

FIRST MAKABEES

CHAPTER 1

And it came to pass, after Alexandros, son of Philippos the Makedonian, had come from the land of Kittim, and struck down Darius, king of the Persians and the Medes, that he became king in his place. (He had previously ruled in Javan, that is Hellas.)¹ **2** And he fought many wars, and captured many² strongholds, and slaughtered many kings of the earth.³ **3** And he advanced to the ends of the earth, and gathered plunder from many nations; and the earth fell silent⁴ before him, and his heart became raised high and lifted up.⁵ **4** And he gathered together a very strong force⁶ and conquered regions, and⁷ nations, and tyrants,⁸ and they became his tributary.

5 And after all this, he fell on his bed, and realized that he was going to die. **6** So he summoned his boys, the nobles who had been brought up with him from his youth, and apportioned his kingdom among them while he was still alive. **7** And Alexandros had reigned twelve years when he died.

8 So his boys took over his kingdom, each in his own area. **9** And after he had died, they all put on diadems, and so did their sons after them for many years; and they caused many evils in the earth.

10 And from them sprang a sinful root, Antiochos the Illustrious, son of King Antiochos, who had once been a hostage in Roma. And he became king in the year 137 of the kingdom of the Hellenes.

11 In those days, unlawful sons came out of Israel,⁹ and they seduced many people, saying, "Let us go and make an alliance with the surrounding nations; since the day¹⁰ we separated from them, many evils have come upon us."

12 And this proposal was agreeable to them. **13** So some from among the people eagerly went to the king, and he¹¹ gave them authority to introduce the ordinances of the other nations. **14** So they built a school for naked athletics in Jerusalem according to the customs of the other nations. **15** And they made a fake foreskin for themselves, and abandoned the holy covenant; and they joined themselves with the nations and sold themselves¹² to act wickedly.

16 And when Antiochos saw that his kingdom was established, he proposed to become king of Egypt, so that he might reign over both kingdoms. **17** So he invaded Egypt with a strong force, with chariots and elephants and cavalry,¹³ and with a large fleet. **18** And he engaged Ptolemaios, king of Egypt, in a war. And Ptolemaios turned back from before him¹⁴ and fled, and many fell wounded.¹⁵ **19** And they¹⁶ captured the strong cities in the land of¹⁷ Egypt, and Antiochos plundered the land of¹⁸ Egypt.

20 And after Antiochos had struck Egypt in the year 143, he returned and went up against Israel and¹⁹ went up against²⁰ Jerusalem with a strong force. And the people in the city opened the gates to him, and he entered the city and took it, killing many Israelites.²¹ **21** And he arrogantly entered the holy-place and took away the golden sacrificial-altar, and the lampstand for the light²² along with all its accessories, **22** and the table of the presentation, and the libation-cups, and the saucers, and the golden censers, and the curtain made of fine linen and scarlet,²³ and the crowns, and the golden ornament on the face of the inner-sanctum. So he stripped off everything, **23** and took away the silver and the gold and the precious vessels; he also took the hidden treasures which he found. **24** And having taken everything, he departed²⁴ to his own land. And he committed murder, and he spoke with great arrogance.²⁵

25 And there was great mourning for Israel,²⁶
in every place where they dwelt.

26 And²⁷ the chiefs and the elders groaned,
virgins and youths became weak,
and the beauty of the women was disfigured.
27 Every bridegroom took up a dirge,
and she who sat in the bridal chamber mourned;
28 and the land was shaken on account of its inhabitants,
and all the house of²⁸ Jacob was clothed with shame.

29 Two years later, the king²⁹ dispatched a chief collector of tribute to the cities of Judah, and he came to Jerusalem with a strong force. **30** And he spoke peaceable accounts to them in deceit, and won their trust. Then he suddenly fell upon the city, and struck it with a mighty blow, and destroyed many of the people in Israel. **31** Then he seized the spoils of the city,³⁰ and burned it with fire, and tore down its houses and its³¹ surrounding walls; **32** and they took captive the women and the children, and took possession of³² the livestock so that the number of those who were taken alive came to about 10,000.³³

33 Then they built up the City of David with a great and strong wall and with strong towers, and it became their citadel in the Lower City.³⁴ **34** And there they installed a sinful nation, unlawful men,³⁵ who strengthened themselves inside it; **35** and they stored up weapons and provisions, and there laid-aside the plunder which they had collected from Jerusalem. And they became a great snare.

36 And it became an ambush against the holy-place,
and a wicked slanderer to Israel at all times.
37 And they shed innocent blood around the holy-place;
they defiled the holy-place of the Lord.³⁶
38 And because of them the inhabitants of Jerusalem fled away,
and she became a settlement of foreigners.
And she became a foreigner to her own offspring,
and her children forsook her.
39 Her holy-place was as desolate as a wilderness;
her festivals were turned into mourning,³⁷
her sabbaths into shame,³⁸
her honor into contempt.
40 Her dishonor was as great³⁹ as her glory had been,
and her exaltation was turned into mourning.⁴⁰

41 Then the king⁴¹ wrote to his whole kingdom that all should be one people, **42** each abandoning his particular customs. And all the nations⁴² conformed to the command of the king. **43** And many from Israel took delight in his religion, and they sacrificed to the idols and profaned the sabbath.

44 And the king sent messengers with letters to Jerusalem and to the cities of Judah, ordering them to follow customs foreign to their land; **45** and to prohibit holocausts, and sacrifices, and libations in the holy-place; and to profane sabbaths and festivals; **46** and to desecrate the holy-place and the holy-things;⁴³ **47** to build altars and sacred-precincts and idol-shrines in every city and village;⁴⁴ and to sacrifice swine and common livestock; **48** and to leave their sons uncircumcised, and to let their souls be defiled with every kind of uncleanness and profanation, **49** so that they might forget the law and change all their observances. **50** He added,⁴⁵ "And whoever refuses to act according to the command of the king should be put to death."

51 Such were the accounts which he published throughout all⁴⁶ his kingdom. And he appointed overseers over all the people, and he ordered the cities of Judah to offer sacrifices, city after city. **52** And many of the people, all those who abandoned the law, joined them and committed much⁴⁷ evil in the land. **53** And Israel was driven into hiding, into every place of refuge which could be found.

54 And in the year 145,⁴⁸ on the 25th⁴⁹ day of the month¹ Kislew, the king erected a horrible abomination upon the sacrificial-altar of holocausts, and in the

¹ [1:1] Emendation based on conjectural Hebrew original / LXX "ruled in Hellada"

² [1:2] Lat(S) add / Lat(V) instead add "every"

³ [1:2] LXX(SV), Lat(V) / others omit "of the earth" // Syr2 omits "and slaughtered... from many nations"

⁴ [1:3] Syr2 "earth was silent and quiet"

⁵ [1:3] Syr2 omit "raised high and" / S omit "and his heart... lifted up"

⁶ [1:4] Syr2 "a strong and numerous force"

⁷ [1:4] LXX(S), Lat, Syr2 / others add

⁸ [1:4] LXX(S) / others "tyrannies"

⁹ [1:11] LXX(S), Lat(V) omit "sons of lawlessness came out of Israel"

¹⁰ [1:11] LXX(19,63,94), Lat(S) add

¹¹ [1:13] LXX(19,64,93), Syr, Lat(S) "and the king"

¹² [1:15] LXX(S-corrector, 19), Syr2 "and were tempted"

¹³ [1:17] LXX(19,64,93), Lat(LXGB) add

¹⁴ may also be translated "Ptolemaios was frightened at his presence"

¹⁵ [1:18] LXX(S) "and many fled" / Syr2 "and many were killed" / Syr1 omits altogether

¹⁶ [1:19] Syr1, Lat(V) "he"

¹⁷ [1:19] LXX(AV,93) / LXX(S) omits "the land of"

¹⁸ [1:19] LXX(SV) omit "the land of"

¹⁹ [1:20] Josephus omits "went up against Israel and" /

²⁰ [1:20] Syr2, Lat(VS) add

²¹ [1:20] Josephus / all others omit "The people in the city... many Israelites."

²² [1:20] LXX(V) omits "and the lampstand for the light"

²³ [1:22] Josephus adds

²⁴ [1:24] LXX(V) "he carried them"

²⁵ [1:24] LXX(A) "And they committed... and they spoke... arrogance" / Syr1 omits "and he spoke with great arrogance"

²⁶ [1:25] LXX(64) "Jerusalem"

²⁷ [1:26] Syr "Therefore"

²⁸ [1:28] LXX(93) omits "the house of"

²⁹ [1:29] LXX(19,64,93) "King Antiochos"

³⁰ [1:31] Syr "seized much spoil"

³¹ [1:31] Syr "and Jerusalem's"

³² [1:32] LXX(S-corrector, 19,64,93), Syr2 "and for themselves" / LXX(S) has only "and"

³³ [1:32] Josephus adds

³⁴ [1:33] Josephus adds

³⁵ [1:34] Josephus adds that this was a "Macedonian garrison"

³⁶ [1:37] LXX(V) adds

³⁷ [1:39] Syr1 omits "her festivals were turned into mourning"

³⁸ [1:39] LXX(19) "humiliation" / LXX(S) omits "into shame, her honor" (scribal error, fixed by S-corrector)

³⁹ [1:40] LXX(S) "The land was filled with shame"

⁴⁰ [1:40] LXX(64), Syr2 "humiliation"

⁴¹ [1:41] Lat(VS) add

⁴² [1:42] Syr1 omits "the nations"

⁴³ [1:46] Lat(LSG) / LXX "holy-ones"

⁴⁴ [1:47] Josephus adds

⁴⁵ [1:50] LXX / others add

⁴⁶ [1:51] LXX(SV), Lat(LXB) / LXX(A) omits "all"

⁴⁷ [1:52] LXX(64,93) add

⁴⁸ [1:54] LXX, Josephus / Syr "146"

⁴⁹ [1:54] Syr1, Josephus (supported by 2Mac) / LXX "on the 15th day" (error)

surrounding cities² of Judah they built altars. **55** They also burnt incense³ at the doors of the houses and in the streets. **56** And any books of the law which they found they tore up *and*⁴ burned with fire. **57** And whenever someone was found with a book of the covenant, and if anyone observed the law, they were condemned to death by the king's⁵ decree. **58** They kept using force against Israel, against those who were caught, and they led them away by force⁶ month after month, in the⁷ cities.

59 And on the twenty-fifth day of each month, they truly sacrificed on the altar which had been erected over the sacrificial-altar of holocausts. **60** And in keeping with the *king's* order, the women who had had their children circumcised were put to death, **61** with the babies hung from their necks;⁸ and they also killed their families⁹ and plundered¹⁰ those who had circumcised them.

62 And many in Israel gained might¹¹ and resolved in their hearts not to eat anything common; **63** and they preferred to die rather than to be defiled by the food or to profane the holy covenant; and they did die. **64** And exceedingly great anger came upon Israel.

CHAPTER 2

In those days Mattithijah, son of Johanan, son of Simeon, son of Hasimon,¹² a priest of the sons¹³ of Joiarib, stood-up from Jerusalem and¹⁴ settled in Modeim. **2** And he had five sons:

Johanan, who was called the Gaddi;¹⁵

3 Simon, who was called the Thassi;¹⁶

4 Judah, who was called the Makabi (*which means 'Hammer'*);

5 Eleazar, who was called the Auaran;
and Jonathan, who was called the Apphous.

6 And he saw the reviling *things* which were being committed in Judah and in Jerusalem, **7** and he said, "Woe is me! Why was I born to see the ruin of my people and the ruin¹⁷ of the holy city, and to sit idle while it is given into the hands of enemies, and the holy-place¹⁸ into the hands of foreigners?"

8 Her inner-sanctum¹⁹ has become like a man without glory;²⁰

9 her glorious ornaments have been carried off as spoils;

her infants have been killed-off in her streets,

her youths by the long-sword of an enemy.

10 What nation has not inherited *her royal palaces*,²¹

and laid its hand on her possessions?

11 All her ornamentation has been taken away.

From being free, she has become a slave-woman.

12 And, behold, our holy *places*, and our beauty,

and our glory have been laid waste;

and the nations have profaned them!

13 Why are we still alive?"

14 Then Mattithijah and his sons tore their robes, and put on sackcloth, and mourned bitterly.

15 Then the king's officers, who were in charge of enforcing the defection, came to the city²² of Modeim to make them sacrifice²³ and to burn incense and forsake the law of God.²⁴ **16** And many from Israel joined them,²⁵ but Mattithijah and his sons²⁶ gathered together *apart from them*.

17 Then the king's officers answered and spoke to Mattithijah, "You are a chief, and honorable and great in this city, supported by sons and brothers. **18** Come now, be the first and obey the king's order, as all the nations and the men²⁷

of Judah and those who are left in Jerusalem have done. Then you and your sons²⁸ shall be numbered among the friends of the king, and shall be glorified with silver and gold and many gifts."

19 But Mattithijah answered, and said in a loud voice, "*Even* if all the nations in the king's kingdom obey him, so that each *one* forsakes the religion of his fathers and consents to his instructions, **20** yet I and my sons and my brothers will walk in the covenant of our fathers. **21** Far be it from us to forsake *the* law and *the* ordinances. **22** We will not obey the accounts²⁹ of the king by departing from our religion to *the* right hand or to *the* left."

23 And as he³⁰ finished speaking these accounts,³¹ a Judean man came forward in the sight of everyone to sacrifice³² on the altar in Modeim according to the king's order. **24** And Mattithijah saw him, and burned with zeal, and his heart³³ quivered and his fury burst forth for judgment; and he ran forward with his sons who had broad knives³⁴ and slaughtered him upon the altar. **25** And at the same time, he killed-off the king's official Apelles³⁵ who along with a few of his soldiers³⁶ was forcing them to sacrifice, and he tore down the altar. **26** And this was how he showed his zeal for the law, exactly as Phinehas had done with Zimri son of Salu.

27 Then Mattithijah shouted-out in the city with a loud voice, saying, "Let everyone who is zealous for the law and who stands by *the* covenant come out with me!"

28 Then he and his sons fled into the mountains,³⁷ and left all their possessions behind in the city. **29** So at that time, many who were seeking to live according to righteousness and justice went out into the desert to settle there, **30** they, and their sons, and their women, and their livestock, because the evils pressed so hard³⁸ on them.

31 And a message was carried back to the king's officers and to the soldiers who were in Jerusalem (the City of David),³⁹ that certain men who had rejected the king's instruction⁴⁰ had gone out to the hiding places in the desert. **32** And many ran out after them; and having caught up with them, they encamped opposite them and prepared for a war against them on the day of the sabbaths.

33 And they said to them, "Enough of this! Now come out and obey the king's account, and you will live!"

34 And they said, "We will not come out, nor will we obey the king's account to profane the day of the sabbaths."

35 Then the enemy hastened to war against them, **36** but they did not retaliate; nor did they throw stones at them, nor block up their own hiding places. **37** They said, "Let us all die in innocence; the heaven and the earth testify on our behalf that you destroy us unjustly."

38 So the officers and soldiers raised-up⁴¹ a war against them on the sabbaths, and they died,⁴² along with their women, and their children, and their livestock, to the number of 1,000 souls of humans.

39 And when Mattithijah and his friends learned about this, they mourned deeply for them. **40** And one man said to another, "If we all do as our brothers have done, and do not war against the nations for our souls and our traditions, they will soon destroy us from the earth."

41 And on that day, they took counsel, saying, "Let us make a war *against* every human who wars against us on the day of the sabbaths, so that we may not all die as our brothers died in the hiding places."

42 Then a congregation of mighty warriors from Israel gathered together with them; they were called Hasideans,⁴³ (*when translated this word means, 'the Holy Ones'*) for all of them *were* devout followers of the law. **43** And everyone who was fleeing from the evils joined them and supported them. **44** And they organized a force and struck *down* sinners in their anger and lawless men in their fury, and the survivors fled to the *foreign* nations for safety.

45 And Mattithijah and his friends⁴⁴ went about⁴⁵ and tore down the⁴⁶ altars; **46** and they enforced circumcision for any uncircumcised little-boys whom they⁴⁷ found within the borders⁴⁸ of Israel. **47** And they drove off the sons of arrogance,

¹ [1:54] LXX(19,63,93) adds

² [1:58] some omit "in the cities"

³ [1:55] some LXX, Lat(S) / some LXX "also sacrificed" / Lat(V) "also burned incense and sacrificed"

⁴ [1:56] Syr omits "tore up *and*"

⁵ [1:57] some LXX / Lat(S) "king Antiochos" / other omit altogether

⁶ [1:58] Syr1 adds

⁷ [1:58] LXX(SA) / LXX(V) "their"

⁸ [1:61] Josephus "hanging from the necks of their crucified parents"

⁹ [1:62] LXX(SV) "their houses" / Latin "their entire houses"

¹⁰ [1:61] LXX(S), Syr

¹¹ [1:62] LXX(A,19) "Israel were hanged"

¹² [2:1] Josephus adds

¹³ [2:1] Josephus "course"

¹⁴ [2:1] some omit "left Jerusalem and"

¹⁵ [2:2] "Gaddi" is the usual LXX translation for the Hebrew "Gadite", may also means "the Fortunate"

¹⁶ [2:3] some Josephus "Thathis" / some Josephus "Matthis"

¹⁷ [2:7] LXX(19,93), Syr2, Lat(V) omit "the ruin"

¹⁸ [2:7] Syr1 "and the holy-ones are delivered"

¹⁹ [2:8] LXX(SAV), Syr / 93, 311, Lat(LXG) "her people"

²⁰ [2:8] some LXX, Lat(S) / LXX(SAV), Syr2, Lat "like a glorious man"

²¹ [2:10] LXX(A), Lat(LXG) / LXX(S,19,64,93) "nation has not taken its share of *her* kingdom"

²² [2:15] Josephus "village"

²³ [2:15] LXX(64), Lat(S) "to sacrifice"

²⁴ [2:15] Lat(V) adds

²⁵ [2:16] LXX(V) "Many of Israel consented to join them"

²⁶ [2:16] LXX(64,93) "and those who were with him"

²⁷ [2:18] LXX(SV) "chiefs"

²⁸ [2:18] LXX(S), Syr, Lat / others "you and your house" / LXX(V,64) "you and your sons and your house"

²⁹ [2:22] LXX(SV,19,64,93) / others "law"

³⁰ [2:23] LXX(64,93) "Mattithijah"

³¹ [2:23] LXX(S) omits "these accounts"

³² [2:23] LXX(A), Syr1 "to burn incense"

³³ literally "kidneys"

³⁴ [2:24] Josephus adds

³⁵ [2:25] Josephus(Ant) / Josephus(War) "Bacchides" / all others omit altogether

³⁶ [2:25] Josephus adds

³⁷ [2:28] Josephus "wilderness"

³⁸ [2:30] LXX(V) "evils were multiplied" / LXX(S) "evils pressed so hard and were multiplied"

³⁹ [2:31] Josephus "in the citadel of Jerusalem"

⁴⁰ [2:31] LXX(S) "counsel"

⁴¹ literally "stood-up"

⁴² [2:38] LXX / some Josephus "and slaughtered them in their caves" / other Josephus "and burned them in their caves"

⁴³ [2:42] LXX(SV,74) "Judeans" / Josephus' paraphrase omits reference to the Hasideans here

⁴⁴ [2:45] LXX(A) "sons" / Syr1 "those who were with him"

⁴⁵ [2:45] LXX(S) "commanded" (instead of "went about")

⁴⁶ [2:45] LXX(AV) "their"

⁴⁷ [2:46] LXX(AV) "he"

⁴⁸ [2:46] LXX(S) "found among the sons"

and the¹ work prospered in their hand. **48** And they rescued the law from the hand of the nations and out of the hand² of the³ kings, and did not let the sinner raise up his horn.

49 And the time came for Mattithijah to die, and he said to his sons, “Arrogance and scorn have now grown strong; it is a time of catastrophe and anger *and* fury. **50** Therefore, my children, be zealous for the law and give your souls for the covenant of our⁴ fathers. **51** And remember the deeds which our⁵ fathers did in their times, and you shall win great glory and a perpetual name.

52 “Was not Abraham surely found faithful in a testing, and it was accounted to him for⁶ righteousness? (Genesis 15:6)

53 “Joseph, in a season of constraint, kept the instruction, and he became a lord of Egypt. (Genesis 37,39~41)

54 “Phinehas our father, for his zealous zeal, received the lot of⁷ a covenant of a perpetual⁸ priesthood. (Numbers 25:7~13)

55 “Joshua, for fulfilling his account,⁹ became a judge in Israel. (Num. 27:18)

56 “Caleb, for testifying before the assembly, received an inheritance in the land.¹⁰ (Numbers 13:30~14:24)

57 “David, for his piety, received as a heritage a kingdom which will last into the age.¹¹ (2 Samuel 7:13)

58 “Elijah, for his zealous zeal for *the* law, was taken up into the heaven. (2 Kings 2:11)

59 “Hananiah, Azariah, Mishael, for putting their faith in *God*, were saved from the fire. (Daniel 3)

60 “Daniel, for his innocence, was delivered from *the* jaws of lions.¹² (Dan. 6)

61 “And so, consider this from generation to generation,¹³ that everyone who places their hope in him will not be weak.

62 “And do not fear the accounts of a sinful man, *for* his glory *ends* in dung and in worms.¹⁴ **63** Today he is exalted, and tomorrow¹⁵ he is not to be found, because he has returned to the dust, and his schemes will perish. **64** And all of you.¹⁶ My children, be act-manfully and be strong in *keeping* the law,¹⁷ because in *keeping* it you will be glorified.

65 “And here is your¹⁸ brother Simeon, whom I know is a man *wise* in council. Listen to him always; he will be a father to you. **66** And Judah *the* Makabi, he¹⁹ has been a strong warrior²⁰ from his youth;²¹ he shall be the chief of your army and all of you shall²² wage a war²³ of the peoples.²⁴ **67** And you²⁵ shall gather about you all who observe the law, and you shall fully avenge your people. **68** Pay back the nations *the* repayment *they* deserve, and observe *the* ordinances of the law.²⁶

69 Then he blest them,²⁶ and he was gathered to his²⁷ fathers. **70** And he died in the year 146,²⁸ and was buried²⁹ in the tombs of his fathers in Modeim, and all Israel mourned him with a great beating of the breast *in lamentation*.

CHAPTER 3

Then his son Judah, who was called the Makabi, stood-up in his place. **2** And all his brothers, and all who were glued to³⁰ his father, had been helping him, and they had been waging Israel’s war with gladness.

- 3** And he broadened the glory of his people,³¹
and put on his breastplate like a giant.
And he armed *himself* with his equipment of war;

¹ [2:47] LXX(19) “their”

² [2:48] LXX(64) / others add

³ [2:48] LXX(S,64,93) “their”

⁴ [2:50] LXX(A) / others “your”

⁵ [2:51] LXX(A) / others “the”

⁶ Literally “into”

⁷ [2:54] LXX(S) adds

⁸ [2:54] LXX(A) “holy” / LXX(71) omits altogether

⁹ [2:55] LXX(19,64,93) “accounts”

¹⁰ [2:56] LXX(V) “an inheritance of land” / LXX(S), Lat(V) “an inheritance”

¹¹ [2:57] LXX(S), Lat(LXGV), Lucifer, Syr2 / Lat(B) “last into *the* ages of the ages” / LXX(Aq), 56, 58, 106, Lat(M) “be perpetual (aionias)” / LXX(19,64,93) “last into *the* age of the ages”

¹² [2:60] LXX(S,64) “of a lion”

¹³ [2:61] LXX(A) “this according to generation”

¹⁴ [2:62] LXX(19), Syr2, Lat(V) “in a worm”

¹⁵ [2:63] LXX(A) omits “tomorrow”

¹⁶ [2:64] LXX(S) adds

¹⁷ [2:64] LXX(A) “in *keeping* your law” / LXX(71) omits altogether

¹⁸ [2:64] LXX(93) “our”

¹⁹ [2:66] LXX(S,19,64,93) omits “he”

²⁰ [2:66] (literally “power”) / LXX(A) “strong in power”

²¹ [2:66] Josephus “, because of his courage and strength” / LXX(71) omits “from his youth”

²² [2:66] LXX(A) adds

²³ [2:66] LXX(19,64,93) “wars”

²⁴ [2:66] Lat(V), Syr “for the peoples”

²⁵ [2:67] Josephus changes the tense of this verse to third person (though still referring to Judah)

²⁶ [2:69] Josephus “Then he prayed to God to be their ally and to recover for the people its own way of life once more”

²⁷ [2:69] LXX(S-corrector) “their”

²⁸ [2:70] LXX(S), Syr2 “148”

²⁹ [2:70] LXX(S,71), Lat(V) / others “and his sons buried him”

³⁰ [3:1] LXX(64) “who followed”

³¹ [3:3] LXX(V) “glory by his word”

and he planned battles, sheltering *the* camp with *his* long-sword.³²

4 And in his³³ works he was like a lion,
and like a young lion roaring for prey.

5 And searching out the lawless, he drove them off,
and he burned up those who troubled his people.³⁴

6 And lawless *men* shrank back for fear of him,
and all the works of that lawlessness were confounded.

And in his hand, salvation prospered,³⁵
and he afflicted many³⁶ kings.

And he gladdened Jacob by his deeds,
and his memory is a blessing into the age.

8 And he passed through the cities of Judah,
and he utterly-destroyed the impious³⁷ there.

And he turned away anger from Israel

9 and was renowned to *the* ends of *the* earth;
and he gathered together those who were perishing.

10 Then Apollonios gathered the nations³⁸ together, along with a large force from Samaria, to war against Israel. **11** And when Judah learned of it, he went out to meet him, and he struck and killed him off. And many fell wounded, but the rest fled. **12** And they³⁹ took their spoils;⁴⁰ and the saber of Apollonios was taken by Judah, and he waged-war with it the rest of his life.⁴¹

13 And Seron,⁴² the chief of the Syrian force,⁴³ heard that Judah had mustered a large gathering, and that an assembly of faithful *men* were going out with him into a war.⁴⁴ **14** So he said, “I will make a name for myself and win glory in the kingdom, and will wage-war against Judah the son⁴⁵ and his followers, and those⁴⁶ who have despised the king’s account.”

15 And he went up again, accompanied by a large camp of impious *men* who intended⁴⁷ to help him wreak vengeance upon the sons of Israel.

16 And when he⁴⁸ reached the ascent⁴⁹ of Beth-Horon, Judah went out to meet him⁵⁰ with a few men. **17** But when *Judah’s men* saw the camp coming against them,⁵¹ they said to Judah, “How can we,⁵² few as we are, wage-war against such a strong⁵³ multitude as this? And we are faint today from fasting.”

18 And Judah said, “It is easy for many to be shut up by the hands of a few; in the sight of the heaven⁵⁴ there is no difference between being saved by many or by few. **19** *For* a victory in a war does not depend upon the size of the multitude, rather on the strength that comes from the heaven. **20** With great insolence and lawlessness the multitude comes against us to destroy us and our women and children, and⁵⁵ to despoil us; **21** but we are warring for our souls and our laws, **22** and he himself will crush them before us. But do not fear them.”

23 Now when he had finished speaking, he rushed suddenly upon Seron and his camp, who were crushed before him. **24** And he drove them⁵⁶ down the descent of Beth-Horon into the plain; and about 800 of their men fell, but the rest fled to the land of *the* Philistines.⁵⁷ **25** Then Judah and his brothers began to be feared, and the intimidation was falling upon the nations, the *ones* in a circle around them. **26** And his name reached as far as the king, and *all* the nations were detailing the battles of Judah.

27 But when King⁵⁸ Antiochos heard these accounts, he was angered with fury. So he sent and congregated all the forces of his kingdom and took with him many mercenaries from the islands,⁵⁹ an exceedingly strong camp. **28** And he opened his treasury and gave a⁶⁰ year’s pay to his forces, and instructed them to be prepared for a year⁶¹ for any need. **29** Then he saw that this had exhausted the

³² [3:3] LXX(V) “protecting with his long-sword in a war”

³³ [3:4] LXX(S) omits “his”

³⁴ [3:5] LXX(A) omits “his people”

³⁵ [3:6] LXX(93) omits “And in...prospered”

³⁶ [3:6] LXX(93), Syr1 omit “many”

³⁷ [3:8] LXX(64) “kings”

³⁸ [3:10] LXX(19) omits “the nations”

³⁹ [3:12] LXX(19) “he”

⁴⁰ [3:12] LXX(A) “vessels”

⁴¹ [3:12] Josephus “and taking as spoil the sword which Apollonios was then using, he kept it for himself”

⁴² [3:13] most Gk, Vul / one Greek “Eron” [also elsewhere in this document]

⁴³ [3:13] Josephus “commander(?) of CoeleSyr1a”

⁴⁴ [3:13] LXX(19,64,93), Lat(X) / others “faithful *men* with him and of wagers of war.”

⁴⁵ [3:14] LXX(S) adds

⁴⁶ [3:14] LXX(A) adds

⁴⁷ [3:15] Josephus / LXX “expedition, and a large camp of renegades marched with him, intending”

⁴⁸ [3:16] LXX(V,19,64,93) “they”

⁴⁹ [3:16] Josephus “village”

⁵⁰ [3:16] LXX(V,64) “them”

⁵¹ [3:17] LXX(AV(a)) “him”

⁵² [3:17] LXX(71) / others “What can we *do*”

⁵³ [3:17] LXX(A) omits “strong”

⁵⁴ [3:18] most, LXX(B,19,64,93) / some, LXX(V) “God”

⁵⁵ [3:20] LXX(71), Syr1, Lat / others “for”

⁵⁶ [3:24] others “him”

⁵⁷ [3:24] Josephus “to the seacoast”

⁵⁸ [3:27] Syr(L) omits “king”

⁵⁹ [3:27] Josephus adds

⁶⁰ [3:28] LXX(A) “the”

⁶¹ [3:28] LXX(A) adds

silver in his treasuries, and that the tributes from the country were small, because of the dissension and blow which he had furnished in the land¹ by abolishing the laws which had been in effect from the earliest days. **30** So he was wary that, as had happened more than once, he would not have *enough* for his expenses and for the gifts which he had previously given with a more liberal hand (and he was more lavish than the preceding kings).² **31** And he was greatly perplexed in *his* soul. And he³ took counsel on going to Persia and levying tribute on those countries, and so raise a large sum of silver.

32 And he left Lysias, a human who was glorious and of royal lineage, in charge of the king's affairs from the Euphrates⁴ River to the borders of Egypt and Lower Asia,⁵ **33** and to take care of his son Antiochos until his own return. **34** And he entrusted half of his forces to him, as well as the elephants, and gave him instructions concerning everything he wanted done.

And as for *all of*⁶ those who were dwelling in Judah and Jerusalem, **35** Lysias was to send a force against them to wear-down and drive-out the strength⁷ of Israel and the remnant of Jerusalem, and to efface⁸ their⁹ memory from that place. **36** And he was to settle sons of foreigners within all their borders, and parcel out their land by lot.¹⁰

37 And the king took the remaining half of his forces and set out from Antiocheia, his royal city, in the year 147. And he crossed the Euphrates River and advanced through the upper country.¹¹

38 And Lysias chose Ptolemaios son of¹² Dorymenes, and Nikanor, and Gorgias, powerful men among the king's friends; **39** and with them he sent 40,000¹³ men and 7,000 cavalry to invade the land of Judah and to utterly-destroy it according to the king's account.

40 So they departed with their entire force, and they¹⁴ came and encamped near Hammat in the plain. **41** And the merchants of the country heard about their fame; and bringing fetters¹⁵ and a large sum of silver and gold, they came to the camp to buy the sons of Israel as *slave* boys. And a force from Syria and from the land of foreigners joined with them.

42 And Judah and his brothers saw that the situation had become critical now that forces were encamped within their borders; and they discovered the accounts which the king had instructed to bring about the perdition and consummation of the people. **43** So they said to one another, "Let us raise-up¹⁶ our people from their demolition, and wage-war for our people and the holy *places*!"

44 And the *entire*¹⁷ congregation gathered together to prepare for a war and to pray and to implore mercy and compassion.

- 45** And Jerusalem was uninhabited, like a desert;
not one of her children entered or came out.¹⁸
And the holy-place was trampled on,
and sons of foreigners were in the citadel;
it was a habitation for the *foreign* nations.
And joy had been lifted away from Jacob,
and the flute and the lyre ceased.

46 So they gathered together and went to Mizpah near Jerusalem, because, at Mizpah, there was formerly a place of prayer for Israel. **47** And that day they fasted and put on sackcloth; and they sprinkled¹⁹ ashes on their heads²⁰ and tore their robes. **48** And they unrolled the book of the law, to learn about those matters in which the *foreign* nations sought to find analogies to their idols.²¹ **49** And they brought with them the robes of the priesthood, and the first-fruits, and the tenths; and they roused²² the Nazirites who had completed the days of their *vows*.

50 And they cried-out with a *great*²³ voice into the heaven, "What shall we do with these *men*, and where shall we take them? **51** And your holy *places* have been trampled underfoot and profaned, and your priests are in mourning and in humiliation. **52** And behold, the nations are gathered together against us to

destroy us. You know the things which they calculate against us. **53** How shall we be able to resist them if you do not help us?" **54** Then they trumpeted the trumpets and cried out loudly.

55 And after this, Judah appointed *men* to lead the people, chiefs over thousands, and chiefs over hundreds, and chiefs over fifties, and chiefs over tens. **56** And he proclaimed that those who were building houses, or were betrothed, or were planting vineyards, or were fainthearted, could each return to his home, according to the law. **57** Then the camp moved off, and they encamped to the south of Hammat.

58 And Judah said, "Arm yourselves and be²⁴ powerful sons. And in the morning, be ready to wage-war against these nations who have mustered against us to drive-out us and our holy *places*. **59** It is better for us to die in the war²⁵ than to watch the evils of our nation and our holy *places*. But whatever his will in the heaven may be, this he will do."

CHAPTER 4

And Gorgias took 5,000 men and 1,000 picked cavalry; and this²⁶ camp set out at night **2** in order to attack the camp of the Judeans²⁷ *by night*²⁸ and strike them by surprise. And *some of the*²⁹ sons from the citadel³⁰ were their guides.

3 And when Judah was informed of *this plan*, he himself set out with his mighty *men* to strike the king's force at Hammat, **4** while the latter's forces were still scattered away from the camp.

5 And during the night Gorgias came into Judah's camp, and found no one there; so he began to hunt for them in the mountains, saying, "They are fleeing from us."

6 And at daybreak, Judah appeared in the plain with 3,000 men, though their veils and sabers were not as they would have wished. **7** And they saw the camp of the nations, strong and breastplated, and surrounded with cavalry, and made up of trained warriors.

8 And Judah said to the men with him, "Do not fear the multitude or be terrified of their attack. **9** Remember how our fathers were saved in the Sea of Reeds, when Pharaoh pursued them with *his* force. **10** So now, let us cry³¹ into the heaven³² in the *hope* that he will want to favor us,³³ and remember his covenant with our fathers,³⁴ and crush this camp before our face³⁵ today. **11** And all the nations shall know that there is One who redeems and saves Israel."

12 And when the foreigners looked up and saw them marching toward them, **13** they came out of their camp for a war, and the men with Judah trumpeted the trumpet. **14** So they engaged in *battle*, and the nations were defeated and fled into the plain. **15** But their whole rearguard fell by the long-sword, and they were driven away as far as Gezer,³⁶ and the plains of Judah,³⁷ and Ashdod, and Jabneh. So about 3,000 of their men fell.

16 And when Judah and his force returned from driving them away, **17** he said to the people, "Do not be greedy for the plunder, *for* there is a war before us, **18** and Gorgias and his force are near us on the mountain. Instead, stand firm at this time against our enemies³⁸ and wage-war against them; and after these *things*, *all of you*^{*}, take the plunder with outspokenness."

19 As Judah was finishing³⁹ this *speech*, an *enemy* division appeared, peeping down from the mountain. **20** And they saw that *their army* had been put to flight and that their camp was being burned,⁴⁰ for the visible⁴¹ smoke was an indication of what had happened. **21** But when they realized this, they were exceedingly terrified; and when they also saw the camp of Judah in the plain⁴² in attack formation, **22** they all fled into the land of foreigners.

23 Then Judah went back to plunder the camp, and *his men* collected much gold and silver, and cloth dyed dark blue and sea purple,⁴³ and great riches. **24** And as they returned, they were hymning and blessing into the heaven, "because he is beautiful, because his mercy endures into the age." **25** And this was how Israel had a great⁴⁴ salvation that day.

¹ [3:29] Josephus ":", for not all the tribute had been paid because of uprisings among the nations"

² [3:30] LXX(A) omits "and he was...kings"

³ [3:31] LXX(A) "they" / LXX(19,64,93) "Antiochos"

⁴ [3:32] Greek / from Persian "Ufratu" / Hebrew "Furat" (also in verse 37)

⁵ [3:32] Josephus adds

⁶ [3:34] LXX(A) adds

⁷ [3:35] Syr "name"

⁸ [3:35] (literally "to take away") / LXX(AV,64,93) "to drive out"

⁹ [3:35] LXX(A) "its"

¹⁰ [3:36] LXX(A) "and possess their land" / Lat "and possess their land and parcel it out by lot"

¹¹ [3:37] Josephus "satrapies"

¹² [3:38] LXX(V) omits "Ptolemaios son of"

¹³ [3:39] LXX(V) "50,000" / Syr "10,000"

¹⁴ [3:40] LXX(S), Lat(LB) "He set out with their entire force, and"

¹⁵ [3:41] Josephus, Syr / Greek, Lat(V) "slaves"

¹⁶ literally "stand-up"

¹⁷ [3:44] LXX(V) adds

¹⁸ [3:45] LXX(V,71), Lat(Vul) omit "or came out"

¹⁹ [3:47] LXX(55), Syr2, Lat(V) / most omit "sprinkled"

²⁰ [3:47] LXX(SVL) "head"

²¹ [3:48] LXX(q) "., where the nations sought to inscribe the likenesses." / Syr "law... and mourned before the Holy One over the fact that the nations were compelling them to follow practices like theirs."

²² [3:49] most LXX / LXX(55), most others "shaved"

²³ [3:50] LXX(93) adds

²⁴ [3:58] LXX(93) omits "and be"

²⁵ [3:59] LXX(93) omits "in the war"

²⁶ [4:1] (literally "the") / LXX(19,93), Syr2 "his"

²⁷ [4:2] Syr, Josephus "of Judah"

²⁸ [4:2] LXX(19,93), Syr2 add

²⁹ [4:2] LXX(A) "And the"

³⁰ [4:2] Josephus "Some of the Judean refugees"

³¹ [4:10] LXX(S) "we will cry"

³² [4:10] LXX(71) "to the Lord" / Lat(V) "to our Lord"

³³ [4:10] some LXX, Syr1, Lat(V) / LXX(SAV) "will want us"

³⁴ [4:10] Syr "remember the first covenant"

³⁵ [4:10] LXX(64) "your"

³⁶ [4:15] Hebrew / LXX, some Josephus "Gazara" / some Josephus "Gadara"

³⁷ [4:15] some Josephus, Syr, Lat / LXX(AV,19), most Josephus (in error) "Edom"

³⁸ [4:18] LXX(93) omits "Instead...enemies"

³⁹ [4:19] LXX(SAV) / Syr, Lat "saying"

⁴⁰ [4:20] LXX(19,63,94) "that those who were with Judah were burning their camp"

⁴¹ [4:20] LXX(93) omits "visible"

⁴² [4:21] Syr1 omits "in the plain"

⁴³ [4:23] LXX(A) "blue and purple and sea"

⁴⁴ [4:25] LXX(19,64,93) omits "great"

26 But those of the foreigners who had escaped went to Lysias, bringing a message concerning everything that had happened. 27 But upon hearing all of¹ this report, he was perplexed and discouraged,² because things in Israel had not turned out as he intended and as the king had instructed him.³

28 So the following year he gathered together 60,000 picked men and 5,000 cavalry, to subdue them. 29 And they came into Edom⁴ and going up into the hill country,⁵ encamped at Beth-Zur, and Judah met them with 10,000 men.

30 And seeing that the camp of those who were opposing them⁶ was strong, he prayed and spoke, "Blessed are you, O Lord⁷ Savior of Israel, who broke the rush of the mighty-one Goliath⁸ by the hand of your slave David and delivered the camp of the foreigners into the hand of Jonathan, son of Saul, and his armor-bearer. 31 Give this camp into the hands of your people Israel, and make them ashamed of their force and their cavalry. 32 Strike them with terror, and melt the boldness of their strength, and let them quake at their own destruction. 33 Strike them down by the long-sword of those who dearly-love you, and let everyone who knows⁹ your name praise you with hymns."

34 Then they engaged in battle, and about 5,000 men of Lysias' camp fell; and they fell while fighting hand-to-hand. 35 But when Lysias saw his ranks beginning to give way, but saw the increased boldness of Judah, whose men were ready either to live or to die bravely,¹⁰ he withdrew to Antiocheia and began to recruit mercenaries so as to return to the land of Judah with greater numbers.

36 But Judah and his brothers said, "Now that our enemies have been crushed, let us go up to cleanse the holy places and rededicate them."

37 So the whole camp gathered together, and went up to Mount Zion. 38 And they found the¹¹ holy-place desolate, and the sacrificial-altar profaned, and the gates¹² burned down, and plants growing in the courts as in a thicket or on one of the mountains, and the priests' chambers demolished.

39 Then they tore their robes and beat their breasts in great lamentation; and they sprinkled ashes on their heads,¹³ 40 and fell with their faces to the ground. And when the signal was trumpeted on the trumpets, they cried out into the heaven.

41 At that time, Judah appointed men to wage-war against those in the citadel, while he cleansed the holy places. 42 And he chose blameless priests, devoted to the law. 43 And they¹⁴ cleansed the holy places, and they¹⁵ carried away the stones of the abomination and placed them¹⁶ into an unclean place. 44 And they took counsel on what should be done with the sacrificial-altar of holocausts which had been profaned. 45 And the best counsel was to tear it down, lest it be a lasting shame to them that the nations had defiled it; so they tore down the sacrificial-altar. 46 And they laid-aside the stones in a requisite place in the house's mountain, until a prophet should come to decide what to do about them.

47 Then they¹⁷ took uncut stones,¹⁸ according to the law, and built a new sacrificial-altar like the former one. 48 They also rebuilt the holy places and the interior of the house and he¹⁹ consecrated the courts. 49 And they made new holy²⁰ vessels of gold,²¹ and brought the lampstand, and the sacrificial-altar of incense, and the table into the inner-sanctum. 50 Then they burned incense on the sacrificial-altar, and kindled the lamps on the lampstand, and these illuminated²² the inner-sanctum. 51 They also put loaves on the table and hung up curtains. And this was how they finished all the work which they had undertaken.

52 And early in the morning on the 25th day of the 9th month,²³ that is, the month of Kislev, in the year 148 of the kingdom,²⁴ 53 they arose and offered sacrifice according to the law on the new sacrificial-altar of holocausts which they had made. 54 And²⁵ at the exact time of the month, on which the nations had profaned it, on that very day,²⁶ it was consecrated with songs, and lutes, and harps,²⁷ and cymbals. 55 And all the people²⁸ fell on their faces, and bowed-down before God²⁹ and blest into the heaven, which had prospered them.

¹ [4:27] LXX(SV) / others add

² [4:27] LXX(V) omits "and discouraged"

³ [4:27] LXX(19,93), Syr2, Lat add

⁴ [4:29] most LXX, some Josephus / LXX(S), some Josephus "Judah"

⁵ [4:29] Josephus adds

⁶ [4:30] LXX(19,63,93) add

⁷ [4:30] LXX(S) adds / LXX(71) omits "of Israel"

⁸ [4:30] LXX(71) adds

⁹ [4:33] LXX(A) "who have seen"

¹⁰ [4:35] some omit "whose men were ready either to live or to die bravely"

¹¹ [4:38] LXX(SV) / others "our"

¹² [4:38] LXX(S) "doors"

¹³ [4:39] LXX(S,19,93) omit "on their heads"

¹⁴ [4:43] LXX(19,63,93), Syr1 "he"

¹⁵ [4:43] LXX(19,63,93), Syr1 add

¹⁶ [4:43] Syr1 adds / Syr2 instead adds "and cast them"

¹⁷ [4:47] LXX(AV) "he"

¹⁸ [4:47] Josephus "took various stones which had not been hewn with iron"

¹⁹ [4:48] LXX(AV) adds

²⁰ [4:49] LXX(93) omits "holy"

²¹ [4:49] Josephus adds

²² [4:50] LXX(19,64,93) "and to be visible in"

²³ [4:52] LXX(S) omits "9th"

²⁴ [4:52] Syr1 "149" / LXX(19,64,93) adds

²⁵ [4:54] LXX(SV) adds

²⁶ [4:54] LXX(A) omits "on that very day"

²⁷ [4:54] LXX(19,64,93) omits "and harps"

56 So for eight days they celebrated the consecration of the sacrificial-altar and offered holocausts with gladness and sacrifices of salvation and praise. 57 And they ornamented the forefront of the inner-sanctum with gold crowns and small-shields; and they³⁰ repaired the gates and the priests' chambers and furnished them with doors. 58 And there was great gladness among the people now that the reproach of the nations was removed.

59 Then Judah and his brothers and the entire assembly of Israel decreed that the days of the consecration of the sacrificial-altar should be observed with gladness and joy on the anniversary every year for eight days, from the 25th day of the month Kislev.³¹

60 And at that time, they built high walls³² and strong towers around Mount Zion,³³ in order to prevent the nations from coming and trampling it³⁴ down as they had done before. 61 And Judah placed a force there to protect it; and he fortified the city of³⁵ Beth-Zur in order to protect it,³⁶ so that the people might have a stronghold facing Edom.³⁷

CHAPTER 5

So when the surrounding nations heard that the sacrificial-altar³⁸ had been rebuilt and the holy-place had been consecrated as it was before, they were exceedingly angered. 2 So they took counsel to remove any from the race³⁹ of Jacob who were among them, and they began to put to death the people and to persecute them.

3 Then Judah waged-war on the sons of Esau at Akrobat in Edom,⁴⁰ because they were blockading Israel. And he struck them with heavy blows, and humbled⁴¹ and took their spoils.

4 He also remembered the malice of the sons of Zibeon,⁴² who had become a trap and an impediment to the people of Israel⁴³ by ambushing them along the roads.⁴⁴ 5 And he shut them up in their towers, and encamped against them;⁴⁵ he bound himself with imprecations and burned down its towers in a fire⁴⁶ together with everyone who was dwelling⁴⁷ within them.

6 Then he crossed over to the sons of Ammon, and he found a mighty band⁴⁸ and many people⁴⁹ with Timotheos leading them. 7 And he fought many wars with them, and they were crushed before his face, and he struck them down.⁵⁰ 8 And after seizing Jazer and its suburbs,⁵¹ and burning the city,⁵² he⁵³ returned to the land of Judah.⁵⁴

9 Then the nations in Gilead gathered together to attack and destroy the sons of Israel who were within their borders; then they fled to the stronghold of Dathema.⁵⁵ 10 And they sent a letter to Judah and his brothers saying:

The nations surrounding us have combined against us⁵⁶ to destroy us, 11 and they are preparing to come and occupy this stronghold to which we have fled. And Timotheos is leading their force. 12 Therefore, come at once to rescue us from their hands, for many of us have fallen. 13 And all of our brothers⁵⁷ who were among the Tobians⁵⁸ have been killed; and the nations have carried away their women and children and their goods, and they have slain about a thousand men there.

14 While they were reading this letter, suddenly other messengers, in torn robes, arrived from Galilee bringing a similar message, 15 which said: "The

²⁸ [4:55] LXX(71) omits "the people"

²⁹ [4:55] LXX(71) adds

³⁰ [4:57] LXX(A) "he"

³¹ [4:59] Josephus adds a notation "And from that time to the present, we observe this festival, which we call the Festival of Lights, giving this name to it, I think, from the fact that the right to worship appeared to us at a time when we hardly dared hope for it."

³² [4:60] LXX(19,64,93) "built a high wall"

³³ [4:60] Josephus "around the city"

³⁴ [4:60] LXX(S,93) / others "them"

³⁵ [4:61] Josephus / others omit "the city of"

³⁶ [4:61] LXX(55), Syr / others add

³⁷ [4:61] Josephus "that he might use it as a stronghold in any emergency caused by the enemy"

³⁸ [5:1] Syr "the house"

³⁹ [5:2] Luc "seed"

⁴⁰ [5:3] LXX(A,130) "Judah" // Josephus "attacked the Edomites, the sons of Esau, at Akrobatene"

⁴¹ [5:3] Syr1 "scattered"

⁴² [5:4] Josephus(LAMW) / others "Baeen"

⁴³ [5:4] Syr1 adds

⁴⁴ [5:4] Syr1 omits "along the roads"

⁴⁵ [5:4] LXX(A) "and cast them aside"

⁴⁶ [5:5] LXX(V) omits "in a fire"

⁴⁷ [5:5] LXX(S,55) add

⁴⁸ literally "hand"

⁴⁹ [5:6] LXX(SV,19,64,93) adds "and a mighty band (lit. 'hand')" a second time here

⁵⁰ [5:7] LXX(19) omits "and he struck them down"

⁵¹ [5:8] (lit. "daughters") / Josephus "and its women and children"

⁵² [5:8] Josephus adds

⁵³ [5:8] LXX(S) "they" / LXX(64,93) "Judah"

⁵⁴ [5:8] LXX(V), Syr2 "Edom"

⁵⁵ [5:9] Syr1 "Ramoath"

⁵⁶ [5:10] LXX(S) omits "against us"

⁵⁷ [5:13] LXX(55), Syr2 "all these"

⁵⁸ [5:13] Lat(LX), Syr2 "who were in the region of the Tobians"

inhabitants of Ptolemais, and Tsor, and Sidon, and all *the* foreigners of Galilee¹ have mustered to utterly-destroy us.”

16 Now when Judah and all the people² heard these accounts, a great assembly convened to take counsel on what they should do for their brothers who were suffering tribulation and were having war-waged against them.³

17 And Judah said to his brother Simon, “Choose men for yourself, and go and rescue your⁴ brothers in Galilee. But I and my brother Jonathan will go to Gilead.”

18 And in *the land of* Judah, he left behind Joseph son of Zechariah, along with Azariah, to lead the people, and with the rest of the force to guard it. 19 Then he commanded them, “Set yourself over these people, and do not engage in a war against the nations until we return.”

20 And 3,000 men were allotted to Simon, to go into Galilee, but 8,000 men to Judah, to go into Gilead. 21 And Simon went into Galilee and fought many⁵ wars against the nations. And they were crushed before him, 22 and he drove them away to the gate of⁶ Ptolemais. And on that day⁷ about 3,000 men of the *foreign* nations fell, and he gathered their spoils. 23 Then he took with him the Judeans who were in Galilee and in Nabatta,⁸ together with their women and their children and everything they had, and he⁹ brought as many as were with¹⁰ them to the *land of* Judah with great gladness.

24 And Judah the Makabi and his brother Jonathan crossed the Jordan and marched for three days through the desert. 25 And there they met some Nabateans, who received them peacefully and described to them everything which had happened to the *Judean* brothers in Gilead, 26 “And many of them have been imprisoned in Bozrah, and Bezer near Elma,¹² Khisfin,¹³ Makedah,¹⁴ and Karnaim,” —all of these cities are strong and great— 27 “and the rest have been imprisoned¹⁵ in the rest of *the* cities¹⁶ of Gilead. Tomorrow their enemies plan to encamp against the strongholds¹⁷ and to seize and destroy all these *people* in one day.”

28 Then Judah and his camp suddenly turned back to march across the desert to Bozrah, and *they* captured the city. And he killed-off every male of the city¹⁸ by the edge of *the* long-sword, and took all their possessions, and he¹⁹ burned it with fire. 29 Then he led *his army* from that place by night, and they²⁰ marched toward the stronghold of Dathema.²¹

30 And when morning came, they looked ahead and, behold, *there was* a great *multitude* of people which could not be numbered, with ladders and machines for capturing the stronghold,²² and *who were* beginning to wage-war against *those who were within*.

31 And *Judah* perceived that the war had begun, and that the cry of the city was resounding to²³ *the* heaven with trumpet blasts and loud shouting. 32 So he said to the men of his force, “Wage-war for our²⁵ brothers today!”

33 And he came up behind them with three columns, and they²⁶ trumpeted their trumpets and shouted in prayer. 34 And when Timotheos’ camp realized that it was Makabi, they fell back before him, and he struck them with a heavy blow, and about 8,000 of their men fell that day.

35 Then he turned toward one of the cities of the nations called²⁷ Elma²⁸ and wage-war on it and captured it; and he killed-off every male in it, and plundered it, and burned it with fire. 36 From there, he moved on and took Khisfin, Makedah,²⁹ Bezer, and the other cities of the Gileadites.

37 But after these events, Timotheos gathered together another camp and encamped opposite³⁰ Rephaim,³¹ on the other side of the wadi.

38 And Judah sent men to spy on the camp,³² and they brought a message to him: “All the nations around us³³ have rallied to him,³⁴ making a very large force. 39 And they have hired Arabians to help them, and have encamped beyond the wadi, ready to come out to engage you in a war.” So Judah went forward to meet them.

40 And as Judah and his camp³⁵ were approaching the running wadi,³⁶ Timotheos said to the chiefs of his force, “If he crosses over to us first, we shall not be able to resist him; he will certainly defeat us. 41 But if he is terrified and encamps on the other side of the river, we will cross over to him³⁷ and be able to *defeat* him.”³⁸

42 But when Judah reached the running wadi, he stationed the scribes of the people beside the wadi and instructed them, saying, “Do not allow any human to encamp; instead, everyone must go into the war.”

43 So he was the first to cross over against them, and all the³⁹ people were behind⁴⁰ him. And all *of*⁴¹ the *foreign* nations quaked before his⁴² face, and they threw away all of⁴³ their weapons and fled to the sacred-precinct at Karnaim. 44 And *the Judeans*⁴⁴ captured that city of Karnaim⁴⁵ and burned the sacred-precinct together with everyone who was⁴⁶ in it. So Karnaim was subdued, and they⁴⁷ could no longer stand before Judah’s face.

45 Then he gathered together all the Israelites, great and small, who were in Gilead, with their women and their children and their goods, a great camp of people, to go into the land of Judah.

46 And when they reached Ephron, a large and strongly fortified city along the road, they found it impossible to encircle it on either the right side or the left; instead, they would have to march right through it. 47 And the men in the city shut them out and blocked up the gates with stones.

48 Then Judah sent them⁴⁸ this peaceful account, “Let us⁴⁹ pass through⁵⁰ your land in order to reach our own land. And no one will harm you; we will only pass through on foot.”

And they would not open to him. 49 So Judah ordered a proclamation to be made in the camp that everyone was to encamp where he was. 50 So the men of the forces⁵¹ encamped, and they⁵² waged-war against the city all that day and night, and it was delivered into his⁵³ hands. 51 And he⁵⁴ destroyed every male of the city⁵⁵ by the edge of *the* long-sword, and he⁵⁶ rooted out and plundered the city,⁵⁷ and he⁵⁸ passed through the city over those who had been killed-off.

52 Then they⁵⁹ crossed the Jordan to the great plain in front of Beth-Shan; 53 and Judah kept rallying the stragglers and encouraging the people the whole way, until he reached the land of Judah. 54 And they ascended Mount Zion in gladness and joy and offered holocausts, because not one of them had fallen before they had returned in safety.

55 And during the time that Judah and his brother⁶⁰ Jonathan were in the land of⁶¹ Gilead, and Simon his brother was in Galilee in front of Ptolemais, 56 Joseph son of Zechariah, and Azariah, the chiefs of the forces,⁶² heard about their manly-virtues and the war which they had fought. 57 So they said, “Let us also make a name for ourselves. And let us go out *and* wage-war⁶³ against the surrounding nations.”

58 So they transmitted a message to the *men of the* force which was with them, and marched toward Jabneh. 59 And Gorgias and his men came out of the city to meet them⁶⁴ in a war. 60 Then Joseph and Azariah were routed, and were

¹ [5:15] LXX / Josephus “and the other nations of Galilee” (some Josephus omit “other”)

² [5:16] LXX(55,64) “all the people” / Syr1 “all his brothers”

³ [5:16] LXX(SV) / LXX(A) “him” / others “their enemies”

⁴ [5:17] LXX(55,64) “our” / LXX(S,93) omit altogether

⁵ [5:21] LXX(V) omits “many”

⁶ [5:22] LXX(55) “to the gates of” / LXX(A) “to the cities of” / LXX(19,71,93), Syr2 omit altogether

⁷ [5:22] LXX(55) adds

⁸ [5:23] Emendation based on Josephus / LXX “Arbatta”

⁹ [5:23] LXX(AV) “they”

¹⁰ [5:23] Syr1 adds

¹¹ [5:24] Josephus “days from it”

¹² [5:26] Hebrew assumption / LXX “Alema”

¹³ [5:26] Emendation based on Hebrew of 2Mac / LXX “Chaspho”

¹⁴ [5:26] Josephus “Khisfinmakkedah”

¹⁵ [5:27] most, Josephus / S(CA), 311 “have gathered together” / LXX(71,107) omit altogether

¹⁶ [5:27] LXX(S) “in the other cities” / Syr1 “in the cities”

¹⁷ [5:27] LXX(93) omits “the strongholds”

¹⁸ [6:28] LXX(55) adds

¹⁹ [5:28] LXX(S) “they”

²⁰ [5:30] LXX(S,64,93) / others “he”

²¹ [5:30] LXX omits “of Dathema”

²² [5:30] LXX(19) “strongholds”

²³ [5:31] LXX(A,55), Syr2 “into”

²⁴ [5:31] Lat(XGV) “cry of battle resounding to heaven like a trumpet, and a loud cry from the city”

²⁵ [5:32] LXX(SAV) / others “your”

²⁶ [3:33] LXX(A) “he”

²⁷ [5:35] Josephus adds

²⁸ [5:35] Hebrew assumption / most LXX “Alema” / LXX(L,19,93), Syr1, / Lat(GB), many Josephus “Mella”

²⁹ [5:36] “Mala” / Josephus(W) “Malla” / LXX(SA), some Josephus “Mapha”

³⁰ [5:36] Josephus “Khisfinmakkedah”

³¹ [5:37] LXX(S) “in front of” / Lat(V) “at”

³² [5:37] Hebrew equivalent / most, two Josephus “Raphon” / other Josephus have either “Romphon” or “Ramphon”

³² [5:38] Syr1 “land”

³³ [5:38] LXX(A) “you”

³⁴ [5:38] LXX(S), Lat, Syr1 / others “them”

³⁵ [5:40] LXX(71), Syr1 omit “and his camp”

³⁶ literally “the wadi of the water” (also in verse 42)

³⁷ [5:41] Syr1 “them”

³⁸ [5:41] Syr1, Lat(S) “them” / LXX(A) omits “and be able to defeat him”

³⁹ [5:43] LXX(SV) / others “his”

⁴⁰ [5:43] LXX(A) “before”

⁴¹ [5:43] LXX(S,19,93), Syr2 omit “all of”

⁴² [5:43] LXX(S), Lat(V) “their”

⁴³ [5:43] LXX(A) adds

⁴⁴ [5:44] (lit. ‘they’) / Syr1, Lat(S) “he” / LXX(19,64,93) “And they and those who were around Judah”

⁴⁵ [5:44] LXX(55) adds

⁴⁶ [5:44] LXX(SV,19,64,93) omit “who were”

⁴⁷ [5:44] LXX(A,93) “he”

⁴⁸ [5:48] Syr1 omits “them”

⁴⁹ [5:48] LXX(A,19,64) “me”

⁵⁰ [5:48] LXX(A) “into”

⁵¹ [5:50] LXX(A) “city”

⁵² [5:50] LXX(S) “he”

⁵³ [5:50] LXX(V,55) “their”

⁵⁴ [5:51] LXX(55,93) “they”

⁵⁵ [5:51] LXX(19,55,64,93) add

⁵⁶ [5:51] LXX(19), Syr2 “they”

⁵⁷ [5:51] LXX(A) / others “, and...plundered it” / Josephus “, and burned it all down”

⁵⁸ [5:51] LXX(19), Syr2 “they”

⁵⁹ [5:52] Syr1 “he”

⁶⁰ [5:55] LXX(19,93), Syr2 add

⁶¹ [5:55] LXX(A) omits “the land of”

⁶² [5:56] LXX(SV) “force”

⁶³ [5:57] LXX(V) “let us go out” / LXX(71) “let us wage-war”

⁶⁴ [5:59] LXX(A) “city, and they stood before him”

driven away to the borders¹ of Judah,² and about 2,000 of the people of³ Israel fell that day. **61** And this was how the people suffered a grave reversal, because they had not obeyed Judah and his brothers, thinking that they would act manfully. **62** But they did not belong to the family of those men through whose hand salvation was given to Israel.

63 And the valiant Judah and his brothers were greatly renowned in all Israel and among all the nations, and⁴ wherever their name was heard; **64** and *men* gathered about them, speaking well of *them*.⁵

65 Then Judah and his brothers went out and waged-war on the sons of Esau⁶ in the country toward the south. And he struck Hebron and its suburbs,⁷ and he destroyed its strongholds⁸ and burned the towers around it. **66** Then he set out from there⁹ for the land of foreigners and passed through Mareshah.¹⁰ **67** At that time, some priests fell in battle who, in their desire to act manfully, had, without council, gone out to engage in a war *on their own*.¹¹

68 Judah then turned toward Ashdod in *the* land of foreigners. And he tore down their altars and burned the graven-images of their gods in a fire;¹² and after plundering their cities, he returned to the land of¹³ Judah.

CHAPTER 6

And as King Antiochos was passing through the upper provinces, he heard that in Persia there was¹⁴ a city called Elam, famous for its wealth in silver and gold. **2** And the temple there was said to be very rich, and contained gold veils, and breastplates, and weapons left there by Alexandros, son of Philippos, king of Makedon, the first to reign among the Hellenes.¹⁵ **3** So he went and tried to capture and pillage¹⁶ the city. And he could not do so, because his account became known to its citizens. **4** And they withstood him in a war,¹⁷ and he fled, and in great grief withdrew from there to return to Babel.

5 And while he was in Persia, a message was brought to him¹⁸ that his camps, which had been sent into the land of¹⁹ Judah, had been routed; **6** and that Lysias had set out at the head of a strong force and had been driven back before the face of *the Israelites*; and that *the Israelites* had grown strong by reason of the weapons, and by *their* force, and by *the* abundant possessions²⁰ which they took from the camps which they cut down;²¹ **7** and that they had tore down the abomination which he *had* built²² on the sacrificial-altar in Jerusalem; and that they had encircled the sacrificial-altar and²³ the holy-place, as it had been before, with high walls, as well as their city of²⁴ Beth-Zur.

8 So when the king heard this account, he was astonished and very shaken. And sick with grief because his designs had failed, he took to his bed. **9** And there he remained many days, overwhelmed with sorrow, and he took into account that he was going to die.

10 So he called in all his friends, and said to them, “Sleep has departed from my eyes, and *my*²⁵ heart is sinking with anxiety. **11** And I said in my heart: ‘Into what tribulation have I come! And into what a flood of sorrow I now am plunged! **12** Yet I was kind and beloved in my rule.’ But now I recall the evils I caused in Jerusalem, and I carried away all²⁶ the vessels of gold and silver which were in it, and, for no cause, gave orders that all²⁷ those who are dwelling in Judah be destroyed. **13** I know that this is why these evils have overtaken me; and, behold, I am dying, in bitter grief, in a foreign land.”

14 Then he summoned Philippos, one of his friends,²⁸ and appointed him over his whole kingdom. **15** And he gave his crown, and his robe, and his signet ring to *Philippos*, for him to bring to²⁹ his son Antiochos, and of whom *Philippos* was to rear up until *the boy was ready* to be king.³⁰

¹ [5:60] LXX, some Josephus / some Josephus “mountains”

² [5:60] LXX(19), Syr2 “Edom”

³ [5:60] LXX(V) omits “the people of”

⁴ [5:63] Syr1 “among the nations, and”

⁵ [5:64] LXX(64) actually adds “them” / LXX(93) instead adds “him”

⁶ [5:65] LXX / Josephus “the Edomites”

⁷ literally “daughters”

⁸ [5:65] LXX(A) “stronghold”

⁹ [5:66] LXX(19,64,93) “Then Judah set out from there” / Syr1 “And they set out”

¹⁰ [5:66] Josephus, Lat(S) / LXX, Syr, Lat(V) “Samaria”

¹¹ [5:67] LXX / Josephus omits “At that time some...in a war *on their own*.”

¹² [5:68] LXX(S) / others omit “in a fire”

¹³ [5:68] LXX(A) omits “the land of”

¹⁴ [6:1] LXX(S) “had”

¹⁵ [6:2] LXX(S) “among them”

¹⁶ [6:3] Syr1 omits “and pillage”

¹⁷ [6:4] LXX(93) omits “in a war”

¹⁸ [6:5] LXX(19,93), Syr2 “Antiochos”

¹⁹ [6:5] LXX(S) omits “the land of”

²⁰ [6:6] LXX(A) omits “and by *their*...possessions”

²¹ [6:6] LXX(19,64,93) “they struck”

²² [6:7] LXX(19,93), Syr2 “which had been built”

²³ [6:7] Syr1 adds

²⁴ [6:7] LXX(19,93), Syr2, Lat(BV) / others “his city of” / LXX(S) omits altogether

²⁵ [6:10] LXX(19,93) actually adds “my”

²⁶ [6:12] LXX(55,71), Syr2 omit “all”

²⁷ [6:12] LXX(55) adds

²⁸ [6:14] most LXX / LXX(V) “slaves” / Josephus “companions”

²⁹ [6:15] LXX(19,64,94), Syr, Josephus / others “to lead up”

³⁰ [6:15] LXX(19,64,93) “”, so that he should reign”

16 And King³¹ Antiochos died in Persia in the year 149. **17** So when Lysias knew that the king had died, he set up the king’s son Antiochos, whom he had reared as a youth, to reign in his stead;³² and he gave him the title *The Noble-Father*.

18 And the men in the citadel of Jerusalem and the Judean renegades³³ were hemming in Israel around the holy *places*, and were continually trying to harm them and to support the *foreign* nations.³⁴ For when they went up to the temple with the intention of sacrificing, the garrison would sally out and kill them—for the citadel commanded the temple.³⁵ **19** And Judah³⁶ planned to destroy them, and summoned an assembly of the people in order to besiege them. **20** So in the year 150, they gathered together and besieged those *in the citadel*,³⁷ and he³⁸ constructed ballistae and machines for *this purpose*.

21 And *some* of them escaped the confinement, and some of the impious *men* of Israel³⁹ were glued to them; **22** and they went to the king⁴⁰ and said, “How long will you fail to do justice and to avenge our brothers? **23** We were pleased to be enslaved to your father and to follow what he said and obey his orders. **24** For this *reason*,⁴¹ the sons of our people have besieged the citadel and⁴² become our enemies; and⁴³ they have put to death as many of us as they could find, and have plundered our inheritances. **25** And they have acted aggressively, not only against us, *but* instead throughout your⁴⁴ whole borders.⁴⁵ **26** And look, they have now encamped against the citadel in Jerusalem in order to capture it, and they have fortified the holy-place and⁴⁶ Beth-Zur. **27** So unless all of⁴⁷ you quickly seize them beforehand, they will do even worse things than these, and you will not be able to stop them.”

28 So when the king heard this, he was angered, and he sent and⁴⁸ gathered together all his friends, *the* chiefs of *his* force, and the cavalry-commanders.⁴⁹ **29** And mercenary forces came to him⁵⁰ from other kingdoms⁵¹ and from the islands of the seas. **30** So his forces numbered 100,000⁵² infantry, and 20,000⁵³ cavalry,⁵⁴ and 32⁵⁵ elephants trained for war. **31** And they passed through Edom and encamped before Beth-Zur. And for many days they waged-war against it. And they constructed machines, and the besieged *Israelites*⁵⁶ sallied out and burned these with fire, and they waged-war manfully.

32 Then Judah marched away from the citadel and encamped in Beth-Zechariah which was 70 stadia from the enemy,⁵⁷ opposite to the king’s camp. **33** And the king, rose early *before dawn*, and moved his camp hastily along the road to Beth-Zechariah; and the armies equipped themselves so that they might be ready⁵⁸ for the war, and the trumpets trumpeted.

34 And they showed grape and mulberry juice to the elephants to provoke them for the war. **35** And the beasts were distributed along the phalanxes.⁵⁹ And to each elephant were assigned 1,000 men who were breastplated with chainmail and had bronze helmets on their heads;⁶⁰ and 500 picked cavalry were assigned to each beast. **36** These anticipated the beast wherever it was; and wherever it moved, they moved too and never left it. **37** And each beast was sheltered with a strong wooden tower, fastened to them⁶¹ by a harness; and besides the Indian mahout, it held two picked men⁶² who waged-war from it.⁶³ **38** And the remaining

³¹ [6:16] Syr1 omits “King”

³² [6:17] LXX(AV,19,64), Syr1 / others omit “in his stead”

³³ [6:18] Josephus adds

³⁴ [6:18] LXX(71), Syr1 omits “and to support the *foreign* nations”

³⁵ [6:18] Josephus adds

³⁶ [6:19] Syr1 omits “Judah”

³⁷ [6:20] LXX(A,71) omits “they gathered...in the citadel”

³⁸ [6:20] LXX / Lat, Syr “they”

³⁹ [6:21] LXX(S) “Jerusalem”

⁴⁰ [6:22] Josephus “to King Antiochos”

⁴¹ [6:24] LXX(SV) “And”

⁴² [6:24] LXX(A,55), Lat(V), Josephus / others add

⁴³ [6:24] LXX(AV) “but”

⁴⁴ [6:25] Lat(LXG) / LXX “their”

⁴⁵ [6:25] Lat(LXG) / LXX “borders” / Hebrew original probably had a word which means either “territory” or “borders”

⁴⁶ [6:25] LXX(V) omits “the holy-place and”

⁴⁷ [6:27] LXX(SV,55,64), Syr2 / others omit “all of”

⁴⁸ [6:28] LXX(55) adds

⁴⁹ literally “and those who were over the reins” / LXX(55) “and those who were over the tribute” / Syr, Lat

⁵⁰ “and those who were over the chariots”

⁵¹ [6:29] Syr1, Lat(S) “them”

⁵² [6:29] LXX(AV) “kings”

⁵³ [6:30] LXX, Josephus(Ant) / Josephus(War) “50,000”

⁵⁴ [6:30] LXX, Josephus(Ant) / Josephus(War) “5,000”

⁵⁵ [6:30] most LXX, Josephus / LXX(A) “horses”

⁵⁶ [6:30] LXX, Josephus(Ant) / Josephus(War) “80”

⁵⁷ [6:31] LXX(55) “and the sons of Israel”

⁵⁸ [6:32] Josephus adds

⁵⁹ [6:33] LXX(55) adds

⁶⁰ [6:35] LXX(A,71), Josephus “the narrow-passes”

⁶¹ [6:35] Syr1 omits “on their heads”

⁶² [6:37] (“to them”) LXX(S) “under it” / Syr1 omits altogether

⁶³ [6:37] likely Hebrew / others “4 men” / LXX(19,55,64) “30 men” / LXX(A), Lat(V) “32 men” / LXX(SV)

“30 powerful men”

⁶⁴ [6:37] LXX(A) “fought against them”

cavalry were stationed on one or the other of the two flanks of the camp, to harass the enemy and to be protected from the phalanxes.¹

39 Now when the sun shone on the gold and bronze² round-shields, the mountains gleamed with their brightness and blazed like flaming torches. **40** And a part of the king's camp was spread out over the high mountains, and some were on the low *ground*, and they marched forward steadily³ and in good order. **41** And everyone who heard the noise of the multitude, and the marching of the multitude, and the clashing of the weapons, trembled; for the camp was exceedingly⁴ great and strong.

42 Then Judah and his camp advanced to fight, and 600 men of the king's camp fell. **43** And Eleazar the Auran, saw that one of the beasts was breastplated with royal breastplates and that it was taller than all of the *other* beasts, and he supposed that the king must be on it. **44** So he gave himself to save his people and to win a perpetual name for himself. **45** So he audaciously dashed up to it in the middle of the phalanx,⁵ and he put to death men on the right and *on the* left, and they divided from him⁶ on this side and that. **46** And he crawled up under the elephant and the sword⁷ stabbed it in the belly, and did away with it. And it fell to the ground on top of him, and he died there.

47 And when the Judeans⁸ saw the strength of the kingdom and the ardor⁹ of its forces, they retreated from them. **48** But *a part*¹⁰ of the king's camp went up to Jerusalem to meet them *in battle*, and the king encamped in *the land* of Judah and at Mount Zion. **49** And he made peace¹¹ with the men of Beth-Zur, and they¹² evacuated the city, because they had no sustenance there¹³ to enable them to withstand a siege, because there was a sabbath in the land.

50 So the king took Beth-Zur and stationed¹⁴ a garrison there to watch over it. **51** And for many days he encamped against the holy-place, and set up ballistae, and machines, and fire-launchers, and stone-launchers,¹⁵ and scorpionettes for shooting missiles and slingstones. **52** And the Judeans countered their machines by making their own machines, so that they continued to wage-war for many¹⁶ days. **53** But, because it was the seventh year, there were no provisions in the storerooms.¹⁷ And the tide-over supply had been eaten up by the refugees who had been evacuated to *the land* of Judah from among the *foreign* nations. **54** So few men remained in the holy *places*, since the famine had prevailed over the rest; and they scattered, each to his own place.

55 Then Lysias heard that Philippos, whom King Antiochos, before his death, had appointed to rear up his son Antiochos to be king, **56** had returned from Persia and Media with the forces which marched with¹⁸ the king, and that he was seeking to take over the *state* affairs. **57** So he¹⁹ hastily resolved to withdraw.

And he said to the king, and the leaders of the force, and the great men,²⁰ "We are growing weaker every day, and our food-supply is scanty, and the place we are encamped against is strong, and the affairs of the kingdom are demanding our attention. **58** Therefore, let us now give our right hand *in pledge* to these humans, and make peace with them²¹ and with their entire nation. **59** And let us grant them freedom to live according to their own laws, as they did before; for it was on account of their laws, which we abolished, that they were angered and did all these things."

60 And the proposal found favor with the king and the chiefs;²² and he sent terms of peace to *the Judeans*, and they²³ accepted. **61** So the king and the chiefs swore an oath to them. On these terms, they²⁴ evacuated the stronghold.

62 And when the king entered Mount Zion and saw the place's stronghold, he broke the oath he had sworn and instructed that the encircling wall be torn down.²⁵ **63** Then he²⁶ departed in haste and returned to Antiocheia; and there he

found Philippos as lord of the city. So he waged-war against him and took the city by force,²⁷ and captured him and killed him.

CHAPTER 7

In the year 151,²⁸ Demetrios son of Seleukos, set out from Roma and arrived with a few men in a city on the seacoast, and began to reign there. **2** And as he was preparing to enter the royal house of his fathers, the captains of the²⁹ forces seized Antiochos and Lysias, in order to bring them up to him.³⁰ **3** And when he learned about this, he said, "Do not show me their faces." **4** So the soldiers killed them off, and Demetrios sat on the throne of his kingdom.

5 And all the lawless and impious men of Israel came to him. And they were led by their chief Eliakim,³¹ who wished to be a chief-priest.³² **6** And they accused the people to the king, saying, "Judah and his brothers have destroyed all your friends and have scattered us from our³³ *own* land and from our people.³⁴ **7** Now, therefore, send a man whom you have faith in to go and see all the ruin which Judah has done to us and to the king's country, and let him chastise³⁵ them and all who are assisting him."

8 Then the king chose Bakchides, *one of* the king's friends,³⁶ lord of *the country* beyond the river³⁷ and great in the kingdom, and faithful to the king. **9** And he sent him and the impious Eliakim, to whom he³⁸ granted the chief-priesthood³⁹ although he was not of the family of the chief-priests,⁴⁰ with orders to take vengeance upon the sons of Israel. **10** So they⁴¹ set out, and, on arriving in the land of⁴² Judah with a great force, sent messengers to Judah and his brothers with accounts which were peaceable, but laden with deceit.

11 And *Judah and his brothers* paid no⁴³ attention to their account, for they saw that they had come against them⁴⁴ with a great force. **12** Then a congregation of scribes gathered together before Eliakim and Bakchides to seek for a righteous agreement.

13 And the Hasideans were the first among the sons of⁴⁵ Israel to seek peace with them, **14** for they said, "A human, a priest of the line of Aaron has come with the forces, and he will not do *anything* unrighteous to us."

15 So *Eliakim* spoke peaceful accounts to them, and swore to them, saying, "We intend no harm to you or to your friends."

16 So they trusted him. And he arrested 60 of them and had them killed-off in a single day, according to the account which was written.⁴⁶

17 "The flesh and the bloods of your holy ones,
they have poured out around Jerusalem,
and there was no one to bury them."

(Psalm 79:2~3)

18 Then fear and dread of them came upon all the people, who said, "There is no truth or justice among them, for they violated the judgment and⁴⁷ the agreement and the oath which they swore."

19 So Bakchides withdrew from Jerusalem and encamped in Beer-Zaith.⁴⁸ And he banished and⁴⁹ seized many of the men who had deserted to him, as well as some of our people; and he butchered them in the great pit. **20** Then he handed the country over to Eliakim, and left a force to assist him; and Bakchides himself returned to Antiocheia⁵⁰ to the king.

21 And Eliakim contended to maintain the chief-priesthood.⁵¹ **22** and all those who were disturbing their people gathered together before him. And they took possession of the land of Judah and struck a severe blow in Israel.⁵²

¹ [6:38] many, Josephus "and to be protected from the narrow-passes" / Syr1 "and striking with weapons" / Lat(S) "and moving together in close order in legions"

² [6:39] LXX(A,55,71) omit "and bronze"

³ [6:40] Syr "confidently"

⁴ [6:41] LXX(A) omits "exceedingly" / Syr1 omits "great and"

⁵ [6:45] LXX(A,71) "narrow-passes"

⁶ [6:45] LXX(64) omits "from him"

⁷ [6:46] LXX(19,64) add

⁸ [6:47] Josephus "When Judah"

⁹ [6:47] LXX(A) "ardors"

¹⁰ [6:48] LXX(A), Syr2 "And some"

¹¹ [6:49] LXX(A) omits "peace"

¹² [6:49] Emendation / manuscripts "he"

¹³ [6:49] LXX(93), Syr2 omits "there"

¹⁴ [6:50] LXX(A) "struck"

¹⁵ [6:51] LXX(V,71) omits "and stone-launchers"

¹⁶ [6:52] LXX(SV) omits "many"

¹⁷ [6:53] LXX(V) / LXX(SA), etc. "holy-places"

¹⁸ [6:56] LXX(A,55), Lat(V) omits "with"

¹⁹ [6:57] LXX(A) "they"

²⁰ [6:57] LXX964,93 adds "great" / Josephus "However, they decided not to reveal their plan to the soldiers and their leaders, but, instead, the king ordered Lysias to address him (variant "them") and the leaders publicly and say nothing of the trouble with Philippos."

²¹ [6:58] LXX(S) omits "with them"

²² [6:60] Josephus "with the army and their chiefs(?)"

²³ [6:60] LXX(A) "he"

²⁴ [6:61] LXX(A) "he"

²⁵ [6:62] LXX(A,93) "and they pulled down the encircling wall" / LXX(64,71) "and he pulled down the encircling wall"

²⁶ [6:63] LXX(A) "they"

²⁷ [6:63] Syr1, Lat omits "by force"

²⁸ [7:1] Syr1 "150"

²⁹ [7:4] Syr adds

³⁰ [7:2] LXX(V) omits "to him"

³¹ [7:5] Josephus "Joakim" / LXX(S) adds "their chief"

³² [7:5] Syr "chief-priest"

³³ [7:6] Syr1 "their"

³⁴ [7:6] LXX(55) adds

³⁵ [7:7] LXX(55) / LXX(SAV), etc. "and he has chastised"

³⁶ [7:8] LXX(V) "the king's friend"

³⁷ [7:8] Josephus "of all Mesopotamia"

³⁸ [7:9] LXX(AV) "they"

³⁹ [7:9] LXX(V,64,93) "chief-priesthood"

⁴⁰ [7:9] Josephus adds

⁴¹ [7:10] LXX(A) "he"

⁴² [7:10] LXX(V) omits "the land of"

⁴³ [7:11] LXX(19,64,93) omits "no"

⁴⁴ [7:11] LXX(19,64,93), Syr2 add

⁴⁵ [7:13] Syr1 omits "the sons of"

⁴⁶ [7:16] LXX(S) (lit. "to the account which he wrote it") / LXX(V), Lat(L) "to the account which he wrote"

⁴⁷ [7:16] LXX(A,q) "to the accounts which he wrote" / LXX(19,64,93) "to the accounts which the prophet wrote" / LXX(55), Lat(V) "to the account of Asaph the prophet" / Syr "the account which the prophet spoke"

⁴⁸ [7:18] LXX(19,93), Syr2 adds

⁴⁹ [7:19] some Josephus / some Josephus "Beth-Zaith" / LXX "Bezeth"

⁵⁰ [7:19] Syr1 omits "banished and"

⁵¹ [7:20] Josephus adds

⁵² [7:21] LXX(S,55) "the priesthood"

⁵³ [7:21-22] Josephus "But Eliakim wished to strengthen his authority, and perceived that by making the people feel friendly toward him he would govern with greater security. So he led them on with kind words. And speaking to everyone in a pleasant and gracious manner, very soon indeed acquired a large body of men and a force behind him, who were for the most part from the irreligious and renegades. And he used these

23 And Judah saw all the evils which Eliakim and his followers were bringing upon the sons of Israel; they were far worse than even the *foreign* nations had done. 24 So he went out into all the surrounding borders of Judah¹ and wreaked vengeance upon the men and upon those² who had deserted, and he prevented them from going out into the³ country.

25 But when Eliakim saw that Judah and his followers were gaining strength and realized that he was not⁴ strong enough to oppose them,⁵ he returned to the king and accused them of wicked *crimes*.⁶ 26 Then the king sent Nikanor, one of his glorious chiefs,⁷ who was a bitter enemy of Israel, and instructed him to destroy the people.

27 So Nikanor came to Jerusalem with a large force, and, with deceit,⁸ sent to Judah and his brothers this peaceable account, saying, 28 “Let there be no battle between me and all of you.⁹ And¹⁰ I will come with a few men to see your¹¹ faces peaceably.”

29 So he came to Judah,¹² and they greeted one another peaceably. But Judah’s enemies were prepared to seize him. 30 So when this account became known to him that Nikanor had come to him with deceit in mind, Judah was intimidated and was not willing to meet him again.

31 So when Nikanor saw that his council had been discovered, he went out to meet Judah in a war¹³ near Kefar-Shalem. 32 And about 500¹⁴ of Nikanor’s men fell, and the rest fled to the City of David.¹⁵

33 And after this, Nikanor went up to Mount Zion. And some of the priests from the holy *places* and some of the elders of the people came out to greet him peaceably and to show him the holocaust which was being offered for the king. 34 And he sneered at them and ridiculed them, and stained them, and uttered arrogantly.

35 And in a rage he swore, saying, “If Judah and his camp are not delivered into my hands at once, when I return victorious I will burn¹⁶ this house down.” So he went away in great¹⁷ fury.

36 Then the priests went in and stood before the sacrificial-altar and the inner-sanctum, and they called upon God and¹⁸ wept and said, 37 “You O Lord¹⁹ have chosen this house to be called by your name, to be a house of prayer and beseeching for your people. 38 Wreak vengeance on this human and on his camp, and let them fall by the mouth of²⁰ the long-sword. Remember their ill-reports, and do not let them remain.”

39 So Nikanor left Jerusalem and encamped at Beth-Horon, and the Syrian force joined him there. 40 And Judah encamped in Hadashah with 3,000²¹ men. Then Judah prayed, and spoke:

41 “When those who were sent by the king spoke ill of you, your messenger went out and struck down 185,000 of them. 42 In the same way, crush²² this camp before us today, and let the rest know that Nikanor spoke evilly against your holy *places*; and judge him²³ according to his malice.”

43 So the two camps met in battle on the 13th day of the month Adar. And Nikanor’s camp was crushed, and he himself was the first to fall in the war.²⁴ 44 But when his camp saw that Nikanor was dead, they threw down their weapons to flee; who were 9,000 in number.²⁵

45 And the Judeans closely-pursued them a day’s journey, from Hadashah to near Gezer, and they trumpeted the trumpets behind them as signals. 45 And from all the surrounding villages of the land of Judah people came out and out-flanked the enemy. And they drove them away, and all the enemies fell by the long-sword; and not a single one escaped. 47 Then the Judeans collected the spoils and the plunder; and they cut off Nikanor’s head and his right hand, which he had

men as his attendants and soldiers in going through the country; and all those whom he found in it siding with Judah, he slew.”

¹ [7:24] LXX(A) “all the borders of Judah and the surrounding parts”

² [7:24] LXX(A) adds

³ [7:24] Syr1 “their”

⁴ [7:25] LXX(A) omits “not”

⁵ [7:25] Syr1 “him”

⁶ [7:25] Josephus “returned to Antiochia and roused the king’s anger against Judah, at whose hands he said in his accusations, he had suffered many injuries, which would become still greater unless Judah were first caught and brought to punishment by having a strong force sent against him.” / LXX(93) has “him” instead of “them”

⁷ [7:26] Josephus “Nicanor, the most devoted and faithful of his Friends”

⁸ [7:27] Syr1 omits “with deceit”

⁹ [7:28] Syr1 “and you”

¹⁰ [7:28] LXX(19,93), Syr2 adds

¹¹ [7:28] Syr1 is singular

¹² [7:29] Syr1 “So Judah came to him”

¹³ [7:31] LXX(A,19,64,93) omits “in a war”

¹⁴ [7:32] LXX(AV) “5,000”

¹⁵ [7:32] Josephus “to the citadel in Jerusalem”

¹⁶ [7:35] Josephus “will pull down”

¹⁷ [7:35] LXX(A) omits “great”

¹⁸ [7:36] LXX(55) adds

¹⁹ [7:37] LXX(55,71), Lat(V) add

²⁰ [7:38] LXX(55) adds

²¹ [7:40] LXX / some Josephus “2,000” / some Josephus “1,000”

²² [7:42] LXX(A) “he crushed”

²³ [7:42] LXX(19,55,64,93) “them”

²⁴ [7:43] Josephus “, and finally Nicanor himself fell, fighting gloriously”

²⁵ [7:44] Josephus adds

outstretched so arrogantly. And they brought these near Jerusalem where they were displayed.²⁶ 48 And the people rejoiced greatly, and observed that day as a day of great gladness. 49 So they decreed that this day should be observed every year on the 13th of Adar. 50 And for a few days, the land of²⁷ Judah was quiet.

CHAPTER 8

And Judah had heard of the reputation of the Romans, that they were valiant fighters and were well-disposed to all who took their side, and that they established a friendship with as many of those who held to them and²⁸ with as many of those who came to them, and that they were valiant men. 2 And their wars were described to him, as well as the manly-virtues which they were performing against the Galatians, and how they had conquered them and forced them to pay tribute; 3 and what they had done in the country of Spania²⁹ in order to take possession of the silver and gold mines there;³⁰ 4 and how, by their council and their persistence, they had conquered the whole place, although the place was very remote from the Romans.³¹ And until³² they had crushed the kings who had come against them from the ends of the earth and struck them with a heavy blow, and the rest paid tribute to them every year. 5 And Philippos and Persea,³³ king of Kittim,³⁴ and the others who rose up against them in the war had been crushed and subjugated.

6 And Antiochos the Great, king of Asia, who had engaged them in a war with 120 elephants and with cavalry and chariots and a very great force, had been crushed by them.³⁵ 7 And they had captured him alive, and decreed that he and his reigning successors after him should pay a heavy tribute every year,³⁶ and give them hostages along with a section³⁷ of 8 India, and Media, and Lud and³⁸ from among their³⁹ best provinces. So the Romans took these from him and gave them to King Eumenes.

9 And when the men of Hellas had taken counsel to come and destroy them, 10 the Romans discovered it, and sent a single general against the Hellenes and waged-war against them. And many were wounded and fell, and the Romans took their women and their children captive. And they despoiled them, and took possession of their land, and tore down their strongholds,⁴⁰ and reduced them to slavery even to this day. 11 And all the other kingdoms and islands which had ever opposed them and had plundered them⁴¹ they destroyed and enslaved.

12 But they maintained friendship with their friends, and those who relied on them. And they had conquered the kings,⁴² those near and those far-away, and all who heard their name feared them. 13 But those whom they also wish to help become kings, become kings,⁴³ but those whom they wish, they discharge; and they were greatly exalted. 14 Even with all this, none of them put on a crown or wore purple as a display of grandeur.

15 And they had made for themselves a council-chamber, and every day 320⁴⁴ men took counsel, taking council on everything which concerned the people, to govern them well. 16 And they entrusted their government to one human every year, to be lord over their entire country, and they all obey that one, and there is no envy or jealousy among them.

17 So Judah chose Eupolemos, son of Johanan, son of Hakkoz, and Jason, son of Eleazar, and sent them to Roma to establish a friendship and an alliance with them. 18 And he did this in order to get rid of the yoke, for it was obvious that the kingdom of the Hellenes was subjecting Israel to slavery.

19 And after making a very long journey to Roma, they entered the council-chamber, and answered and said,⁴⁵ 20 “Judah, also called the Makabi, and his brothers, and the Judean people, have sent us to you to make an alliance and peace with you, and to enroll ourselves among your allies and friends.”

21 And the proposal pleased the Romans. 22 And this is a copy of the letter⁴⁶ which they wrote in reply, *inscribed* on bronze tablets and sent to Jerusalem,⁴⁷ to remain there with the Judeans as a memorial of peace and alliance:

²⁶ literally “were stretched out”

²⁷ [7:50] LXX(V) omits “the land of”

²⁸ [8:1] LXX(A) adds

²⁹ [8:2] Josephus “Iberia”

³⁰ [8:3] Syr1 “of the mountains from where silver and gold are ought out”

³¹ [8:4] Syr1 omits “whole” & “from the Romans”

³² [8:4] LXX(L,S), 311 / some LXX, La(LXG), SyrII adds

³³ [8:5] Syr1 omits “Philippos and” / LXX(19,93) omit “and Persea”

³⁴ [8:5] Josephus “Hellada”

³⁵ [8:6] LXX(19,64,93) “him”

³⁶ [8:7] LXX(19,64,93) add

³⁷ [8:8] LXX / La(L[X]GV) “treaty”

³⁸ [8:8] S,L, 311, La(LXBV), Syr1, SyrII / others add

³⁹ [8:8] most / LXX(L) “his”

⁴⁰ [8:10] LXX adds “and despoiled them” here a second time

⁴¹ [8:11] LXX(19,64,93), Syr2 adds / Syr2 also adds “and taken them captive”

⁴² [8:12] LXX(SV,19,93), Syr2 / others “kingdoms”

⁴³ [8:13] LXX(A) “, will become kings”

⁴⁴ [8:15] Syr1 “300”

⁴⁵ [8:19] LXX(A) omits “and said”

⁴⁶ [8:22] LXX(S) / others “writing”

⁴⁷ [8:22] Josephus “, and sent a copy to Judah, while the original was engraved on bronze tablets and deposited in the Capitol”

23 May it be well with the Romans and the Judean nation,¹ at the sea and on the dry *land*, into the age; and may long-sword and enemy be far from them. 24 But if a war is first made on Roma, or on any of its allies in any of their dominions, 25 the Judean nation shall act as their allies wholeheartedly,² as the occasion shall demand; 26 and they shall not give nor provide grain, weapons,³ silver, or boats to those who are waging-war *against us*;⁴ this is Roma's decision. They shall fulfill their obligations without receiving any recompense. 27 But in the same way, if a war is made first⁵ on the Judean nation, the Romans will act as their allies, from their soul, as the occasion shall demand; 28 and grain, weapons, silver, or boats⁶ shall not be given to those who are allied *against them*;⁷ this is Roma's⁸ decision. And they shall fulfill their obligations, and do so without deceit. 29 On these accounts, the Romans have made an agreement with the Judean commonality. 30 But in the future, if both parties take counsel⁹ to add or to take away anything, they shall do as they choose;¹⁰ and whatever they shall add or take away¹¹ shall be valid.

31 And concerning the wrongs which King Demetrios has done to them,¹² we have written him the following: "Why have you made your yoke heavy upon our friends and our¹³ allies the Judeans? 32 Therefore, if-at-any-time they might still petition, we will do them justice¹⁴ and will wage-war on you by the sea and by the dry-land."

The decree was signed by Eupolemos, son of Johanan, and by Jason, son of Eleazar, Judah being chief-priest of the nation, and his brother Simon leader.¹⁵

CHAPTER 9

So when news reached Demetrios that Nikanor and his force had fallen¹⁶ in a war, he sent Bakchides and Eliakim¹⁷ into the land of Judah a second time, along with the right wing of his army. 2 And they took the road to Galilee,¹⁸ and encamped opposite the ascent at Arbel;¹⁹ and after besieging those who were in the caves there,²⁰ they captured it and they²¹ destroyed the souls of many humans.

3 And in the year 152, in the 1st month, they encamped against Jerusalem. 4 Then they marched off and went to Beer-Zaith²² with 20,000 men and 2,000 cavalry.

5 And Judah, with 3,000²³ picked men, was encamped at Elasa.²⁴ 6 And when his men saw the multitude of the enemy forces, they feared them very much, and many slipped away from the camp, until no more than 800 men remained. 7 So when Judah saw that his camp was slipping away, and that the war had been pressing upon him, he was crushed in his heart, because he had no opportunity to gather them together.

8 And he was unstrung, but said to those who remained, "Let us stand-up and meet our opponents; perhaps we may be able to wage-war against them."

9 And they tried to dissuade him, saying, "We certainly are not able to wage-war against them.²⁵ Instead, let us save our souls now, and come back with our brothers, and then wage-war against them.²⁶ Now we are too few."

10 And Judah said, "Far be it from me to do such a thing²⁷ as to flee from them! And if²⁸ our time has come, let us die for our brothers with manliness, and not leave a cause for contempt upon our glory!"

11 Then Bakchides' force moved out of camp and took its position for meeting them in battle. So the cavalry were divided into two squadrons, and the

slingers and the archers went on ahead of the force, and all the powerful *men* were in the front lines. But Bakchides was on the right wing. 12 And flanked by the two squadrons, the phalanx attacked as they sounded their trumpets. And those who were on Judah's side²⁹ also trumpeted their trumpets. 13 So the earth shook with the sound of the camps,³⁰ and the war raged from morning until evening.

14 And seeing that Bakchides and the main *force* of his camps were on the right side, Judah, with all the *men* who had the most courageous³¹ hearts rallying to him, 15 crushed the right wing³² and drove them away as far as the mountain slopes.³³ 16 And when the men on the left wing saw that the right wing was crushed, they turned and followed Judah and his men, and took them in the rear. 17 And the war was burdensome, and many on both sides³⁴ were wounded and fell. 18 Then Judah fell, and the rest fled.

19 So Jonathan and Simon took their brother Judah and³⁵ buried him in the tomb of his³⁶ fathers at Modeim, and they bewailed him there.³⁷ 20 And all Israel beat their breasts in great lamentation for him and mourned many days, and said, 21 "How the mighty one has fallen, the savior of Israel!"

22 And the rest of the accounts of Judah, and his wars, and the manly-virtues which he performed, and his greatness have not been recorded; for they were very many.

23 So after the end of Judah, the lawless *ones* peeped out from every part of Israel, and all the workers of the unrighteousness arose. 24 In those days, there was a very great famine, and the country deserted to the lawless men.³⁸ 25 And Bakchides chose the impious men and made them lords of the country. 26 And these sought out and hunted down Judah's friends and brought them to Bakchides, and he took vengeance on them and mocked them. 27 And there had not been such a great tribulation in Israel since the time prophets ceased to appear among the people.³⁹

28 Then all of Judah's friends gathered together and said to Jonathan, 29 "Since your brother Judah has come-to-his-end, there has been no man like him to go out and move⁴⁰ against our enemies, and Bakchides, and those who are hostile to our nation.⁴¹ 30 Now, therefore, we have chosen you today to be our chief and leader in his place, the *man* to wage our war."

31 So from that moment, Jonathan received⁴² the leadership, and stood-up in place of his brother Judah.⁴³ 32 And when Bakchides learned about this, he feared that Jonathan might cause trouble to the king and to the Makedonians, as Judah had done before him, so⁴⁴ he sought to kill him off. 33 And Jonathan and his brother Simon and everyone who were with him⁴⁵ learned about this, and they fled to the Tekoa Desert and encamped by the waters of Lake Asphar. 34 And Bakchides learned about this on the day of the sabbaths, and he with all his army crossed over the Jordan and there rested his force.⁴⁶

35 And Jonathan sent off his brother to lead the convoy and begged the Nabateans, who were his friends, for permission to deposit with them the great quantity of baggage which they had. 36 And the sons of Jambri⁴⁷ from Medeba made a raid, and seized and carried off Johanan and everything he had, and departed with it.

37 After this, a message of this account was brought to Jonathan and his brother Simon, "The sons of Jambri are celebrating a great wedding, and with a large escort they are bringing the bride, a daughter of one of the great princes of Canaan,⁴⁸ from Nadabath."⁴⁹

38 And they were reminded of the blood of⁵⁰ their⁵¹ brother Johanan, and they ascended and hid themselves under the shelter of the mountain. 39 And as they raised their eyes and looked, behold, there was a noisy crowd with baggage; and the bridegroom, along with his friends and brothers, had come out to meet the bride's party with tympanis and musicians and many implements.⁵² 40 So the Judeans rose-up against them from their ambush⁵³ and killed them off. And many

¹ [8:23] Josephus "A decree of the Senate concerning a treaty of alliance and goodwill with the Judean nation"

² literally "with a full heart"

³ [8:26] Josephus omits "weapons" / LXX(A) omits "or ships"

⁴ [8:26] Syr "to them"

⁵ [8:27] Syr1 omits "first"

⁶ [8:26] LXX(A) omits "or boats"

⁷ [8:28] LXX(55), Lat(S) "those who wage-war against them"

⁸ [8:28] LXX(S), Syr2, Lat(VS) "this is the Romans"

⁹ [8:30] LXX(AV, 19,54,93), Lat (literally "if one and the one take counsel") / others "if one or the one take counsel" / Josephus "But if the Judean nation wishes"

¹⁰ [8:30] Josephus "But if the Judean nation wishes to add or take away anything from this treaty of alliance, this shall be done with the concurrence of the Roman people"

¹¹ [8:30] Josephus omits "or take away"

¹² [8:31] LXX(SA, 19,64,93), Syr / others (including LXX(S-corrector) "you"

¹³ [8:31] LXX(19,64,93) add

¹⁴ [8:32] LXX(55) "vengeance" / Syr2 "vengeance and justice"

¹⁵ [8:32] Josephus adds

¹⁶ [9:1] LXX(A) "waged-war" / Syr2 omits "in a war"

¹⁷ [9:1] Josephus omits "and Eliakim" (purposefully?)

¹⁸ [9:2] Josephus / most "Gilgal" / LXX(L), Syr(L) "Gilead" / others "Galgola"

¹⁹ [9:2] possibly Hebrew emendation using the Hebrew word "messaloth" which means "ascent" / LXX "opposite Mesaloth in Arbel"

²⁰ [9:2] Josephus adds

²¹ [9:2] LXX(AV) "he" / Syr1 omits "they captured it and"

²² [9:4] LXX(L) / Syr1II, Lat(LGXB) "Bereth" / ASVQLa(V) "Berea" / some Josephus "Berzetho" / some Josephus "Zetho"

²³ [9:5] LXX / some Josephus "1,000" / some Josephus "2,000"

²⁴ [9:5] Josephus "encamped as a certain village whose name was Beth-zetha"

²⁵ [9:9] LXX(SV,55) add

²⁶ [9:9] Syr1, Lat(S) omit "now" (after "souls") / Syr1 omits "against them"

²⁷ [9:10] Josephus "May the sun not look upon such a thing" / LXX(SV) omits "from me"

²⁸ [9:10] LXX(A) omits "if"

²⁹ [9:12] LXX(SV) "those of Judah"

³⁰ [9:13] LXX(A) "shook because of their camps"

³¹ literally "the most good-souled"

³² [9:15] LXX(L, 19,93) "part"

³³ [9:15] emendation based on conjectural Hebrew / most "as Mount Ashdod" / Josephus "as Mount Aza" / Lat "as Mount Gezer (Gazara)"

³⁴ [9:17] LXX(S) "many of those" / LXX(19,93), Syr2 omit "many"

³⁵ [9:19] LXX(93) omits "took their brother Judah and"

³⁶ [9:19] LXX(64,93) "their"

³⁷ [9:19] LXX(A) adds

³⁸ [9:24] (lit. "...to them") / LXX(V) "famine. And they and all their country yielded to Bakchides."

³⁹ [9:27] (lit. "...among them") / Syr2, Lat(S) "...among Israel" / Josephus "since their return from Babel"

⁴⁰ [9:29] LXX(SV), Syr1 / others omit "and move"

⁴¹ [9:29] LXX(L), Syr1 "hostile from among our own nation"

⁴² [9:31] LXX(19), Syr1 "chose"

⁴³ [9:31] Josephus "Jonathan said that he was ready to die for them. And so, being considered in no way inferior to his brother, he was appointed commander of the Judeans."

⁴⁴ [9:32] Josephus adds

⁴⁵ [9:33] LXX(93) omits "and everyone who were with him"

⁴⁶ [9:34] Josephus adds

⁴⁷ [9:36] Josephus "the Amorites"

⁴⁸ [9:37] LXX / Josephus "Arabia"

⁴⁹ [9:37] A, La(LXV) / some LXX, Josephus "Nabath"

⁵⁰ [9:38] LXX(S), Syr1, Lat(S) / others omit "the blood of"

⁵¹ [9:38] LXX(S-original, 93), Syr2 "his"

⁵² [9:39] LXX(55,64) "and many people" / Josephus "and a large crowd"

⁵³ [9:40] LXX(19) omits "from their ambush"

fell wounded, and the survivors fled into the mountain, and *the Judeans* took all their spoils.¹ **41** So this was how the wedding was turned into mourning, and *the voice* of their² musicians into a dirge. These men themselves, along with their friends who accompanied them, and their women and children, perished to the number of about 400.³ **42** And having fully avenged *the* blood of their brother, the Judeans returned to the marsh-meadows⁴ of the Jordan.

43 And when Bakchides heard about this, he came on the day of the sabbaths to the banks of the Jordan with a large force.

44 Then Jonathan said to his companions,⁵ “May we stand-up now and wage-war for our souls, for today is not like yesterday and *the* day before. **45** For, behold, the war is before us; and behind us are the waters of the Jordan on one side, and marsh-meadows and thickets on the other, and there is no way of escape. **46** Now, therefore, shout into the heaven that all of you might be saved from the hands of your⁶ enemies!”

47 And they joined together in the war, and Jonathan extended his hand to strike Bakchides, but *Bakchides*, evading him, backed away. **48** And Jonathan and his companions behind him⁷ jumped into the Jordan and swam across to the other side, and *the enemy* did not pass over the Jordan against them. **49** But on that day, about 1,000⁸ of Bakchides men fell.⁹

50 And *Bakchides*¹⁰ returned to the citadel in¹¹ Jerusalem, and they¹² built strong cities in Judah: the stronghold in Jericho, as well as Hammat, and Beth-Horon, and Bethel, and Timnah, and¹³ Pirathon, and Tappuah, with high walls and gates and bars. **51** And in *each one* they¹⁴ stationed a garrison to be hostile to Israel. **52** And he¹⁵ fortified the city of Beth-Zur,¹⁶ and Gezer and the citadel, and he¹⁷ put forces in them and supplies of foods. **53** And he¹⁸ took the sons of Israel¹⁹ of the leaders of the country as hostages and he²⁰ put them under guard in the citadel in Jerusalem.

54 And in the year 153, in the 2nd month, Eliakim ordered the wall of the interior holy *places, which was very old*,²¹ to be torn down; so *he* tore down the work of the ancient²² prophets. *But* he only began to tear it down. **55** For at that very time, he had a stroke from God,²³ and his work was interrupted; and his mouth was closed and he was paralyzed, so that he could no longer speak a word or give instructions concerning his house. **56** And at that time, he²⁴ died under great torture. **57** So when Bakchides saw that Eliakim was dead, he returned to the king, and the land of Judah rested for two years.

58 Then all the lawless *ones* took counsel, saying, “Jonathan and his companions are living in rest and security. Now, therefore, let us bring²⁵ Bakchides back, and he will seize all of²⁶ them in a single night.” **59** So they went and counseled him *to do this*.

60 And when Bakchides was setting out with a large force, he secretly sent letters to all his allies in Judah, telling them to seize Jonathan and his companions. *But* they were²⁷ not able to do this, because their council became known to them and Jonathan guarded himself closely.²⁸ **61** And *Jonathan's men* seized about 50 of²⁹ the men of the country who were instigators³⁰ in this evil³¹ and they³² killed them off. **62** Then Jonathan and Simon and their companions withdrew from them³³ to Beth-Bassah³⁴ in the desert; and they *rebuilt* the parts of it which had

been torn down, and they³⁵ strengthened it. **63** So when Bakchides learned about this, he gathered together his whole multitude, and transmitted a message to those who were in Judah. **64** Then he came and encamped against Beth-Bassah, and he waged-war *against* it for many days and constructed machines.

65 And Jonathan left his brother Simon in the city, and, going out with a *small number of men*, he went out into the country. **66** And he struck *down*³⁶ Odomera³⁷ and his brothers and the sons of Phasiron³⁸ in their tents. Then *he and his companions* began to strike them, and to go up with their forces. **67** Then they³⁹ sallied forth from the city, and set fire to the machines.

68 Then they waged-war against Bakchides, and he was crushed by them. And this had been exceedingly causing him tribulation, because his council had come to nothing; **69** and he⁴⁰ was angered in fury with the lawless men who had counseled him to invade the country. So he killed-off many of them, and took counsel on returning to his own land.

70 And when Jonathan discovered this, he sent elders to make peace with him⁴¹ and to obtain the release of the prisoners for them.⁴² **71** And he agreed, and acted according to what *Jonathan* had said. And he swore an oath to him that he would never try to injure him for the rest of his life; **72** and he released the prisoners whom he had previously taken from the land of⁴³ Judah. Then he returned to his own country,⁴⁴ and never came⁴⁵ within their borders again.

73 So the long-sword ceased in Israel. And Jonathan settled in Michmash, and he began to judge the people of Israel,⁴⁶ and he eliminated the impious in Israel.

CHAPTER 10

And in the year 160, Alexandros the Illustrious, son of Antiochos, came up and took Ptolemais. And they⁴⁷ admitted him, and he began to reign there. **2** And when King Demetrios heard about this, he gathered together very large forces and marched out to meet him in a war.

3 And Demetrios sent a letter to Jonathan written in peaceful terms, to pay him honor; **4** for he said, “Let us be the first to make peace with him, before he makes peace with Alexandros against us, **5** for he will remember all the evils which we have done to him, and to his brothers, and to his nation.”⁴⁸

6 And *Demetrios* gave him authority to gather together forces, and furnish them with weapons, and to become his ally; and he said that the hostages in the citadel should be released to him.

7 So Jonathan went up to Jerusalem and read the letter in the ears of all⁴⁹ the people. And those in the citadel **8** were struck with fear when they heard that the king had given him⁵⁰ authority to gather together a force. **9** And those in the citadel released the hostages to Jonathan, and he⁵¹ returned them to their parents.

10 Then Jonathan dwelt⁵² in Jerusalem, and began to build and restore the city. **11** And he told the workmen to build the walls and to encircle Mount Zion⁵³ with square⁵⁴ stones for its fortification, and they⁵⁵ did so.

12 Then the foreigners who were within the strongholds which Bakchides had built, took flight to Antiocheia;⁵⁶ **13** and each one left his place and departed to his own land. **14** Only in Beth-Zur and in the citadel of Jerusalem⁵⁷ did some remain of those who had abandoned the law and the ordinances, for they used it as a place of refuge.

15 And King Alexandros heard about the professed-things which Demetrios had sent to Jonathan; and *men* described to them the wars and the manly-virtues of Jonathan and his brothers, and the troubles which they had endured. **16** And he said, “Shall we ever find another man like him? And now, let us make⁵⁸ him our friend and ally.”

17 So he wrote letters and sent *it* to *Jonathan*,⁵⁹ in these words,⁶⁰ saying:

¹ [9:40] LXX(A) “vessels”

² [9:41] LXX(19) “the”

³ [9:42] Josephus adds

⁴ [9:42] LXX(AV,55,71) “mountainous-region” / Lat(V) “bank” / Syr2 “ford”

⁵ [9:44] LXX(SV) / others “brothers”

⁶ [9:46] LXX(A) “our”

⁷ [9:48] LXX(19,64,93) add

⁸ [9:49] most LXX / LXX(SV,55), Syr1 “3,000” / Josephus “2,000”

⁹ [9:49] LXX(A) “. . .000 men of Bakchides’ side went through”

¹⁰ [9:50] LXX(SV,19), Lat (lit. “he”) / others “they” / LXX(64,93) “Bakchides”

¹¹ [9:50] Josephus, Syr, OL omit “and”

¹² [9:50] LXX(S-corrector) “he”

¹³ [9:50] LXX(SAV), Josephus, Lat(LGBV), Syr / others omit “and”

¹⁴ [9:51] LXX(S) “he”

¹⁵ [9:52] LXX(SV) / others “they”

¹⁶ [9:52] Syr, Lat (“the city of Beth-Zur”) / LXX(S,64,94) “Beth-Zur” / LXX(A) “the city and Beth-Zur” / LXX(V) “the city in Beth-Zur”

¹⁷ [9:52] LXX(SV,19,64,93), Lat / others “they”

¹⁸ [9:53] LXX(SV), Lat / LXX(64,94) “Bakchides” / others “they”

¹⁹ [9:53] LXX(55) adds

²⁰ [9:53] LXX(SV,64,94), Lat / others “they”

²¹ [9:54] Josephus “wall of the holy-place(s) which was very old”

²² [9:54] some Josephus add / some Josephus instead add “holy”

²³ [9:55] Josephus adds

²⁴ [9:56] Syr1 / most “Eliakim”

²⁵ [9:58] LXX(Va) / LXX(SAV) “we will bring” / LXX(19,64,93) “let us lead”

²⁶ [9:58] LXX(19,64), Lat(V) omit “all of”

²⁷ [9:60] LXX(A) “*But* he was”

²⁸ [9:60] Syr1 “known to him” / LXX(S) “known” / Josephus adds underlined

²⁹ [9:61] LXX(S) omits “about 50 of”

³⁰ may also be translated “chief-captains”

³¹ [9:61] Josephus “Whereupon Bacchides, being enraged at the renegades for having, as he thought, deceived him and the king, seized 50 of their leaders”

³² [9:61] LXX(SA), Josephus, Lat(V) “he”

³³ [9:62] LXX(S) adds

³⁴ [9:62] likely Hebrew form / LXX “Beth-Basi” / Josephus “Beth-alaga” (which is “Beth-Hogla” from Joshua 15:6) / Josippon “Beer-sheba”

³⁵ [9:62] LXX(S), Lat(V) / others “he”

³⁶ [9:66] most, Josippon / LXX(V), 340 “He summoned” / Josephus “He secretly slipped out into the countryside and gathered a large force from those who sympathized with him”

³⁷ [9:66] some, Josippon “Adaran”

³⁸ [9:66] LXX(V) “Pharison”

³⁹ [9:67] LXX(SV,64,94) / others “he”

⁴⁰ [9:69] LXX(S-corrector, V) / LXX(19,93), Syr2 “Bakchides” / others “they”

⁴¹ [9:70] LXX(S,93) “with them” / LXX(V) omits altogether

⁴² [9:70] LXX(55), Lat, Syr1 “. . .for him” / Josephus “and that each side might return to the other the prisoners they had taken.”

⁴³ [9:72] LXX(S), Syr1 omit “the land of”

⁴⁴ [9:72] Josephus “to Antiocheia to the king”

⁴⁵ [9:72] LXX(19,64,93) “looked”

⁴⁶ [9:73] LXX(19,93), Syr2 add

⁴⁷ [10:1] LXX(S-corrector,A,93) “it”

⁴⁸ [10:5] LXX(V) “race”

⁴⁹ [10:7] Syr1 omits “all”

⁵⁰ [10:8] LXX(A) “them”

⁵¹ [10:9] LXX(A) “they”

⁵² [10:10] LXX(A) “heard”

⁵³ [10:11] Josephus “walls of the city”

⁵⁴ [10:11] LXX(SV,55) “four-footed”

⁵⁵ [10:11] LXX(SV), Lat(V) “he”

⁵⁶ [10:12] Josephus adds

⁵⁷ [10:14] Josephus adds

⁵⁸ [10:16] LXX(SV,19,64) “, we will make”

⁵⁹ [10:17] LXX(19,64,93) omit “and sent *it* to *Jonathan*”

⁶⁰ literally “accounts”

18 King Alexandros to his brother Jonathan, greetings.¹

19 We have heard about you, that you are a powerful² man of strength and suitable to be our friend. 20 And now, we have appointed you today to be a chief-priest of your nation; and you are to be called the king's friend, and you are to set your minds on our interests and preserve a friendship³ with us.

And he⁴ sent him a purple robe and a golden⁵ crown. 21 And in the year 160,⁶ in its 7th month, Jonathan put on the holy raiment at the Festival of Booths, and he gathered together forces and furnished them with many weapons.

22 And when Demetrios heard about these things, he was distressed and said, 23 "Why have we allowed this to be done, so that Alexandros had gotten ahead of us by gaining the friendship of the Judeans⁷ in order to strengthen himself? 24 I too will write them accounts of exhortation and offer dignities and gifts, so that they may be a help to me."

25 So he sent a message to them in these words:

King Demetrios to Jonathan and⁸ the Judean nation, greetings.

26 We have heard how you kept the treaty with us and remained-in in our friendship, and have not gone over to our enemies, and we are glad. 27 And now, still remain-in the act to keep faith with us, and we will reward you with good-things⁹ in return for what you do in our behalf. 28 And we will grant you many exemptions and will give gifts to you.

29 And now, I free you, and exempt all the Judeans from the tribute, and the salt tax, and from the crown-taxes.¹⁰ 30 And instead of collecting the third of the grain and the half of the fruit of the trees that should be my share, I renounce the right from this day forward: Neither now, nor in the future, will I collect them from the land of Judah. And as for the poll tax which was to be paid to me by the inhabitants of Judah¹¹ and from the three districts annexed to it from Samaria and Galilee and Peraia. I exempt you from it today for all time.¹² 31 And let Jerusalem and her territory be holy, and I dismiss the giving of the tenths and tolls.¹³

32 And I dismiss¹⁴ my authority over the citadel in Jerusalem, and I transfer it to the chief-priest,¹⁵ in order that he may station in it men of his own choice to guard it. 33 And every Judean soul who has been carried into captivity from the land of Judah into any part of my kingdom, I set at liberty without ransom; and let all their taxes, even those on their livestock, be canceled.

34 And let all the festivals, and the sabbaths, and new-moons, and appointed days, and the three days that precede each festival, and the three days that follow, be days of immunity and exemption for every Judean in my kingdom. 35 And let no man have authority to exact payment from them or to molest any of them about any matter.

36 And let 30,000 Judeans be enrolled in the king's forces, and let allowances be given them, as is due to all the forces of the king. 37 And let some of them be stationed in the¹⁶ king's great strongholds; and of these, let some be given positions of trust in the affairs of the kingdom.¹⁷ And let those who are over them and their chiefs be taken from among them, and let them follow their own laws, as the king has ordered in the land of Judah.

38 And let the three districts which have been annexed to Judah from the country of Samaria and Galilee,¹⁸ be annexed to Judah, so that they may be accounted¹⁹ as being under one ruler, and obey no other authority rather than the chief-priest. 39 Ptolemais and its confines, I give as a present to the holy places²⁰ in Jerusalem for the necessary expenses of the holy places.

40 And I undertake to make a yearly grant of 15,000 silver shekels²¹ out of the royal revenues,²² from appropriate places.²³ 41 And all the additional funds which the officials did not hand over as they had done in the first years,²⁴ shall, from now on, be handed over for the services of the²⁵ house. 42 And the dues of 5,000 silver shekels²⁶ which used to be taken by the kings²⁷ from the revenue of the holy place every year²⁸ shall be canceled, since these funds belong to the priests who are performing-public-service. 43 And whoever takes refuge within the temple of Jerusalem or within any of its boundaries, because of money he owes the king, or because of any other debt, shall be released, and receive back all the goods which he possesses in my kingdom.

44 And the cost of rebuilding and restoring the structures of the holy places shall be covered out of the royal revenue. 45 And let the cost of the building the walls of Jerusalem and fortifying it all around, and of the building the walls in Judah, be donated from the royal revenues.²⁹

46 Now when Jonathan and the people heard these words, they neither believed nor accepted them, because they remembered the great evil which Demetrios had done in Israel,³⁰ and how excessively he had caused them tribulation. 47 So they were well-disposed toward Alexandros, because he had been the first to speak peaceable accounts to them, and they remained his allies all of his days.

48 Then King Alexandros gathered together great and many³¹ forces and encamped opposite Demetrios. 49 And the two kings engaged in a war; and when the camp of Alexandros fled, Demetrios³² drove him³³ away, and overpowered them. 50 And he pressed the war hard until sunset, and Demetrios fell on that day.

51 And in that day,³⁴ Alexandros sent elders to Ptolemaios, king of Egypt, in these words, saying:

52 Since I have returned to my kingdom, and have taken my seat on the throne of my fathers, and have established my government by crushing Demetrios and gaining control of my country— 53 for³⁵ I met him in a battle, and he and his camp were crushed by us, and we³⁶ have recovered the throne of his kingdom— 54 now, therefore, let us establish a friendship with one another.³⁷ And now³⁸ give me your daughter for my wife; and as your son-in-law, I will give both you and her gifts worthy of you.

55 So King Ptolemaios answered in these words, saying:

Happy the day on which you returned to the land of your fathers and took your seat on the throne of their kingdom! 56 And now, I will do for you what you have written; rather meet me³⁹ in Ptolemais, so that we may see each other, and I will become your father-in-law, as you have said.

57 So Ptolemaios, together with his daughter Kleopatra, set out from Egypt and came to Ptolemais in the year 162. 58 And when King Alexandros came to meet him, Ptolemaios gave him his daughter Kleopatra in marriage. And their wedding was celebrated at Ptolemais with great glory according to the custom of the kings.

59 Then King Alexandros wrote to Jonathan, asking him to come and meet him. 60 So Jonathan set out in glory to Ptolemais, and met the two kings. And he gave them and their friends silver and gold and many gifts; and he found favor in their eyes.⁴⁰

61 And some pestilent men from Israel, unlawful men, gathered together against him to petition against him, but the king paid no attention to them. 62

²¹ [10:40] Josephus "150,000 drachmas"

²² [10:40] Syr1 "the royal treasury" / Lat(S) "the treasury"

²³ [10:40] some omit "from appropriate places"

²⁴ [10:41] LXX(19,64,93), Lat(S) "nations"

²⁵ [10:41] LXX(19,64,93) "this"

²⁶ [10:42] Josephus "10,000 drachmas"

²⁷ [10:42] Josephus adds

²⁸ [10:42] LXX(AV,55,71), Syr, Lat / others omit "every year" / Syr1 omits "shall be canceled, since these funds belong"

²⁹ [10:45] LXX(19,93), Syr2 "...royal house" / Syr1 "out of the royal revenue (45) for the building of walls in Jerusalem" (material omitted due to scribal error)

³⁰ [10:46] LXX(64) "Jerusalem"

³¹ [10:48] LXX(S) "together all the" / LXX(19,93) "together great and many"

³² [10:49] LXX(A,S-original), Lat(V), Josephus / LXX(S-corrector,V,19,64), Lat(LGB) "camp of Demetrios fled, Alexandros"

³³ [10:49] LXX(S-corrector,19), Syr2 "them"

³⁴ [10:51] LXX(19,64,93), Syr2 adds

³⁵ literally "and"

³⁶ [10:53] LXX(19,64,93) "I"

³⁷ [10:54] LXX(A) "with him" / LXX(S) "with them"

³⁸ [10:54] LXX(S,19,71,93), Syr2, Lat / others add

³⁹ [10:56] LXX(S-corrector,19,93) / others omit "me"

⁴⁰ [10:60] Josephus "and was rewarded with honors from both of them."

¹ [10:18] LXX(V) omits "greetings"

² [10:19] LXX(A) "good"

³ [10:20] LXX(S,19,64,93) "friendships"

⁴ [10:20] LXX(A) "they"

⁵ [10:20] Syr1 "royal"

⁶ [10:21] one, Josephus? omits "of the year 160"

⁷ [10:23] LXX(V) omits "by gaining...Judeans"

⁸ [10:25] Josephus adds

⁹ [10:27] Syr1 omits "with good-things"

¹⁰ [10:29] LXX(S5) "and the crown tax" / LXX(62,46,106), Syr2 omit "from"

¹¹ [10:30] Josephus / all others omit "And as for the poll tax...of Judah" (possibly by scribal error)

¹² [10:30] Josephus / all others omit "and Peraia...all time"

¹³ [10:31] Josephus, LXX(AV,19), Syr / most "territory, and her tenths and her tolls, be holy and free from tax"

¹⁴ [10:32] LXX(A,19,71), Syr omit "I dismiss"

¹⁵ [10:32] Syr1 "to the holy house"

¹⁶ [10:37] LXX(S), Lat(V) omit "the forces of the king...in the" (by scribal error)

¹⁷ [10:37] Josephus "; and others in my bodyguard, and I shall make them officers in my court"

¹⁸ [10:38] LXX(19,64,93) add

¹⁹ [10:38] Syr1, Lat(V) "be accounted to Judah" / LXX(19), Syr2 "be annexed to Judah"

²⁰ [10:39] Syr1 omits "the holy places in"

And¹ the king ordered them, and they² undressed Jonathan of his robes, and dressed him in purple; and so it was done.

63 And the king³ seated him at his side, and he said to his chiefs, "Go out with him to the center of the city, and make a proclamation, that no one is to be petitioning against him on any grounds, and no-one is to be troublesome to him on any account."⁴

64 And it happened, when the *ones* who were petitioning *against him* saw the honor paid to him in the proclamation, and the purple⁵ with which he was clothed, they all fled. **65** And the king honored him by inscribing⁶ him among his chief-friends⁶ and made him a general and a meridarch. **66** So Jonathan returned to Jerusalem⁷ in peace and gladness.

67 And in the year 165, Demetrios son of Demetrios, came from Krete to the land of his fathers.⁸ **68** And when King Alexandros heard about this, he⁹ was greatly troubled, and returned¹⁰ to Antiocheia. **69** And Demetrios appointed Apollonios, who was¹¹ over Coelesyria, as *leader*. And *Apollonios* gathered together a large force and encamped at Jabneh.

Then he sent *this message* to Jonathan the chief-priest, saying:

70 You are the only one who rises up against us. But, because of you, I have become an object-of-ridicule and an object-of-reproach. Why are you displaying power against us in the mountains? **71** Now, therefore, if you have confidence in your forces, come down to us in the plain, and let us test each other's strength¹² there, because the force of the cities¹³ is on my side. **72** Inquire and learn who I am, and who the others are who are helping me. And *men* will say to you, that your¹⁴ feet cannot stand before our face, because your fathers¹⁵ were twice put to flight in their own land. **73** And now, you will be unable to withstand our cavalry and such a force as this in the plain, where there is neither a stone, nor a piece-of-gravel, nor a place to flee.¹⁶

74 Now when Jonathan heard Apollonios' account, his mind was moved.¹⁷ And choosing 10,000 men, he set out from Jerusalem, and his brother Simon met him in order to help him. **75** And he encamped near Japho, but the men in the city shut him out because Apollonios had a garrison in Japho. And when *the Judeans*¹⁸ waged-war *against* it, **76** the men of the city became fearful and opened the gates, and so Jonathan became lord of Japho.

77 And when Apollonios heard about this, he mustered¹⁹ 3,000 cavalry and a great force. Then he marched on Ashdod as though he would be traversing *the country*, but at the same time he advanced into the plain,²⁰ because he had such a large number of cavalry and one in which he put confidence. **78** So Jonathan²¹ followed him to Ashdod *for a war*,²² and the camps engaged in a war *after him*.²³ **79** But Apollonios had left 1,000 cavalry in hiding behind them *in a valley*.²⁴

80 And when Jonathan learned that there was an ambush behind him,²⁵ his camp was surrounded.²⁶ And from morning until evening they showered the people with arrows.²⁷ **81** But the people held their ground, as Jonathan had commanded, and the enemy's horses grew weary. **82** So when the cavalry were exhausted, Simon drew his force forward and engaged the phalanx; and they were crushed by him and fled. **83** And the cavalry were scattered over the plain. And

*the enemy*²⁸ fled to Ashdod, and sought to save themselves by entering Beth-Dagon, their idol's-shrine.²⁹

84 And Jonathan burned and plundered Ashdod with its surrounding villages,³⁰ and burned the temple of Dagon with fire, along with those who had taken refuge within it.³¹ **85** So those who fell by the saber, together with those who were burned alive, came to about 8,000 men.

86 Then Jonathan left there and encamped against Ashkelon, and the citizens came out to meet him with great glory. **87** Then Jonathan *expressed approval of their friendly intention*,³² and his companions returned to Jerusalem, laden with much spoils.

88 And when King Alexandros heard accounts about these things, he glorified Jonathan even more. **89** And he sent him a gold buckle, such as is usually given to the kinsmen of the king; and he also gave him Ekron and everything *within* its borders as a possession.

CHAPTER 11

And the king of Egypt mustered his forces, as numerous as the sands of the seashore, and many boats; and he sought by deceit to take Alexandros' kingdom and annex it to his own kingdom. **2** So he entered Syria with³³ peaceful accounts, and those in the cities opened *their gates* and welcomed him, as King Alexandros had ordered them to do, since *Ptolemaios* was *Alexandros'* father-in-law. **3** But when Ptolemaios entered the cities,³⁴ he stationed garrison forces in each city.³⁵ **4** But when he was approaching Ashdod, they showed him the temple of Dagon burned down, and Ashdod and its suburbs demolished, and the corpses strewn about, and those who had been burned, whom *Jonathan*³⁶ had burned in the war,³⁷ for they had heaped them up along his route.

5 And to criticize Jonathan, they also described to the king what he had done; but the king *went out and*³⁸ kept silent. **6** And Jonathan met the king with glory at Japho, and they greeted each other and spent the night there. **7** And Jonathan accompanied the king as far as the river which is called³⁹ Eleutheros, and then he returned to Jerusalem.

8 But calculating wickedness against Alexandros, King Ptolemaios became lord of the cities along the seacoast as far as Seleukeia-by-the-Sea. **9** Then he sent elders to King Demetrios, saying, "Come, let us make a pact with each other. And I will give you my daughter, who was formerly⁴⁰ Alexandros' wife, and you shall reign over your father's kingdom. **10** For I regret that I gave him my daughter, for he has sought to kill me off."

11 And *Ptolemaios'* real reason for criticizing Alexandros, was that he coveted *Alexandros'* kingdom. **12** So he took his daughter away from him and gave her to Demetrios; and *Ptolemaios* became estranged from Alexandros,⁴¹ and their enmity shone. **13** Then Ptolemaios entered Antiocheia and placed the diadem of Asia around his *head*. And this was why he had two diadems placed around his head, that of Egypt and that of Asia.

14 Now King Alexandros was in Kilikia at that time, because those *who lived* in that region had revolted. **15** And when Alexandros heard about this, he came *to challenge Ptolemaios* in a war. And Ptolemaios lead out *his army*⁴² and met him with a strong hand and put him to flight. **16** And Alexandros fled into Arab to seek being sheltered there. But King Ptolemaios was exalted, **17** and the Arabian Zabdiel cut off Alexandros' head and sent it to Ptolemaios.

18 And three days later, King Ptolemaios himself died, and *his men* in the strongholds were killed by the inhabitants of the strongholds. **19** So this was how Demetrios became king in the year 167.

20 At that time, Jonathan gathered together the *men* of Judah⁴³ to attack the citadel in Jerusalem, and they constructed many machines against it. **21** And some unlawful men, enemies of their⁴⁴ own nation, went to the king and brought a message *saying*,⁴⁵ that Jonathan was besieging the citadel. **22** And when Demetrios heard about this, he was angered, and he immediately moved off to Ptolemais. And he wrote to Jonathan, that he should not besiege it,⁴⁶ and to meet him for a conference at Ptolemais as soon as possible.

¹ [10:61-62] LXX(93) omits "pestilent men from Israel" & "the king paid no attention to them. And"

² [10:62] LXX(A) "ordered them, and he"

³ [10:63] LXX(S) "kings"

⁴ [10:64] LXX(A) "linen"

⁵ [10:65] LXX(55) "appointing"

⁶ [10:65] Josephus "him as his Chief Friend"

⁷ [10:66] LXX(S) omits "to Jerusalem"

⁸ [10:67] Josephus "to Kilikia"

⁹ [10:68] LXX(S) ", the king"

¹⁰ [10:68] LXX(19) "sent"

¹¹ [10:69] LXX(55), Lat(V) ", a leader" / Syr1 ", a defender"

¹² [10:71] Josephus / others "let us explain to each other"

¹³ [10:71] LXX(64) "wars"

¹⁴ [10:72] most plural / Syr1 is singular

¹⁵ [10:72] the Hebrew original was probably "armies"

¹⁶ [10:73] LXX(A) "a place for you to flee to"

¹⁷ [10:74] Syr1 ", he was enraged and moved"

¹⁸ [10:75] (lit. "they") / Syr1 "he"

¹⁹ may also be translated "encamped"

²⁰ [10:77] Josephus "Ashdod. And departing from there, he made his journey silently and slowly; and going up to Japho, as made it as though he were going on through that place, and so drew Jonathan into the plain" / LXX(A,55) has "he led forward" instead of "advanced"

²¹ [10:78] Syr / most "he"

²² [10:78] LXX(SV) add

²³ [10:78] LXX(19,64,93) / most LXX, Syr, Lat add

²⁴ [10:79] Josephus adds

²⁵ [10:80] Syr1 omits "behind him"

²⁶ [10:80] Josephus ", he drew up his army in a square and prepared to fight the enemy on either line by opposing them whether they attacked his front or rear."

²⁷ [10:80] Josephus "And as the battle continued until evening, he gave his brother Simon part of his force and commanded them to engage the main body of the foe, while he ordered his own men to make a fence of their shields, and so receive the javelins thrown by the horsemen. Accordingly, they did as they were commanded, while the enemy's horsemen hurled javelins at them until they had no more lift, without injuring them at all, for the missiles did not reach their bodies, but glanced off the shields that were joined in a fence and compactly united, and so they were easily turned aside and fell back harmless."

²⁸ [10:82-83] Syr1 omits "fled. (83) And...the enemy" (by scribal error)

²⁹ [10:83] LXX(93), Syr2, Lat(V) omit "their idol's-shrine"

³⁰ [10:84] Josephus / Greek "cities"

³¹ [10:84] LXX(A) "and burned...along with its inner-sanctum" / LXX(19,93), Syr2 omit altogether

³² [10:87] Josephus adds

³³ [11:2] LXX(S) "speaking"

³⁴ [11:3] LXX(AV,S-corrector) "But when he entered the cities of Ptolemais"

³⁵ [11:3] LXX(S-corrector,V,55) "he stationed forces in each city to guard it"

³⁶ [11:4] (lit. "he") / others "they"

³⁷ [11:4] Syr1 "burned with fire"

³⁸ [11:5] LXX(55) adds / Syr2 instead adds "when he heard it"

³⁹ [11:7] LXX(19) omits "which is called"

⁴⁰ [11:9] LXX(S*V), Lat(LX) / others "who is"

⁴¹ [11:12] LXX(A) "and Alexandros changed his face" / LXX(S) "and it became known to Alexandros"

⁴² [11:15] LXX(55), Syr2 "Ptolemaios went out"

⁴³ [11:20] Syr1 "together Israel"

⁴⁴ [11:21] LXX(S-original) "our"

⁴⁵ [11:21] LXX(19,64,93) adds

⁴⁶ [11:22] LXX(S-corrector),19,64,93 "the citadel"

23 Now when Jonathan heard this, he directed the siege to continue, and he selected some of the elders of Israel and *some* of the priests,¹ and exposed himself to danger 24 by going to the king at Ptolemais. And he brought with him silver and gold and apparel, and many other presents, and found favor with the king.

25 And although some lawless *men* of his own nation were petitioning against him, 26 the king treated him exactly as his predecessors had treated him, and he glorified him with great glory,² and he exalted him in the presence of all his friends. 27 And he confirmed him in the chief-priesthood and in all the honors which he had previously held, and he exalted him,³ and he gave him the preeminence among his leading friends.

28 And Jonathan asked the king to exempt Judah,⁴ and the three districts of⁵ Samaria, and Japho and Syria,⁶ from tribute, and he⁷ made-a-profession to give him 300⁸ talents *in return*. 29 And the king agreed, and wrote the following letter to Jonathan about all these matters:

30 King Demetrios to his brother Jonathan and to the Judean nation, greetings.

31 We are sending you, for your information, a copy of the letter which we wrote to Lasthenes our⁹ kinsman concerning you:

32 King Demetrios to his father Lasthenes, greetings.

33 Because of the goodwill they show us, we have decided to bestow benefits on the Judean nation, who are our friends and who observe what is right toward us. 34 We confirm their possession, both the territory of Judah, and of the three districts of Ephraim, and Lod, and Ramathaim.¹⁰ These districts, together with all their dependencies, were annexed from Samaria to Judah in favor of all those who offer sacrifices for us in Jerusalem instead of paying the royal¹¹ taxes, which the king formerly received from them each year from the produce of the soil and the fruit of the trees. 35 And from this day onward, we grant them release from payment of all other things which would, from this time forward, be due to us, that is: of the tenths and the tributes, and of the tax on the salt pans, and the crown-taxes. 36 And from this time forward, none of these provisions shall ever be revoked.¹² 37 Now, therefore, be sure to have a copy of these instructions made, and have it given to Jonathan, in order that it may be displayed in a conspicuous place on the holy mountain.

38 And when King Demetrios saw that the land was at rest before him, and that he had no opposition, he dismissed all of his forces and reduced their pay,¹³ every man to his home, except the mercenaries which he had hired from the islands of the nations.¹⁴ So all the forces who had served under his fathers hated him.

39 Now when a certain Tryphon, who had previously belonged to Alexandros' party, saw that all the forces were grumbling at Demetrios, he went to Imalkue¹⁵ the Arabian, who was rearing up Alexandros'¹⁶ little-boy, Antiochos. 40 And Tryphon kept urging Imalkue to hand over the boy to him,¹⁷ so that he might be king¹⁸ in his father's place. And during his stay there of many days, he¹⁹ brought a message to him, *which told about everything which Demetrios had done, and about the enmity which his forces had for him.*

41 Then Jonathan sent to King Demetrios²⁰ the request to withdraw *his troops* from the citadel of Jerusalem and from the other strongholds, for they were constantly waging-war *against* Israel.²¹

42 And Demetrios sent this *message* to Jonathan, saying, "I will not only do these things for you and your nation, but I will greatly glorify you and your nation

when I find an opportunity. 43 Now, therefore, you will do well to send me men to help me, because all of my forces have revolted."

44 So Jonathan sent 3,000 powerful men of strength to him²² at Antiocheia. And when they came to the king, he was delighted over their arrival. 45 And the men within the city, 120,000²³ strong, had rallied within the center of the city,²⁴ and they wished to do away with the king. 46 And he took refuge in the royal *palace*, and the citizens²⁵ gained control of the passages in the city²⁶ and began to wage-war. 47 So the king called the Judeans to his aid, and they all rallied around him at the same time,²⁷ and spread out through the city.²⁸ And on that day, *the Judeans* killed-off about 100,000 men, 48 and they set fire to the city and seized much spoil, and they saved the king.

49 And when the citizens saw that the Judeans had gained control of the city as they wished, their minds weakened, and²⁹ they shouted to the king with much³⁰ beseeching, saying, 50 "Give us your right hand *in pledge*, and make the Judeans stop waging-war against us and our city." So they threw down their weapons and made peace.³¹

51 And this was how the Judeans gained glory in the sight of the king and before everyone in his kingdom, and they were named in his kingdom,³² and they returned to Jerusalem with much spoil. 52 But when King Demetrios sat down on the throne of his kingdom, and the land was at rest before him, 53 he broke all his promises and became estranged from Jonathan. And he did not reward Jonathan for all the *acts of goodwill* which he had received from him, but he had been causing him tribulation excessively.³³

54 Now after this, Tryphon returned and brought with him the young little-boy Antiochos, who became king and placed the diadem around *his head*. 55 And because they had not received their pay,³⁴ all the forces whom Demetrios had discharged rallied around Antiochos and waged-war against Demetrios, and he fled, and he was³⁵ put to flight to Kilikia,³⁶ 56 And Tryphon captured the beasts³⁷ and gained control of Antiocheia.

57 Then young Antiochos wrote to Jonathan, saying:

I confirm you in the chief-priesthood and appoint you over the four districts,³⁸ and *make you one of the king's friends.*³⁹

58 And he sent him gold dishes and a dinner service, and gave him the right to drink from gold cups, and to dress in purple, and to wear a gold buckle. 59 And he made Jonathan's brother Simon general *of the region extending* from the Ladder⁴⁰ of Tsor to the borders of Egypt.

60 And Jonathan set out and traveled through *the region* beyond the river and among its cities, and the entire force of Syria and Phoinike⁴¹ gathered together with him as his allies. And when he arrived at Ashkelon, the citizens gloriously met him. 61 Then, when he set out for Gaza, *the people* of Gaza shut him out.⁴² So he besieged it and burned its suburbs with fire⁴³ and plundered them. 62 Then *the people* of Gaza appealed to him for mercy, and he gave them his right hand *in pledge*. And he took the sons of their chiefs as hostages and sent them to Jerusalem. Then he passed through the country as far as Damasek.

63 Then Jonathan heard that Demetrios' chiefs had come to Kadesh in Galilee with a large force, intending to discharge him from office. 64 So he went to meet them, but left his brother Simon in the country.

²² [11:44] LXX(A,55,64,93) "strength of them"

²³ [11:45] Josephus "many tens of thousands" (instead of 120,000)

²⁴ [11:45] LXX(55), Lat(V) omit "within the center of the city"

²⁵ [11:46] LXX(93) "and they"

²⁶ [11:46] LXX(93) "of it"

²⁷ [11:47] LXX(55), Syr2, Lat omit "all" & "at once"

²⁸ [11:47] Syr1 omits "through the city"

²⁹ [11:49] LXX(19) omits "as they wished...weakened, and"

³⁰ [11:49] LXX(64) adds

³¹ [11:46-50] Josephus adds a long portion here and summarizes "Now when the Judeans saw the Antiocheians getting the upper hand, they went up to the roofs of the palace buildings; and from there, they hurled missiles at the Antiocheians. And while they themselves, being high above their opponents, were too far away to be hurt by them, they could inflict much damage on them by fighting from above. And so, they drove them out of the adjoining houses, which they quickly set on fire. And because the houses were close together and mostly built of wood, the flames spread over the whole city and entirely consumed it. Thereupon the Antiocheians, being unable to give help or to control the fire, turned to flight. But the Judeans, leaping from roof to roof, pursued them in this manner, and a very strange manner of pursuit it was. Now when the king saw that the Antiocheians were striving to save their children and women, and for that reason were no longer fighting, he set upon them from other narrow streets, and on encountering them, killed many of them, so that they were forced to throw down their full armor and surrender to Demetrios."

³² [11:51] LXX(S), Lat(V) add

³³ [11:53] LXX(S,93) omit "for...from him" / "Josephus adds a statement here "He threatened him with war unless he paid him all the kinds of tribute which the Judean nation was required to pay from the time of the first kings."

³⁴ [11:55] Josephus adds

³⁵ [11:55] LXX(S) "and they were"

³⁶ [11:55] Josephus adds

³⁷ [11:56] most LXX / Josephus "elephants" / LXX(55) omits "And Tryphon...beasts"

³⁸ [11:57] Josephus adds here "which have been added to the territory of the Judeans"

³⁹ [11:57] Josephus "one of his Chief Friends"

⁴⁰ [11:59] Josephus "region"

⁴¹ [11:60] Josephus adds

⁴² [11:61] Josephus adds here "and though they had deserted Demetrios, resolved not to go over to Antiochos"

⁴³ [11:61] Syr1 "and they burned it"

¹ [11:23] LXX(S) "and some of the Judeans" / Syr1 omits altogether

² [11:26] LXX(55) adds

³ [11:27] LXX(19,93), Syr2 adds

⁴ [11:28] LXX(64) "Edom"

⁵ [11:28] Josephus / LXX "and"

⁶ [11:28] Josephus adds

⁷ [11:28] LXX(A) "they"

⁸ [11:28] LXX(55) "30"

⁹ [11:31] LXX(S-original, A-original) "your"

¹⁰ [11:34] LXX / some Josephus "Ephraim" / some Josephus "Armathaim" / some Josephus "Ramatha"

¹¹ [11:34] Syr1, Lat(V) omits "royal"

¹² [11:36] Josephus "Henceforth, all of these I revoke to them, and none of these things shall ever be wrongfully taken from them."

¹³ [11:38] Josephus adds

¹⁴ [11:38] Josephus "from Krete and from the other islands"

¹⁵ [11:39] LXX(SV) / Didorus "Iamblichus" / Josephus, Syr1 "Malchos" / Lat(V) "Emalchus" / Lat(L) "Himalchu" / Lat(X) "Malcuel"

¹⁶ [11:39] Syr1 omits "Alexandros"

¹⁷ [11:40] LXX(S) omits "And Tryphon...boy to him"

¹⁸ [11:40] LXX(19,64,93) "might make him king"

¹⁹ [11:40] LXX(A) "they"

²⁰ [11:41] Josephus "sent envoys with gifts to Demetrios, and requested him"

²¹ [11:41] Josephus "Jerusalem, as well as the Judean renegades and godless men and the garrisons in the entire country"

65 And Simon encamped against¹ Beth-Zur, and waged-war *against* it for many days, and hemmed them in. 66 And when they sued for peace, he gave them his right hand *in pledge*. And he expelled them from there, and took possession of the city, and put a garrison there.

67 Then Jonathan and his camp encamped near the waters of Genusar;² and early in the morning, they rose early *and went* to the plain of Hazor.³ 68 And, behold, there was the camp of foreigners engaging him⁴ on the plain; *for they had laid an ambush against him in the mountains, but they themselves met him⁵ face to face.* 69 But the men in ambush rose-up out of their places and joined in a war. 70 And all of Jonathan's men fled; but not one of them was left⁶ except some fifty in number, including⁷ the chiefs of the army: Mattithijah son of Absalom, and Judah son of Chalpai.⁸

71 So Jonathan tore his robes, and threw earth on his head, and prayed. 72 Then he turned back to *the war* and routed them, and they fled. 73 Then his own *men*, who were running away, saw this, and they returned to him, and joined him in driving off *the enemy* as far as their camp in Kadesh, and there they themselves encamped. 74 So 3,000⁹ of the foreigners fell on that day. Then Jonathan returned to Jerusalem.

CHAPTER 12

And when Jonathan saw that the times were favorable to him,¹⁰ he selected men and sent them to Roma to confirm and renew his friendship with them. 2 He also sent letters to Sparta¹¹ and to other places for the same purpose. 3 So *the men* reached Roma, and entered the council-chamber, and said, "The chief-priest Jonathan and the Judean nation have sent us to renew the former friendship and alliance between *you and them*."

4 And those who were in Roma welcomed them.¹² And the Romans gave them letters *addressed to the authorities* in the various places,¹³ requesting them to provide *the elders* with safe conduct to the land of Judah.

5 And this is a copy of the letter which Jonathan wrote to the Spartans:

6 Jonathan *the chief-priest, the body-of-seniors of the nation, and the community of the priests, and the rest of the Judean populace, to their brothers the Spartans,*¹⁴ greetings. If you are well and your public and private affairs are proceeding according to your intentions, it would be as we wish.¹⁵

7 Long ago,¹⁶ a letter was sent to the chief-priest Honijah from Areios, who then reigned over you, stating that all of you are our brothers, as the attached copy shows. 8 And Honijah gloriously welcomed the man who was sent, and received the letter, which clearly referred to an alliance and friendship. 9 Therefore, though we have no need of¹⁸ these things, since we have for our exhortation the holy books which are in our hands, 10 we have ventured to send to you and renew our brotherhood and friendship with you, so as not to become estranged to you together; for a long time has passed since you sent *your letter* to us.¹⁹ 11 Therefore, we unceasingly remember you on every occasion, both in our festivals and in the other appropriate days,²⁰ in the sacrifices and prayers which we offer—and this is right and proper to remember, brothers. 12 Now we rejoice in your glory.

13 But as for ourselves, many tribulations and many wars²¹ have encircled us, and the kings around us have waged-war *against* us.²² 14 We did not wish to be troublesome to you and to the rest of our allies and brothers²³ and friends with these wars; 15 for with the help which comes from the heaven for our help, we have been rescued from our enemies, and our enemies²⁴ have been humbled.

16 Therefore, we have chosen Numenius son of Antiochos, and Antipatros son of Jason, who are both honored members of our body of seniors,²⁵ and we have sent them to the Romans to renew our former friendship and alliance with them.²⁶ 17 Therefore, we have instructed them to come to you and greet you, and to deliver to you our letter about the renewal of our brotherhood. 18 And therefore, all of you, kindly send²⁷ us a reply to this matter. And also instruct us concerning anything you may need, being assured that we shall be eager to carry out your wishes in all respects.²⁸

19 And this is a copy of the letters which they²⁹ sent to Honijah:

20 Areios, king of the Spartans, to Honijah *the great priest,*³⁰ greetings.

21 A writing has been found *stating* that both the Spartans and the Judeans are brothers, and *that both nations are of the race*³¹ of Abraham. 22 And now that we have learned this, kindly write to us about your welfare. 23 But we also, on our part, are writing a reply to you that your livestock and your possessions are ours, and ours are yours. Therefore, we have instructed that they³² bring a message to you concerning these matters.³³

24 And Jonathan heard that Demetrios' chiefs had returned to wage-war against him with a stronger force than before. 25 So he set out from Jerusalem and went into the country of Hamath to meet them, for he gave them no time to enter his own country. 26 And he sent spies into their³⁴ camp, and they returned, bringing a message to him concerning all these things; and by night, they had captured some men who revealed to him³⁵ that the enemy had made ready³⁶ to attack the Judeans that very night. 27 Now when the sun had set, Jonathan commanded his men to be alert and to retain their weapons, ready for a war, throughout the entire night. He also set advanced-guards all around the camp.

28 And when their opponents heard that Jonathan and his companions³⁷ were ready for a war, they became fearful, and their hearts were filled with dread. So they light pyres in their camp, and withdrew.³⁸ 29 But because Jonathan and his companions were looking at the lights burning, they did not know what had happened until morning.

30 Then Jonathan³⁹ closely-pursued them, but he was not able to overtake them, for they had crossed the Eleutheros River. 31 So Jonathan turned aside against the Arabians who are called Nabateans,⁴⁰ and he struck them and seized their spoils. 32 Then he broke camp *and went* to Damasek and traversed that whole country.⁴¹

33 And Simon set out and traversed all of Judah and Philistia as far as Ashkelon and its neighboring strongholds.⁴² Then he turned to Japho and occupied it in advance, 34 for he heard that *its men* were intending to hand over this stronghold to the supporters of Demetrios. So he left a large⁴³ garrison there to guard it.

35 And when Jonathan returned, he assembled the elders of the people in the temple;⁴⁴ and with them, he took counsel for building strongholds in Judah, 36 and for making the walls of Jerusalem still higher,⁴⁵ and for raising up a high barrier between the citadel and the city, the city which would separate it from the city, so that it might be isolated,⁴⁶ in order to prevent its garrison from commerce⁴⁷ with the city. 37 So *the people* gathered together to build up the city,⁴⁸ and part of the east wall above the wadi had collapsed, and he repaired the

¹ [11:65] LXX(A,64), Syr2 "in"

² [11:67] LXX(V) omits "of Genusar"

³ [11:67] LXX(AV,55,64) "Nazor"

⁴ [11:68] LXX(55), Syr1 "them"

⁵ [11:68] LXX(55) actually adds "him"

⁶ [11:70] Josephus "fled; only 50 of them were left"

⁷ [11:70] Josephus adds

⁸ [11:70] Hebrew / LXX "Chalphi" / Josephus "Chapsios"

⁹ [11:74] Josephus "2,000"

¹⁰ [12:1] Josephus "saw that by God's foresight all his affairs were going according to his desire"

¹¹ [12:2] Josephus "Lakedaimonians"

¹² [12:4] LXX(19,93), Syr2 add

¹³ [12:4] Josephus "to all the kings of Asia and Europe and to the magistrates of the cities:"

¹⁴ [12:6] LXX(A), Syr2 "chief-priest of the nation, the body-of-seniors...Spartans" / Josephus "chief-priest of the nation of the Judeans, and the senate, and the community of the priests to their brothers the Ephors, senate, and people of Lakedaemonians"

¹⁵ [12:6] Josephus adds

¹⁶ [12:7] LXX(LA(B)), 311, Josephus / LXX(S) "Still longer ago"

¹⁷ [12:7] Josephus, Lat(V) / LXX, Syr "Areios" (also in verse 20)

¹⁸ [12:9] Syr1 omits "we have no need of"

¹⁹ [12:10] LXX / some Josephus "since our kinship was first discussed" / some Josephus "since our kinship was first completed"

²⁰ [12:11] Josephus "on our holy days and on our memorial days"

²¹ [12:13] LXX(V) omits "tribulations and many wars"

²² [12:13] Josephus "through the covetousness of our neighbors"

²³ [12:14] Syr1 adds

²⁴ [12:15] LXX(19,64,71,93) "and those who are before us"

²⁵ [12:16] Josephus adds

²⁶ [12:16] Syr1 omits "with them"

²⁷ [12:18] LXX(A) "all of you have kindly sent"

²⁸ [12:18] Josephus adds

²⁹ [12:19] LXX(S-corrector,64,94) "he"

³⁰ [12:20] LXX, La / Josephus omits "the great priest"

³¹ [12:21] Syr1, Lat(S) omit "of the race"

³² [12:23] Syr1, Lat(S) "we"

³³ [12:23] Josephus "Demoteles the bearer of the message is transmitting our letter."

³⁴ [12:26] LXX(19,64,93) / most LXX, Lat "his" / Syr1 omits altogether

³⁵ [12:26] Josephus adds (possibly deleted by scribal error?)

³⁶ [12:26] Josephus / LXX "and reported that this was how they were making ready"

³⁷ [12:28] LXX(S) "fathers"

³⁸ [12:28] LXX(19,64,93), Syr, Josephus / other LXX, Lat omit "and withdrew"

³⁹ [12:30] LXX(A) omits "Jonathan"

⁴⁰ [12:31] Josephus / others "Zabadeans"

⁴¹ [12:32] Josephus "and there sold off what he had taken"

⁴² [12:33] Josephus "and went all over Judah and Philistia, as far as Ashkelon and fortified the strongholds." / Syr1 omits "and traversed that...Simon set out"

⁴³ [12:34] Josephus adds

⁴⁴ [12:35] Josephus adds

⁴⁵ [12:35-36] Josephus "and he advised them to repair the walls of Jerusalem, and to reset the part of the wall surrounding the temple which had been thrown down, and to fortify the temple precincts by high towers"

⁴⁶ [12:36] Syr1 omits "so that it might be isolated"

⁴⁷ [12:36] LXX, some Josephus / some Josephus "market-lace"

⁴⁸ [12:37] LXX(S) / LXX(V) "the cities" / most omit altogether

section¹ called Chaphenatha. **38** And Simon built up Haditha in the Shephelah, and fortified it, and installed gates and bars.²

39 Then Tryphon was determined to become king of Asia, and to place the diadem around his head, and to stretch out his hand against King Antiochos.³ **40** But he was afraid that Jonathan would not permit him to do so, and that he would wage-war against him. So searching for a way⁴ to seize him, in order to slay him,⁵ he set out and reached⁶ Beth-Shan.

41 So Jonathan went out to meet him⁷ with 40,000 picked fighting men, and he came to Beth-Shan. **42** And when Tryphon saw that Jonathan had arrived with a large force, he was wary of stretching out his hand against him. **43** So he received him gloriously, and introduced him to all his friends, and gave him gifts. And he commanded his friends⁸ and his forces to obey him as they would himself.⁹

44 Then he said to Jonathan, “Why have you wearied all of your people when we are not in a war? **45** And now, dismiss them to their houses, and select a few men to stay with you. Then come with me to Ptolemais, and I will hand it over to you along with the remaining¹⁰ strongholds and the remaining forces, and all the officers. Then I will leave and depart. For that is why I am here.”

46 And Jonathan trusted him and did as he said. So he¹¹ dismissed his forces, and they departed to the land of Judah. **47** But he kept with him 3,000 men, 2,000 of whom¹² he dismissed to Galilee, while 1,000 accompanied him. **48** But as soon as Jonathan had entered Ptolemais, the Ptolemeans closed the gates and seized him as they had been ordered to do by Tryphon;¹³ and everyone who had entered with him, they killed-off with the long-sword.

49 Then Tryphon sent forces and cavalry to Galilee and the Great Plain¹⁴ to destroy all of Jonathan’s men. **50** And when these recognized that Jonathan had been seized and had been destroyed along with his companions, they encouraged one another and went out in compact body ready for a war. **51** And when their pursuers saw that they were ready to fight for their souls, they turned back.

52 And this was how all of these men of Jonathan came safely into the land of Judah. And they mourned over Jonathan and his companions, and were in great fear, and all¹⁵ Israel mourned with a great mourning. **53** And all the encircling nations sought to destroy them, for they said, “They have no man who is a¹⁶ chief or anyone to help them. Now, therefore, let us wage-war against them and wipe-out their memory from among humans.”

CHAPTER 13

And when Simon heard that Tryphon was gathering together a large¹⁷ force to invade the land of Judah and ravage it, **2** and saw that the people were trembling and fearful, he went up to Jerusalem. And there he gathered the people together in the temple¹⁸ and exhorted them, and said:

“You yourselves know what I, and my brothers, and my father’s house, have all¹⁹ done for the laws and the holy places; and the wars and the constraints which we have seen.²⁰ **4** It was for the sake of these, for the sake of Israel, that all my brothers have perished, and I alone am left. **5** And now, far be it from me to save my own soul in any time of tribulation, for I am not better than my brothers. **6** But I will avenge my nation and the holy places, as well as your women and children, because all²¹ the nations, out of enmity, have gathered together to destroy us.”

7 And as the people heard these²² accounts, their spirit was rekindled, **8** and they answered in a loud voice, saying, “You are to lead us in place of your brothers Judah and Jonathan.²³ **9** Wage our wars, and we will do everything which you say to us.”

10 So Simon gathered together all the men who were warriors; and quickly completing the walls of Jerusalem, fortified it on every side. **11** And he sent

Jonathan son of Absalom, to Japho, and with him a sufficient force; and Jonathan drove out the occupants and remained there.²⁴

12 Then Tryphon departed from Ptolemais with a large force to invade the land of Judah, and he brought Jonathan with him as a prisoner. **13** But Simon encamped at Haditha, facing the plain.²⁵

14 And when Tryphon recognized that Simon stood-up in place of his brother Jonathan, and that he was intending to meet him in a war, he sent elders to him, saying:

15 “We are detaining your brother Jonathan on account of the silver which he owed the royal treasury, in connection with the offices he held. **16** And now, if you send us a hundred talents of silver, and two of his sons as hostages, to guarantee that when he is set free he will not revolt against us, we will release him.”

17 And although Simon knew²⁶ that they were uttering deceit to him, he sent to get the silver and the little-boys, otherwise he might provoke much enmity toward the people,²⁷ who might say, **18** that he perished because Simon did not send him the silver and the little-boys. **19** So he sent the little-boys²⁸ and the 100 talents; but Tryphon utterly-deceived them and would not let Jonathan go.

20 Then Tryphon came to invade and ravage the country, and his soldiers circled around by the road which leads to Adoraim, but Simon and his camp kept moving along opposite him everywhere he went. **21** Now the men in the citadel kept sending elders to Tryphon,²⁹ urging him to come to them by way of the desert, and to send them sustenances. **22** And although Tryphon had readied all his cavalry to go, there was a heavy snowfall that night, and he could not go because of the snow. So he departed and went to the Gileadites. **23** But when he was approaching Beth-Shikmah,³⁰ he had Jonathan killed-off and buried there. **24** Then Tryphon returned to his own land.

25 And Simon sent for the bones of his brother Jonathan, and buried him in Modeim, the city of his fathers. **26** And all Israel beat their breasts in great³¹ lamentation, and mourned over him for many days. **27** Then Simon built a tomb over the tomb of his father and his brothers; it was made of polished stone, front and back; and he raised it high enough to be seen at a distance. **28** And he set up seven pyramids on it³² facing one another for his father and his mother and his four brothers. **29** And for the pyramids, he devised an elaborate setting: he surrounded them with four³³ great pillars; and on the pillars, he placed full suits of armor³⁴ as a perpetual memorial; and next to the armor, he set up carved boats,³⁵ which could be seen by everyone who sailed the sea. **30** This tomb which he built at Modeim still remains to this day.

31 Now Tryphon dealt deceitfully³⁶ with the young³⁷ King Antiochos, and he killed him off, **32** and became king in his place, and placed the diadem of Asia around his head. And this was how he brought great calamity on the land.

33 And Simon, on his part, built the strongholds³⁸ of Judah and built a wall around them with high towers and great walls and towers³⁹ and gates with bars, and he stored up food in the strongholds. **34** Simon also selected men and sent them to King Demetrios with the request for him to grant the country a release from taxation, since all that Tryphon did was plunder the land.

35 And King Demetrios sent him a message in accordance with these accounts and answered him; and he wrote him the following letter:

36 King Demetrios to Simon the chief-priest and friend of kings, and to the elders and the Judean nation, greetings.

37 We have received the gold crown and the palm-branch⁴⁰ which all of you sent. And we are willing to make full peace with all of you, and to write to our officials to grant all of you releases from tribute. **38** And whatever we have guaranteed to you remains valid, and the strongholds which all of you have built shall remain yours. **39** But we are forgiving you of⁴¹ any errors and the sinful-activities which have been committed up to this day, as well as the crown-tax which all of you were owing.⁴²

¹ [12:37] Syr “he pulled down the mound which is”

² [12:38] LXX(A) omits “it” & “and installed gates and bars” / LXX(55), Syr1 omits “and bars”

³ [12:39] Syr1 “against Antiochos the younger”

⁴ [12:40] LXX(S) omits “for a way”

⁵ [12:40] Syr1 omits “in order to slay him”

⁶ [12:40] LXX(V) “he came stealthily to”

⁷ [12:41] Syr1 omits “So Jonathan went out” (possibly by scribal error) / LXX(64,94) omits “to meet him”

⁸ [12:43] LXX(S-original,V) omit “and gave him...friends” (by scribal error) / Syr1 omits “and gave him gifts”

⁹ [12:43] LXX(A) “him likewise”

¹⁰ [12:45] LXX(A) “with many”

¹¹ [12:46] LXX(S-corrector,19,93), Syr2 “Jonathan”

¹² [12:47] LXX(SA) “, about 2,000”

¹³ [12:48] Josephus adds

¹⁴ [12:49] Josephus omits “and the Great Plain” / LXX(A) omits “and”

¹⁵ [12:52] LXX(A,98) omit “all”

¹⁶ [12:53] LXX(SV) / others add

¹⁷ [13:1] Syr1 “great”

¹⁸ [13:2] Josephus adds

¹⁹ [13:3] LXX(SV) add

²⁰ [13:3] LXX(S-corrector) / LXX(S-original,V,71) omit “and the constraints” / some omit “which we have seen”

²¹ [13:6] Syr1 omits “all”

²² [13:7] LXX(19,93), Syr2 “his”

²³ [13:8] Josephus, LXX(55), Lat(XB), Syr / most LXX, most Lat “of Judah and your brother Jonathan”

²⁴ [13:11] LXX(S-original,V), Syr1 omit “there” / Josephus “to Japho, and ordered him to eject the inhabitants out of the city, for he was afraid that they would deliver up the city to Tryphon. But he himself remained to secure Jerusalem.”

²⁵ [13:13] Lat “, in sight of the temple”

²⁶ [13:17] LXX(V,55) “Simon did not know”

²⁷ [13:17] LXX(55), Syr2 “toward Israel” / LXX(19,64,93) “toward the people Israel”

²⁸ [13:18] LXX(S) omits “he perished” & “so he sent the little-boys” (by scribal error) / Syr1 omits “he perished” & “So he sent...talents, but” / LXX(55,64) omits “he perished”

²⁹ [13:21] LXX(A) omits “to Tryphon”

³⁰ [13:23] Hebrew equivalent / LXX “Baskama” / Josephus “Baska”

³¹ [13:26] LXX(19,64,93) omits “great”

³² [13:28] LXX(19,55,64,93) add

³³ [13:29] Lat adds / LXX(55) omits “great”

³⁴ [13:29] Syr1 “placed propitiatory offerings”

³⁵ [13:29] LXX(A) “set up various carved things” / Syr2 actually adds “he set up”

³⁶ literally “with deceit”

³⁷ [13:31] LXX(64,94) “great” / Syr1 omits “king”

³⁸ [13:33] LXX(A) “stronghold”

³⁹ [13:33] LXX(A) adds

⁴⁰ [13:37] LXX(S) “palm-branches” / LXX(93) “embassy” / Syr2 “robe” (corruption for “embassy”)

⁴¹ [13:39] LXX(A) adds

⁴² [13:39] LXX(Va) “you owe”

And any other tax which may have been collected in Jerusalem shall no longer be collected. **40** And if any of you are qualified to be enrolled in our service, let them be enrolled. And let there be peace between us.

41 This was how, in the year 170, the yoke of the *foreign* nations was removed from Israel, **42** and the people of Israel¹ began to write in their records and contracts, “In the 1st year of Simon, the great chief-priest, and general, and leader² of the Judeans.”

43 In those days, Simon encamped against Gezer³ and surrounded it with camps. And he made a city-destroyer,⁴ and brought it up against the city, and struck one of the towers and captured it. **44** And the men who had been in the city-destroyer, leaped-out into the city, and a great commotion arose in the city. **45** And the citizens, joined by their women and children, mounted the wall⁵ with their robes torn, and cried out in loud voices, begging Simon to give them his right hand in *pledge*. **46** And they said, “Do not treat us according to our wickedness, rather according to your mercy.”

47 So Simon reached an agreement with them and did not wage-war *against* them. And he expelled them from the city, and he cleansed the houses in which there were idols. So⁶ he entered the city, hymning and blessing to God.⁷ **48** And after expelling every uncleanness, he settled men there who observed the law. And he further fortified it, and built a habitation for himself.

49 But the men in the citadel in Jerusalem were prevented from going out of the citadel, and from going into the country,⁸ in order to buy and sell. So they suffered grievously from hunger, and many of them perished from starvation. **50** So they finally cried out to receive Simon’s right hand, and he consented. And he expelled them from the citadel and cleansed it from its impurities.

51 And in the year 171, in the 2nd⁹ month, on its 23rd day, the Judeans¹⁰ entered the citadel¹¹ with shouts of praise, and with palm branches, and with harps and cymbals and lyres, and with the singing of hymns and canticles, because a great¹² enemy of Israel¹³ had been crushed. **52** And Simon decreed that this day should be celebrated every year with gladness.¹⁴ He also further fortified the temple’s mountain alongside the citadel, and he and his companions dwelt there. **53** And seeing that his son Johanan was now a man, Simon appointed him to lead all of his forces, and he dwelled in Gezer.

CHAPTER 14

And in the year 172, King Demetrios gathered his forces and marched into Media to obtain help so that he could wage-war *against* Tryphon. **2** And when Arshak, king of Persia and Media, heard that Demetrios had invaded his territory, he sent one of his chiefs to take him alive. **3** So this chief went forth and struck the camp of Demetrios, and he captured him and brought him to Arshak, and Arshak put him in prison.

- 4** And the land of Judah¹⁵ was at rest all the days of Simon, and he sought the good of his nation. And they were delighted with his authority, and with his glory throughout all his days.
- 5** And in addition to all his glory, he took Japho for a harbor, and made it a gateway to the islands¹⁶ of the sea.
- 6** And he enlarged the borders of his nation, and gained control of the country.
- 7** And he collected many captives,¹⁷ and he made himself lord over Gezer, and Beth-Zur, and the citadel. And he removed the uncleannesses from the citadel;¹⁸ and there was no one to oppose him.
- 8** And the people cultivated their land in peace; and the land yielded its produce, and the trees of the plain their fruit.
- 9** The elderly sat in the streets,¹⁹ all communicating about the good times,

¹ [13:42] LXX(SV,64,94) / others add

² [13:42] Josephus “chief-priest, benefactor, and nation-chief”

³ [13:43] Hebrew / some Josephus(Ant), Josephus(War) “Gazara” (which is ‘Gezer’) / all others (inc. some Josephus(Ant), LXX) “Gaza”

⁴ [13:43] LXX(A) omits “a city-destroyer” [NOTE: a ‘city-destroyer’ is the largest type of Roman siege-tower]

⁵ [13:45] LXX(19,93), Syr2 omit “the wall”

⁶ [14:47] Syr1, Lat “Then”

⁷ [14:47] LXX(V), Lat add

⁸ [13:49] LXX(A,71,93) omit “and from going” / Syr1 omits “and from...the country”

⁹ [13:51] LXX(19,93), Syr2 omit “2nd”

¹⁰ [13:51] LXX(S,19,93), Syr2 (lit. “they”) / others “he”

¹¹ [13:51] (lit. “entered it”) / LXX(19,64,93) “entered the citadel”

¹² [13:51] LXX(64) omits “great”

¹³ [13:51] LXX(V) “Jerusalem”

¹⁴ [13:52] LXX(A) omits “with gladness”

¹⁵ [14:4] LXX(SV,19,55), Syr, Lat add

¹⁶ [14:5] LXX(19,64,93), Syr “ships”

¹⁷ [14:7] Syr1 “collected much treasure”

¹⁸ [14:7] (lit. “from it”) / LXX(64,94) “from them”

¹⁹ [14:9] LXX(S-original) “assemblies”

- 10** He supplied the cities with food, and equipped them with equipment for fortifying, till his glorious name reached the ends of the land.
- 11** He brought peace to the land, and Israel was gladdened with great gladness.
- 12** And each man sat under his own vine and his own fig tree,²¹ and there was no one to make them fearful.
- 13** And no one was left in the land to wage-war *against* them; and the²² kings were crushed in those days.
- 14** And he supported all the humbled among his people, and he sought out the law; and he expelled every lawless and wicked man.
- 15** He made the holy places glorious, and multiplied the vessels²³ of the holy places.

16 And when it was heard²⁴ in Roma, and it was heard²⁵ as far as Sparta, that Jonathan died, they were deeply grieved. **17** But when the Romans heard that his brother Simon had been made chief-priest in his place and that he was ruling over the country and the cities in it, **18** they wrote to him on bronze tablets, in order to renew with him the friendship and alliance which they had established with his brothers Judah and Jonathan. **19** And these tablets were read before the assembly in Jerusalem.

20 And this is a copy of the letter which the Spartans sent:

The chiefs and the city of Sparta, to Simon the great²⁶ chief-priest, and to the elders, and the priests, and the rest of the Judean populace, our brothers, greetings.

21 The elders which you sent to our own populace have brought us a message about your peace and²⁷ your glory and fame, and we were delighted at their coming. **22** And in accordance with what they said, we have recorded the following in the councils of the populace:

“Numenius son of Antiochos, and Antipatros son of Jason, elders of the Judeans, have come to us to renew their friendship with us. **23** So the populace has voted to receive the men with glory, and to deposit a copy of their accounts among the public books, so that the populace of Sparta may have a record of them.”

Now they²⁸ wrote a copy of this decree for Simon the chief-priest.

24 After this, Simon sent Numenius to Roma with a great gold round-shield weighing²⁹ 1,000 minas, to confirm the alliance with the Romans. **15.15** And when Numenius and his companions returned from Roma, they had letters to the kings and the countries, in which were written:

16 Lucius, Consul of the Romans, to King Ptolemaios, greetings.

17 Certain elders of the Judeans, our friends and allies, have come to us to renew their former alliance of friendship. And they were sent by Simon the chief-priest and the Judean populace, **18** but they brought with them a gold round-shield weighing 1,000 minas.³⁰ **19** Therefore, we have decided to write to the kings and the countries, that they are not to harm them, or wage-war against them³¹ or their cities or their country,³² and are not to assist those who are waging-war against them. **20** Now we have also decided to accept the round-shield from them.

21 Therefore, if any pestilent men from their country have fled to you, hand them over to Simon the chief-priest, so that he may punish them according to their law.

22 And the consul sent similar letters to King Demetrios, and to Attalos, and Ariarathes³³ and Arshak; **23** and to all the countries, and to Sampsames,³⁴ and Sparta, and to Delos, and to Mundos, and to Sikyon, and to the Karia,³⁵ and to Samos, and to the Pamphylia, and to Lukia, and to Halikarnassos, and to Rhodos, and to Phaselis, and to Kos, and to Side, and to Arvad, and Gortyna, and Knidos,

²⁰ [14:9] LXX(19,64,93), Syr1 “and no”

²¹ [14:12] LXX omits “and his own fig tree”

²² [14:13] LXX(A) “their”

²³ [14:14–15] LXX(S) “wicked man, and the vessels”

²⁴ [14:16] LXX(A) “when he heard” / LXX(19,55,64,71,93) “when they heard”

²⁵ [14:16] LXX(19,64,93) add

²⁶ [14:20] LXX(19,55,64,93) add

²⁷ [14:21] LXX(19,64,93) add

²⁸ [14:23] LXX(V,93) “we”

²⁹ [14:24] Syr1 omits “weighing”

³⁰ [15:18] LXX(A) “5,000 minas” / LXX(55) “5,000 talents”

³¹ [15:19] LXX(S-original,55) omit “that they are...them”

³² [15:19] LXX(A,93), Syr1, Lat(V) “countries”

³³ [15:22] LXX(A,55,71) “Arathes”

³⁴ [15:23] LXX(SVq), Lat(BV), Syr1 / LXX(AL), Lat(X), Syr2 “Sampsake” / one “Mesanisse”

³⁵ [15:23] LXX(A), Lat(G) “Karis” / Lat(X) “Cerdam”

and Kypros, and Kyrene.¹ **24** But a copy of these *things* was also sent to Simon the chief-priest.

14.25 Now when the populace heard these accounts, they said, “How can we thank Simon and his sons? **26** For he strengthened² his brothers and his father’s house, and waged-war *against* and repulsed Israel’s enemies,³ and they have preserved its liberty *by doing this*.”

So they made an inscription on bronze tablets, and affixed it to monuments⁴ on Mount Zion. **27** And the following is a copy of what they wrote:

In the year 172, on the 18th day of Elul, that is, the third year under Simon the great⁵ chief-priest in the court of God’s people,⁶ **28** in a great congregation of priests, and people, and chiefs of the nation, and the elders of the country, the following proclamation was made by us:⁷

29 “Since there have often been wars in our country, Simon, son of the priest Mattithjah, of the sons of Joarib, and his brothers have put themselves in danger and resisted the opponents of their nation, in order that the holy *places* and the law might be maintained, and they have brought great glory to their nation by doing this. **30** And after Jonathan had gathered his⁸ nation, and had become their chief-priest, he was added to his people.

31 “And when the enemies of the Judeans wished to invade their country in order that they might utterly-destroy their country,⁹ and to stretch-out their hands on their holy *places*, **32** Simon rose up and waged-war on behalf of his nation, and he spent large sums of his own money, and he provided-weapons for the¹⁰ men of his nation’s force, and paid their wages.

33 “And he fortified the cities of Judah, and the city of Beth-Zur on the borders of Judah, where previously the enemy’s weapons had been stored, and he stationed a garrison of Judean soldiers there. **34** He also fortified Japho-by-the-Sea, and Gezer on the borders of Ashdod, a place previously occupied by the enemy; and he resettled these cities with Judeans, and furnished them with everything necessary for their restoration.

35 “And when the Judean people saw Simon’s faithfulness¹¹ and what he had accomplished¹² and the glory which he took counsel to bring to his nation, they made him their leader and chief-priest because of everything he had accomplished, and *because of* the righteousness and the faithfulness which he had shown his nation; and in every way he sought to exalt his people.

36 “And in his days, and under his guidance, they prospered in his hands, so that the nations were driven out of their country, especially those in the City of David in Jerusalem, who had built for themselves a citadel from which they used to emerge and to defile all around the holy *places* and to inflict grave injury to its purity. **37** And in *this citadel*, he stationed Judean men, and he fortified it for the security of the country and the city, and he raised up the wall of Jerusalem.

38 “And consequently,¹³ King Demetrios confirmed him in the chief-priesthood, **39** and he made him one of his friends, and conferred the highest glories on him. **40** For he had heard,¹⁴ that the Romans had addressed the Judeans as friends, and allies, and brothers, and that they had received Simon’s elders with glory.

41 “And that¹⁵ the Judeans and their priests have made the following decisions, that Simon is their leader and chief-priest into the age, until a true prophet stands-up. **42** And that he is a general over them, and should have charge over the holy *places*,¹⁶ to make regulations concerning its functions and concerning the country, and concerning its weapons and concerning its strongholds. **43** And that he should have charge over the holy *place*, and that he should be listened to by everyone. And that all contracts made in the country should be dated

by¹⁷ his name. And that he should be clothed in purple and wear gold ornamentation.

44 “And that it should not be lawful for any of the people or the priests to nullify any of these decisions, or to contradict what he says, or to gather together a gathering in the country without his consent, or to be clothed in purple or wear a golden brooch. **45** But whoever acts contrary to these *prescriptions*, or violates any of these, will be *held liable*.”

46 And all the people approved of granting Simon *the right*¹⁸ to act in accord with these decisions. **47** And Simon accepted and agreed to be a chief-priest, and a general, and a nation-chief of the Judeans and priests, and *to be* the guardian over them all.

48 And it was decreed that this inscription should be engraved on bronze tablets, and be set up in a conspicuous¹⁹ place within the enclosures of the holy *places*, **49** but that copies of it should be deposited in the treasury, where they would be available to Simon and his sons.

CHAPTER 15

And Antiochos, son of King Demetrios, sent a letter from the islands of the sea to Simon, chief-priest²⁰ and nation-chief of the Judeans, and to all the nation; **2** and its contents were as follows:

King Antiochos to Simon, priest and nation-chief, and to the Judean nation, greetings.

3 Since certain pestilent *men* have gained control of the kingdom of my²¹ fathers, I intend to reclaim it, so that I may restore it to its former state. Now I have recruited a large number of mercenary troops and furnished warships,²² **4** and intend to make a landing in my country and take revenge on those who have ruined our country and have desolated many cities in my²³ kingdom.

5 Now, therefore, I confirm to you all the *tax* exemptions which the kings before me granted you, and whatever other privileges²⁴ they remitted you. **6** And I give permission to you²⁵ to coin your own money, as legal tender in your country. **7** But I also grant that Jerusalem and its holy *places* shall be free.²⁶ And all the weapons which you have furnished and all the strongholds which you have built and now control, shall remain in your possession. **8** And every debt which you *presently* owe to the royal *treasury*, and the things which you shall owe to the royal *treasury* in the future, shall be canceled for you, now and for all time. **9** But when we gain control of our kingdom, we will glorify you and your nation and the temple with great glory,²⁷ so that your glory will be manifest in all the earth.

10 In the year 174, Antiochos invaded the land of his fathers, and all the forces rallied to him, so that few were left with Tryphon. **11** And pursued by Antiochos, Tryphon fled to Dor-by-the-Sea; **12** for he saw that all²⁸ evils had converged about him, and that his forces had deserted him. **13** And Antiochos encamped before Dor with 120,000 men who were warriors and 8,000 cavalry. **14** And he surrounded the city, and his boats engaged along the coast, and he had been pressing the city²⁹ from the land and the sea, and permitted no one to leave or to enter it.

25 Now when King Antiochos was encamping against Dor for the second time,³⁰ he was continuously throwing his armies into position against it, along with the machines he had made. And he shut up Tryphon by preventing anyone from leaving or entering. **26** And Simon sent 2,000 picked men to assist Antiochos, together with gold and silver and sufficient equipment. **27** And he refused to accept the aid; instead, he broke all the agreements which he had previously made with Simon, and became estranged from him.

28 Then he sent Athenobios, one of his friends, to confer with Simon, saying, “You have control of Japho and Gezer and the citadel of Jerusalem; these are cities of my kingdom. **29** You have laid waste their territories, and have done great harm to the land, and you have taken possession of many places in my kingdom. **30** Now, therefore, give up the cities which you seized and the tribute money of the places which you lorded-over outside the borders of Judah; **31** or

¹ [14:23] LXX(V) “Smyrna”

² [14:26] LXX(A) / LXX(S) “He was strengthened” / LXX(L) “They strengthened” / La(LX) “He established” / Possible Emendation “He arose”

³ [14:26] LXX(64) “sons”

⁴ [14:26] LXX(SV) / others “to a monument”

⁵ [14:27] LXX(SV,19,55,64,93) / others omit “great”

⁶ [14:27] translation of Hebrew original / LXX(SVL), La(LXV) “in Asaramel” (transliteration of Hebrew) / LXX(A) “in Saramel” / Syr “and prince of Israel”

⁷ [14:28] LXX(SAV) “, he made known to us” / LXX(19,64,93), Syr2 “, we made known to you” / Lat “, these things were made known”

⁸ [14:30] LXX(V), Syr2, Lat(V) / most others “their” / LXX(S) omits “Jonathan had rallied his nation”

⁹ [14:31] LXX(S-original,V) / most add

¹⁰ [14:32] LXX(S) “his”

¹¹ [14:35] Syr2, Lat(V) “Simon’s deeds” / LXX(V) “Simon’s faithfulness and deeds” / LXX(L) “Simon”

¹² [14:35] LXX(A,S), La(L,X,B) omit “and what he had accomplished”

¹³ [14:38] Syr omits “Consequently”

¹⁴ [14:40] LXX(A,19,64,71,93) “For it had been heard”

¹⁵ [14:41] LXX(71) / most add

¹⁶ [14:42] LXX, Syr2, Lat(V) / others omit “and should have...places”

¹⁷ literally “shall be written in”

¹⁸ [14:46] LXX(64,93) “of granting these things to Simon”

¹⁹ [14:48] LXX(A) “safe”

²⁰ [15:1] LXX(55,64) “chief-priest”

²¹ [15:3] LXX(55), Syr2 / most “our”

²² literally “boats of war”

²³ [15:4] LXX(SV) / others “the”

²⁴ [15:5] LXX(A,S,V*) , La(X,V) / LXX(A), La(L) “exemptions”

²⁵ [15:6] LXX(A) omits “And I give permission to you”

²⁶ [15:7] La(V) “Jerusalem shall be sacred and free.” / La(X) “Jerusalem shall be free and sacred”

²⁷ [15:9] LXX(55) “and our temple”

²⁸ [15:12] LXX(19,64,94) add

²⁹ [15:14] LXX(S) omits “and his ships...the city” (by scribal error)

³⁰ [15:26] Emendation / some add “for the second time” / others add “Dor on the second day” (this interpolation was added to explain the narrative after the accidental displacement of verse 15:15–24)

instead, pay me 500 talents of silver for the devastation which you have caused, and 500 talents more for the tribute money of the cities. But if you do not do this, we will come and make war on you.”

32 So Athenobios, the king’s friend, came to Jerusalem. And when he saw Simon’s glory, and the gold and silver plate on the sideboard, and the rest of his rich display, he was amazed. And he brought the message containing the king’s accounts.

33 And Simon answered *and* spoke to him, “We have neither taken any foreign land, nor have we possessed the property of others; instead, *we have only taken* the inheritance of our fathers, but which, during a certain season, had been unjustly controlled by our enemies. **34** Now that we have an opportunity, we are holding on to the inheritance¹ of our fathers. **35** But concerning Japho and Gezer, which you are requesting, *the men of these cities* were producing a great plague among our people and our country; *however*, we are willing to give *you* a hundred talents for these cities.”

36 And Athenobios did not answer him a word, but returned to the king with fury. And he brought him a message containing these words, and the glory of Simon, and everything, as much as he saw. And the king was angered with great anger.

37 Now Tryphon had boarded a boat, escaping to Orthosia. **38** Then the king established Kendebaios as vice-general of the seacoast, and gave him forces of infantry and cavalry.² **39** And he instructed him to encamp against Judah, and instructed him to build up Kedron and to fortify Shaaraim,³ and to wage-war *against* the Judean people. But the king went in pursuit of Tryphon.

40 And when Kendebaios came to Jabneh, he began to provoke the people and to make incursions into Judah, and to take the people captive and murder them. **41** And as the king commanded him, he built up Kedron and stationed cavalry and *other* forces there, so that they could go out and patrol the roads of Judah.

CHAPTER 16

Then Johanan went up from Gezer and brought a message to his father Simon about what Kendebaios was doing. **2** So Simon called his two eldest sons, Judah and Johanan, and said to them, “I and my brothers and my father’s house have waged-war *against* the foes⁴ of Israel from our youth until today, and things have prospered in our hands so that we have rescued Israel many times. **3** But now I have grown old; but all of you, by *God’s* mercy, are of sufficient age. Take my place and the place of my brothers,⁵ and go out and fight for our nation; and may the help which is from the heaven be with you!”

4 So Johanan⁶ selected 20,000 picked men, warriors and cavalry, out of the country.⁷ And setting out against Kendebaios, they spent the night at Modeim. **5** And after they stood-up early, they marched into the plain. And, behold, a large force of infantry and cavalry was coming to meet them, and between *the two armies* was a wadi.

6 Then Johanan and the people encamped against *the enemy*. And seeing that the people were terrified to cross the wadi, Johanan crossed first. And when his men saw this, they crossed over after him. **7** Then he divided the people *into two divisions*, and put his cavalry between the infantry; but their opponents’ cavalry were very numerous. **8** Then they trumpeted the *holy*⁸ trumpets, and Kendebaios and his camp were put to flight; and many of them⁹ fell wounded, and the rest fled into the stronghold.

9 It was then that Johanan’s brother Judah was wounded; but Johanan closely-pursued them until Kendebaios reached Kedron, which he had built up, **10** and some took refuge in the towers in the fields of Ashdod. And Johanan burned them¹⁰ with fire, and about 2,000¹¹ men perished. He then returned to Judah in peace.

11 And Ptolemaios son of Habub had been appointed general of the plain of Jericho, and he had much silver and gold, **12** for he was the son-in-law of the chief-priest.¹² **13** And his heart became lifted up, and he wished to gain control of the country. So he took counsel to make deceitful plans¹³ to have Simon and his sons removed.

14 Now as Simon was inspecting the cities of the country and being mindful of their needs, he and his sons, Mattithijah and Judah, went down to Jericho in the year 177, in the 11th month (that is, the month Shebat). **15** And the son of Habub gave them a deceitful welcome¹⁴ in the little stronghold called Duk,¹⁵ which he

had built. And while serving them a sumptuous banquet, he had his men hidden there. **16** Then, when Simon and his sons were made-intoxicated, Ptolemaios and his companions rose-up; and taking their weapons, they rushed upon Simon in the banquet hall, and they killed him off, and his two sons, and some of his little-boys. **17** So by this vicious act of treason¹⁶ he repaid good-things with evils.

18 Then Ptolemaios wrote *an account* about this and sent it to the king, asking that forces be sent to help him, and that their¹⁷ country¹⁸ and the cities¹⁹ be turned over to him.²⁰ **19** And he sent other *men* to Gezer to make away with Johanan. And he sent letters to the tribunes, inviting them to come to him so that he might give them silver, and gold, and gifts. **20** And he sent others to seize Jerusalem and the temple’s mountain. **21** But someone²¹ ran ahead, bringing a message to Johanan at Gezer, that his father and his brothers had perished, and that *Ptolemaios* had sent men to also kill him off. **22** And Johanan was utterly astounded when he heard this. And when the men came to destroy him, he had them²² arrested and killed them off,²³ for he knew that they were seeking to destroy him.

23 And the rest of the accounts of Johanan, and his wars, and the manly-virtues which he manfully performed, and the building of the walls which he built, and his *other* achievements— **24** behold, they are recorded in the book of his chief-priesthood, from the time when he succeeded his father as chief-priest.

¹ [15:34] LXX(A) “to our inheritance and *that*”

² [15:38] LXX(V,93) omit “and cavalry”

³ [15:39] Emendation / most LXX “fortify the gates” / LXX(A), La(L,X) “fortify the cities” / LXX(S) “to build-up the gates”

⁴ [16:2] LXX(A,S[c],V,L’) “wars”

⁵ [16:3] La(X,V) / most “brother” (possibly a translation error)

⁶ [16:4] literally “he” / LXX(L) actually has “Johanan”

⁷ [16:4] LXX(V,71) omit “out of the country”

⁸ [16:8] LXX(V) adds

⁹ [16:8] LXX(A) “it” (referring to the camp)

¹⁰ [16:10] La(X,V) / most “it”

¹¹ [16:10] LXX(SV,71) / LXX(19,64,93), Syr2 “3,000” / others “1,000”

¹² [16:12] LXX(V,55) “of the priest”

¹³ literally “to make plans of deceit”

¹⁴ literally “a welcome with deceit”

¹⁵ [16:15] Hebrew / LXX “Dok” / Josephus “Dagon”

¹⁶ [16:17] LXX(A) “by an impious act”

¹⁷ [16:18] LXX(19,64,71,93) “the”

¹⁸ [16:18] La(LXB) “taxes”

¹⁹ [16:18] some omit “and the cities”

²⁰ [16:18] La(LX) omit “to him”

²¹ [16:21] LXX(A,71,93), Syr2 omit “someone”

²² [16:22] LXX(93), Syr2 “And he had the men”

²³ [16:22] LXX(V) omits “and killed them off”