker of the Laws, and being held in abomination as an open enemy of his country and countrymen, he was thrown out into Mitsrayim.

9 So he that had driven many out of their land perished in a strange land, retiring to the Lakedemonians, and thinking to find support there by reason of his relatives.

10 And he that had thrown out many

unburied had none to mourn for him, nor any solemn funerals at all, nor tomb with his fathers.

11 Now when this that was done came to the sovereign's ear, he thought that Yahudah had revolted, so departing from Mitsrayim in a rage, he took the city by force of arms,

12 and commanded his men of battle not to spare any they met, but to slay any who went up on the houses.

13 Thus there was slaughter of young and old; doing away with men, women and children; slaying of maidens and infants.

14 And there were eighty thousand destroyed within the space of three whole days, of which forty thousand were slain in the battle, and no fewer sold than slain.

15 Yet was he not content with this, but presumed to go into the most qodesh Hëykal of all the world - Menelaos being his guide - that traitor to the Laws and to his own country.

16 And taking the qodesh vessels with polluted hands, and with profane hands pulling down those that were dedicated by other sovereigns to the adornment and esteem and honour of the place, he gave away.

17 And Antiochos was so proud of heart that he did not considered that אַיָּהוָה was wroth for a while for the sins of those that dwelt in the city, and therefore his eye was not on the place.

18 For had they not been previously entwined in many sins, this man as soon as he had come, had promptly been scourged and put back from his presumption, as Heliodorus was, whom Seleukus the sovereign sent to view the treasury.

19 Nevertheless Elohim did not choose the people for the sake of the place, but the place for the sake of the people.

20 And therefore the place itself, that shared with those in the distress that befell the nation, afterward shared in the benefits sent from אַיָּהוָה, and as it was forsaken in the wrath of the Almighty, so again, אַיָּהוָה the Almighty having restored it to favour, was put up

with all esteem.

21 So when Antiochos had carried out of the Hēykal one thousand eight hundred talanton, he departed in haste to Antiokeia, thinking in his pride to sail on the land and pass over the sea on foot, such was the pride of his heart.

22 And he left governors to oppress the nation: at Yerushalayim, Philippos, a Phrugian of his land, and in many ways more barbarous than he that appointed him there.

23 And at Gerizim: Andronikos, and also Menelaos, who worse than all the rest bore a heavy hand over the citizens, having a malicious heart against his race the Yahudim.

24 He also sent that detestable ringleader Apollonios with an army of twenty-two thousand, commanding him to slay all those in their prime and to sell the women and the younger ones,

25 who coming to Yerushalayim and pretending peace, waited till the qodesh day of the Shabbath, when finding the Yahudim keeping a qodesh day, he commanded his men to arm themselves.

26 And so he slew all those that went to the celebration of the Shabbath, and running through the city with weapons slew great multitudes.

27 But Yahudah Maqqabah with about nine others, withdrew into the wilderness with his army, and lived in the mountains after the manner of beasts, eating plants continually, lest they should be partakers of the pollution.

6 Not long after this, the sovereign sent an old man of Athēnai to compel the Yahudim to depart from the Laws of their fathers and not to live after the Laws of Elohim,

2 and to also pollute the Hēykal in Yerushalayim, and to call it the temple of Zeus Olympios; and the one in Gerizim: of Zeus the defender of foreigners, as those that dwelt in the place desired.

3 The coming of this trouble was very grievous to the people,

4 for the Hēykal was filled with loose

behaviour and revelry by the gentiles, who played with whores and went aside with women within the borders of the qodesh places, and besides that, brought in objects that were not right.

5 The altar was also filled with abominations which the Law forbids, 6 neither was it allowed for a man to guard Shabbath days or ancient feasts, or to profess himself at all to be a Yahudi.

7 And every month in the day of the sovereign's birth they were taken under bitter constraint to eat of the offerings; and when the fast of Dionusos was kept, the Yahudim were compelled to go in the procession of Dionusos carrying ivy.

8 And a decree went out to the neighbouring cities of the gentiles by the word of Ptolemaeus, against the Yahudim, that they should observe the same practice and be partakers of their offerings,

9 and whoever would not conform themselves to the ways of the gentiles should be put to death. Then one could see the present misery;

10 for there were two women brought who had circumcised their children, whom when they had openly led round about the city - the infants hanging at their breasts - they threw them down from the wall.

11 And others that had run together into caves nearby to guard the Shabbath day secretly, being discovered by Philippos, were all burned together, for they would not for conscience defend themselves in honour of the most qodesh day.

12 Now I plead to those that read this book, that they do not be discouraged because of these calamities, but that they consider these punishments not to be for destruction, but for a disciplining of our nation.

13 For it is a sign of His great goodness, when evil-doers are not given any length of time, but promptly punished.

14 For He does not deal with us as with other nations whom ~~אך~~ patiently awaits to punish, till they have come to

the fulness of their sins,

15 lest having come to the height of sin, He should take vengeance on us afterwards,

16 and therefore He never withdraws His kindness from us. And though He punishes with adversity, yet He never forsakes his people.

17 But let this that we have spoken be for a warning to us; and now will we come to the declaring of the matter in a few words.

18 Eli'ezer, one of the principal scribes, an aged man and of a well-favoured presence, was forced to open his mouth, and to eat pig's flesh.

19 But he, choosing rather to die with honour than to live stained with such an abomination, spat it out, and went to the torture of his own accord,

20 as is necessary for those to go that stand firm against such matters that are not Lawful to be tasted even for love of life.

21 But those who were in charge of that wicked feast, took aside the man because of the old acquaintance they had with him, and urged him to bring flesh of his own provision, such as was Lawful for him to use, and make as if he ate of the flesh taken from the offering commanded by the sovereign; 22 that in doing so he might be delivered from death, and find favour with them for the old friendship.

23 But he began to consider wisely, as was befit for his years and the excellency of his old age and the honour of his head on which grey had come, and his most upright Torah from childhood, or rather the qodesh Law made and given by Elohim. Therefore he answered accordingly, and requested they immediately send him to the grave.

24 "For it is not proper for our age," he said, "in any way to pretend, whereby many young ones might think that Eli'ezer, being ninety years old, had now gone to a strange religion.

25 "And so they, through my hypocrisy and desire to live a little time and a moment longer should be deceived by me and I bring a stain on my old age

and make it abominable.

26 "For though for the present time I should be delivered from the punishment of men, yet I would not escape the hand of the Almighty, neither alive, nor dead.

27 "Therefore now, bravely exchanging this life, I will show myself such a one as befits my age,

28 and leave a notable example to those who are young; to die willingly and courageously for the esteemed and qodesh Laws." And when he had said these words, he immediately went to the torture,

29 those leading him changing the kindness they bore him a little before into hatred, because they supposed the previous words came from a desperate being.

30 And when he was ready to die with stripes, he groaned and said, "It is known to אלהים who has the qodesh wisdom, that whereas I might have been delivered from death, I now endure severe pains in body by being beaten, but in spirit I am well content to suffer these, because I revere Him!"

31 And so the man died, leaving his death as an example of a noble courage, and a remembrance of strength, not only to young men, but to all his nation.

7 It also came to be, that seven brothers with their mother were taken, and compelled by the sovereign - against the Law - to eat pig's flesh, and were tortured with scourges and whips.

2 But one of them that spoke first said, "What would you ask or learn from us? We are ready to die, rather than to transgress the Laws of our fathers."

3 Then the sovereign becoming enraged, commanded pots and cauldrons to be heated.

4 These promptly being heated, he commanded to cut out the tongue of he that spoke first, and to cut off the outer parts of his body with the rest of his brothers and his mother looking on.

5 Now when he was mutilated in this way over his entire body, he commanded him while still alive to be

brought to the fire, and to be fried in the cauldron. And as the smoke of the cauldron spread widely, they encouraged one another with their mother to die bravely saying,

6 "אלהים Elohim watches over us and in truth has compassion on us, as Mosheh spoke in his song which witnessed to their faces saying, 'And He has compassion on his servants.' "

7 So when the first had died in this manner, they brought the second to make him a mockery. And when they had pulled off the skin from his head with the hair, they asked him, "Will you eat before you are tortured over every part of your body?"

8 But he answered in his own language and said, "No." Therefore he also received the next torture in turn as the former had.

9 And when he was at the last gasp he said, "In wrath you remove us from this present life, but the Sovereign of the world shall raise up we who have died for His Laws, unto everlasting hai!"

10 After him, the third was made a mockery, and when demanded, he immediately put out his tongue and held out his hands bravely

11 and said courageously, "These I had from the shamayim and for His Laws I despise them, and from Him I expect to receive them again."

12 Therefore the sovereign, and those that were with him, marvelled at the young man's courage that he regarded the pains as nothing.

13 Now when this man was also dead, they tortured and mutilated the fourth in a similar way.

14 So when he was ready to die he said, "It is good to be put to death by men; to look for expectancy from Elohim to be raised up again by Him. As for you, you shall have no resurrection to hai."

15 Afterward they brought the fifth also, and mutilated him.

16 Then he looked at the sovereign and said, "You have power over men, you are corruptible, you do what you want; yet do not think that our nation is forsaken by Elohim.

17 "But wait a while and see His great power, how He will distress you and your seed."

18 After him they also brought the sixth, who being ready to die said, "Do not be deceived by any means, for we suffer these matters because of ourselves, having sinned against our Elohim; therefore great matters are done to us.

19 "But do not think, you who takes in hand to strive against Elohim, that you shall escape unpunished."

20 But the mother was greater above all and worthy of honourable remembrance; for when she saw her seven sons slain within the space of one day, she bore it with good courage because of the expectancy that she had in אללה.

21 She also encouraged every one of them in her own language. Filled with a courageous spirit and stirring up her womanly thoughts with a brave face, she said to them,

22 "I cannot tell how you came into my womb; for I neither gave you breath nor life, nor was it I that formed the members of every one of you.

23 "But without doubt the Creator of the world who formed the generation of man and revealed the beginning of all, will also give you of His own kindness, breath and hai again, as you disregard now your own beings for the sake of His Laws."

24 Now while the youngest was still alive, Antiokos, thinking himself despised and suspecting it to be a reproachful speech, did not only encourage him with words, but also assured him with oaths, that he would make him both a rich and baruk man if he would turn from the Laws of his fathers, and that he would also accept him as his friend, and trust him with affairs.

25 But when the young man would in no way listen to him, the sovereign called his mother and encouraged her that she should counsel the young man to save his life.

26 And when he had encouraged her with many words, she promised him

that she would counsel her son.

27 But she, bowing herself toward him, laughing the cruel tyrant to scorn, spoke in her nation's language in this way; "O my son, have pity on me who bore you nine months in my womb, and gave you three years and nourished you and brought you up to this age and endured the troubles of teaching.

28 "Please my son, look on the shamayim and the earth and all that is in them and consider that Elohim made them from that which was not; and so was mankind made likewise.

29 "Do not fear this torturer, but being worthy of your brothers, accept your death that I may receive you again in kindness with your brothers."

30 While she was still speaking these words, the young man said, "Whom do you wait for? I will not obey the sovereign's command, but I will obey the Command of the Law that was given to our fathers by Mosheh.

31 "And you, who has been the author of all evil against the Ibrim, shall not escape the hands of Elohim!

32 "For we suffer because of our sins, 33 and although the living Elohim is wroth with us a little while for our discipline and correction, yet He shall be at one again with his servants.

34 "But you, O wicked man, and of all others most evil, do not be lifted up without a cause nor puffed up with uncertain expectancies, lifting up your hand against the servants of Elohim; 35 for you have not yet escaped the judgment of Ēl Shaddai, who sees all.

36 "For our brothers, who now have suffered a short pain, are dead under Elohim's Covenant of everlasting hai; but you, through the judgment of Elohim, shall receive righteous punishment for your pride.

37 "But I, as my brothers, offer up my body and life for the Laws of our fathers, pleading to Elohim that He would speedily be kind to our nation, and that you, by torture and plagues may confess that He alone is Elohim.

38 "And that in my brothers and I, the wrath of the Almighty, which is brought

upon our nation, may cease."

39 Then the sovereign being in a rage, and taking seriously how he was mocked treated him worse than all the rest.

40 So this man died undefiled, and put his whole trust in אַתָּא.

41 Last of all, the mother died after the sons.

42 Let this be enough now to have spoken concerning the idolatrous feasts and the extreme tortures.

8 Then Yahudah Maqqabah, and those that were with him, went secretly into the towns and called their clans together, and took to them all who continued in the belief of the Yahudim and assembled about six thousand men.

2 And they called upon אַתָּא, that He would look upon the people that were trodden down most of all, and also favour the Hëykal profaned by wicked men,

3 and that He would have compassion on the city severely despoiled and ready to be levelled to the ground, and hear the blood that cried out to Him.

4 And remember the evil slaughter of harmless infants, and the blasphemies committed against His Name, and that He would show His hatred against the wicked.

5 Now when Maqqabah had his army with him, he could not be resisted by the gentiles, for the wrath of אַתָּא was turned into kindness.

6 Therefore he came suddenly, and burned towns and cities, and took into his hands the most advantageous positions, and overcame and put to flight no small number of his enemies.

7 And he took special advantage of the night for such secret attacks, so that the renown of his deeds was spread everywhere.

8 So when Philippos saw that this man increased little by little, and that matters prospered with him still more and more, he wrote to Ptolemaeus the governor of Koëlä Suria and Phoinikë to give more support to the sovereign's affairs.

9 Then promptly choosing Nikanor the

son of Patroklus, one of his special friends, he sent him with no fewer than twenty thousand of all nations under him to root out the whole generation of the Yahudim, and he also joined Gorgias, a captain with him, who in matters of battle had great experience.

10 So Nikanor undertook to make much silver from the captive Yahudim, to bear the expense of the tribute of two thousand talanton which the sovereign was to pay to the Romans.

11 Therefore he immediately sent to the cities on the sea coast, proclaiming a sale of the captive Yahudim, and promising that they should have ninety bodies for one talent - not expecting the vengeance that was to follow upon him from Ēl Shaddai.

12 Now when word was brought to Yahudah of Nikanor's coming, and he had informed those that were with him that the army was at hand,

13 those that were fearful and distrusted the right-ruling of Elohim, fled and carried themselves away.

14 Others sold all that they had left, and also sought אַחֵר to deliver those sold by the wicked Nikanor before they met together.

15 And if not for their own sakes, yet for the Covenants He had made with their fathers, and for the sake of His qodesh and esteemed Name by which they were called.

16 So Maqqabah called his men together totaling six thousand, and encouraged them not to be stricken with terror by the enemy nor to fear the great multitude of the gentiles who came wickedly against them; but to fight bravely,

17 and to put before their eyes the unrighteous destruction that they had done to the qodesh place, and the cruel handling of the city of which they made a mockery, and also the taking away of the authority of their forefathers.

18 "For they," he said, "trust in their weapons and boldness; but our confidence is in the Almighty who at a nod can throw down both they that come against us, and also all the

world."

19 And, he recounted to them what helps their forefathers had found, and how they were delivered, when a hundred and eighty-five thousand perished under Sanḥerib.

20 And he told them of the battle that they had in Babel with the Galatians, how they came with eight thousand Yahudim in all to the battle, with four thousand Makedonians, and with the Makedonians being perplexed, the eight thousand destroyed a hundred and twenty thousand because of the help that they had from the shamayim, and so received a great booty.

21 So when he had emboldened them with these words, and were ready to die for the Law and their nation, he divided his army into four parts.

22 And he joined with his own brothers, leaders of each band, that is: Shim'on and Yosēph and Yahonathan, giving each one fifteen hundred men.

23 He also appointed Eli'ezer to read the qodesh Book. And when he had given them this watchword: 'The help of Elohim,' he led the first band.

24 And by the help of the Almighty they slew over nine thousand of their enemies, and wounded and injured the most part of Nikanor's army, and so put all to flight,

25 and took the silver of those that came to buy them and pursued them a long way, but lacking time they returned.

26 For it was the day before the Shabbath and therefore they would no longer pursue them.

27 So when they had gathered their armour together, and plundered their enemies, they occupied themselves on the Shabbath giving much praise and thanks to אֱלֹהֵינוּ who had delivered them that day, which was the beginning of kindness poured upon them.

28 And after the Shabbath, when they had given part of the spoils to the wounded and the widows and orphans, the remainder they divided among themselves and their servants.

29 When this was done and they

had made a common prayer, they pleaded the kindness of Elohim to be reconciled with his servants forever.

30 And of those that were with Timotheos and Bakkidēs, who fought against them, slew over twenty thousand and easily took high and strong towers and divided much more spoils among themselves and made the wounded, orphans, widows and also even the aged, equal in spoils with themselves.

31 And when they had gathered their armour together, they laid them all up carefully in convenient places, and the remnant of the spoils they brought to Yerushalayim.

32 They also slew Phularkēs, that wicked person, who was with Timotheos, and had hated the Yahudim in many ways.

33 Furthermore at the time they kept the feast for the victory in their country they burned Kallisthēnēs, who had lit fire to the qodesh gates and had fled into a little house. And so he received a right reward for his wickedness.

34 As for that most shameful Nikanor who had brought one thousand merchants to buy the Yahudim,

35 he was, through the help of אֲרִיָאֵל, brought down by those of whom he regarded as least; and removing his splendid apparel and discharging his army, he went through the land like a fugitive slave to Antiokeia receiving great dishonour, in that his army was destroyed.

36 So he, who took it upon himself to provide to the Romans their tribute by means of captives in Yerushalayim, proclaimed abroad, that the Yahudim had Elohim to fight for them, and therefore they could not be hurt because they followed the Laws that He gave them.

9 About that time Antioḳos came out of the country of Paras with dishonour;

2 for he had entered the city called Persepolis, and attempted to rob the temple and to hold the city; therefore the multitude running to defend themselves with their weapons put

them to flight. And so it came to be, that Antioḳos being put to flight by the inhabitants returned with shame.

3 Now when he came to Aḥmetha, news was brought to him what had befallen Nikanor and Timotheos.

4 Then swelling with wrath, he thought to avenge upon the Yahudim the shame done to him by those that made him flee. Therefore he commanded his charioteer to drive without stopping, and to complete the journey, the judgment of Elohim now following him. For he had spoken proudly in this manner: that he would come to Yerushalayim and make it a common graveyard of the Yahudim.

5 But אֲרִיָאֵל Almighty, the Elohim of Yisra'el smote him with an incurable and invisible plague; for as soon as he had spoken these words, a pain of the bowels that was incurable came upon him and severe pain of the inner parts.

6 And that most righteously, for he had tortured other men's inward parts with many and strange tortures.

7 However he did not cease at all from his boasting, but was still filled with pride, breathing out fire in his rage against the Yahudim and commanded to hasten the journey. But it came to be that he fell down from his chariot, dragged violently so that having a serious fall, all the members of his body were in severe pain.

8 And so he that shortly before thought he might command the waves of the sea - so proud was he beyond the condition of man - and weigh the high mountains in a balance, was now thrown to the ground and dragged in a chariot, showing to all the manifest power of Elohim.

9 Therefore the worms crawled out of the body of this wicked man, and while he lived in anguish and pain, his flesh rotted away and the filthiness of his smell was offensive to his whole army.

10 And the man that shortly before thought he could reach to the stars of the shamayim, no man could endure to carry for his intolerable stench.

11 Therefore being plagued, he began to diminish his great pride and to

come to the knowledge of himself by the punishment of Elohim - his pain increasing every moment.

12 And when he could not stand his own smell himself, he spoke these words: "It is right to be subject to Elohim, and a man who is mortal should not think proudly of himself as if he were Elohim."

13 This wicked person also vowed to אָרָא who would no longer show favour to him, saying

14 that the qodesh city - to which he was going in haste to lay it level to the ground, and to make it a common graveyard - he would release.

15 And regarding the Yahudim - whom he had judged not worthy so much as to be buried, but to be thrown out with their children to be devoured by the birds and wild beasts - he would make them all equals to the citizens of Athēnai.

16 And the qodesh Hēykal, which he had previously plundered, he would embellish with costly gifts and restore all the qodesh utensils with many more, and out of his own revenue provide the charges pertaining to the offerings.

17 And that even he would also become a Yahudi himself and go through all the inhabited world and declare the power of Elohim.

18 But for all this, his agony would not cease; for the righteous judgment of Elohim had come upon him. Therefore in despair over his health, he wrote to the Yahudim the following letter containing the form of a plea, in this manner:

19 "Antiochos, sovereign and governor, desires much joy, health and prosperity to his citizens the good Yahudim.

20 If you and your children are well and your affairs are pleasing to you, I give very great thanks to Elohim, having my expectancy in the shamayim.

21 As for me, I was weak, or else I would have remembered kindly your honour and kindness in returning from Paras. But being taken with a grievous disease, I thought it necessary to care

for the common safety of all;

22 not distrusting my health, but having great expectancy to escape this sickness.

23 But considering that even my father, at the time he led an army into the high countries appointed a successor,

24 so that that if any thing fell out contrary to expectation, or if any news was brought that was grievous, those of the land, knowing to whom the state was left, might not be troubled.

25 Also, considering that the bordering princes and neighbours of my reign wait for opportunities and expect what shall take place, I have appointed my son Antiochos sovereign, whom I often entrusted and commended to many of you when I went up into the high provinces; to whom I have written as follows.

26 Therefore please, I ask you to remember the service that I have done for you in general, and in special, and that every man will remain trustworthy to my son and I.

27 For I am persuaded that he, understanding my mind will kindly and favourably render your desires."

28 Thus the murderer and blasphemer having suffered most grievously, as he had treated other men, so he died a miserable death in a foreign country in the mountains.

29 And Philippos, who was brought up with him, carried away his body, who also fearing the son of Antiochos went to Mitsrayim to Ptolemaeus Philometor.

10 Now with אָרָא guiding them Maqqabah and his army recovered the Hēykal and the city.

2 And they pulled down the altars and also the chapels which the gentiles had built in the open street.

3 And having cleansed the Hēykal they made another altar, and striking flint they made fire out of it and offered a slaughtering after two years, and offered incense and lamps and showbread.

4 When that was done, they bowed down and pleaded to אָרָא that they would no longer come upon such

troubles; but if they sinned any more against Him, that He Himself would discipline them with kindness, and that they would not be delivered over to the blasphemous and foreign nations.

5 Now on the same day that the foreigners profaned the Hēykal; on that very same day it was cleansed again, even the twenty-fifth day of the same month, which is Kislēw.

6 And they observed the eight days with gladness, as in the Feast of Sukkoth, remembering that not long before they had held the Feast of Sukkoth, as when they wandered in the mountains and caves like beasts.

7 Therefore they carried branches and leafy twigs and also palms, and sang psalms to He that had given them good success in cleansing His Place.

8 They also made a law by common decree, that every year those days should be observed by the whole nation of the Yahudim.

9 And this was the end of Antiokos, called Epiphanēs.

10 Now we shall declare the acts of Antiokos Eupator, who was the son of this wicked man, assembling briefly the calamities of the battles.

11 So when he had attained the crown, he appointed a certain Lusias over the affairs of his reign, and appointed him his chief governor of Koēlē Suria and Phoinikē.

12 For Ptolemaeus, who was called Makron, choosing rather to do righteousness to the Yahudim for the wrong that had been done to them, sought to continue peace with them.

13 So being accused by the sovereign's friends before Eupator, and called a traitor at every command that Philometor had given to him, because he had left Cyprus and departed to Antiokos Epiphanēs. And seeing that he was in a dishonourable position, he was so discouraged that he poisoned himself and died.

14 But when Gorgias was governor of the towers, he hired soldiers and maintained battle continually with the Yahudim.

15 And also the Edomites, having

taken into their hands the most advantageous towers, kept the Yahudim occupied and accepting those that were banished from Yerushalayim, they prepared to engage in battle.

16 Then those that were with Maqqabah pleaded and sought Elohim that He would be their Helper; and so they ran with force upon the strongholds of the Edomites.

17 And attacking them mightily, they gained the towers and held off all that fought on the wall and slew all that fell into their hands, and killed no fewer than twenty thousand.

18 And because some, who were no less than nine thousand, had fled together into two very strong fortresses, having all the provisions necessary to sustain the siege,

19 Maqqabah left Shim'on and Yosēph and also Zakkai and those that were with him, who were enough to besiege them, and he departed to those places which needed his help more.

20 Now those that were with Shim'on, being led by covetousness, were persuaded with silver by some of those that were in the fortress, and took seventy thousand drakmas and let some of them escape.

21 But when Maqqabah was told what was done, he called the governors of the people together and accused those men, that they had sold their brothers for silver and released their enemies to fight against them.

22 So he slew those that were found traitors and immediately took the two fortresses.

23 And having good skill with all weapons he took in hand, he slew more than twenty thousand in the two towers.

24 Now when Timotheos, whom the Yahudim had overcome before, had gathered a great multitude of foreign armies, and not a few horses from Asia, came intending to take the Yahudim by force.

25 But when he drew near, those that were with Maqqabah turned to pray to Elohim, and threw dust on their heads

and girded their loins with sackcloth,
26 and fell down at the foot of the altar
and pleaded for Him to be kind to them
and to be an enemy to their enemies
and an adversary to their adversaries,
as the Law declares.

27 So after the prayer they took their
weapons and went further on from the
city; and when they drew near to their
enemies, they remained secluded.

28 Now early when the sun had risen,
they both engaged in battle; the one
group having their strength together
with also their refuge in אֱלֹהִים for a
promise of their win and deliverance,
the other side making rage the leader
of their battle.

29 But when the battle grew fierce, five
radiant men from the shamayim on
horses appeared to the enemy, with
bridles of gold. And two of them led the
Yahuḏim,

30 and took Maqqabah between them,
and covered him on every side with
weapons, guarding him and shooting
arrows and lightning against the
enemy, so that being confused with
blindness and troubled, they were
killed.

31 And there were twenty thousand
five hundred footmen slain, and six
hundred horsemen.

32 As for Timotheos himself, he fled
into a stronghold, called Gezer, where
Kaereas was governor.

33 But those that were with Maqqabah
laid siege against the fortress
courageously for four days.

34 And those that were within, trusting
in the strength of the place,
blasphemed exceedingly, and spoke
wicked words.

35 Nevertheless, early on the fifth day,
twenty young men of Maqqabah's
army filled with wrath because of the
blasphemies, assaulted the wall
bravely and with great courage killed
all those they encountered.

36 Others also going up after them,
while they were occupied with those
that were within, burned the towers,
and lighting fires burned the
blasphemers alive. And others broke
open the gates, and having let in the

rest of the army, took the city

37 and killed Timotheos who was
hiding in some pit, with Kaereas his
brother and Apollophanēs.

38 When this was done, they praised
אֱלֹהִים with psalms and thanksgiving
who had done such greatness for
Yisra'el, and given them the victory.

11 Not long after, Lusias the
sovereign's protector and
cousin, who also managed the affairs,
took great displeasure in that which
was done.

2 And when he had gathered about
eighty thousand with all the horsemen,
he came against the Yahuḏim, thinking
to make the city a dwelling for the
gentiles,

3 and to make a profit from the Hēykal,
as from the other temples of the
gentiles, and to put up the high
kehunnah for sale every year;

4 not at all considering the power of
Elohim, but puffed up with his tens of
thousands of footmen, and his
thousands of horsemen, and his eighty
elephants.

5 So he came to Yahuḏah, and drew
near to Bēyth Tsur which was a
fortified town, but about five stadion
away from Yerushalayim, and he laid
heavy siege to it.

6 Now when those that were with
Maqqabah heard that he besieged the
towers, they and all the people
pleaded to אֱלֹהִים with lamentation and
tears that He would send a good
messenger to deliver Yisra'el.

7 Then Maqqabah himself took
weapons first of all, encouraging the
others to risk their lives together with
him to help their brothers. So they
went out together with one mind.

8 And while they were at Yerushalayim,
there appeared before them one
in white garments on horseback,
brandishing his weapons of gold.

9 Then they praised the kindness of
Elohim all together and took courage,
so that they were ready not only to
fight with men, but with most fierce
beasts, and to break through walls of
iron.

10 So they marched forward with their

weapons, having a Helper from the shamayim, for ~~אליהו~~ was kind to them.

11 And making a charge on their enemies like lions, they slew eleven thousand footmen and sixteen hundred horsemen, and put all the others to flight.

12 Also many of them escaped stripped and wounded, and Lusias himself fled away shamefully and escaped.

13 Being a man of understanding, accepting the loss he had, and considering that the Ibrim could not be overcome because El Shaddai helped them, he sent to them

14 and persuaded them to agree to all reasonable conditions, and promised that he would persuade the sovereign that he must be a friend to them.

15 Then Maqqabah consented to all that Lusias desired, being careful of the common good, and whatever Maqqabah wrote to Lusias concerning the Yahudim, the sovereign granted it.

16 For there were letters written to the Yahudim from Lusias to this effect: "Lusias to the people of the Yahudim, greetings.

17 "Yohanan and Abshalom, who were sent from you, delivered the written request and asked for the completion of it's contents.

18 "Therefore whatever matters were right to be reported to the sovereign, I have declared them, and he has granted as much as possible.

19 "And if you will then keep yourselves loyal to the state, from now on I will also endeavour to be a source for your good.

20 "And of these matters I have given order both to these and the others that came from me, to speak with you.

21 "Farewell. The hundred and forty-eighth year, the twenty-fourth day of the month Dioskorinthios."

22 Now the sovereign's letter contained these words: "Sovereign Antiochos to his brother Lusias sends greeting.

23 "Since our father is taken up to the mighty ones, our desire is, that those that are in our reign live peaceably, that everyone may attend to his own affairs.

24 "We also understand that the Yahudim would not agree with our father to be brought into the custom of the gentiles, but rather keep their own manner of living; which is the reason they ask from us that we should allow them to live after their own laws.

25 "Therefore our decision is, that this nation shall be at peace and we have determined to restore them their Hēykal that they may live according to the customs of their forefathers.

26 "You shall do well therefore to send to them and grant them peace, that when they are informed of our decision, they may take courage and always go cheerfully about their own affairs."

27 And the letter of the sovereign to the nation of the Yahudim was in this manner: "Sovereign Antiochos sends greeting to the council, and the rest of the Yahudim.

28 "If you are well, we have our desire; we are also in good health.

29 "Menelaos has informed us, that your desire was to return home and to follow your own business,

30 therefore those that would depart shall have safe conduct with safety till the thirtieth day of Xanthikos.

31 "And the Yahudim shall apply their own kind of food and Laws as before; and none of them in any way shall be provoked for whatever is done in ignorance.

32 "I have sent also Menelaos, that he may encourage you.

33 "Farewell. In the hundred forty and eighth year, and the fifteenth day of the month Xanthikos."

34 The Romans also sent a letter to them containing these words: "Quintus Memmius and Titus Manlius, ambassadors of the Romans, sends greeting to the people of the Yahudim.

35 "Whatever Lusias the sovereign's cousin has granted, with that we are also well pleased.

36 "But regarding such matters that he has decided to be referred to the sovereign, after you have advised of this, send someone promptly that we may declare as it is appropriate for

you, for we are now going to Antiokeia.
37 "Therefore send messengers with speed, so that we may know what is your decision.

38 "Farewell. This hundred and forty-eighth year, the fifteenth day of the month Xanthikos."

12 When these covenants were made, Lusias went to the sovereign, and the Yahudim were within their land.

2 But of the governors of several places, Timotheos and Apollonios the son of Genneus, also Hieronumos and Demophon, and besides them, Nikanor the governor of Cyprus, would not allow them to be at rest and live in peace.

3 The men of Yapho also did a very wicked deed: they asked the Yahudim that dwelt among them to go with their wives and children into the boats which they had prepared, as though they had meant them no harm.

4 Who accepted according to the common decree of the city, desiring to live in peace and suspecting naught. But when they had gone out into the deep, they drowned no less than two hundred of them.

5 When Yahudah heard of this cruelty done to his countrymen, he commanded those that were with him to ready themselves.

6 And calling upon Elohim the righteous Judge, he came against those murderers of his brothers, and burned the harbour by night, and lit the boats on fire, and he slew those that attempted to flee.

7 And when the town was shut up, he withdrew, intending to return to root out all those of the city of Yapho.

8 But when he heard that the Yabne'elites were planning to do the same to the Yahudim that dwelt among them,

9 he came upon the Yabne'elites again by night, and lit the harbour on fire and the fleet, so that the light of the fire was seen at Yerushalayim two hundred and forty stadion away.

10 Now when they had gone nine stadion from there on their march

against Timotheos, no less than five thousand footmen and five hundred Arabian horsemen attacked him.

11 So there was a very fierce battle, but with the help of Elohim Yahudah's side overcame. So the Nomads of Arabia, having been overcome, begged Yahudah for peace, promising to give him both cattle and to fulfill other delights.

12 Then Yahudah, thinking that they would indeed be profitable in many ways, granted them peace. Therefore they shook hands, and so they departed to their tents.

13 He also constructed a bridge to a certain strong city, which was fortified around about with walls, and inhabited by people of various nations; and the name of it was Kasphor.

14 But those that were within put such trust in the strength of the walls and stores of food, that they behaved rudely toward those that were with Yahudah, cursing and blaspheming and speaking such words which should not be spoken.

15 Therefore Yahudah and his army - calling on ~~אלהים~~ the Almighty of the world, who without rams or siege engines threw down Yeriho in the time of Yahoshua - gave a fierce assault against the walls,

16 and took the city by the desire of Elohim, and slew innumerable numbers so that an adjoining lake near there two stadion across, being full, was seen running with blood.

17 Then they moved on seven hundred and fifty stadion from there, and came to Karaka to the Yahudim that are called Tobians.

18 But as for Timotheos, they did not find him not in the area, for before he had done any matter, he departed from there, having left a very strong garrison in a certain tower.

19 However Dositheos and Sosipatros, who were Maqqabah's captains went out and slew those that Timotheos had left in the fortress - over ten thousand men.

20 And Maqqabah arranged his army in divisions and appointed them over the

divisions, and went against Timotheos, who had a hundred and twenty thousand footmen and two thousand five hundred horsemen with him.

21 Now when Timotheos knew of Yahudāh's approach, he sent the women and children and the extra baggage to a fortress called Qarnayim, because the town was hard to besiege, and difficult to assault because of the steepness of all the approaches.

22 But when Yahudāh's first division came into sight, the enemies fled, being smitten with fear and terror with the appearance of He who sees all things; one running this way, another that way, so that many of them were injured by their own men, and wounded with the points of their own swords.

23 Yahudāh was also very earnest in pursuit of them, killing those wicked wretches, of whom he slew about thirty thousand men.

24 And Timotheos himself fell into the hands of Dositheos and Sosipatros, whom he begged with much guile to let him go with his life, because he had many of the Yahudim's parents and the brothers of some of them, who if they put him to death, would be shown no regard.

25 So when he had assured them with many words that he would restore them without harm, they let him go according to the agreement for the deliverance of their brothers.

26 Then Maqqabah marched onward to Qarnayim and to the temple of Atarathēh, and he slew twenty-five thousand people there.

27 And after he had put them to flight and destroyed them, Yahudāh moved the army toward Ephron, a strong city in which Lusias dwelt, and a great multitude of various nations. And the strong young men guarded the walls, and also defended them mightily with a great supply of weapons and arrows inside.

28 But when Yahudāh and his army had called upon Ēl Shaddai, who with His power breaks the strength of His

enemies, they took the city and slew twenty and five thousand of those that were in it.

29 From there they departed to Bēyth She'an, which lies six hundred stadion from Yerushalayim.

30 But when the Yahudim that dwelt there had witnessed that the Skuthopolitans were friendly to them, and treated them kindly in the time of their adversity,

31 they thanked them, desiring them to continue being friendly toward them. And so they came to Yerushalayim - the Festival of Shaḅuoth approaching.

32 And after the Festival called Shaḅuoth, they went out against Gorgias the governor of Edom,

33 who came out with three thousand footmen and four hundred horsemen.

34 And it came to be that a few of the Yahudim were slain in the battle,

35 at which time Dositheos, one of Bakenor's division who was a strong man and on horseback, was still upon Gorgias. And taking hold of his cloak dragged him with force. But when he would have taken that cursed man alive, a horseman of Thrakeia coming upon him cut off his arm, allowing Gorgias to flee to Marisa.

36 Now when those that were with Gorgias had fought long and were weary, Yahudāh called upon אלהים that He would show Himself to be their Helper and Leader of the battle.

37 And with that, he began and sung psalms with a loud voice in his own language, and charging on Gorgias' men unaware, he put them to flight.

38 So Yahudāh gathered his army, and came into the city of Adullam, and when the seventh day came, they purified themselves, as was the custom, and kept the Shabbath in that very place.

39 And on the following day, as the practice had been, Yahudāh and his army came to take up the bodies of them that were slain, and to bury them with their relatives in their fathers' graves.

40 Now under the cloaks of every one that was slain they found objects

dedicated to the idols of Yabnēh, which are forbidden by the Law for the Yahudim. Then every man saw that this was the reason why they had been slain.

41 All men therefore praised אֱלֹהֵי the righteous Judge, who had revealed that which was hidden,

42 committed themselves to prayer, and begged Him that the sin committed might be completely blotted out of remembrance. Righteous Yahudah also encouraged the people to keep themselves from sin, because they saw before their eyes that which came upon those that were slain for their sins.

43 And when he had gathered from throughout the army the sum of two thousand drakmas of silver, he sent it to Yerushalayim to offer a sin offering, acting very well and honourable in doing so, bearing in mind the resurrection.

44 For if he had not had expectancy that those that were slain would rise again, it would be unnecessary and worthless to pray for the dead.

45 And he also perceived that there was great favour stored up for those who died righteously, which was a qodesh and good thought. So he made an atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from sin.

13 In the hundred and forty-ninth year Yahudah was informed that Antiokos Eupator was approaching Yahudah with a great force

2 with Lusias his guardian and governor with him, each having a Yawanite force of a hundred and ten thousand footmen and five thousand three hundred horsemen and twenty-two elephants and three hundred chariots armed with scythes.

3 Menelaos also joined himself with them and encouraged Antiokos with great deception; not for the safeguard of the country, but because he thought he may have been made governor.

4 But the Sovereign of sovereigns moved Antiokos against the wicked wretch, and Lusias informed the

sovereign that this man was the reason for all the evil, so that the sovereign commanded to bring him to Beroia, and to put him to death by the method of the place.

5 Now there was a tower of fifty ammah high in that place full of ashes, and it had a round turret on which every side hung down into the ashes.

6 And whoever was condemned of temple robbery or had committed any other grievous crime, there all men were thrown to their death.

7 And quite righteously such a death to die came upon that wicked man, not having so much as burial in the earth.

8 Because he had committed many sins pertaining to the altar, whose fire and ashes were qodesh, so he received his death in ashes.

9 Now the sovereign came with a wicked and haughty plan to do far worse to the Yahudim than had been done in his father's time.

10 When Yahudah learned of this, he commanded the multitude to call on אֱלֹהֵי night and day that He would help them now if ever at any other time, being at the point of being removed their Law, from their country and from the qodesh Hēykal;

11 and that He would not allow the people that had only just now been a little refreshed, to be in subjection to the blasphemous nations.

12 So when they had all done this together and pleaded for the kindness of Elohim with weeping and fasting and lying flat upon the ground for three days, Yahudah, having encouraged them, commanded they should make themselves ready.

13 And Yahudah, determined privately with the elders, that before the sovereign's army could enter Yahudah, and take the city, to go out and determine the matter in battle with the help of אֱלֹהֵי.

14 So when he had committed all to the Creator of the world and encouraged his soldiers to fight bravely, even to death, for the Laws, the Hēykal, the city, the country and the citizenship, he encamped by Modi'im.

15 And having given the watchword to those that were with him, "Victory is of Elohim," he went into the sovereign's camp by night with the bravest and chosen young men and slew about four thousand men in the camp, and the leading elephant with all that were upon it.

16 And by the end they had filled the camp with fear and disorder and withdrew with good success.

17 This was done at daybreak because the protection of אֱלֹהִים helped him.

18 Now when the sovereign had had a taste of the courage of the Yahudim, he attempted to take the towers using strategy,

19 and marched toward Bēyth Tsur, which was a stronghold of the Yahudim; but he failed, was put to flight and lost his men,

20 for Yahudah had dispatched to those that were in it that which was necessary.

21 But Rhodokos, who was in the Yahudim's army, disclosed secrets to the enemies; therefore he was sought out, and when they had taken him, they put him in prison.

22 The sovereign made a treaty with those in Bēyth Tsur a second time, gave his pledge, took theirs, departed, fought with Yahudah, was overcome;

23 heard that Philippos, who was left over the affairs in Antiokeia was hard pressed, being confounded made a treaty with the Yahudim, submitted himself and swore to all equal conditions, agreed with them and brought an offering, honoured the Hēykal and dealt kindly with the place.

24 And accepting good from Maqqabah, made him principal governor from Ptolemais to the Gerarians,

25 and went to Ptolemais. The people there were grieved because of the covenants, and they raged for they wanted to annul their covenants.

26 Lusias went up to the judgment seat, said as much as he could in defence of the cause, persuaded, pacified, appeased them and returned to Antiokeia. So it was regarding the

sovereign's coming and going.

14 After three years Yahudah was informed that Dēmētrios the son of Seleukus, having entered by the harbour of Tripolis with a fleet of great strength,

2 had taken the country and killed Antiokos, and Lusias his guardian.

3 Now a certain Elyaqim, who had been kohēn ha'gadol, and had deliberately defiled himself in the times of their mixing with the gentiles, seeing he could not save himself by any means, nor have any more access to the qodesh altar,

4 came to Sovereign Dēmētrios in the hundred and fifty-first year, presenting a crown of gold to him and a palm, and also the branches which were used on Festivals in the Hēykal. But that day he remained silent.

5 However having taken opportunity to further his foolish plan, and being called into counsel by Dēmētrios and asked how the Yahudim stood affected and what they intended, he answered in this way:

6 "Those of the Yahudim that are called Hasiqim, whose captain is Yahudah Maqqabah, fight continually and are treasonous and will not let the others be at peace.

7 "I Therefore, being deprived of the honour of my ancestors, meaning the high kehunnah, have now come here.

8 "First indeed for the sincere concern I have of matters pertaining to the sovereign, and secondly, even after that, I intend for the good of my own countrymen; for all our nation is in no small grief through the foolishness of those already mentioned.

9 "Therefore O sovereign, seeing you know all these matters, have concern for this country and our nation which is pressed on every side, according to the gentleness that you readily show to all.

10 "For as long as Yahudah lives, it is not possible for the nation to be at rest."

11 No sooner was this said of him, when other friends of the sovereign, being wickedly disposed toward

Yahudah, enraged Dēmētrios further.

12 And promptly calling Nikanor, who had been chief over the elephants, and making him governor over Yahudah, he sent him out,

13 commanding him to slay Yahudah and to scatter those that were with him, and to make Elyaqim kohēn ha'gadol of the great Hēykal.

14 Then the gentiles that had fled out from Yahudah out of Yahudah, flocked to Nikanor, thinking the harm and destruction of the Yahudim to be to their advantage.

15 Now when the Yahudim heard of Nikanor's coming, and that the gentiles were against them, they threw dust on their heads and pleaded to He who had established His people forever, and who always helps His portion with manifestation of His presence.

16 So at the command of the captain they immediately moved from there and approached those at the town of Dessaou.

17 Now Shim'on, Yahudah's brother, had joined in battle with Nikanor, but was somewhat confused through the sudden silence of his enemies.

18 Nevertheless Nikanor, hearing of the courage of those that were with Yahudah, and the courage that they had to fight for their country, did not dare try the matter by the sword.

19 Therefore he sent Poseidonius and Theodotus and Mattithyahu to make peace.

20 So when they had spent a long time taking counsel and the captain had made the multitude aware of this and it appeared that they were all of one mind, they agreed to the covenants,

21 and appointed a day to meet together by themselves. And when the day came, and chairs were placed for either of them,

22 Yahudah positioned soldiers at the ready in suitable places, lest some treachery should suddenly be taken by the enemies; so they held peace negotiations.

23 Now Nikanor dwelt in Yerushalayim, and did no harm, but sent away the people that came flocking to him.

24 And he would not readily allow Yahudah out of his sight, for he loved the man from his heart.

25 He asked him to also take a wife, and to bring forth children; so he married, was peaceable, and shared in this life.

26 But Elyaqim, perceiving the love that was between them, and considering the covenants that were made, came to Dēmētrios and told him that Nikanor was disloyal to the government, in that he had ordained Yahudah, a traitor to his reign, to be successor to the sovereign.

27 Then the sovereign being enraged and provoked with the accusations of this very wicked man, wrote to Nikanor signifying that he was very displeased with the covenants, and commanded that he send Maqqabah prisoner in all haste to Antiokeia.

28 When this came to Nikanor's hearing, he was very troubled within himself, and was grieved that he should annul the conditions that were agreed upon, the man having done no wrong.

29 But because there was no going against the sovereign, he watched for his time to accomplish this matter strategically.

30 However, when Maqqabah saw that Nikanor began to harden toward him, and that he dealt with him more roughly than he used to, perceiving that such sour behaviour did not come from goodness, he gathered not a few of his men together, and withdrew himself from Nikanor.

31 But the other, knowing that he was obviously hindered by Yahudah's strategy, came into the great and qodesh Hēykal, and commanded the kohenim that were offering their usual slaughterings to deliver the man to him.

32 And when they swore that they could not tell where the man whom he sought was,

33 he stretched out his right hand toward the Hēykal, and made this oath: "If you will not deliver me Yahudah as a prisoner, I will lay this

Hēykal of Elohim even to the ground, and I will break down the altar, and build a splendid temple to Dionusos!"

34 After these words he departed. Then the kohenim lifted up their hands toward the shamayim, and pleaded to Him who was always a defender of their nation, saying,

35 "You, O Aḏon of all, who has need of nothing, was pleased that the Hēykal of Your dwelling should be among us.

36 "Now therefore, O qodesh Aḏon of all qodeshah, keep this House which was recently cleansed, undefiled forever, and stop every unrighteous mouth."

37 Now a certain Razis, one of the elders of Yerushalayim, a lover of his countrymen and a man of very good report, who for his kindness was called a father of the Yahudim, was accused before Nikanor.

38 For formerly, when they had not mixed themselves with the gentiles, he had been accused of Yahudāism, and boldly risked his body and life with all vehemency for the belief of the Yahudim.

39 So Nikanor, wanting to show the hate that he held for the Yahudim, sent over five hundred men of battle to capture him.

40 For he thought to do the Yahudim much harm by taking him.

41 Now when the multitude had almost taken the tower and violently broken through the outer door and called for fire to be brought to burn it, he, being ready to be taken on every side fell upon his sword;

42 choosing to die bravely rather than to fall into the hands of the wicked, to be abused otherwise appropriate to his noble birth.

43 But missing his stroke through haste, the multitude also rushing within the doors, he ran boldly up to the wall and threw himself down bravely among the thickest of them.

44 But when they quickly retreated, and made a space, he fell down into the midst of the empty space.

45 Nevertheless, while there was still

breath within him, being inflamed with wrath, he rose up; and though his blood gushed out like spouts of water, and his wounds were severe, he ran through the midst of the crowd. And standing upon a steep rock,

46 when his blood was now almost gone, he gathered out his bowels, and taking them in both his hands, he threw them upon the crowd. And calling upon the Aḏon of Ḥai and Ruaḥ to restore those again; therefore he died.

15 But Nikanor, hearing that Yahudāh and his army were in the strongholds around Shomeron, resolved to attack them without any defence on the Shabbath day.

2 Nevertheless the Yahudim that were compelled to go with him said, "Do not destroy so cruelly and ruthlessly, but give honour to that day, which He who sees all things has honoured with qodeshah above all other days."

3 Then that most shameful wretch demanded, if there were a Mighty One in the shamayim, that had commanded the Shabbath day to be guarded!

4 And when they said, "There is in the shamayim a living Aḏon, and Ēl, who commanded the seventh day to be guarded."

5 Then the other said, "And I also am mighty upon the earth, and I command to take arms, and to do the sovereign's work!" But he did not succeed in having his wicked plan done.

6 So with great pride and haughtiness Nikanor determined to put up a public monument of his victory over Yahudāh and those that were with him.

7 But Maqqabah had assured confidence that אלהים would help him,

8 Therefore he encouraged his people not to fear the gentiles coming against them, but to remember the help which they had received from the shamayim in former times, and now to expect the deliverance and help, which would come to them from the Almighty.

9 And so encouraging them from the Law and the nebi'im, and reminding them of the battles that they had won before, he encouraged them further.

10 And when he had stirred up their spirits, he gave them their orders, also showing them the falsehood of the gentiles, and the breach of oaths.

11 So he armed every one of them, not so much with defence of shields and spears, as with encouragement and good words; and besides that, he told them a dream worthy of belief, as if it had indeed been so, which encouraged them not a little.

12 And this was his vision: That Onyah - a virtuous and a good man who had been kohēn ha'gadol, reverent in conversation, gentle in spirit, also well spoken and taught in all points of righteousness from a young age - holding up his hands, prayed for the whole body of the Yahuḏim.

13 Having done this, there also appeared a man with grey hair, and exceedingly splendid, who was a wonder of excellence and majesty.

14 Then Onyah answered, saying, "This is a lover of the brothers who prays much for the people and for the qodesh city, that is, Yirmeyah the nabi of Elohim."

15 So Yirmeyah holding out his right hand gave Yahuḏah a sword of gold, and in giving it said,

16 "Take this qodesh sword - a gift from Elohim - with which you shall smite the adversaries."

17 Thus being well encouraged by the words of Yahuḏah which were very good, and able to stir them up with bravery and to encourage the hearts of the young men, they determined not to pitch camp, but to courageously attack them, and to bravely try the matter in battle, because the city and the Miqdash and the Hēykal were in danger.

18 For the concern that they had for their wives and their children, their brothers and families, was less for them; but the greatest and main fear was for the qodesh Hēykal.

19 Those that were in the city were also not the least concerned, being troubled for the struggle abroad.

20 And now, when all looked what was to be the trial, and the enemies

had already come near and the army was in battle array and the beasts strategically positioned and the horsemen positioned on the flanks,

21 Maqqabah seeing the approach of the multitude and the various preparations of armour and the ferocity of the beasts, stretched out his hands toward the shamayim, and called upon ~~אֱלֹהִים~~ who works wonders, knowing that deliverance does not come by weapons, but even as it seems good to Him, He gives to those who are worthy.

22 Therefore in his prayer he spoke in this way; "O ~~אֱלֹהִים~~, You sent Your messenger in the time of Yehizqiyahu sovereign of Yahuḏah and slew five thousand eight hundred in the army of Sanhērib.

23 "Therefore now also, O Adon of the shamayim, send a good messenger before us for a fear and dread upon them.

24 "And through the might of Your arm let those who come against your qodesh people to blaspheme be stricken with terror." And so he ended.

25 Then Nikanor and those that were with him came forward with trumpets and songs,

26 but Yahuḏah and his army countered the enemies with supplication and prayer,

27 So fighting with their hands and praying to Elohim with their hearts, they slew no less than thirty-five thousand men; for they were greatly encouraged through the manifestation of Elohim.

28 Now when the battle was over, returning again with joy, they knew that Nikanor lay dead in his armour.

29 Then they made a great shout and a noise, praising the Almighty in their own language.

30 And Yahuḏah, who was ever the chief defender of the people both in body and mind, and who continued his love toward his countrymen all his life, commanded to strike off Nikanor's head, and his arm at the shoulder, and bring them to Yerushalayim.

31 So when he was there and called

those of his nation together and appointed the kohenim before the altar, he sent for those that were in the tower,

32 And showed them vile Nikanor's head, and the arm of that blasphemer, which he had stretched out against the qodesh Hëykal of the Almighty with proud boastings.

33 And when he had cut out the tongue of that wicked Nikanor, he commanded that they should give the pieces to the birds, and hang up the reward of his madness opposite the Hëykal.

34 So every man praised the esteemed Aḡon toward the shamayim saying, "Baruḡ be He that has kept His own Place undefiled!"

35 He also hung Nikanor's head upon the tower, a clear and visible sign to all of the help of אֱלֹהִים.

36 And they all appointed with a common decree to by no means let that day pass without honour, but to celebrate the thirtieth day of the twelfth month, which in the Surian tongue is called Aḡar, the day before Mordeḡai's day.

37 So it came to be for Nikanor; and from that time on the Iḡrim had the city in their possession. And here I make an end.

38 And if I have done well, and as befits the story, it is that which I desired. But if scant and poorly, it is the best I could do.

39 For as it is harmful to drink wine or water alone, and as wine mingled with water is pleasant and delights the taste; even so, words finely formed delights the ears of those that read the story. And here shall be the end.