

The First Book of the Maccabees

Introduction – Chapter 3

Author and date

What period do the books of one and two Maccabees originate from?

Title

Where is the title of Maccabees derived from? How does first Maccabees relate to second Maccabees?

Place in the canon

What is the canonicity of one and two Maccabees?

How does the feast of the dedication (Hanukkah) create an ironic situation?

Structure

What is the structure of first Maccabees?

Literary background

What is the literary background of first Maccabees?

Themes and characteristics

What are the themes and characteristics of the book?

Christian perspective

What is the Christian perspective of first Maccabees?

Read 1:1–9 Who is Alexander the great? (Note 1:1–3)

What does the term became tributary mean? (Note 1:4)

Read 1:10 What is the Seleucid empire? (Note 1:10)

Read 1:11–15 What are lawless men? (Note 1:11)

What is a gymnasium? (Note 1:14)

Read 1:16-19 Who is Ptolemy? (Note 1:18)

Read 1: 20–23 Were the Gentiles restricted to access certain parts of the temple?
(Note 1:21–23)

Read 1:24–28 What did Antiochus do? (Note 1:24–28)

Read 1:29–33 What is a citadel? (Note 1:33)

Read 1:34–40. What did the Greeks do in Jerusalem? (Note 1:36–40)

Read 1:41–61 What is a desolating sacrilege? (Note 1:54)

Read 1: 62–64 What is the response of the faithful in Israel? (Note 1:62–64)

What is unclean food? (Note 1:62)

Read 2:1 Who is Mattathias? (Note 2:1)

Read 2:2-5 Who are the sons of Mattathias? (Note 2:2-5)

Read 2:15–22. Does Mattathias continue the tradition of Moses and Joshua?
(Note 2:20–22)

Read 2:23–26 Who is Phineas? (Note 2:23–26)

Read 2:27–28 Does Mattathias' summons echo the call of Moses? (Note 2:27-28)

Read 2:29–41 How was war on the Sabbath viewed at that time? (Note 2:39–41)

Read 2:42–48 Who are the Hasideans? (Note 2:42)

Read 2:65–69 Who does Mattathias appoint as leader of the army?

Read 3:1-9 Does Judas have zeal for his faith? (Note 3:3-9)

Read 3:13–14 Who is Seron and who joins his army? (Note 3:13)

Read 3:27–31 Does Antiochus have financial issues that affect his military advancements? (Note 3:27–31)

Where is Antioch located? (Note 3:37)

Read 3:46–53 Does Judas and his army seek help from God before battle? (Note 3:46–53)

What is a Nazarite vow? (Note 3:49)